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to review trade accords

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers has granted its consent to review regional trade accords and independent trade accords that are still under discussion.

Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella told the weekly Cabinet media briefing held at the Government Information Department, that regional and independent trade agreements are main features of international trade and they had escalated in number and complex-



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan will address Parliament during his visit later this month, political sources in Colombo said.

Confirming, Opposition Parliamentarian and Leader of the Tamil Progressive Alliance Mano Ganesan told *The Hindu*: "Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena informed





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DEVISE MECHANISM TO REPAY VEHICLE LEASE ARREARS - PM INSTRUCTS OFFICIALS

FURTHER GRACE PERIOD SUGGESTED

DOCUMENTATION IN SINHALA AND TAMIL TOO

RUKSHANA RIZWIE

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has instructed officials to formulate a system that will ease the burden on vehicle owners, giv-

off arrears for leased vehicles ing their vehicle lease instaldue to the COVID-19 pandemic. ments after many financial insti-Prime Minister added that tutions have requested them to vehicle owners despite being pay both the monthly instal-

ing them a grace period to pay were facing difficulties in repaygranted a grace period last year, ments and arrears TOPAGE 02



President hands over laptops to students awaiting university admission

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa inaugurated a project to provide laptops at concessionary prices to students seeking admission to universities. The programme is designed by the University Grants Commission and the People's Bank, with the aim of digitising the education system to meet current needs.

People's Bank has allocated Rs. 3 billion for the project which will see students being offered laptops with internet connection and a four year warranty. Although the laptop is valued at Rs. 80 000, a loan is offered to the student who can choose up to six years to pay it back. The monthly payment for this is estimated to be only

The President handed over letters symbolising the initiation of the project to six new

'Plantation workers to receive

Rs.1,000 daily wage'



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa symbolically hands over relevant documents to a student at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday. (Picture by Presidential Media Unit).

morning.

Education Minister Kapila Perera, University Grants Rajapaksa were present.

students entering the University Prof. G.L Peiris, Secretary to Commission Chairman Prof. for the year 2021 at the Presi- the President P.B. Jayasunde- Sampath Amaratunga and Peodential Secretariat yesterday ra, Education Secretary Prof. ple's Bank Chairman Sujeewa

jabs to be completed by May - Minister

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said the government has decided to complete the vaccination of the country's population by May. Speaking during a special discussion at the Tourism Ministry he said Sri Lanka will become safe for tourists to visit, with no COVID-19 risk.

He added that Sri Lanka may also become one of the first countries in the world to

achieve such a feat. He further said that the tourism industry in Sri Lanka is showing signs of a rebound to its former state with tourist arrivals on the incline again. He said that tourists were pleased to see that the government was taking proactive steps to ensure that they had a safe stay.

"Although the vaccination is being administered to officers of the Tri-Forces and frontline health workers, TO PAGE 02

a gazette notification within two Sixteen COVID deaths

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The proposal to increase the

daily wage of plantation workers to

Rs.1000 will be published through

in Eastern Province SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN.

Batticaloa special corr. Eighteen Grama Niladhari divisions under lockdown were released while the Kattankudy GS division is still under lockdown.

Eastern Provincial Health Services Director Dr. Alagaivah Lathakaran said that up to now 2,536 have been identified in the Eastern Province TOPAGE 02

Sajith raises issue over **State Bank lendings**

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

The government is taking certain decisions that will adversely affect the country's financial sector and State Owned Banks, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa told Parliament yester-



Raising a question under Standing Order 27 (2), TO PAGE 02

Schools in Colombo can re-open on 15

Education Minister Prof. G.L Peiris said schools in seven of the 13 Divisional February 15 subject to the Health Services Director General's approval.

weeks, Plantation Minister Dr.

Ramesh Pathirana said. Respond-

ing to a question raised by MP Velu Kumar in Parliament yester-

day, he said that a two week win-

dow would be available TO PAGE 02

The Minister speaking at a media briefing said that consent has been sought Secretariats in the Colom- to open schools in Thimbo District can reopen on birigasyaya, Homagama, Kesbewa, Dehiwala, Moratuwa, Kolonnawa and Seethawaka. TO PAGE 02



Lost tripper found dead

PRASANNA PADMASIRI, Uva Province group corr.

The body of Dinura Wijesundara (35), from Kalutara reported missing following an excursion to Mini World's End in Madolsima was found 1500 meters below.

Sri Lanka Army Search and Rescue personnel braved inclement weather in their search for Sirasa TV's Wijesundara who has been missing for days following an excursion to Mini World's End in Madolsima. TO PAGE **02**



The Army rescue team in action. Picture by Prassanna Padmasiri.

Valentine's Day party-goers warned

Police issued a stern warning against those who plan to organise or attend parties on Valentine's Day, Sunday February

Police Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said that police have information of unauthorised parties and events being organized for Valentine's Day via various social media platforms at hotels and resorts. TOPAGE 02

All released COVID data accurate - State Minister

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The government has no intention of hiding any information regarding COVID-19 cases, State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle said.

Responding to a question from MP Hesha Withanage she said that the government is not disseminating false information through the media. Withanage accused the government of hiding the true COVID dead figures.

Dr.Fernandopulle said that while new cases are being reported, those recovering are released from hospitals simultaneously, adding that all data reported are accurate. She said the government has taken all possible measures to control the spread of the COVID virus.

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'National Law Conference 2021' to focus on 'Futurism'

Law Conference 2021' on February 12 and 13 at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The conference will focus profession. TO PAGE 02

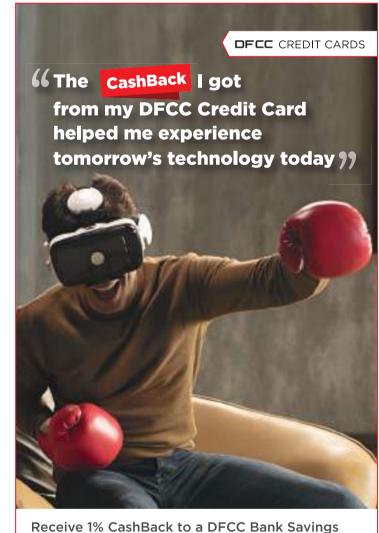
on the ways in which the legal pro-The Bar Association of Sri Lanka fession can be fashioned to meet the (BASL) will hold the 'National requirements of the fast developing and oncoming future while preserving the fundamentals within the

No plans to regulate, censor media

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambuking that the government is seeking yesterday (9), TO PAGE 02

to regulate and censor the media. Responding to a question raised by a journalist at the Cabinet wella yesterday refuted allegations media briefing held at the Govlevelled by various groups claim- ernment Information Department



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Expatriate workers being brought fast - Minister

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Co-Cabinet Spokesman, Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella yesterday denied allegations against the government which claim that the government is not listening to the appeals by Sri Lankan expatriates.

Speaking at this week's Cabinet media briefing held yesterday at the Government Informa-

tion Department, Minister Rambukwella said that around 85,183 expatriates have already been brought to Sri Lanka and around 1,113 expatriates had been brought to Sri Lanka in 15 aircraft only on February 7 that included 70 from Saudi Arabia, 97 from the Maldives, 212 from the United Kingdom, 516 from the United Arab Emirates, 19 from Italy and 105 from Singapore.

Another 468 expatriates were brought to the country on February 8 that included 36 from the United Arab Emirates, 76 from Saudi Arabia, 40 from India, 126 from Qatar and 150 from Kuwait.

He further stated that 44,613 of them were quarantined in Quarantine Centres at the expense of the government.

'Plantation workers... From page 01

for any objections to be filed and thereafter the

proposal would become law. Minister Pathirana said

discussions were held between estate worker unions

although it was decided to give this idea on a collec-

tive agreement, the decision was taken through the

Labour Minister through the Wages Board as they

could not reach consensus. Minister Pathirana also

pointed out that legal action will be taken against

employers if they take any action that would cause

inconvenience to the employees. Several rounds of

discussions have been held in the last few months

between the estate unions and the estate owners regarding the increase of the daily wage of plantation

workers to Rs. 1000.But both sides could not come to

an agreement. Therefore, Minister Ramesh Pathirana

pointed out that the Cabinet of Ministers has referred

Board for a decision in this regard. The Minister said

that all these companies are legally obliged to pay the

the matter to the Tea and Rubber Industry Wages

'No plans to regulate, From page 01

and employers on a number of occasions and



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena called on the Chief Prelates of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters last week. The Minister briefed the Chief Prelates of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters last week. ates and said Geneva had already been informed that the President, Prime Minister and the government will reject all allegations levelled against Sri Lanka at the 46th UNHRC session in Geneva, and that some Sri Lankans are maliciously slandering the country based on false information to the Geneva Human Rights Council. MP Yadamini Gunawardena was also present.



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Pakistani PM to... From page 01

Premier Khan is scheduled to arrive in Sri Lanka on February 22 on a two-day official visit. He will hold talks with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, officials said.

He will be the first Head of Government to visit the country since the pandemic struck early last year. Colombo has maintained close ties with Islamabad, and usually refrains from commenting on India-Pakistan tensions



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Petitioner withdraws FR against Muralitharan: SC dismisses petition LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A Fundamental Rights petition filed seeking an order directing the police to take legal action against former LTTE group leader Vinayagamoorthy Muralitharan alias Karuna Amman over offensive remarks he made at public meeting was yesterday dismissed by the Supreme Court. This was following the petitioner's decision to withdraw the application.

At a public meeting held in Ampara last year, Karuna Amman had allegedly stated that he is more dangerous than COVID-19 since he killed 2,000 to 3,000 Sri Lankan soldiers in one night at Elephant Pass and more thousands in Kilinochchi.

The Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprising Justice L.T.B.Dehideniya, Justice Murdu Fernando and Justice Achala Wengappuli made this order following the petitioner's decision not proceed with the petition. Counsel Yalith Wijesurendra appearing for B. Kalahepathirana informed court that his client does not expect to proceed with this petition since police have already filed a B report against Muralitharan under instructions of the IGP.

The Supreme Court therefore refused to grant leave to proceed with the petition. The petition was dismissed accordingly. This petition had been filed by B. Kalahepathirana, a teacher naming the Attorney General, V. Muralitharan and the IGP as

respondents. The petitioner stated that the "hate speech" made by Karuna Amman, was punishable and could be prosecuted for committing an offence under Section 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights (ICCPR) Act. The petitioner stated that this statement can be considered as a 'confession' and a 'boast' about the gruesome crimes committed by Karuna Amman during the time he was a Colonel and the head of the Eastern

Province of LTTE. The petitioner stated that many former LTTE members have been indicted for committing such crimes under the Penal Code and the Prevention of Terrorism Act and after trial have been found guilty and punished by the Courts of Law in Sri Lanka.

The petitioner is seeking a declaration that the government has violated the Fundamental Rights of the petitioner guaranteed under Article 12(1) of the constitution by not arresting and not taking necessary legal steps against Karuna Amman, the leader of Tamil United Freedom Front.

The petitioner stated that under Article 12(1) all persons are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law. Counsel Yalith Wijesurendra appeared for the petitioner. Senior Deputy Solicitor General Haripriya Jayasundara appeared for the Attorney General.

Devise mechanism to... From page 01

incurred which come up to a significant amount on a monthly basis.

He further said that vehicle owners were complaining that certain financial institutions have levied interest that was incurred during the grace period and have added that to instalments that are yet to be paid as well.

The Premier added that while the policies of the financial institutions may differ, they must collectively adhere to the same policy when it comes to settling arrears from the COVID-19 period. The Premier also suggested that documents regarding the terms and conditions upon

which these agreements are being signed be made available in Sinhala and Tamil as well.

The Premier gave these instructions during a progress review meeting held at the Finance Ministry yesterday. Taking part in the meeting were owners of leased school vans, buses and threewheelers. Members of the All Ceylon Office Transport Federation, the All Ceylon School Children Transport Association, the Ceylon Self-Employed Three Wheeler's Association and the Sunil Jayawardena Foundation participated in the discussion.

COVID jabs to be complete... From page 01

it is envisioned that this vaccine would be given to all eligible by the end of May," he said.

"We are working on increasing tourist arrivals from countries such as India, Germany and Italy as well."

plantation workers' allowance of Rs.1,000 a day and he hopes to discuss and resolve any issues that may arise in this regard in the future.

said that this was a fabrication by certain groups and that such a thing was not happening at the moment and would not be allowed to happen. The Minister said that the media is a very important and very sensitive field and journalists working in this sensitive field are highly recognised in the country. He said those who misuse the media can feel like there are

moves to censor the media. He said discussions are underway to regulate

'National Law Conference 2021'... From page 01

Sajith raises issue over State... From page 01

the media and to formulate a plan as to where it should be headed. The Mass Media and Information Minister said every word carried by the media should have value, significance as well as the acceptance of the people in the country. Our publication must have value in decision making.

There are 21 million citizens in the country and protecting the rights of those citizens is also a responsibility of the Media Ministry.

The conference has been converted to a hybrid virtual and physical conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference will be held under the theme of 'Futurism'.

"We are in a new normal, and we must congratulate the chairman, conveners and members of the National Law conference 2021 committee for taking up the challenge to organize this hybrid conference in spite of and overcoming the many regulations and restrictions presently in place", Bar Association of Sri Lanka Secretary Rajeev Amarasuriya stated. National Law Conference 2021 Chairman, Hiran de Alwis stated that futurism is an attempt to envisage a future with a new dynamic and not a new normal and thereby to fashion and guide new developments and to make them a reality in practical means. He also stated that the theme 'futurism' was inspired by an Italian artist, which highlighted the dynamism, speed, change and restlessness of the

modern life. He also noted the conference will undoubtedly assist legal professionals to be more prepared towards what the future brings. He further stated that the conference hopes to address and discuss a wide variety of new and dynamic topics that will arise within the next decade. Hiran de Alwis added that they have invited two professors from overseas for this conference.

"More topics will be discussed during the conference including e-Commerce, Arbitration law enforcement and Company law, new SEC Act, Defamation in Digital Space and cyber space, Maritime Law, Child Abuse, Mental Abuse and Harassments, Electronic Transaction Act," de Alwis added. The logo of the conference is significant in how it represents the country's maritime economic zone, the necessity of strategic international relations and overall the presence and preservation of rule of law to be the guiding force behind all these aspects for their fruition.

Schools in Colombo... From page 01

The Minister said that over the past five days the Regional Coordinating Committees in the Colombo district have tabled their recommendations to the Education Ministry over the possibilities of re-opening schools. The Minister said that based on their recommendations, approval and advice has been sought from the Health Services Director General. He added that once approved around 76 schools can re-open from February 15. These schools he said were located in Thimbirigasyaya, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte, Kolonnawa, Homagama, Kaduwela, Padukka, Maharagama, Ratmalana, Dehiwala, Seethawaka and Moratuwa. Among the 76 are also a few international schools and pirivenas.

Cabinet agrees... From page 01

"Although Sri Lanka too had entered into several such accords, it has been observed that the expected results have not been gained from some of those. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the resolution by the Trade Minister to re-initiate discussions by reviewing such agreements still under discussion in accordance with the 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' and to study the possibility of entering into new regional trade accords and independent trade accords thereon.

Sixteen COVID... From page 01

and 16 have died of COVID. 256 are still under treatment and 2,278 have been sent home after treatment. "Still, there are cases prevalent in the province and action is being taken to contain this virus from the province but if people do not follow health guidelines once again the situation will worsen.

For the first time four regions in the Eastern Province were administered with the vaccine to 14,000.

Valentines Day... From page 01

"Organising such events and parties is strictly prohibited," he said adding that police teams will be deployed to make arrests on that day. Hotels, resorts and guest houses hosting such parties will be raided and the attendees, as well as the organisers and hosts, will be arrested and prosecuted as per the provisions of the law," he said.

"No one can conduct any event, party in respect of Valentine's day and if they are going to have such events we will arrest and initiate legal action against the persons committing the offence of aiding and abetting in respect of such illegal activities," he said. "We request youth not to attend these parties as it is an illegal activitiy."

Lost tripper... From page 01

A combined Army team of the Special Forces (SF) and 112 Brigade troops, together with Policemen and civilians for the third consecutive day resumed operations to trace the whereabouts of a 35-year-old from Kalutara who had gone missing around the Mini World's End cliff area. It is reported that Dinura and 11 others had returned to their vehicles when bad weather compelled them to abandon their trip. Troops of the Special Forces (SF) and 112 Brigade troops of the Security Force HQ-Central, together with the Police began search operations, braving all odds and unfavourable weather.

stated that, "The banking system makes a significant contribution to maintaining the financial stability of a country. Policy decisions taken by the government from time to time have a direct impact on the survival of the banking system and they affect the economy as a whole.

the Opposition Leader Sajith Premdasa

making decisions that will adversely affect the country's financial sector and the banking system. It has been revealed that the stateowned banking system built on public money has provided unjust and unacceptable financial relief to government loyalists and cro-

It appears that the present government is

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Government lauds Health, Defence authorities

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Government lauds Health and Defence authorities for their gallant battle against COVID-19.

Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella appreciated the effort by the Health Ministry and the Tri-Forces to control the virus, at the weekly Cabinet media briefing yesterday at the Government Information Department,.

"Unfortunately, certain groups are

attempting to take political advantages by COVID patients are receiving treatment slinging mud at the Government saying that we failed in controlling the COVID-19,." he said.

The Minister said that earlier the country had only the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDH) for COVID-19 patients and the Health Ministry and the Defense Ministry have so far set up 42 hospitals in this regard.

By February, 27 intermediate treatment centers have been set up and 3,118

at these centres. About 5,000 have been hospitalised so far, the Minister said.

When compared with other countries, the number of recoveries is remaining at a laudable level in Sri Lanka. Therefore, it is unfair to blame the health sector, he

The Minister said that around 11,447 beds have been allocated for COVID-19 cases along with nine Intensive Care Units (ICUs) so far, the Minister said



MP Kavinda Jayawardane to PFC

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena announced in Parliament yesterday that MP Dr. Kavinda Jayawardane has been appointed to the Public Finance Committee

He was nominated by the Committee of Selection for the vacancy created by MP Hesha Withanage's resignation.

Applications called for ISDB scholarships

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

The Colombo-based Islamic Center, an affiliate of the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB) in Saudi Arabia, has called for applications for its scholarships. The closing date for the applications is February 15.

Islamic Centre President former Colombo Mayor Mohammed Hussein Mohammed said that about 100 candidates will be selected for the scholarships

The Scholarships include Undergraduate, Master's, PHDs, postdoctoral researches, vocational education and training and Bachelor's Degrees.

Mohammed said that the selected candidates will receive \$60 monthly till the end of their scholarships. "They can repay the amount installmentwise after employing at suitable places.

The Islamic Develop-

offering the scholarships since 1983 to foster technology and knowledge sharing among its member countries and Muslims in non-member countries.

They are designed to attract talented persons to build the right competencies to empower communities and to assist them in achieving national and global development plans including the Sustainable Development

Cabinet approval for providing lands to set up industries

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet has approved allocating land from regional Trade Zones (TZ) to set up industries, Co-Cabinet Spokes man Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

He was speaking at the Cabinet Media Briefing yesterday at the Government Information Department.

Minister Rambukwella said that the Project Evaluation Committee of the Regional **Industrial Services Committees**

ommended allocating land from the eight Industrial Zones on a 35-year lease for 22 investors under the Regional Industrial Zones Development Programme of the Industries Min-

Rs. 24,047.85 million - US\$ three million - will be invested in the projects. It has been estimated that the projects will generate 3,326 direct jobs.

The Cabinet has, therefore, approved the resolution by the Industries Ministry in this

Hospital employees protest against new appointments

B.M. WIJESURIYA,

Anuradhapura Central Special Corr.

Anuradhapura Hospital employees yesterday staged a protest against the appointment of 50 junior staffers. Nearly 350 junior staff members joined the protest and provided their service only for essential services.

National Health Services Association Convener P.B. Wijesinghe said that many new appointees do not have the minimum qualification and it would make their work difficult since they have to work with inexperienced people.

They must have at least six passes at the O/L Exam but many of these new appointees do not have the minimum qualification, he said.

Paddy harvesting in Ampara begins

M.A. PHAKURDEEN,

Addalaichenai Group Corr.

The harvesting of paddy cultivation in Thirukkovil in the Ampara District commenced symbolically on Saturday under the patronage of District Government Agent D.M.L. Bandaranayake at the Senaikkadu Paddy field along with a large number of farmers.

Thirukkovil Divisional Secretary T.Kajendran initiated the harvesting along with the Institute of Helasuwaya and the Agrarian Services Centre of Thirukkovil.

Chief Guest GA Bandaranakay-

ake, Guest of honour Additional Government Agent V.Jegatheesan and other Heads of Agricultural and Agrarian Services Departments participated.

A special religious observance was conducted by Chief Priest of the Vinayagapuram Sri Sithivinayagar Aalayam Sivasiri Aaarumuga Kirupakarar.

Harvesting was carried out in traditional methods. Asst. Government Agent K.Sathisekaran and Asst. Director Planning M.Anoja were present.

ment Bank has been Goals (SDGs). and Industries Ministry has rec-

CHITHRARATNE KALUARACHCHI, Hidogama Group Corr

The Korea Programme on International Agriculture (KOPIA) distributed agricultural implements in Anuradhapura

yesterday. KOPIA Sri Lanka Director Choi In Hu said that farmers can use these implements to cultivate soya, kidney beans, and lentils.

Farmer organisations including the Hidogama Ela Mahasen Farmers' Association and the Arunoda Farmers' Association in Anuradhapura organised the

"We encourage the farmers in growing big onions, chili, soybeans, and green peas among others. They will be provided with a training on how to use

modern technologies for soybean production, machinery for sowing and drying seeds," he said. The Koren Organisation will

partner with the Agriculture Department to provide seeds and facilities for harvesting. He added that the organisation has trained 300 farmers and 280 more will be trained in the coming months.



A woman receiving an implement.

Das Hema Tissa Wijeratne

Eulogy For My Beloved Thaththi

Das Hema Tissa Wijeratne, the last of the late Rosalind & George Wijeratne's six children, slipped away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 with his beloved wife Malini, at his side at home. A private funeral was held on the 4th of February.

Born between the two World Wars in 1937, he grew up in post colonial Sri Lanka, together with his 5 siblings; the late Jagath, Ranjan, Kamala, Hema and Ajantha. Along with his brothers, Das attended St Thomas' College where they became known as "Bikkshu Wijeratne" due to the stark haircuts their father insisted on. Being the youngest to inherit this title he would regal us with stories of school life and his brothers. However, they walked tall and strong and it had nothing to do with their actual height which ranged from 6 - 6'6 feet.

Thaththi had a wonderful sense of humour and ever the prankster. Whilst, he too loved to play cards, it certainly didn't go down too well with his wife, Malini, when he thought he could play bridge with the same strategy of poker. As you can well imagine he was not allowed at the bridge table. But poker and rummy was always full of laughter and played often. His generosity and hospitality was well known.

His greatest love, Malini Jayeneththi, his wife of over 50 years. He would to tell us about how he first saw her at the cinema and eventually meeting her parents. Theirs was a marriage of equals. Her pictures (from her younger days and there were many) were in key locations including his wallet, shrine room and desk. He loved her tremendously. My older cousins would regale that, "they were the cynosure of all eyes." When my mother came to England for his nephew's wedding, and due to an ash cloud, airports were being closed, my father got so upset that my mother would not be able to get back to him, that he had to be hospitalised. A dear friend of the family said "my god, he loved your mother." You could say that he literally worshipped her.

He had tremendous joy in his family. His dedication to their welfare couldn't be stronger. Having survived open brain surgery in 1979, he needed 2 more surgeries to remove all of the tumour over the following 15 years. As a result, he was very organised and methodical, working hard to ensure that his family will be taken care of. Keeping to the Dhamma, his love was unconditional. His consistent love for his children was strongly reflected in his reaction to the two school reports his daughters' would happily present him with. He would congratulate Sonali on her academic success and with the same tone of voice tell me, Soshana, that the failures are the pillars of success. He celebrated me achieving the entire alphabet consistently. He was certainly strict and enjoyed it when the boys looked at the ground when he walked past. He was dedicated to providing his family with the best that he could. He set a high standard for me to follow.

Das joined Forbes & Walker, working through the different commodities and then into share trading. This was his passion and in defending his rights, he won a landmark case in Sri Lanka. It is a testament to his resilience in the face of great adversity to hold on to his beliefs, to do what is right, as opposed to what is easy. Whilst he was Chairman of Lanka Milk Foods, he was honoured by his Workers Union for resolving their disputes fairly and he worked tirelessly to ensure that every child could get safe, high quality milk.

Jagath was a leader in the tea industry when he was a planter. Ranjan was honoured by the Government of Sri Lanka for his dedication, service and sacrifice to his nation. Hema was honoured by the government of Turkey. Das received the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon" from the Emperor of Japan for his years of dedication and leadership of Sri Lanka - Japan Business Cooperation Committee. They stood tall renowned for their integrity and dedication to their chosen vocation.

His young adult life is one that I cannot imagine even today. Early morning horse riding at Galle Face Green or a round of golf, evenings of attending dances, races in the weekend, playing cricket at his club the Sinhalese Sports Club, which are all a lifestyle from a bygone era.

Growing up with strong Sinhala Buddhist traditions, like each of his siblings, the morning and evening were marked with daily religious devotion. A habit ingrained so deeply that it was never broken. Even as his health failed and he lost his eyesight and his ability to stand, to walk, he would find a way to follow these traditions. In his shrine room, there is also a picture of my mother. Ven. Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero, of the Gangaramaya Temple visited him a few days before he passed. As he was leaving he had reminisced with my mother, how, thaththi would chant louder than the priests. Throughout his life he lead as well as financially contributed, to the restoration work at numerous temples as had his forefathers. Though his sisters, were brought up to not be seen, as per tradition, thaththi certainly did not enforce this in his own home. He encouraged us to be independent. He did instruct us though that when attending parties, and when invited to dance, we were to

He loved being able to help those in need. One Sunday afternoon, he gave me a fat, brown paper bag with a name and address and asked me to go with the driver and handover the package to the addressee. As I handed it to her and walked away, she ran after me and started giving me merit. I told her that it was from my father.

It turned out she needed to have a kidney transplant and had placed a notice in the newspaper asking for financial help. Thaththi had just given her the full amount needed. Over the years there were many such occasions. As a Rotarian, he received the Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International.

A keen reader of not only all the daily newspapers, but also the Sporting Times, he would share his love of horses with us along with an interest of economics, politics, history and social interest. Our dining table conversations would often turn to debate as we got older. But the Sporting Times, the smallest of the broadsheets, got the most amount

Horse racing was his hobby and he invested a lot of time studying the Race Card. A member of the Turf Club, he was keen to bring horse racing back to Sri Lanka and our holidays in April were spent in Nuwara Eliya, mainly at the race course. He was clearly very good at extracting knowledge from the Sporting Times as he always seemed to end up better off than when he started when he participated in events such as the Derby and Royal Ascot.

His one big indulgence was to attend the Epsom Derby. Always invited to the owners enclosure, he loved the traditions of the event and would spend many hours at Moss Brothers modelling morning suites with flamboyant waistcoats until his wife, Malini (who he professed to have fallen in love with on sight at the cinema) approved. Even in the latter stages of his life when he lost his sight, he would sit up straight and smile with happiness as he heard my mother's voice. He didn't know how to deny my mother anything, but he certainly made his disagreement known.

An alumni of St Thomas's and a member of the Sinhalese Sports Club, I cannot say my father excelled in sports. He certainly enjoyed it. He took great pleasure in knowing that his younger grandson, Vieran Gary Das Wijeratne Austin, who is a keen cricketer unfortunately, also shares the intimate knowledge of a Golden Duck. He believed in embracing early failures to build resilience. Which is probably how he became such a good negotiator. A skill demonstrated to me at leading retailers across the world. I still cannot keep a straight face when starting at even half way of his starting point.

His son-in-law, my husband, Gary Austin, reminded me of how gentle thaththi was with our elder son and his first grandson, Kayden Nigel Drogo Wijeratne Austin. My father's gentle side was shown as he so carefully cradled our older son and gave him his afternoon milk bottle soon after he was born and would sit in Kayden's room and watch him sleep quite often. Whilst we lived in Sri Lanka, my father ensured he saw Kayden everyday.

Over the last 15 years, I have got to know my father more, not by interacting with him but as I parent my own children. Whilst Kayden has his physique, (I can see why they all avoided shorts) many of my father's traits are reflected in Vieran, who carries his name. In the last couple of years, Vieran would do things and I would laugh as I recognise him. We will miss him greatly but know that his legacy will continue to live through us.

May he attain Nibbana.

Soshana Wijeratne Austin

HARTWIG SCHAFER AND SHIXIN CHEN

ahida Bibi feared for her family's survival when she lost her job as a housekeeper in Islamabad during the COVID-19 outbreak. Zahida's four children depend on her income – and so does her husband, a cancer patient.

Pakistan's Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program provided Zahida with a fast, digital lifeline she could access through a mobile phone. "This program is a ray of hope for poor families," she said.

The Ehsaas program is a great example of how safety net systems, enhanced through digital connectivity, can reach the poorest and the most vulnerable in times of crisis. Those in need use a text message and their national identification number to apply for Ehsaas help. Biometrics verify an applicant's identity before payments are issued. The system is data-driven, automated, and politically neutral.

As a response to COVID-19, the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are coordinating more than \$15.4 billion in wide-ranging lending programs in South Asia. One of the priority areas of support has been providing technical expertise to enhance the digital infrastructures delivering safety net programs.

Robust platforms with reliable data not only help countries distribute pandemic assistance now, but will also help them manage responses to natural disasters and climate change impacts in the future. Data collected can also provide valuable insights to guide future planning.

Let's take a closer look at two examples from the region. India distributes food, cash, and cooking gas through a digital ID system.

Since the pandemic began in March, more than 800 million Indians have received government-subsidized wheat, rice, or other kinds of food. Many have also received cash payments. Sources of assistance include the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) program, which offered cash payments, cylinders of cooking gas, and wheat rations to the poor.

The World Bank helped scale up the PMGKY program early in the pandemic and is now working to ensure benefits are portable and include internal migrant

World Bank, ADB join forces for a resilient recovery in South Asia

workers and informal workers in

ADB is helping to strengthen monitoring and evaluation for technology platforms and digital systems. The \$1.5 billion ADB support for India's COVID-19 response complements the World Bank's overall \$2.75 billion emergency support, including \$1.15 billion assistance to expand cash transfers and food benefits, especially for migrants and other vulnerable groups.

Pakistan responds immediately to pandemic-stricken poor through Emergency Cash Transfer Program. Pakistan's government quickly responded to the pandemic by nearly tripling its cash transfer program for poor women to 15 million beneficiaries. This was possible because the country has invested in programs like Benazir Income Support Program and Ehsaas Kafalat

. These programs are one of South Asia's largest social safety net system. The Ehsaas Kafalat program relies on the National Socio-Economic Registry, a data-



base covering 85 percent of the population.

While great results were achieved through this support, there's room for further improvement

A move towards a dynamic system for updating the National

Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) and integration among social program databases will help keep targeting data current and ensure a two-way flow of information. Besides avoiding duplication of effort, a centralized and integrated social regis-

try would also provide data for informed decisions regarding socio-economic policies and initiatives.

A World Bank project currently under preparation will help the social registry evolve to reflect the changing circumstances of the poor, including a localized automated system for people to easily and frequently update their data and allow that data to flow into support programs. Mobile technology and big data analytics will assess needs and determine eligibility. The outcome will be a more dynamic registry that remains up to date and ready to respond to crises.

ADB is also setting up a policy research unit that will use evidence-based information to continue fine-tuning and improving social protection systems. ADB supported the Ehsaas program through its \$300 million emergency assistance project and \$500 million COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program, both coordinated closely with World Bank's budget support to Pakistan.

Under a new country partnership strategy for Pakistan for 2021-2025, ADB aims to continue to support the Ehsaas program to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty through conditional cash transfers to improve education, health, and nutrition outcomes.

World Bank, ADB committed to South Asia

The World Bank and ADB organized their coronavirus crisis response in three overlapping stages: relief, restructuring, and recovery. The relief stage focused on treating and containing COVID-19 and getting cash to people in need. As economies reopened, the restructuring stage began helping businesses create sustainable jobs and strengthening health care systems.

The third stage is recovery. Both banks are committed to help South Asian countries "build back better" with more resilience. For example, the recovery stage is an ideal time to revisit import tariffs and trade barriers that impede the development of value chains. Economic recovery can be hastened by prioritizing transport corridors, modern logistics, and intraregional trade.

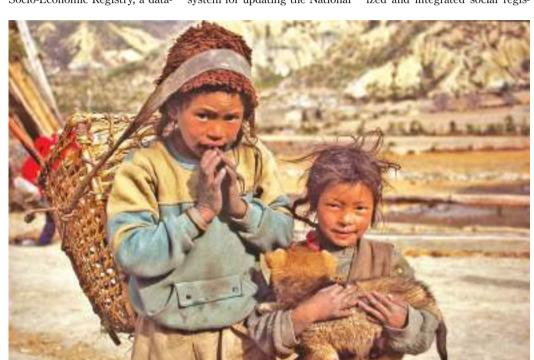
Our COVID-19 collaboration reflects shared goals: to save

Our COVID-19 collaboration reflects shared goals: to save lives, protect the most vulnerable, shore up economies and foster greater regional integration and cooperation. Longer term, we are helping countries build resilience to withstand future shocks from severe weather, rising seas, and blistering heat.

lives, protect the most vulnerable, shore up economies and foster greater regional integration and cooperation. Longer term, we are helping countries build resilience to withstand future shocks from severe weather, rising seas, and blistering heat. The pandemic has provided a glimpse of the severe disruptions likely to accompany climate change in the region.

The needs of South Asia far exceed the resources of its governments and any one multilateral bank. The World Bank and the ADB are committed to working together to help the region recover from the impact of COVID-19 and build a stronger South Asia with less poverty and more prosperity for all.

(Hartwig Schafer is WB Vice President for South Asia and Shixin Chen is Vice President, ADR)





Newly promoted Major Generals receive insignias

Senior Brigadiers of the Army who were promoted to Major Generals marking the 73rd National Independence Day received their rank insignia from Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander Shavendra Silva and 12 of them received theirs last week at the Commander's Office at the Army HQ in Sri Jayawardenepura.

Major General Priyal Nanayakkarawasam of the Army Service Corps, Commander Forward Maintenance Area – Kilinochchi; Major General Prasanna Ranawaka of VIR. General Officer Commanding 12 Division; Major General Nalin Koswatta of VIR, General Officer Commanding 23 Division; Major General Nandana Dunuwila of Gemunu Watch, General Officer Commanding 56 Division; Major General Deepal Pussella of VIR, General Officer Commanding 62 Division; Major General Ajantha Wijesuriya of Gemunu



Watch - Brigadier Logistic, Army Logistic Command; Major General Kithsiri Ekanayake of Sri Lanka Light Infantry, Director General Plans; Major General Krishantha Gnanaratne of Commando Regiment - Commandant Sri Lanka Military Academy; Major General Shiran Abeysekera of Sri Lanka Artillery, Director General Rehabilitation; Major General Ajith Kolambathantri of Sri Lanka Artillery, Military

Secretary; Major General Saminda Lamahewa of Gemenu Watch, Commandant Combat Training School - Ampara and Major General Priyantha Jayawardena of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment, Commandant Infantry Training Centre in Minneriya were among those who received theirs at the Commander's Office.

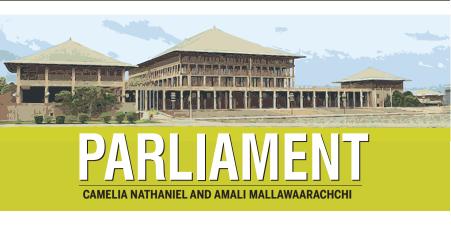
General Shavendra Silva acknowledging President's approval for those deserving and overdue

promotions told them that such inspiring promotions would inevitably serve a catalyst to their continuing arduous roles in specific capacities and were made largely on their merits and specific performances, and not on the seniority alone. While wishing them good luck with their future prospects, General Shavendra Silva reminded them of the significance of dedicated contribution to the

national security, nation-

building and communityoriented development tasks while paying equal focus on varied welfare benefits of All Ranks serving under new Major

He requested them to adopt maximum possible precautionary measures to prevent soldiers from any infection of the COVID-19 pandemic while equally applying precautionary and safety steps to protect civilians from the infection.



Government will not allow anyone to shun estate workers' rights

- Minister Siripala de Silva

The Government will not allow any plantation companies to curtail the privileges of the plantation workers, Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said in Parliament yesterday. He said that the Government will take every measure to protect the workers' rights.

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said that the Government was not able to reach a collective agreement with the plantation companies regarding the wage issue. He said that the only option left



was for the Wages Board to approve the daily wage of Rs. 1,000.

The proposal made to increase the daily wage to

Rs. 1,000 was approved by a majority vote yesterday

Migrant workers' PFs

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said in Parliament yesterday that the Government is planning for a new agreement that would allow crediting the Provident Fund of Migrant Workers directly

to the Provident Fund of Sri Lanka. Minister De Silva said that a large number of Sri Lankan workers are working in various countries such as India and Bangladesh and that their Provident Funds were credited to the Provident Funds in those countries.

to Lanka's EPF

Minister De Silva said that he will inform the Cabinet about the concept and sign a special agreement with those countries so that their Employment Provident Funds (EPFs) be credited directly to the EPF in Sri Lanka.

(8), Minister De Silva said. "The previous government could not increase

the wages of workers but today we did increase it. We fulfilled our national duty and responsibility for these workers. The Government does not allow employers to work according to their whims and fancies. We protect workers' rights," the Minister Minister De Silva said

that the Cost of Living allowance must be paid to the workers. He said that even though some workers have a monthly salary of over Rs. 30,000, most labourers do not, and that a number of laws are being drafted to protect these workers.

Minister De Silva said that the Government is concerned about the welfare of the estate workers and the measures taken to uplift their living condition is not political propaganda.

"If the employers are unable to pay the proper daily wages of the workers, the estates will be taken over by the Government and the wages will be paid properly," Minister De Silva said.

Writ petition challenging PC's recommendation fixed for support

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A writ petition by Parliamentarian Rasamaniccam challenging the recommendation of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to look into alleged political victimisation of public servants, to re-instate a former Marketing Manager (Retail) of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) was yesterday fixed for support on February 23 by the Court of Appeal.

The petitioner stated that his family business M/S Rasamanickam & Sons has been holding the dealership of CPC in Kalawanchikudy since 1980.

The Petitioner states that on 20th November 2012, the 13th Respondent Chaminda Prasad Samarakoon claims to have issued a letter calling for explanation from M/s Rasamanickam & Sons for allegedly operating the dealership by a third party.

The petitioner said that the 13th respondent was the former Marketing Manager (Retail) at the CPC who was dismissed from service consequent to disciplinary inquiries.

The petitioner states that in or about August, 2015 the 13th Respondent was interdicted by the CPC pending discipli-

nary inquiries against him.

The petitioner said that the 13th respondent had lodged the complaint to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry alleging that he was politically vic-

The petitioner said that the Presidential Commission had recommended to reinstate the 13th respondent in the CPC.

President's Counsel

Nigel Hatch along with Counsel Shantha Jayawardena and Chamara Nanayakkawasam instructed by Dinesh De Silva appeared for the Petitioner.

Additional Solicitor General Parinda Ranasinghe appeared for the Attorney General.

President's Counsel Manohara De Silva along with counsel Mohamed Adamaly appeared for the 13th Respondent.

Infant's body exhumed in Batticaloa

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

A body of an infant had been exhumed under the supervision of Batticaloa Magistrate A.C. Rizvan at the Poonochchimunai Muslim burial ground on February 8.

A mother of two of Poonochchimunai in the Kattankudy Police area had delivered her third child who subsequently died on

January 2. The Mother had informed the mosque authorities about the death and buried the body at the burial ground.

Thereafter, she had been hospitalized because of her weakness and while she was at the hospital, her behaviour had roused suspicion among the medical staff and they in return complained to the Police about the woman. The

Police had requested the Batticaloa Magistrate to exhume the body and to perform a post mortem in this regard.

The body was exhumed in the presence of the medical officers of Batticaloa Teaching Hospital C.S.Jeyalapreruma, E.W.N.E. Sammika and S. Sivakanthan.

The Kattankudy Police are investigating.



The SLPP Conference for the Muttur constituency was held at the Muttur Public Library under the chairmanship of MS Uwais recently. Trincomalee Parliamentarian and District Coordinating Committee Co-Chairman Nuwan Kapila Athukorala was the special guest. A large number of people from the Trincomalee District participated. Picture by A.M.A. Fareed, Trincomalee District Special Corn.

Customs Media Spokesman resigns

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Media Spokesman of the Sri Lanka Customs, Additional Director General (ADG) Sunil Jayaratne has resigned from the position with effect from February 2.

In his letter to the Director General of Customs, Jayaratne has mentioned that he resigned on a personal matter.

ADG Jayaratne functioned as the Customs' Media Spokesperson for three and a half years from 2017.

OBITUARY





2021

OLGA MILLICENT SIRIMANNE

Precious wife of Lionel (Siri), beloved mother of Sunil and Mary; Laksen and Mai; Minoli and Pulinda, adored aunt, grandmother, and great grandmother

"As long as there is love and faith, there is no true loss"

Passed away peacefully on 3rd February and a private funeral was held according to her wishes



A PCR testing machine and a fully equipped laboratory costing Rs. 28.4 million was recently installed at the Kegalle General Hospital. The total cost of the machine and laboratory, which can conduct around 600 PCR tests per day, was borne by the Government. There is a potential to increase the capacity of this unit to 1,000 to 1,200 tests per day. PCR test samples of the Kegalle District and suburbs had to be sent to Kandy, Ratnapura and Colombo and test reports took several days.

Governor orders pesticide ban in Yan Oya valley

ABDUL HALEEM Mollipothana group

Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath has designated the 'Yan Oya Valley' as a farming zone free of pesti-

Lands have been given to farmers who had lost their land due to the Yan Oya project in this area.

This is according to a special proposal made by the Trincomalee's Agrarian Services Assistant Commissioner Waruni Saravanandan.

The decision was



taken by the Governor at a special meeting held at the Governor's Secretariat in Trincomalee on Monday (8).

Accordingly, from now on, the addition of any pesticides or chemicals to agricultural activities in the 500 acres of land belonging to the Yan Oya valley will be strictly prohibited.

This decision has been taken to stop the destruction caused by the application of the chemical to farm lands in the area. It was also proposed

to educate farmers to engage in agricultural activities while protecting the biodiversity of the newly acquired lands.The Governor instructed the Assistant Agrarian Service Commissioner to prepare a special programme to monitor whether farmers are carrying out such

Obituaries

GREGORY APPUHAMY - Marist Brother - Reverend Brother Gregory Appuhamy has been called to Rest in Jesus. Former Principal of Maris Stella College, Negombo and former Provincial Superior of Sri Lanka Province, expired at the age of 85 in Negombo. His mortal remains are laid in state at Western Funeral Parlour, Copra Junction, Negombo till 10th Wednesday for the public. The funeral mass will be held on Wednesday the 10th February at 3 p.m. at the Funeral Parlour, followed by the Burial at the General Cemetery, Negombo. 010283

BANDARANAYAKE - MRS SITA -Beloved wife of J. (Jim), Bandaranavake (Rtd. DIG), loving mother of Hiranthi, Ananda, Rajinder & Dhilini, loving grandmother of Dharshan, Siddath, Ramith & Dinuk. Remains lie at "The Restpect Home" by Jayaratne's. Cortege leaves the Parlour at 11.00 a.m. for Cremation at 11.30 a.m. at General Cemetery, Borella. (New Crematorium).

VATHANI SENATHIRAJAH (Former Teacher, Chundukuli Girls' School, Jaffna, Ladies' College Colombo), daughter of late Poornam and Ganamuthu Arulanandam, beloved husband of Jeyakumar Senathirajah, mother of Adrian, Rukshan, Krishan, sister of Arulkumar, late Ravi Kumar, sister-inlaw of Ajanthini, Geraldine, Ravindra, Jeevaraj, Nimalan, Jothi, Clement, Shashi, Nimali and Inthika. Her remains will be layed at Jayaratne Parlour from 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 (Qutar) - +97450295417, Rukshan - 0763787313.

All COVID-19 patients treated at hospitals - Official

All COVID-19 patients have been treated at a medical facility set apart for the purpose Medical Technical Services Director Dr. Anwar Hamdani said.

Although about 600-800 COVID-19 cases are reported daily in various parts of the country, the health sector has succeeded in providing all medical facilities needed for them, he said.

set up by the Health Ministry Secretary is currently working to carry out this task despite difficulties. The Health Ministry has so far established 79 COVID-19 Treatment Centers island-

He said that there are 11,443 beds in all these treatment centers and to date 6,000 COVID patients are being treat-

Dr. Hamdani said that a special unit ed in all these treatment centers and nine Emergency Care Centers (ICUs) set up countrywide.

Dr.Hamdani further said that no patient with COVID-19 should be frightened for any reason as the treatment services are active, setting an example to the world by not keeping any COVID-19 patients in the country at home or in the hospital corridors.



Dr. Anwar Hamdani.

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



PEOPLE'S BANK



(Corporate Banking Division)

AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY

Akmeemana, Galle

All that divided and defined Residential Condominium parcels described below depicted in Condominium Plan No.15320 dated 18.05.2018 made by S. Wickramasinghe, Licensed Surveyor, situated along the Akuressa Road, Galle within the Grama Niladhari Division of No. 113C Anangoda and Divisional Secretary's Division of Akmeemana within the limits of the Akmeemana Pradeshiya Sabhawa in the Four Gravets of Galle in the District of Galle, Southern Province.

Ref.	Parcel Number	Assessment	Number	Tower	Floor	Floor Area (Square Meters)	Land Registry Registration (Galle Land Registry)
1	A/NT/F2/P5	171/60	2/5	North Tower	2nd Floor	73	CON/J 01/13
2	A/NT/F2/P6	171/60	2/6	North Tower	2nd Floor	73	CON/J 01/15
3	A/NT/F2/P8	171/60	2/8	North Tower	2nd Floor	106.25	CON/J 01/19
4	A/NT/F2/P10	171/60	2/10	North Tower	2nd Floor	103.75	CON/J 01/23
5	A/NT/F3/P1	171/60	3/1	North Tower	3rd Floor	103.75	CON/J 01/25
6	A/NT/F3/P2	171/60	3/2	North Tower	3rd Floor	106.25	CON/J 01/27
7	A/NT/F3/P3	171/60	3/3	North Tower	3rd Floor	106.25	CON/J 01/29
8	A/NT/F3/P5	171/60	3/5	North Tower	3rd Floor	73	CON/J 01/33
9	A/NT/F3/P7	171/60	3/7	North Tower	3rd Floor	71.75	CON/J 01/37
10	A/NT/F3/P8	171/60	3/8	North Tower	3rd Floor	106.25	CON/J 01/39
11	A/NT/F3/P9	171/60	3/9	North Tower	3rd Floor	106.25	CON/J 01/41
12	A/NT/F4/P4	171/60	4/4	North Tower	4th Floor	72.25	CON/J 01/51
13	A/NT/F4/P10	171/60	4/10	North Tower	4th Floor	103.75	CON/J 01/63
14	A/NT/F5/P4	171/60	5/4	North Tower	5th Floor	72.25	CON/J 01/71
15	A/NT/F5/P5	171/60	5/5	North Tower	5th Floor	73	CON/J 01/73
16	A/NT/F5/P6	171/60	5/6	North Tower	5th Floor	73	CON/J 01/75
17	A/NT/F5/P7	171/60	5/7	North Tower	5th Floor	71.75	CON/J 01/77
18	A/NT/F6/P4	171/60	6/4	North Tower	6th Floor	72.25	CON/J 01/91
19	A/NT/F6/P5	171/60	6/5	North Tower	6th Floor	73	CON/J 01/93
20	A/NT/F6/P6	171/60	6/6	North Tower	6th Floor	73	CON/J 01/95
21	A/NT/F7/P5	171/60	7/6	North Tower	7th Floor	73	CON/J 01/113
22	A/NT/F8/P5	171/60	8/5	North Tower	8th Floor	73	CON/J 01/131
23	A/NT/F10/P4	171/60	10/4	North Tower	10th Floor	145.25	CON/J 02/33
24	A/NT/F11/P1	171/60	11/1	North Tower	11th Floor	103.75	CON/J 02/45
25	A/NT/F11/P5	171/60	11/5	North Tower	11th Floor	73	CON/J 02/53
26	A/NT/F12A/P8	171/60	14/8	North Tower	12A Floor	104	CON/J 02/107
27	A/NT/F12A/P7	171/60	14/7	North Tower	12A Floor	106.25	CON/J 02/103
28	A/NT/F14/P4	171/60	14/7	North Tower	14th Floor	105.5	CON/J 02/105
29	A/ST/F4/P4	171/50	4/4	South Tower	4th Floor	73	CON/J 03/23
30	A/ST/F5/P5	171/50	5/5	South Tower	4thFloor	73	CON/J 03/43
31	A/ST/F5/P10	171/50	5/10	South Tower	4thFloor	103.75	CON/J 03/53
32	A/ST/F12A/P2	171/50	14/2	South Tower	12A Floor	106.25	CON/J 04/63
33	A/ST/F14/P1	171/50	14/2	South Tower	14th Floor	105.5	CON/J 04/65
34	A/ST/F12A/P7	171/50	14/7	South Tower	12A Floor	106.25	CON/J 04/79
35	A/ST/F14/P4	171/50	14/7	South Tower	14th Floor	105.5	CON/J 04/81

Please refer the Government Gazette of 24th December 2020 and Daily News, Dinamina and Thinakaran of 25th December 2020 for the notice of resolution

Under the authority granted to us by People's Bank we shall sell by Public Auction

Wednesday 10th March 2021

Commencing at 11.00 a.m at the People's Bank Regional Head Office, Galle

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

The Property Mortgaged to People's Bank By: Fairway Galle (Private) Limited

Mode of Payment:

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

- 10% (Ten Percent) of the Purchased Price.
- 2. 1% (One Percent) of the Sales Taxes payable to the Local Authority.
- Auctioneer's Commission of 2 ½ % (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price.
- Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,500/=
- Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.
- 6. Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale.

Balance 90% (Ninety percent) of the purchased price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale to the Chief Manager-Recoveries, People's Bank, Head office, 10th Floor, No.75, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mw, Colombo 02. Tel: 011-2481443,011-2481546.

The Title Deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the aforesaid address. If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit 10% of the purchase price already paid and resell the property.

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

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Web: www.sandslanka.com



DN page 8 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021















the guest

Opening Prayer - by the Sub Director of St. Benedict's College Rev. Bro. Pravin Vaz

Duminda Perera addressing the gathering

Distinguished Old Ben Devaan Cooray addressing the gathering





OBSERVER

JOBS

BREAKING **BOUNDARIES**

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST

RECRUITMENT

JOBSEEKERS

DATABASE



"NAMADIMU" paying homage to the teachers, an example to the whole country by the Old Boys' Union of St. Benedict's College



t. Benedict's College, Colombo 13, with a rich historical heritage of more than 155 years, s proud to have an Old Boys' Union, that has always come out with unique and new concepts, which has immensely benefitted both the college and the society in the past. They have yet again launched a project to honour their past teachers, titled "NAMADIMU"

This project was launched to honour and show gratitude to the teachers who have dedicated more han half of their life span to groom their students. The project "NAMADIMU" includes a life insurance cover, a monthly monetary donation, an annual medical checkup and a counseling clinic amongst many more special benefits, for 55 retired teachers who have nurtured their students in both the primary and secondary divisions of the college since 1960.

The blessings received from the Director of the College, Rev. Bro. Dr. Pubudu Rajapakse, FSC, towards this project was an immense strength to the Old Boy's Union. This project was accelerated, within a short period of three months, in spite of the current difficult times due to the Covid Pandemic,

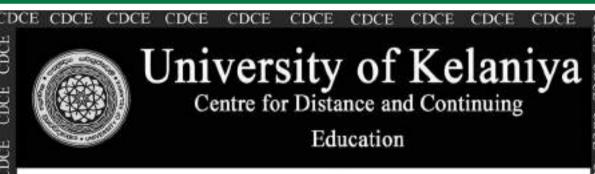
thanks to the generous donations received from the Benedictine Fraternity domiciled here and abroad showing their love and dedication towards their Alma Mater. The agreement for the Life Insurance cover was signed with Soltlogic Insurance.

The "NAMADIMU" project carries a valuable message to past students of every school in Sri Lanka, as the Old Boy's Union of St. Benedict's College strongly believe that it is the duty and obligation of every student to pay tribute to their past teachers. On behalf of the Old Boy's Union, this project was jointly coordinated by Mr Dharshaka Fernando and Mr Marlon Perera under the able guidance of the Hon. General Secretary Mr. Priyal Perera. In order to maintain transparency, audited accounts will be made available to all donors.

Those within the Benedictine Fraternity wishing to obtain further information or contribute towards this project, could email to bensobusrilanka@ gmail.com, log onto www.bensobu.lk or call Project Chairman Mr Darshaka Fernando 0773 - 853 322 or OBU Office 2 444 461.

May this great effort be a tribute to all teachers!





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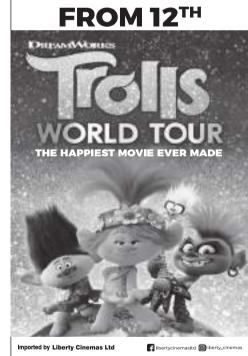
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: editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk Wednesday, February 10, 2021

A victory for truth

s we have explained in these spaces earlier, there A is a lot of misinformation on almost every subject on Earth on Facebook and other social media platforms. This is hardly surprising, since Facebook is a smorgasbord of content generated by billions of users worldwide, who hold disparate views on various issues. Needless to say, many users peddle outright lies in their social media posts, some of which could be dangerous and even life-threatening.

This is indeed the case with COVID-19, which has so far infected more than 106 million people worldwide. If you scour the pages on Facebook, you will come across any number of pages which deny the very existence of COVID-19 ("it is a hoax"), denigrate the efficacy and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, decry lockdown and isolation measures imposed by Governments and spread many other fabrications.

Facebook, increasingly under pressure by Governments and regulators to moderate its platforms, has finally swallowed the bitter pill and decided that enough is enough. Facebook yesterday said it will remove any false posts related to COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccines, and vaccines in general. The company began removing debunked COVID-19 claims in December last year and notifying customers when they had seen a post that contains false information. But now the list of potential claims that could get a post removed has grown.

Under this decision, Facebook will remove any pages that make outlandish claims such as that COVID-19 is man-made, vaccines are not effective at preventing the disease, it is safer to get the disease than to get its vaccine and vaccines are dangerous, toxic, or cause autism. Claims that Microsoft founder Bill Gates is trying to inject Nano chips capable of tracking people into inoculations as well as conspiracy theories that COVID is caused by 5G cell phone waves will also be booted out. These theories have been comprehensively debunked by experts countless times, yet there are those who fall prey to them.

Facebook says it will start enforcing this policy immediately, focusing on groups, pages, and accounts that share content from its new list of debunked claims. The company also says it would consider removing the sources of the posts entirely if they became repeat offenders. This is a victory for all those who value truth, because Facebook was a major source of vaccine misinformation well before the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing it more directly could have a meaningful impact. We hope that Facebook-owned apps such as WhatsApp and Instagram, not to mention Twitter and other social media apps will also follow suit.

It is not enough to drive people away from falsehoods. Facebook et al must also steer users in the direction of truth and facts. This is vital in the age of "alternative facts", "post-truth" and even "fake news". In short, social media companies must help people navigate the pandemic of misinformation (sometimes called the "infodemic") and seek correct information. Hence, it is important to note that Facebook is also making adjustments to how factual COVID-19 information is delivered on Facebook and Instagram. The company will feature links to authentic and authorised vaccine information and for signing up to receive a vaccination in respective countries in its COVID-19 Information Centre, and it plans to bring the feature to Instagram as well.

We hope Sri Lanka too will get this feature, since vaccinations for the general population here are starting in March this year. In an attempt to show its commitment to these new policies, Facebook is extending US\$ 120 million in advertising credits to "help health ministries, NGOs, and UN agencies" spread COVID-19 vaccine information to its billions of users. It is not yet known how this will be distributed, though.

In another move, Facebook says it is continuing to improve search on both platforms to surface more "relevant, authoritative results" when a user searches something related COVID-19, including displaying any users who discourage vaccinations lower in search results. Google, the biggest search engine on the Internet, should follow suit. If any information is false, the search engines should make that clear to the users.

One might argue that people should be able to speak freely on the Net and espouse their own theories regardless of whether they are true or false. This is a dangerous assumption. Here in Sri Lanka, we have seen how social media posts added fuel to the fire after the unfortunate events of Easter Sunday 2019. It was with the greatest difficulty that a bigger calamity

This is why content policing and moderation by both social media companies and Government authorities are essential. Facebook appointed a team of moderators conversant in Sinhala and Tamil after the Easter Sunday tragedy to monitor any incendiary posts. While their numbers could have been increased, they seem to be doing a good job for the moment. This policy must continue and the authorities too should be on guard against any attempts to spread misinformation via social media. Yes, free speech must be protected, but not at the cost of precious lives.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Fake news on social media can be as simple as spreading misinformation or as dangerous as smearing hateful propaganda. - Fabrizio Moreira

Easter Sunday probes shift to next gear

oncluding 16 months of extensive investigations, the much-awaited Final Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks was submitted to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on February 1.

The hefty report comprises 472 pages, 215 annexures and six volumes. The five-member Commission headed by Supreme Court Judge Janak de Silva, which was appointed on September 22, 2019, was entrusted with the task of finding the missing pieces of the puzzle behind the Easter Sunday carnage that shook the Nation in a series of suicide bombings in churches and hotels. The series of brutal attacks took about 270 innocent lives and injured more than 550 people including foreigners, children and women.

The Commission recorded evidence from 457 people and carefully analysed the data and information obtained from them. Some information that came up during the cross-examination of testimonies sent shockwaves across the country as those triggered more questions than answers on the inaction over the multiple foreign intelligence pre-warnings of the attacks and the lukewarm attitude by the then authorities over matters of national security.

Follow-up actions

Former President Maithripala Sirisena was grilled by the Commission he himself appointed, for more than eight days, and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Ministers, former Defence Secretaries, the former IGP, high-ranking Intelligence officials and Security Forces personnel were among others who were interrogated by the Com-

The Commission had previously presented interim reports to the President on two occasions last year. Addressing the Independence Day Ceremony at Independence Square last Thursday, the President vowed to take speedy action against those responsible for the Easter Sunday attacks and the Central Bank Bond Scam in keeping with the pre-election promises of his Government.

instructions to implement the recom-Easter Sunday attacks. "We will not allow those responsible for designing and enabling this massive tragedy to

escape justice," he stressed. It was welcome news that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is determined to take swift legal action based on the Commission report, which has been produced putting in a lot of money, time and effort. The country has seen many Presidential Commissions comprising retired Judges and erudite members over the past decades and they had presented comprehensive reports after extensive investigations. What had not been very forthcoming were the follow up actions based on the findings and recommendations of those Commissions.

It is learnt that Archbishop of Colombo, MalcolmCardinal Ranjith has already written to the President asking for a copy of the PCoI report on the Easter Sunday attacks. As soon as the report was handed over to the President, he called for the release of the report. National People's Power (NPP) Leader Anura Dissanayake, speaking to the media on Monday, also demanded that the report be



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tabled in Parliament. The Government has not yet responded to this

investigations.

Marches in the North

In the meantime, the Northern and the Eastern Provinces saw a "Pottuvil to Polikandy" or "P2P" five-day walk organized by a number of Tamil politi-He said that he had already given cal parties and civil society groups last week to highlight the issues faced by mendations of the PCoI report on the minorities. A great deal of attention was also focused on an Independence Day march organised by several groups in Jaffna on February 4, where they called for unity among all communities in a unitary Sri Lanka. This parade organised by the Jaffna Civil Society Centre under the theme "One Country, One Nation" commenced from the Pannai square in Jaffna and proceeded towards the Jaffna Fort and concluded near the Jaffna library. The event that followed the parade saw the participation of the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara and several Tamil politicians. The marchers carried trilingual placards and national flags, calling for peace and reconciliation among all communities. Several other Independence Day ceremonies took place throughout the Northern and Eastern

Provinces. The P2P march began from Pottuvil in Ampara on February 3 and ended in Polikandy in Point Pedro last Sunday, covering a length of about 460 kilometres, connecting the two furthest points in the North and the East polity. The walk was meant to steal the limelight ahead of the United Nations Human

Rights Council (UNHRC) session scheduled to begin later this month.

With the UN Human Rights Chief's report on Sri Lanka on the table in Geneva, Tamil political parties have demanded that the international community pressurize Sri Lanka towards "justice and accountability" and lasting solutions for "minority grievances".

The procession, which travelled through eight districts, was also joined by some Muslims and Tamils of Indian origin. Collectively they called for "justice" for the families of missing persons, release of Tamil prisoners detained for long periods under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), a stop to mandatory cremations of the bodies of Muslim brethren who succumb to COVID-19 and a Rs. 1,000 basic daily wage for plantation workers

cause a public nuisance and violate COVID-19 health guidelines. The Police told the Court that it could be an attempt to tarnish the country's image and spread communal disharmony with the Geneva UN Human Rights Council sessions around the corner.

The protesters marched ahead despite the Court orders and interventions by Police at several points. Mindful not to exacerbate the situation, the Police then let it proceed while tightening surveillance measures. It was reported that the Police were contemplating taking legal action against the organisers based on the evidence recorded in CCTV cameras.

The marchers and the vehicles carried placards and black flags as a mark of protest and red and yellow flags were also seen in the hands of many. Red and yellow are colours associated with the TNA logo.

The marchers stopped at the "memorial" of Thileepan, a political wing leader of the LTTE who fasted to death in 1987 near the Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil, and at the first Black Tiger suicide bomber "Captain" Miller's "memorial" at Nelliady. Tamil Diaspora groups supportive of the LTTE organized vehicle processions in major cities such as London, Geneva, and Toronto waving the LTTE flag. The LTTE remains banned in most countries and it was somewhat disconcerting that the authorities in these countries still allowed these protests by groups allied to a banned terrorist organisation.

The protests here and abroad, which gave the impression that the "P2P" protesters were glorifying the ruthless LTTE, raised many eyebrows and



Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith

(which has now been approved with the intervention of the Wages Boards). Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP

M.A. Sumanthiran in a Facebook video added that the march was also aimed at "raising awareness about the restrictions on minorities, land grabbing in the North and other alleged human rights violations in the country".

Along with MP Sumanthiran, TNA MP Shanakiyan Rasamanickam and Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) Leader MP Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam were seen in the march, attended by many Tamil-speaking former and sitting MPs and Provincial Councillors including former MP and Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) Leader Mavai Senathirajah, Tamil Makkal Thesiya Koottani (TMTK) Leader MP C.V. Wigneswaran, and Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA) Leader MP Mano Ganesan.

Unity matters

The Police obtained several Restraining Orders from the Magistrate's Courts in the relevant areas on the grounds that the march could proved that the suspicions of the Police were not without reason. Those acts led to many independent observers questioning the bona fides of the initially stated purposes of the protest.

Many will agree that division on ethnic lines in this manner does not do any good to the country. It is not a good sign if moderate voices of the Tamil and Muslim communities are increasingly failing to be heard amidst the din created by hardliners in their respective communities.

Analysing the country's annals, it is evident that ethnic divisions were not deeply rooted at the time we gained Independence from the British colonial rule. Peaceful coexistence was a reality back then, and there had been many Tamil and Muslim leaders including Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam and T.B. Jayah who fought shoulder to shoulder with Sinhalese leaders in the country's freedom struggle. It is high time we cultivate the same spirit of unity among us in the face of countless challenges before the country in all spheres. As the proverbial saying goes, "United We Stand, Divided We



Former President Maithripala Sirisena departs after testifying at the PCol into the Easter Sunday attacks.



St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade, was one of the churches attacked by suicide

The desperate NGO wish for Lanka to be Myanmar

hat happened in Myanmar? The military 'coup' in Myanmar is not a coup in the truest sense of the word for the simple reason that the military was already in charge more or less. Maybe you could say less earlier than what it is now, which explains the use of more or less in the preceding part of this sentence.

However, the alleged military coup seems to have sent ants scurrying up the elbows of certain people permanently on edge in this country. It is interesting, but also hilarious. One local NGO type wrote this a few days after the recent tumultuous events in Myanmar happened: "As for space for civil society activity, it is being surely and steadily shrunk by the inquiries of the Security Forces, the work and presence of Task Forces. Myanmar has happened. Are we next? Does it need to?'

Another commentator offered this: "Politicization of the military serves neither the military nor democracy. The process is as dangerous as it is volatile. ...Even in Sri Lanka, the love and respect the military now enjoys in the South of the country were not there when the military was battling the Leftist insurrections in 1971 and

The gist is clear. There is too much military intrusion here in what should be civilian processes of governance, and hence, a military coup cannot be ruled out - since it has happened over there in Myanmar. We can understand that writers on a slow news day are searching for topics to write about, but even by that metric the above is such a stretch that it must be straining these people at the sinews.

Quota of seats

Trying to predict something for Sri Lanka on the lines of the coup in Myanmar is ridiculous for many reasons. The first is that as stated at the outset, the 'coup' in Myanmar is a coup-not-quite, as the men in khaki were quite dominant and never did go away despite the hybrid military-civilian system they were willing to accommodate in part because of the steely and unrelenting resistance of the



Aung San Suu Kyi



Myanmar military junta chief Senior **General Min Aung Hlaing**



A soldier checks the temperature of a rider in Colombo. The Army is in the frontline of the battle against COVID-19

undisputed political icon of the nation, Aung San Suu Kyi. They held a quota of the Parliamentary seats and Cabinet posts reserved for themselves.

Moreover, this was a military that was ruling Myanmar for the better part of the last 50 years. Myanmar is no Sri Lanka in this regard, and anybody who pretends not to know that is being disingenuous. The military reluctantly ceded some power to the civilian political leadership in Myanmar and decided to take it back last week. There is no condoning it of course. No sane commentator on world affairs would be happy about the events in that country.

But that is different from recog-

nizing it for what it is. The military that was always dominant has reasserted its dominance. It is not even remotely close to the Sri Lankan situation in which the military never once had a hand in governance. That first quote by the NGO writer in Colombo that goes 'Myanmar has happened, are we next?' breaks the ridiculousness Richter by a bushel-

No, we are not next, and everybody knows that. We never were or are remotely close to Myanmar in respect of military dominance. Now, it is well known that the NGO brigade will try to sell the family farm if they can show something that patently is not there — a military takeover of Sri Lankan governance.

Just because the military is popular in this country, it does not mean that the men in uniform are ruling. The military does not own any major State companies as it does in Myanmar. The military is a sleeping giant in this country - and the last Government tried to wake up this giant with regular harassment.

There is no harassment of the military today, and that is seen by the NGO types as military dominance. They see the military not being harassed on a daily basis these days, and are not used to seeing that after five years of seeing the military cowed and ridden roughshod over. So the NGO brigade thinks the military must be ruling.

Secret desire

In their rush to try and father a canard that there is militarization in this country, they have forgotten that people here are having more organic ties if you will with the military in this country, after the Army in particular became synonymous with efficiency. But the Tri Forces merge into the scenery here, literally. The mass of them are in camouflage even when they are fighting Covid.

The detractors should also be able to recognize the fact that Sri Lankans are not enamored with one leader. In Myanmar they have to rely on Aung San Suu Kyi. Civilian politics is almost entirely identified with her.

When the local alarmists compare Sri Lanka with Myanmar they seem to secretly wish that Sri Lanka would be like that. But here, leaders change. Presidents come and they go. Power is not personified in the figure of one individual, not even Mahinda Rajapaksa who is now a former President, a fact made all the more real considering that it is President Gotabaya Rajapaksa who is now being accused by these NGO folks of 'having installed the military'.

We have such deep-rooted traditions of democracy here that the Army wouldn't know even if power hit them in the face. It is because the military is always looking out for civilian leadership. That is what's happening today in the country, for instance.



People protest against the military takeover in Myanmar

The Army was on the lookout for a civilian politician to come around and save them, even in the face of the worst ignominy. When the military was being persecuted in the five years of UNP rule, its high command was expecting a new political leadership to come and play the saviour

When the Easter Sunday carnage happened, it is the Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, a faith leader, not a military man, who came around and filled the leadership vacuum. Imagine if that had happened in Myanmar!

The problem the Sri Lankan NGOs are having now is that they are desperate the Army is not anywhere close to fitting their artificial narrative of military dominance. So they are goading the Army to please come and take over, as in Myanmar so that their story can for once ring true. For example, the NGO writer referred to above writes something



A soldier on duty at Galle Face Green

to the effect that we may soon have the Army running the economy.

Civilian chutzpah

Well, it is their wish. They can then say — 'See, see, we are are looking like Myanmar'. As things are, we are looking nothing like Myanmar and they are sad about it. Their narrative of 'militarization' lies in smithereens. The fact remains that we were never a country that had a social fabric woven around the military. Over the years, the military was the last thing on people's minds. This is the country of the 'Weva' and the 'Dagoba' the tank and the temple. The military even in recently popular parlance, were the 'boys'. They are the shy and retiring fellows hanging around downtown trying to melt into the scenery in their camouflage, looking self-conscious by the fire hydrant or the lamp post. Militarization my foot.

But contrast that with the assertiveness of civilian leadership here. In Myanmar, when the military took over, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, from her place of detention, had to ask her followers to protest. Back in Colombo, civilians are always in protest mode, and they are the ones who have to ask the Army to pack some punch, get a hold of themselves, and protest against unfair accusations against them on the human rights front, etc.

Aung San Suu Kyi would have given anything to have an Army like ours. It is an army that has to be goaded into doing things — "Please take over this or that, because we civilians, erm, we are busy protesting all the time and raising Hell over there, and raising Cain over here." As a matter of fact, Aung San Suu Kyi would also have given anything to have a horde of civilian followers such as ours. The Army in Myanmar would not have tried anything with our type of civilian chutzpah — and that is the way it ought to be — and always is — here in Colombo.

The West vs Global South:

"You Have the Numbers. We Have the Money"

THALIF DEEN

hen the 134-member Group of 77, the largest single coalition of developing countries, was trying to strike a hard bargain in its negotiations with Western nations years ago, one of its envoys famously declared: "You have the numbers. We have the money.

But that implicit threat - signifying the power of the purse– did not deter the G77 from playing a key role in helping shape the UN's socio-economic agenda, including sustainable development, environmental protection, universal health care, South-South cooperation, eradication of extreme poverty and hunger - all of them culminating largely in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and targeted for a 2030 deadline.

The People's Republic of China, the world's second largest economy after the US, has remained an integral part - and a strong supporter - of the G77, going back to the historic 1992 Earth Summit in Rio.

At that summit meeting - which marked a battle between the West and the global South over funding to promote development while protecting the environment – a G77 delegate told his colleagues in a closed-door gathering: "We have to confront them with an iron fist cloaked in a velvet glove.'

The G77's strength in numbers – with over two-thirds of the UN's 193-member states provides it with an unparalleled political clout ranking ahead of the Non-Aligned Movement (with 120 members), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (57), the Asian Group (55), the African Group (54), the Latin American and Caribbean Group (33) the European Union (27) and the Eastern European Group (23).

While the G77 focused on achieving sustainable development, NAM pursued the hard-core politics of the global South, including human rights, neo-colonialism, international security, military conflicts and UN peacekeeping.

Speaking from Beijing, Dr Palitha Kohona, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to China, told IPS that while many countries in the Western camp have tended to dismiss the G77 and China as irrelevant to contemporary economic and political developments, the Group has provided the platform for developing countries to make a profound input to contemporary global economic policy formulation.



Sri Lanka's envoy in China Dr Palitha Kohona

In its heyday, he pointed out, the G77 and China contributed significantly to the development of the New International Economic Order (NIEO) and the Law of the Sea regulatory framework.

"Today, the Law of the Sea Convention is considered to be the Constitution of the oceans and seas," said Dr Kohona, a onetime Chief of the UN Treaty Section and a former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.

More recently, he noted, its influence on the Rio Process, the conventions on Climate Change, Biological Diversity, Hazardous Wastes, Ozone, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Devel-

opment Goals (SDGs) has been seminal. He said the G77's influence on global policy development in these major areas of importance to humanity remain undiminished and cannot be underestimated.



Journalist Chakravarthi Raghavan

"These global rules are now impacting on policy formulation in the Bretton Woods institutions as well," he added.

The role played by individual intellectual giants from the developing world in highlighting the G77 and China needs to be acknowledged, he argued.

"Today China has assumed a lead role in addressing the challenge of climate change affecting the very survival of humanity," he

Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the G77, told *IPS* the integral role played by the Group in economic diplomacy and projecting the development interests of the global South is a testimony to its continued relevance in the ongoing global development dialogue.

When it was established on June 15, 1964, the signing nations of the well-known Joint Declaration of Seventy-Seven Countries formed the largest intergovernmental organi-



sation of developing countries in the United Nations to articulate and promote their collective interests and common development

Since the First Ministerial meeting of the G-77 held in Algeria in October 1967, and the adoption of the Charter of Algiers, he pointed out, the Group of 77 laid down the institutional mechanisms and structures that have contributed to shaping the international development agenda and changing the landscape of the global South.

Over the years, he said, the Group has gained an increasing role in the determination and conduct of international relations through global negotiations on major North-South and development issues.

The G-77 adheres to the principle that nations, big and small, deserve an equal voice in world affairs....Today the Group remains linked by common geography and shared history of struggle for liberation, freedom and South-South solidarity, said Ahmia.

The Group has a presence worldwide at UN centres in New York, Geneva, Nairobi,

Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as an organ of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and brought about several changes for the better in the international economic system. With UNCTAD came the scope for 'alternate view' to 'liberal/neoliberal economics' and Generalized System of Preferences (GSP schemes) – "True, they are voluntary, not mandatory." The principle of non-reciprocity, and Special and Differential treatment in trade relations with developed countries (initially non-

Paris, Rome, Vienna, and Washington D.C., and is actively involved in ongoing negotia-

tions on a wide range of global issues includ-

ing climate change, poverty eradication, migration, trade, and the Law of the Sea.

The G-77 remains the only viable and operational mechanism in multilateral eco-

nomic diplomacy within the UN system. The

growing membership is proof of its enduring

Chakravarthi Raghavan, the former Chief

Editor of the Geneva-based SUNS, told IPS

since its founding in 1964, the G77 came into being, along with the UN Conference on

binding, Part IV of GATT-1947, but contractual for developing countries after 1994 Marrakesh Agreement for WTO) that the US now is trying to eliminate as part of its proposals for 'WTO Reform', said Raghavan, a former Editor-in-Chief of the Press Trust of The G77 also created the concept of 'development' as against the original IMF Bretton

Woods concept of 'Reconstruction and Development' for war-ravaged economies of Europe, said Raghavan, winner of the 1997 G77/UN Development Programme (UNDP) In the immediate post-war order, the major Industrialized countries decided on policy

(with US holding a veto on most decisions) that others were forced to accept. Now there is at least an attempt at dialogue (from G7 to Initially, said Raghavan, the G77 con-

cerned itself only with economic issues; the much earlier NAM dealt with political and security issues.

But gradually, individual G77 members, brought their political and security issues and alliances with Great Powers, to influence the G77 decision-making. This has resulted in weakening the G77 positions and influence in international economic matters, declared Raghavan.

(The writer is a former editor of the Journal of the Group of 77)(IPS)



Corruption, irregularities at Trade Ministry during last four years will be investigated

afresh – Minister Bandulla

Department (CID) and the Commission to Investigate Allegation of Bribery or Corruption (CIABC) will be requested to investigate acts of corruption and irregularities that have taken place at the Trade Ministry during 2015-2019, Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena yesterday said in Parliament.

Trade Minister Dr. Gunawardena said that a forensic irregularities, however, according to the forensic auditors, a number of files related to alleged transactions have gone missing.

"I am not accusing anybody of these corruptions as the investigations are ongoing. During 2015-2019, Sathosa and several other State Cooperatives have incurred large losses and therefore, they could not pay

pay over Rs. 8 BN for its suppliers during the period. It has to pay Rs. 80 million for just one supplier. It was extremely difficult to find out how these irregularities have taken place. As per the forensic audit, the audit companies have informed us that

many files related to trade

irregularities have gone miss-

ing. We must, therefore, audit

up until the period that the

tions. There is no political revenge or any other political reason involved in this matter," the Minister said.

files have gone missing and

hand the investigations over to the CID. The House will be

updated on the investiga-

Dr. Gunawardena was responding to MP Mohamed Muzammil regarding a gazette notification issued by former Trade Minister Rishard Bathiudeen. The



gazette notification allowed mixing palm oil with coco-

CPP will recommence soon

Minister Lokuge

Committee on Public could not be summoned Petitions (CPP) Chairman Minister Gamini Lokuge said in Parliament yesterday that a decision will be made on recommencing the Committee, which has been closed for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Lokuge informed the House that the Committee meetings were delayed as outsiders to Parliament in the pandemic. State Minister Jayantha Samaraweera requested Parliament to appoint sub-committees to expedite hearing petitions that have been referred to the Committee on Public Petitions by Parliamentarians.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said that



the proposal will be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Committee on Public

Programme afoot to develop football – Minister Namal

A programme will be initiated to develop football in the country, Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa said in Parliament yesterday. "It will include long, medium and long term schemes in this regard," the Minister said.

He said that plans have been made to increase the number of those who are engaged in football to 2 million.

He was responding to MP Buddhika Pathirana. Minister Namal Rajapaksa said that Sri Lanka is



ings and the country will be brought to the 150th position in the index.

He said that a new promotional programme called

'Football Friday' has been launched but the sponsorship of the sport was insuf-

"The Sri Lankan Cricket has been ruined, he said, adding that politicisation and factionalism were the reasons," he said.

The Minister said that he would not allow politicians to interfere in the cricket administration. He added that as a solution to the issues, a new sports Bill will be submitted to Parliament in the near future. "It has been five years since Sri

Lankan cricket started collapsing. There are allegations of sectarianism in cricket. This allegation is levelled against not only cricket, but against other

However, politicians have no right to interfere in cricket," Minister Namal Rajapaksa said.

sports as well.

He added that it takes around 5-6 years to produce international level cricketers and if measures are taken to start right away, Sri Lanka could come up with an international level

team by the 2023 World

Cup.
The Minister said that measures need to be taken to uplift cricket technically from the under 17 level.

He said that to develop cricket technically, a committee had been appointed under Aravinda de Silva. "It includes experienced players such as Kumar Sangakkara and Muttiah Mura-

litharan," he said. The Sports Minister made an appeal to all Parliamentarians yesterday not to politicise cricket.

BoC has followed proper procedure when granting loan - State Minister Cabraal

The loan facility given to the D.S. Gunasekara Company by the Bank of Ceylon Katuwana Branch has been done in accordance with the proper procedures of the Bank, Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal said in Parliament yester-

allegations that there were lon Katuwana Branch since ing the loan facility, the State Minister Cabraal said the procedures of the bank have not been violated when granting the loan.

State Minister Cabraal was responding to Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa under the Standing Order 27 (2). The State Minister also said that

there is no plan whatsoever to sell the main building of the Bank of Ceylon.

"The D.S Gunasekara Company that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned has been operating centering the North Central, Eastern, Central and Southern Provinces for over 62 years. Their accounts have been main-Denying the Opposition's tained by the Bank of Cey-2015. The Company has been dealing with the Bank of Ceylon for 62 years since 1958. According to the bank's audit accounts for the past years, it has shown an income of over Rs. 10 billion for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Based on the longterm business relationship and the company's viability, the bank has duly approved

Rs. 3.1 billion at the company's request, but they used the money to raise Rs. 2.1 billion as debt. Examination of their documents reveals that Bank of Ceylon has been providing guaranteed loans for a long period

as a policy. In 2015, on your advice, the Bank of Ceylon gave Rs. 10 billion to Virtual Treasuries in 10 minutes. You should have asked this question then," the State Minister said.

"Among the normal business activities of a bank, lending and interest earning are the main sources of income. The income of Bank of Ceylon as a State bank eventually joins the Treasury as dividends, strengthening the national

"Therefore, it should be noted that the Bank of Ceylon has received Rs. 311 million from this transaction. This is not a 3 per cent increase in interest rates in Sri Lanka as it used to be," the State Minister

"For the second question, it should be said that the loan amount has been given in accordance with the proper procedures of the Bank within the relevant authority limits. At the branch level, the ability to settle the customers is considered and no maximum limit has been imposed on any transaction. The Finance Ministry Secretary has attached Bank of Ceylon former General Manager K.B.S Bandara to the Finance



Ministry in accordance with the Bank of Ceylon Act and on a Cabinet decision. The Bank of Cevlon makes transfers in accordance with the transfer policy approved by the Human Resource Policy Commit-

It is stated that no other procedures have been adopted for this purpose. The business needs of the Bank had to be taken into consideration while filling 17 vacancies for the 48 Executives. The bank has been rated by Fitch Ratings and Icra Lanka Limited. Although the bank came forward earlier, it went down after 2015," State Minister said.

COVID information will not be **hidden** – State Minister Sudarshini



The Government will not hide any information about the COVID-19 pandemic, State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle said. She was responding to MP Hesha Withanage during the Question Round for Oral Answers.

He said that the Government was disseminating false information through the media.

He accused the Government of hiding the COVID death figures.

Dr. Fernandopulle said that while new cases were being reported, those recovering were being released from hospitals. She confirmed that the reported data

She said that the Government has taken measures to control the pandemic.

CHP approves four Ministry Secretaries, two Ambassadors

Secretary General of Parliament General Sanjeewa Munasinghe to the Dhammika Dasanayake said that Secretaries to Four Ministries and Ambasapproved by the Committee on High Posts (CHP).

The Secretary General of Parliament said that the approvals were given after calling the nominees before the Committee on High Posts chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena yesterday for examining their qualifi-

Mapa Pathirana has been appointed as the Secretary to the Labour Ministry, R.M.I. Ratnayake to the Fisheries Ministry, Anuradha Wijekoon to the Youth Ministry and Sports and Major

Health Ministry.

The Government's proposal to sadors for two countries have been appoint J.M.J.P. Bandara as the new Sri Lankan Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Shrimal Wickremasinghe to Sevchelles have been approved by the Committee on High

> Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena, Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Johnston Fernando, Udaya Gammanpila, Sudarshani Fernandopulle and Vidura Wickremanayake and Parliamentarians W.D.J. Seneviratne, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa and Rishard Bathiudeen were

Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act Draft Bill seconded

The draft bill of the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act was tabled in Parliament yesterday by MP Ven. Athuraliye Rathana Thera and seconded by MP Premanath C. Dola-

Making a statement under Standing Order 27 (2), MP Ven. Athuraliye Rathana Thera said that "One country, one law" is the basic election promise of the Sri Lanka Poduiana Peramuna (SLPP). The Thera said that it means removing all racial, religious and provincial laws that violate fundamental rights and subjecting everyone in the country to a single legal system.

"In Sri Lanka, the law is above everyone. According to Article 12 (1) of the Fundamental Rights Chapter of the Constitution of Sri Lanka, the Rule of law is fundamentally recognised. The Muslim Marriage Law is basically a religious law. However, this law is not implemented in many countries where Muslims live," the Thera said.

"In Sri Lanka, 10 per cent of its population are Muslims and separate Kathi courts have been set up to hear marriage related cases, but these judges are appointed and their wages are paid by the Justice Ministry," the Thera said.
"Moreover, in the event a person

from any other religion marries a Muslim person, it is mandatory for that person to change their religion and embrace the Islam faith and thereafter live according to that law. In the event a Muslim marries a Hindu, Buddhist or anyone from another faith and if they divorce, then the divorce is done under the Muslim laws. The protection of the law must also be fair in law enforce-



ment. Irrespective of how the Fundamental Rights of Article 12 (1) of the Constitution is stated, the law of the land applies differently. The Personal Law in Sri Lanka is enforced on the basis of citizenship, religion, place of birth and gender. Different laws apply to the Civil

Law, such as marriage, divorce, maintenance, property, and adoption. This violates fundamental rights. It can be observed that obvious injustices and prejudices are taking place," the Thera said.

"Article 16 (1) of the Constitution recognises the validity of written and unwritten laws that violate fundamental rights. There is no remedy for this situation. Therefore, these laws need to be changed through Parliament, the Thera said.

Ven. Rathana Thera questioned the Minister if he accepts that fundamental rights are being violated through the Kathi Courts and what measures he would take. He said that a marriage is a consensual binding between two people and that is done on the agreement of the mother and father or brother.

"However, according to the Mus-

lim Law, the woman's consent is not required. In fact, she does not even have the right to sign the marriage certificate. Therefore, under the Muslim Law, the rights of the women and children are violated. Children under 12 years could be given in marriage to older men with the consent of the Kathi Courts and those above 12 do not require the consent of the Kathi Courts. Will you take steps to change this? Are you aware that the dates of birth of both parties are not indicated in the marriage certificate? Are you aware that an older woman does not have the right to get married? Are you aware of the issues faced by children as a result of polygamy? Are you aware that women are not permitted to hold positions as lawyers or judges in the Kathi Courts?" Rathana Thera asked.

State Minister Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle stood at that time and seconded Rathana Thera's speech.

According to parliamentary procedures, it is not required that a matter raised under 27/2 be sec-

MP Rauff Hakeem said that the Muslim MPs had discussed these matters and had submitted amendments, which he urged be submitted to Parliament. "We have discussed the matter and have come to an agreement to amend the laws in line with the General Laws of the country and bring the marriageable age in line with the General Laws and be fair by the women. We urge the Government to take into consideration the issues raised by Rathana Thera and present the amendments to Parliament through the Justice Minister," he said.

EPF - the largest fund in Asia – Minister Lokuge

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has become the most significant and largest fund in Asia, Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge said in Parliament yesterday.

Minister Lokuge made was starting the debate on the provisions under the Employees Provident Fund Act.

The EPF Act was presented to Parliament by the Labour Minister on January 20, 2021. Minister Lokuge said that the EPF is one of the most important funds in the country and has been set up to ensure that non-governmental semi-public and private sector employees spend their post retirement without any difficulties

Minister Lokuge said that the EPF has become the strongest fund in Asia due to several important decisions made by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa during his

tenure as the Labour Minister. The Minister said that due to the bankruptcy of certain companies, employees could not obtain their EPF and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has directed to

formulate new laws to resolve such issues. Minister Lokuge said that all the major institutions in the country are members of the EPF and it contains Rs. 1 trillion.

He said that if a 16-year-old begins employment, he can earn a large amount of money as EPF. "Therefore, this Bill will be introduced for the working people and requested the House to pass it.

'MPs not allowed to visit Ranjan'

MP Dillip Wedarachchi, raising a privilege issue in Parliament yesterday, said that they had visited the Angunakolapelessa Prison on January 19 to see MP Ranjan Ramanayake, but they were not allowed inside.

"I spoke to the Head of the Prison by phone and requested him to allow us inside. But he refused, claiming that the Director General had banned anyone from entering the prison. I tried to call him, but he did not answer. At that time,



Ranjan Ramanayake was taken inside by the prison bus. I told Head of the Prison I had under-

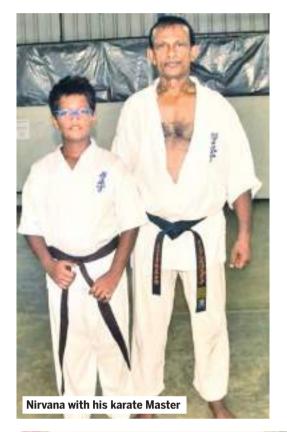
report in hand. A MP has the privilege to visit a prisoner. Ranjan Ramanayake had also undergone the 14-day quarantine procedure," he said. "Generally, when the Chief

Prison Officer is notified by an MP that he wants to visit a prisoner, that MP is taken to a special room and the prisoner is brought there. "Therefore, as this prison is one of the best in the world, I request that available technology be used and steps are taken to allow MPs to gone the PCR test and had the meet prisoners," he said.





IIRVANA a multi talented young sports prodigy



Nirvana has a passion for Motorcross and 4x4 events

INDIKA WELAGEDARA

Today we go off the field with this highly talented and hard working young St. Joseph's College Colombo cricketer, Motorcross rider, 4x4 racing driver and Karate champion sports star Nirvana Abeysekara (Jnr.), who has inspired many young people around Sri Lanka.

Q: What made you to enter the world of sports?

Inspiration from my sib-

Q: Who has supported you the most?



Nirvana Abeysekara Jnr. (centre) with his parents, sister and elder brother

Q: What do you do for fun?

Play games and listen to music

Q: What are the top priorities in your life?

Studies

Q: What was your most unforgettable memory/incident?

The day I gave away 30 runs in one over **Q:** Who is your favourite sportsman?

Q: What's your favourite holiday

Kusal Mendis

destination? Kamatha eco lodge, Habarana

Q: What is the greatest accomplishment in your life?

Getting selected to college under 19 cricket pool

Q: Who is your favourite singer? Freddy Mercury

Q: What is your favourite song? I want to break free

Q: If you had one day left to live, what would you do? Will have a good time with my family

Q: Who do you sometimes compare yourself to?



Nirvana excelled on two wheels at top motor racing events

My older brother

Q: What's the best compliment you have received? That I bowl like South

African spinner Paul Adams

Q: Are you happy with all your achievements?

Q: What's your favourite movie? Home Alone

Q: Who's your favourite Actor? Rowan Atkinson

Q: Are you doing what you believe in, or are you settling for what you are doing? I'm doing what I believe

Q: How would you describe yourself in two words? Entertaining and hard working





2021.02.08 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 603,033 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 30,770,790.00

DRAW NUMBER: 4392 OFFICIAL RESULTS

Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02

Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01

Rs. 100 000 00 PRIZES 32





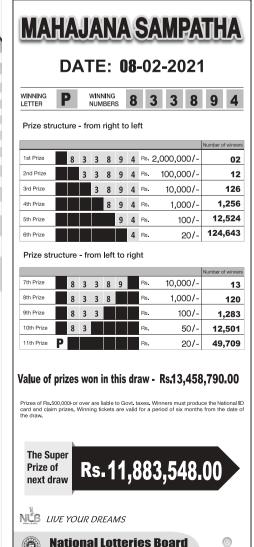
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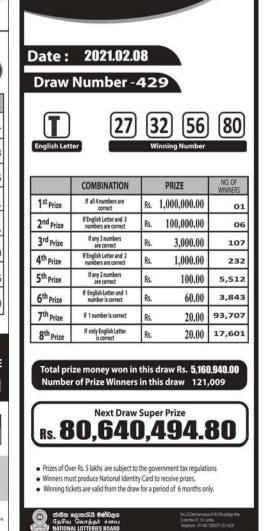
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Official Results







Official Results

Tharaka Samarakoon an athletc star in the making

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA Kandy Sports Special Corr

Tharaka Samarakoon is a Grade 13 student of Dharmaraja College, Kandy who is following his studies in the Commerce Stream and is a talented Athlete who started Athletics when he was a student at Isipathana College, Colombo Grade I to Grade 4. He won the 75 metres race at this School when he was in the Grade.4 Class and he had to change his school as his father was attached to the Survey Department and his second school was Christ Church College, Matale.

Tharaka continued his athletic prowess and he won the Long Jump and secured the second place in 75 metres and 100 metres. races at the Central Province Athletic Meet and he was adjudged the Best Athlete in field events. His coach was S. Srikantha of Christ Church College and from there he joined St. Thomas' College, Matale to the Grade 8 class in 2011 and continued his pet sport of athletics under the coaching of Indika Gallage.

Tharaka improved his performances in athletics at St. Thomas' when he won the All Island Schools Merit Award in Long Jump in 2012 and at the Zonal Meet as an Under 11 athlete. Again he won the 75 metres. 100 metres and Long Jump events in the same year and the next year as an under 13 athlete he won 100 metres, 200 metres and Long Jump at the Zonal Meet. In both age groups i.e.

Under 11 and Under 13 he was adjudged the Best Athlete and he showed his outstanding ability when he won his pet event of Long Jump at the Central Province Meet. In 2014 he became first in Long Jump at the Under 15 age category covering a distance of 5.60 metres and in 2015 he won the Long Jump event in the Under 17 covering a



Tharaka Bandara in action at a Meet. Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.

distance of 5.99 metres. in the same Meet. In the year 2017 he created a meet record of 6.21 metres. from 2014 to 2017 when he was adjudged the Best Athlete in Field Events. At the All Island Athletic Meet he won a merit award for Long Jump and the 200 metres. race at the Under 15 level and at Under 17 and Under 18 age groups he was among the Best eight in Long Jump in the whole Island. Tharaka finished in ninth place in the Under 20 age group in Long Jump but he covered an impressive distance of 6.76 metres. He joined Dharmaraja College,Kandy to do higher studies in the Commerce Stream at the G.C.E. (A/L) class and continued athletics under the coaching of Chandana Abeyratne. Tharaka became first in Long Jump covering a distance of 6.50 metres. to create a new Meet Record at the Central Province Athletic Meet in 2019 and he was also a member of the successful relay team at the Henry Steel Olcott Memorial Relay Carnival in 2019.

Sheriff-excellent ruggerite

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Zahira College, Colombo has played a phenomenal role in producing several sportsmen excelling in various sporting disciplines, especially in the game of soccer. More or less they are the undisputed champions in the school's arena for several decades. Mohamed Sheriff was one of them who changed gears from soccer to rugby due to his extraordinary kicking skills when his school rugby team was in search of a place kicker, who later ended up playing top class rugby while donning the National jersey bringing honour and fame to the country.

Mohamed Sheriff who was born in 1985, was a key player of the Zahira soccer team. He never had an intention of handling the oval shaped ball in his life. While being engaged in football, where he was blessed with some exceptional kicking skills.he was asked to fill in a vacancy in the college rugby side, who were short of a player of his calibre, who was blessed with kicking skills, while being able to display the same

with conversions in rugby, where he ended up playing for the school rugby team. Based on his performance, he was part of the under-19 Sri Lanka Youth Rugby team that toured Malaysia.

Subsequently, while he was performing exceptionally as a rugby player, St.Peter's College, Colombo spotted his talent and offered him a scholarship to join their academy and play for the school in 2003 to which he responded positively. He locked horns for them for two years before he joined CR and FC which was the first club he represented as a school leaver. He was included as full back for the team which he really enjoyed playing from 2005 to 2008 season.

Just in two years, after joining the CR he was called for National duty in 2005 and surged ahead until 2013. During his tenure as a player in the National side he participated in several tournaments like Singer Sri Lankan Rugby Sevens, Hong Kong Sevens and Rugby World Cup qualifying matches against Kazakhstan, China and Hong Kong, South



Mohamed Sheriff

Africa and Singapore. He was also an active member of the National team in 2012 which clinched the 'Plate Championship' at the Shanghai Sevens tournament.

He joined Havelock Sports Clubs in 2012 when they emerged League and Club Sevens Champions after quite some time. In the 2009/10 season he went onto don

the Kandy Sports Club jersey . In with their under-18 and 20 Sevthe 2007 season he was adjudged as the Caltex best three quarter while receiving the 'Best Full back player for year' award in 2012 at the completion of the Dialog League.

He took part in the Rugby

Asiad in 2011 and 2013 and also represented the country at the Rugby Sevens and XV tournaments from 2005 to 2013 which included the Hong Kong Sevens, Asian Games, Singer Sri Lanka and Carlton Sevens respectively. He also contributed immensely as a player at the Mercantile Rugby Sevens from 2005 to 2011 representing his employers namely Seylan Bank, EMJAY International Pvt Ltd., Access Lanka and MAS Holdings rugby teams where he was adjudged the 'Most Valuable Player' in 2009 and 2011 tournaments.

After he called it a day as a player, he took over coaching both school and clubs. As an initiative he took over coaching of his school St. Peter's College in 2013 with the first XV Rugby Team. He went on to coach them

ens (Cup Champions in 2013) and took over S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia as coach of the sevens and the XV-a-side team 2015. (came to Cup semis in sevens in 2015). He also coached the Havelock SC sevens team in 2013 and 2014 seasons (runners up in 2013 and Cup Champions in 2014)

He has the distinction of completing the IRB (International Rugby Board) Level-1 in Strength and Conditioning and trained under International Rugby Trainers for the past few years for the National Team, Club Teams and Carlton Tournaments (2005 to

He is currently serving as the assistant coach of Royal College first XV since 2018 which won the League Championship in 2018 and 2019 followed by retaining the Bradby Shield in 2018 and 2019. He is continuing his passion for rugby and keeping in touch by coaching Royal College He is a father of two sons Mohamed Zidane who is eight and Momahed Mikail five years old.

Mevan Abishek the athlete turned swimmer

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Swimmer and Athlete Mevan Abishek Jeremiah Induwara has brought honour and glory to his Alma Mater S. Thomas' College Mount. Lavinia, University of Ruhuna and his motherland. Mevan was admitted to S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia in 2003 when Dr. David Ponniah was at the helm of the school. Mevan participated in the Inter House Sports Meet in 2006 and taking part in the under 11 age group he came second in 100 metres and third in 200 metres and up to 2011 he participated in the Annual Sports Meet. He was a member of the Thomian Athletic Team which participated at the Relay Carnival and his coach and Master in Charge was V A B Samarakoon. His father retired Army Officer Rohan Induruwa and mother Maheshika Induwara decided to give their only child an opportunity to become a swimmer and he commenced swimming at the Thomian pool from Grade One. He participated in the Inter House Meets and won places. When he was in Grade Five in 2007 he took part in the Inter House Swimming

Meet and came second in 50 metre Breast Stroke and in the All Island Novices Meet he won the 50 and 100 metre Best Stroke and Butterfly events

Same year in the Sri Lanka Nationals participating in the 50 over Breast Stroke he set a Sri Lanka Schools Record and won the 100 metres Best Stroke and 50 metres Butterfly Events. He was selected to the Asian Age Groups Aquatic Championship in 2009 held in Tokyo, Japan and in the same year in the Sri Lanka School Games he won Golds for 50 and 100 metres Best stroke. With these performances under his belt in 2009 he was selected for the Under 12 Sri Lanka, India Dual Meet held in Bangalore, India. He won a Gold for 500 metres, Breastroke, Silver for Back Stroke, 50 metre and Butterfly. In 2010 he has to keep away due to illness and 2011 at the National Open Championship in the Breast Stroke he came up to the last seven and in 2012 at the National Championship in 1500 Free Style he grabbed a Silver and in 2012 National Age Group Meet Under 16 he won Golds for 800 and 400 Free Style and Individual Medley 400 metres



The Sri Lanka Universities Swimming Contingent for the World University Games held in Napoli, Italy in 2019. Standing L/R - Kaveeshani Wimalarathne, Thisari Karunathilake, Himani Vithanage, Nideesha Ellawala, Akshey Kumarajeewa, Kalana Wickramaarachchi (Captain), Amila Madushanka Fernando (Vice Captain), Mevan Abishek Induruwa. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

a Gold. In the following year at the National Sports Festival Open Meet he won a Gold in the 200 meter Best Stroke and a Bronze 1500 Free Style and in the Asian Schools Swimming Championship in China in 2013 he participated for 400 and 1500 Free Style Events and could not perform well and in the Open National Swimming Championship in 2014 in 400 Individual Medley a Silver and 200 metre Brest Stroke a Silver and in 2015 Open National Swimming Championship he won a Gold for 200 Breast Stroke and in 2016

South Asian Aquatic Championship held in Sri Lanka where five countries participated and he got the fourth place in the 800 metres Free Style.

In the National 10km Sea Swim he won a Bronze and got selected for the Asian Open Swimming Championship in Malaysia for the 10km Event and it was a fine exposure for him. In the meantime he passed the Advanced Level Examination with flying colours and got 3 "A"s and got selected to the Medical Faculty of Ruhuna University. In 2018 National Five Kilome-



Mevan Abishek Jeremiah Induwara

tres Sea Swim Championship he won a Gold and was selected for the Taiwan International Ten Kilometre Swimming Marathon and followed by the SINA World Marathon Series in Abu Dhabi and in 2019 five kilometre All Island Sea Swim he got the first place for the second successive year. He was selected to the World University Games In Milano, Italy and in the same year at the Sri Lanka University Games he set records for 400 Free Style, 200 Free Style, 200 meter Butterfly and awarded University Colours. According to Mevan during his swimming career which spans about 15 years he has won 190 medals which includes 70 Golds, 80 Silvers and 40 Bronze medals.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

All-round sportsman Eddie Gray was an encyclopaedia in boxing

Edward Ian Gray, better known as Eddie Gray, who participated at the 1948 London Olympic Games began his sports career at the tender age of 10 years.

He first participated at the Stubbs Shield Boxing Meet in 1930 while representing Royal College. Five years later he made a fine impact when he bagged the Colonel T. Y. Wright Cup awarded to the Most Scientific Boxer at the Stubbs Shield.

He had the opportunity of participating at the National Boxing Championships in 1930 while still as a schoolboy while losing to Ganegoda in the quarter-finals. Eddie Gray was also the captain of the Royal College Athletics Team in 1936 and showed his prowess while competing in the one mile, ¼ mile and in the pole vault

He also went on to captain the Royal College Rugby Team in 1937 and was later awarded school colours in boxing, athletics and rugby. Eddie Gray was also a member of the Royal College Rifle Rangers Team which clinched the Governor's Cup.

Thereafter, he joined the Police as a Sub-Inspector in 1939 and immediately he was able to shine when he won his bout at the Burma-Ceylon Boxing Meet.

In 1940, he went on to annex the National Boxing Championship while competing in the lightweight class category and won the Manning Cup in 1941 presented to the Most Scientific

In both these competitions, Eddie Gray had to battle it out with another reputed boxer of Olympic fame, Alex Obeysekera. Eddie Gray also displayed a great amount of consistency in his success and won the lightweight class events at the Layton Cup in 1941, 1944, 1946, 1947 and 1949.

He went on to win the Clifford Cup in 1944 and won his bout at the Madras-Sri Lanka Boxing Championships. Eddie, who later became popular as the 'Boxing Flame' was selected to compete at the 1948 London Olympic Games following a series of selec-

In fact, during these trials he had the opportunity of defeating some of the more reputed boxers in the calibre of F. C. de Niese and Ivan Bevan who had earlier participated at the Empire Games in 1938.

At the Olympic Games, Eddie Gray overcame A. Petriyana of Czechoslovakia during his first-round competition. However, he went down to E. H. Howard of Canada in the quarter-final

After returning from the Olympic Games, Eddie Gray continued his outstanding form and qualified for the 1949 National Boxing finals while



Eddie Gray

defeating Ivan Bevan. He never looked back from there onwards and defeated Ron Wilmer in the final which was considered a turning point in his

He then retired from the ring after having participated at the 1950 Empire Games in Auckland.

Eddie Gray later became a top boxing coach and an International Boxing Judge and was also able to win colours while turning out for the CR and FC Rugby Team in 1950 and

He also rendered veoman service to uplift boxing in Sri Lanka while serving as the Secretary and President of the Ceylon Boxing Association during the period from 1958 to 1970.

Under his supervision, Sri Lanka were able to compete in boxing events in Pakistan, Thailand, Singapore and South Korea while several other nations visited Sri Lanka to participate in tournaments.

In fact, Eddie Gray was instrumental in organising the third Asian Box-

served as a judge at the 1966 Asian Boxing Meet and in 1968 he was selected as a member of the Boxing Jury for the 1968 Mexico Olympics. He was also presented with a spe-

ing Meet in Colombo in 1967. He also

cial medal for his services at this Olympic Games. Eddie Gray had the honour of holding office as Secretary of the NOC during the period from 1970 to 1973 and was the Manager of the Sri Lankan contingent for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

He was virtually an encyclopaedia in boxing but unfortunately, he left the island to settle down in Australia. No doubt his emigration to Australia was a huge loss to Sri Lanka in the field of boxing.

He was a Special Invitee for the Centenary Olympic Games in Atlanta 1996 and four years later, he came to assist the Sri Lanka contingent for the Sydney Olympics. (C.D)

Debarawewa SC , Hambantota CC , Baragama SC, and Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians SC enter semi-finals

Debarawewa Sports Club, Hambantota Cricket Club, Baragama Sports Club and Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians Sports Club remained undefeated to qualify for the semi-finals of the Independence Cup T20 Cricket Championship conducted by the Hambantota District Cricket Association.

Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians SC will meet Debarawewa SC while Baragama SC will meet Baragama CC next Saturday at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium Sooriyawewa. The finals will be played on Sunday at the same

In the league stage matches played on Sunday Central Cricket Club, Debarawewa Sports Club, Tangalla Cricket Club, Baragama Cricket Club, Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians Sports Club emerged winners.

On Saturday Therapuththian Cricket Club, Hungama Cricket Club, Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians Sports Club, Mayurapura SC, Hambanthota Cricket Club and Baragama Sports Club registered wins.

Rumesh Buddika of Lunugamwehera Ruhunu.Marians Sports Club topped the batting averages with 256

runs at a strike rate of 180.28 while Sithara Dilanka of Therapuththian captured 11 wickets while Buddika only managed to take10 wickets. Buddika slammed 157 runs off 73 balls with ten boundaries and 13 sixes and followed it up with a five wicket haul to help his team crush

Beliatta CC by 179 runs on Satur-

Sunday's matches At Salt Corporation ground

Central CC won by 94 runs.

Central SC 203/8 in 20 overs (Israth Careem 21, Ruzmy Moulana 64, Shareen Heshan 27 Thuwan Arashan 50 Ayesh Menaka 2/32, Primal Gresby 2/32, Pradeep Sudarshana 3/35)

Beliatta CC 109/9 in 20 overs (Dilshan Madushanaka 28 Israth Careem 3/25, Anjuka Perera 2/16) Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians

won by 6 wickets. Hungama CC 120/10 in 20 overs (Muditha Harshana 57, Dinuka Dissanayaike 25, Asela Sampath 3/04,

Sandun Chamara 2/12, Rumesh Bud-

Hambantota District T20 tournament

Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Mari**ans SC** 122/4 in 15.3 overs (Sandun Chamara 24, Rumesh Buddika 55 Ramindu Gunathilake 2/26)

At Debarawewa National School ground

Debarawewa SC won by 60 runs. **Debarawewa Sports Club** 197/8 in 20 overs (Sulakshana Wijewardena 84, Dulash Mihiran 34, Sasindu Priyashan 25, Dulaj Chamuditha 2/24, Thilan Madushanka 3/34)

Mayurapura Sports Club 137/9 (Supun Kavinda 52, L P Dilshan 2/23, Dimuthu Karunarathna 2/28, Vishan Kavinda 4/37)

Baragama Cc won by 7 wickets. **Tissa CC** 72/10 in 16.4 overs Nimantha Kaveeshwara 2/08, Prasanna Liyanage 2/16, Samith Dilshan 3/13, Harindu Jayasekera

Baragama CC 73/3 in 13.1 overs (Lahiru Dilshan 28, Tharusha Samarawickrema 21, Krishan Priyamantha 2/08)

At Kiula

Tangalla CC won by 67 runs Tangalle CC 173/5 in 20 overs Pasan Sathsara 20, Janaka Nishantha

76, Hashan Baduge 49 **Middeniya CC** 106/10 in 18.3 overs W H Anjula 28 J R Lasith.33 Nimesh Wijemunige 2/10, Malinda Shehan 2/15, Kalana Priyashan 2/11, Thenuka Dilshan 2/13

Therapuththian CC won by 87 runs. **Therapuththian CC** 177/8 in 20 overs Chamika Ranasinghe 53, Pramith Chethiya 28, Suresh Kodituwakku 44 Prageeth Gayashan 3/20

Kiula CC 90/10 in 14.2 overs Hasindu Dilshan 22 Sithara Dilanka 5/37, Chamika Ranasinghe 2/11, Mithum Manamperi 2/04

Saturday's matches **At Salt Corporation grounds** Therapuththian CC won by four

wickets. Tissa Cricket Club 128/10 in 18 overs Krishan Priyamantha 21, Denuwan Pramod 50, Kasun Madushanka 2/28, Sithara Dilanka 4//23, Kokum Induma 3/21

Therapuththian Cricket Club 130/6 in 14.1 overs (Nuwan Nweranian 26, Kasun Madushanka 34 not out, Pramith Chethiya 27 Krishan Priyamantha 2/30, Krishan Uthpala

Hungama Cricket Club won on the parabola method.

Hungama Cricket Club 157/10 in 19.4 overs (Nimesh Rasanjana 52, Muditha Hashan 21, Ishrath Careem 3/21, Mohamed Rifkhan 3/18)

Central Sports Club 80/6 in 11 overs (bad light) Prasantha Srimal 23, Aman Ediriweera 4/23

At Debarawewa National School Ground Mayurapura Sports Club won by

Mayurapura Sports Club 163/9 in 20 overs (Supun Kavinda 22, Thilan Samarathunga 41, Pramod Madu-

shan 33 Saman Kumara 4/34, Lasantha Sri Lal 2/30) Sooriyawewa Sports Club 144/7 in 20 overs (Chanuka Sigera 30,

Asanka Dinesh 43, Thilan Samarathunge 2/26, Naushad Musafer 3/28) Lunugamwehera RMSC won by 179 runs.

Lunugamwehera Ruhunu Marians Sports Club 215/5 in 20 overs (Rumesh Buddika 157, Jayath Shehan 21 Ayesh Menaka 2/34)

Beliatta Cricket Club 36/10 in 8.2 overs (Asela Sampath 3/08, Rumesh Buddika 5/12, Chathuranga Rajapaksha 2/03)

At Kiula Hungama Baragama Sports Club won by one

Kiula Cricket Club 154/10 in 19.3

overs (Prabath Sandaruwan 63, Suchira Madusara 34, Nimantha Kaveeshwara 3/23, Lahiru Dilshan 3/27, Samith Dilshan 2/19)

Baragama Sports Club 158/9 in 19.4 overs (Nimantha Kaveeshawara 23, Pramuka Dilshan 22, Prasanna Liyanage 31 Mahira Pasan 2/18, Suchira Madusara 2/17, Nirwan Chethiya 2/29)

Hambantota CC won by 18 runs. Hambanthota Cricket Club 189/8 in 20 overs (S M Ishaq 20, Gihan Danushka 50, M A M Afnaz 30, Dinith Gayan 38 Nimesh Wijemunige 3/29, Bhanuka Wanigasekera

Tangalla Cricket Club 171/9 in 20 overs (Thenuka Dilshan 43, Janka Nishantha 33, Hashan Baduge 29 A N Ramees Deen 4/27, P K Anwerdeen 3/20)





Ishara Madurangi is the number one Women's table tennis player in Sri Lanka



Ishara Madurangi is the most senior paddler in the current National Team

Ishara Madurangi targets medal at 2022 Commonwealth Games

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Winning the National crown on seven occasions is not an easy task but Ishara Madurangi has performed the near impossibility through dedication and training to emerge as the number one Women's table tennis player in Sri Lanka.

Madurangi (31) who is the most senior paddler out of the current National Team hails from a table tennis family from Ambalangoda.

Her elder brother Lahiru Dharshika was a leading table tennis player and Madurangi followed his footsteps before achieving great heights in the sport.

Madurangi is one of the best products of Sri Vidyalaya, Devananda Ambalangoda and her talents were first spotted by A. W. Anura Lal, an experienced table tennis coach who has produced many National players in the recent past.

First coach

"My first coach Anura Lal always encouraged me to come up with expectations. I got a chance to make my first overseas tour in 2014 to India for the Asian Junior Cadet TT Championships and there I was able to win the Bronze

"This was the only medal for a Sri Lankan Women's paddler at Asian level. We have enough medals at South Asian level but winning a medal at Asian level is a big achievement."

"At the 2019 South Asian Games I won three Bronze Medals – Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. But our main task should be to win medals at Asian level."

"At Asian level we have to play with the world's top players from China, Japan,

Asian level medal on my

debut tour to India." "In 2004, I won the National Women's crown as a 14-year-old player and this is also a big achievement. I won the National title seven times starting from 2004 and three times I finished runner-up in the Women's Singles.'

champion three times in-aments in Singles events."

"In addition, I was the Women's Doubles champion and Mixed Doubles champion eight times at the National Championships.'

International experience

"I am always thriving to get international experience as we have to play Indonesia and Malaysia. I with the same opponents lenge.' am always proud about my most of the time at all

"Today, I am the number one ranked Women's player. I was the National Junior row from 2005 to 2007. Those were the achieve-

> domestic tournaments. But at international level, we have to play against different players from different countries and it's a big chal-

"I gained a lot of experi-

ence by competing at the South Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. All these tournaments were very helpful to develop my me a big hand and espe-

Ishara Madurangi hails from a table tennis family from Ambalangoda "After leaving school, my coach was former National player Rohan Sirisena, who also played with us in the same period. I must thank

cially the Sport Ministry for take part in domestic tourbacking me to go on overseas tours.'

"After leaving school, I oined the Sri Lanka Air Force and managed to win several International medals from 2009 to 2015."

"But currently I am employed at Sri Lanka Port Authority and they have always helped me to achieve my goals in this sport."

Gold Coast

Madurangi was able to take part in the last Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast in 2018 as well as in the Asian Games in Jakar-

"My next aim is to win a medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. It's a big challenge but my dedication is very high."

"Due to COVID-19 we missed our daily practices but once again we have the TT officials for giving resumed our training and already we have started to

naments."

"Age is not a barrier for success and if the players can manage their fitness level that is sufficient to continue in this sport."

"Endurance is more important to continue in this sport and we have to spend more time to buildup our strength to remain in this sport."

Ishara Madurangi's performances at National and International

Three-time Junior Nationals champion. Seven-time Senior Nationals champion. Three-time Senior Nationals runnerup. Eight time Senior Nationals Doubles champion. Eight-time Senior **Nationals Mixed Doubles** champion. Asian Junior Cadet Championships Bronze Medal. South Asian Games Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Bronze Medals.





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WORLD OF SPORTS

Today (Wednesday) (LOCAL EVENTS)

Colombo Open **Tournament** at Green Path (FOREIGN EVENTS)

(FA Cup fifth-round) **Swansea City** vs Manchester City Leicester City vs Brighton **Sheffield United** vs Bristol City

Hotspur **TENNIS Australian Open** at Melbourne

Everton vs Tottenham

CYCLING Six-day tour of Berlin PARA ATHLETICS **World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai** (1st day)

SL to field six-member team for World Para GP



DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

A six-member Sri Lan-kan Para Athletics team will compete in the first-leg of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix (GP) Meet, which commences in Dubai today.

Asian gold medalist Amara Indumathi and Kumudu Priyanka will compete in the women's long jump event today while Priyanka will also compete in the women's 100m T46/47 event tomor-

Meanwhile, Gamini Ekanayake (Javelin) and Palitha Bandara (Shot Put) will compete in their respective events on Febru-

In addition, Sampath Hettiarachci (Javelin) Amara Indumathi (400m) and Saman Maduranga Subasinghe (400m) will compete in their events on the final day of the meet on February 13.

and Hettiarachchi are vying for Paralympic qualification in the Javalin Throw event.

Manager of the team, Colonel Deepal Herath said that this is a good opportunity for the Sri Lankan Para athletes to get qualification for the forthcoming Paralympic Games which is scheduled for August 24 to September 5 in Tokyo, Japan.

Herath, who is also the High-Performances Manager of the National Paralympic Committee added that Dinesh Priyantha Herath (F46) the Paralympic bronze medalist and Samitha Dulan (F44) have already qualified for the next Paralympics in the

Javelin Throw event. Both were originally named in the Sri Lanka team but they were not included for the Grand Prix Meet following their early

qualifications for the Tokyo Games.

Herath and Dulan are among the top four in World Rankings and are expected to perform well. In addition, Eakanayake

and Hettiarachchi are also in contention to qualify for the Paralympics in the Javelin Throw event. "This is a good sign for

Sri Lankan Para athletics with more athletes fighting to obtain qualification in the same event," said Colonel Herath. After the first Grand

Prix event in Dubai there will be six more events in Tunisia, Brazil, Italy, China, France and Switzerland. The Sri Lanka Para-

lympics team: Chaminda Sampath Hettiarchchi (Javelin F 42/44,63/64), Gamini Ekanayake (Javelin F45/46), Palitha Bandara (Shot Put F42/63), Saman Maduran-



Kumudu Priyanka

T/47), Kumudu Priyanka (Long T/46/47), Amara Indum-

Subasinghe (400m athi (Long Jump, 400m T 46/47), Colonel Deepal Jump, 100m Herath (Manager) and Janaka Nishantha (Coach).

S. Thomas' felicitates Sports **Minister Namal Rajapaksa**

Rajapaksa was felicitated by his alma mater S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia during a ceremony held at the College Auditorium.

presented with a framed tated by his school.

Sports Minister Namal jersey (No. 8) which he wore while playing for the college rugby team.

The Sports Minister in his Twitter message stated that he was truly honoured The Sports Minister was and humbled to be felici-

"Some of my best memories and lessons I owe to S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. To be recognised by my fellow Thomians was truly humbling and a memory I will cherish!"



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa with the framed jersey (No. 8) which he wore while playing for the college rugby team. Also in the picture are Warden S. Thomas' Rev. Marc Billimoria, Secretary S. Thomas' OBA Tilan Wickremasinghe and Vice-President S. Thomas' OBA Senaka De Fonseka

Dewmini wins U-14 title at Online Youth Girls' Chess C'ship

Dewmini Hansi Kodikara of Musaeus College won the championship at the CFSL Online Youth Girls' Championship yesterday with a better tie breaker after a three way tie with Chanindi Mewna Attanayake of Devi Balika Vidyalaya and Desandi Dihansa Gamage of Sirimavo Bandaranayake Vidyalaya scoring seven points each out of possible eight games.

Dewmini beat Hasara Madugalle, Sasmi Sithumsa, Chanindi Mewna Attanayake, Oshini Gunawardena, Sanidula Dahamdi, Tenuli Dahamna Rath-nayake and Gaveshi Wickramaratne and only lost to Esandi Newansa in the sixth round. Dewmini Kodikara was awarded the gold medal. CFSL Online Youth

Girls under 14 Chess Championship 2021 was conducted by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka and was played on the chess.com platform with eight rounds according to Swiss System. The Chess Federation of Sri Lanka has offered attractive awards and a virtual closing ceremony was held on Monday even-

ing.
Each player got 15 minutes per game and 10 seconds increment in each move played. A total of 104 girls from across the country participated in this event which is played under strict anti-cheating regulations.

The Chess Federation is planning to organize the Under 12, 16 and 8 years Online Youth Chess Championships in the near future. (D.R)



Sri Lanka Para Athletic team: Front row (from left): Nuwan Indika, Kumudu Priyanka, Saman Subasinghe, Amara Indumathi and Buddika Indrpala. Back row (from left): Sampath Hettiarachchi (Captain), Dinesh Priyantha, Palitha Bandara, Samitha Dulan and Gamini Ekanayaka.

Dialog to boost SL **Para Athletics Team**

Dialog Axiata PLC, will power an eight-member strong Sri Lankan contingent that will compete in the World Para Athletics Grand Prix which begins in Dubai, today.

Root's England thrash India

gent secures medals at the World Para Athletes Grand Prix, they would receive automatic entry to compete at the Tokyo Para Games for 2021.

Athletes have already qualified for the Tokyo Games which will have the participation of athletes from 134 countries.



Anika Seneviratne in action

Anika cruises into Colombo Open semi-finals

Anika Seneviratne powered her way into the semi-finals of the Women's Singles with a convincing win on the fifth day of the Colombo Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yester-

The favourite for the title was in excellent form as she out-

played her opponent Sethmi Sumanaweera in straight sets 6-1, 6-1 to secure her place in the semifinals.

The results Men's Singles (quarter-finals): Luca Knese beat Weerasinghe Savith 6-4, 6-2. Thehan Wijemanna beat Chathurya Nilaweera 7-6 (4), 6-4. Dumindu Dilum beat K. Vairavanathan 6-0, 6-3. Women's Signals (quarter-finals):

Anika Seneviratne beat Sethmi Sumanaweera 6-1, 6-1. Oneli Perera beat Alana Seneviratne 6-1, 6-1. Savini Jayasuriya beat Neyara Weerawansa 6-4, 6-1. Janali Manamperi beat Saajida Razick 6-1, 6-1, 6-2. (A.N)

Spinner Jack Leach



by 227 runs in first Test paceman James Anderson tain predicted that India

CHENNAI, TUESDAY: Joe Root led England to an emphatic 227-run win over India in the opening Test on Tuesday, taking the upper hand in their bid for a rare series victory against the hosts on their patch.

claimed four wickets and

took three -- two of them in a majestic over -- as India were dismissed for 192 on the final day while chasing a record 420 to win in Chennai.

"It is a very good victory but in the scheme of the series, it is just the start," said Root. The England capwould "hit back hard" after But in the opener, he out-

foxed India, who were on a high after their sensational series triumph in Australia last month, with his bat and Root became the first bats-

man to score a double century in his 100th Test as his 218 guided England to 578 in the first innings. He was also the top scorer with 40 in the second innings of 178.

had been a "crucial toss" to

win and then go in to make the big first innings.

"But from that point we had to follow through and make the most of a very good wicket. We did that very well and posted a good score," he

"To take 20 wickets in very alien conditions, to our bowlers is huge credit."

India were hanging on to the chase after Leach struck early with the wicket of overnight batsman Cheteshwar Pujara for 15, and Anderson using his reverse swing on the wearing pitch. AFP

c Root b Anderson

c Buttler B Leach

Total (58.1 overs, all out). 192
Fall of wicket: 1-25 (R. Sharma), 2-58 (Pujara), 3-92 (Gill), 4-92 (Rahane), 5-110 (Pant),

not out

c Buttler b Bess 0

S. Nadeem c Burns b Leach 0

Barty bagels, Rafa magic at Australian Open tennis **MELBOURNE**, **TUESDAY:** were the headline acts at the

Rafael Nadal's injured back didn't slow down his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam title on Tuesday, as women's world number one Ashleigh Barty romped to a 6-0, 6-0 'double bagel' at the Australian Open.

On a day when women's champion Sofia Kenin also reached round two, but twotime winner Victoria Azarenka lost after breathing problems, Nadal and Barty coronavirus-delayed Slam. Spanish great Nadal, who pulled out of last year's ATP Cup with back problems, beat Serbia's Laslo Djere 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 in one hour and 52 minutes on a sun-kissed Rod Laver Arena.

"It's been a tough 15 days for me," said the 2009 champion, whose back stiffness first flared during an exhibition match month.

"I needed to survive today and that's what I did. I'm happy to be through and I think I did a good job today. Straight sets is what I

Nadal, 34, is attempting to outstrip his old rival Roger Federer, who is out with injury, and take sole ownership of the all-time record for Grand Slam titles.

After world number one Djokovic eased

through late on Monday, Russia's Daniil Medvedev extended his winning streak to 15 matches with an emphatic 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Canada's Vasek Pospisil.

The 2019 US Open finalist is raising hopes of a maiden Grand Slam title with his unbeaten run, which includes winning the Paris Masters, ATP Finals and last week's ATP Cup with Russia. AFP

Root acknowledged that it



Jack Leach celebrates a dismissal

S C O R E C A R D

R. Pant

W. Sundar

R. Ashwin

I. Sharma

1ST INNINGS 578 INDIA **1ST INNINGS 337**

ENGLAND

ENGLAND

2ND INNINGS 178

INDIA **2ND INNINGS**

Anderson..... C. Puiara

A. Rahane

6-117 (Sundar), 7-171 (Ashwin), 8-179 (Kohli), 9-179 (Nadeem),

10-192 (Bumrah)

Bowling: Archer 9.1-4-23-1,
Leach 26-4-76-4 (nb1), Anderson 11-4-17-3, Bess 8-0-50-1, Stokes 4-1-13-1

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1000 export processing villages to be formed

Lankan Trade Information Portal launched

DINESH PERERA

The Sri Lankan Trade Information Portal was launched yesterday. The portal hopes to provide importers and exporters with trade-related information that is curated by the Department of Commerce under the Trade Ministry and

the International Trade Centre. The portal's design and functionality are to suit the government's trade policy which is centred around the upliftment of rural livelihoods through international trade in primary products.

Minister of Trade Dr Bandula Gunawardane said, "This (portal) would facilitate international commerce by SMEs at a lower cost. The Sri Lanka

Trade Information Portal is key to the improvement of theease of doing business. It is key to the implementation of the WTO plan."Gunawardane was speaking at the launch of the Trade Information Portal yesterday at the Shangri La hotel. The portal is available at; www.srilankatradeportal.gov.lk.

The Trade Ministry is to create 1,000 export processing villages that target primary industries like agriculture and fishing. Dr Gunawaradane noted that with the portal it would be easier to bring rural production into the formal world of international trade. The trade ministry is working in line with the government's aim to increase import substitution but shall



Ananda Dharmapriya, Denis Chaibi, Dr. Dayaratna Silva, and Dr. Bandula Gunawardena. Picture by Dinesh Perera

also facilitatethe reduction in non-tariff barriers to trade. Dr Guanawardane said, "It is time to reassess the need for our regulatory framework. My discussions with the ITC in both Geneva and Colombo showed

me the excellent work they do that helps the business community. My ministry is committed to facilitating the step by step information of this project."

Dr Gunawardane noted that he intended to increasingly

place the functioning of the department of commerce under the hands of technocrats. The creation of the trade information was helped with financing by the European Union. The implementation of the portal follows the requirement to place trade information online under article 1.2 of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement that Sri Lanka signed. Head of the European Union delegation to Sri Lanka Denis Chiabi said that the trade portal had been designed to help agricultural

markets. He noted the high standardbased barriers to trade in the European market.Chiabi noted that Sri Lanka's trade restric-

exporters access European

tions were warranted given the economic fallout of the pandemic but was concerned with a lack of a timeline on the lifting of restrictions. Chiabi was of the view that a ban on banks facilitating trade was in effect a ban on trade.

Trade Officer International Trade Centre Dr Mohammad Saeed said that he had complete confidence in the Trade Ministry facilitating additional products and creating a framework that is easier for imports and exports. National Project Co-Ordinator Dr Dayaratna Silva noted that the trade portal was formulated in the governments 'Saubhagyaye Dekma' vision.



HNB ASSURANCE PRODUCES RECORD...

Gulf Air resumes direct flights to Colombo

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, announces that it will resume its direct operations to and from Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport with two weekly flights starting from February 15, 2021 on its new Airbus A320neo aircraft.

Gulf Air has been operating direct flights between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Sri Lanka since 1981 and it is one of the airline's main destinations in the Indian Sub-continent region. Being one of the few airlines that never stopped flying in 2020, Gulf Air continuously works closely with the government authorities across its network to resume operations as demand for travel grows.

The airline currently flies to and from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuwait, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Medina, Muscat, Cairo, Amman, Casablanca, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Athens, Bangkok, Manila, Dhaka and several destinations in India and Pakistan.

OREL launches Lanka's first Multimodel Unmanned Store

OREL Corporation unveiled its newest, innovative venture recently by opening the second OrelBuy unmanned store at the Makumbura Multimodal Centre (MMC), the first ever multimodal centre in the country.

The store was opened by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Speaking at the opening of the event, President Rajapaksa said that he is happy to see such innovative measures being initiated, that will truly boost not only business, but also offer safety, efficiency, and convenience for the people. He commended OREL in bringing the next evolution in retail

to the country. The OrelBuy unmanned store is contactless and can be accessed simply by downloading and scanning a QR code. Payment is convenient and fully digital with the OrelPay App.

The OrelBuy



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa opens the store. Minister of Transport, Gamini Lokuge, State Minister of State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry Dilum Amunugama, and Managing Director of OREL, Kushan Kodituwakku look on.

unmanned store runs on the use of electronics, software and sensors that enables their goods to connect and exchange data through an online payment system.

The store is equipped with OREL Pay to facilitate cashless transactions. Once the customer scans the QR code

the entrance door will be automatically opened, which in turn opens into a glass cubicle which has RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) portals to scan on items.

General Manager, OREL Corporation Shaminda De Silva said: "The future of retail is

here and now, and this smart-store will completely change what it means for customers to take a trip to the store. Our aim is to offer customers convenience, and to support and reach out to people with busy lifestyles who want to buy fast and avoid queuing inside."

COVID drives Customs towards rapid paperless regime

demic and the lockdowns indirectly helped Sri Lanka Customs to go on a rapid drive towards a paperless regime, said Director General of Sri Lanka Customs Department, Retired Major General Vijitha Ravipriya.

"This is to minimize people to people contact and I can say that we have now been effective in obtaining 70% success in this area," he said.

Ravipriya was speaking at a webinar yesterday conducted by European Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka on the theme, 'Implication of Paperless and Contactless Procedure at the Port of Clearance in Sri Lanka'. He also said that the much hyped Single Window concept which was to be introduced on many occasions did not materialize and it was a failure. "We have now selected five stakeholders and are once again successfully moving towards creating a single concept but on a new perceptive:top to bottom approach. The industry pressure high-



Chairman, SLPA, Daya Ratnayake

lighting the need of a Single Window one-stop facility that allows exchange of information between all parties involved in trade to reduce complexity, time and costs is a priority in our agenda."He said that the automation process in the customs for the public as well as for staff too is now being automated with the assistance of Colombo University. "Automation will create more transparency and increase efficiency."

He said it took him around six months to clear red tape and have a computer system for the custom and automation will minimize such issues in the future. He



Director General of Sri Lanka Customs Vijitha Ravipriya

also said that some officer's dislike to embrace new systems and a 'mindset change drive' too is on the cards. "By and large COVID19 pandemic situation has badly affected in implementing planned systems.' Chairman, Sri Lanka

ports Authority, General (Retd.) Daya Ratnayake said that several novel initiatives are being taken to eliminate bottlenecks in the port and increase ease of doing business throughout the supply chain to minimize port delays caused by lengthy, complex procedures and excessive paperwork that creates a negative impact on trade.

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Emirates increases services to Colombo from four to six

Emirates will increase its services to Colombo from four to six weekly flights - with a fifth weekly flight commencing February 18, every Thursday and a sixth weekly flight commencing February 27 (every Saturday).

The two additional services will serve market demand and offer customers enhanced connectivity to/from Colombo, via Dubai. Customers can enjoy safe and conveni-



An Emirates Boeing 777-300ER aircraft at the BIA.

ent connections to more than 90 destinations within Emirates' network, via Dubai. Emirates' flights to Colombo will operate utilising

the wide-body aircraft, Boeing 777-300ER. Emirates launched operations to Sri Lanka in 1986, serving the country for more than 30 years.

The airline was one of the first international airlines to resume outbound passenger flights from Colombo last year - helping facilitate travel for foreign nationals and Sri Lankans. Emirates SkyCargothe airline's freight division - continues to support the country by maintaining vital trade links and playing a crucial role in transporting goods to and from Colombo with four weekly cargo flights.

Fitch rates HNB's Basel III Sub-Debt'A(EXP)(Ika)'

Fitch Ratings has assigned Hatton National Bank PLC's (HNB,AA-(lka)/Stable) proposed Sri Lanka rupee-denominated Basel III-compliant subordinated debentures an expected National Long-Term Rating of 'A(EXP)(lka)'.

The notes will total RS 7 billion, mature in 10 years and include a non-viability clause. The bank plans to use the proceeds to refinance the debentures maturing in 2021, to further strengthen the Tier 2 capital baseof the bank and to support the bank's balance-sheet growth.



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MARKET/NEWS

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

SHARES -	COLO	MBO	STO	CK	EXC	Mar	ket Statist
Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's	Change (Rs.)
Main Board		Close				Close	
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	13,115	33.80	34.70	34.90	32.60	33.30	(0.50)
ABANS	10,605	187.00	185.00	195.00	169.50	189.50	2.50
ACCESS ENG SL	523,882	26.10	26.10	26.80	25.20	25.60	(0.50)
ACL	683,162	96.50	96.00	96.00	90.00	93.40	(3.10)
ACL PLASTICS	3,728	305.50	305.00	305.00	297.00	300.00	(5.50)
ACME	23,000	5.90	5.90	5.90	5.80	5.80	(0.10)
AGALAWATTE	3,183	29.10	29.00	29.80	28.00	29.00	(0.10)
AHOT PROPERTIES	16,931	39.10	39.10	40.00	39.00	39.00	(0.10)
AITKEN SPENCE	102,004	67.30	67.00	67.00	63.00	64.80	(2.50)
ALLIANCE	1,700	54.60	51.30	51.40	51.00	51.20	(3.40)
AMANA BANK	1,471,454	3.50	3.50	3.70	3.40	3.60	
AMAYA LEISURE	5,778	40.20	40.00	40.20	39.60	40.00	(0.20)
ASIA ASSET	47,365	7.20	7.30	7.30	7.20	7.20	0.00
ASIRI	205,512	29.80	29.90	29.90	28.60	29.00	(0.80)
ASIRI SURG	16,310	14.40	14.30	14.30	13.60	14.00	(0.40)
AUTODROME	821	78.80	82.50	85.00	78.00	79.00	0.20
BAIRAHA FARMS	8,723	149.50	149.00	149.00	141.00	145.50	(4.00)
BALANGODA	52,850	15.00	15.00	15.00	14.50	15.00	0.00
BUKIT DARAH	3,002	335.00	331.00	338.50	326.00	326.75	(8.25)
C M HOLDINGS	2,062	102.25	100.00	101.00	96.10	99.80	(2.45)
C T HOLDINGS	47,401	180.00	177.00		170.00	171.00	(9.00)
CARGILLS	56,670	235.00	232.00	234.00	230.00	232.25	(2.75)
CARGO BOAT	4,601	74.80	70.20	74.50	69.60	73.90	(0.90)
CARSONS	2,670	304.00	303.00	310.00	300.00	308.25	4.25
CDB CDB [CDB.X0000]	2,670 35,117 15,665	113.75 80.40	114.00 79.50	124.50 84.90	108.00 78.00	120.50 83.90	6.75 3.50
CENTRAL FINANCE	283,688	115.50	115.00	117.00	105.00	114.00	(1.50)
CENTRAL IND.	198,791	134.50	135.00	137.75	128.50	129.25	(5.25)
CEYLINCO INS.	229	2,000.00	2,001.50	2,100.00	2,001.50	2,061.75	61.75
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X000	00] 132	1,199.75	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,175.00	1,184.00	(15.75)
CEYLON GUARDIAN	4,300	140.25	139.00	139.00	131.25	132.25	(8.00)
CEYLON INV.	134,109	75.00	75.00	79.10	72.90	74.70	(0.30)
CEYLON TOBACCO	15,956	1,103.25	1,090.00	1,115.00	1,090.00	1,105.00	1.75
CHEMANEX	12,049	89.00	88.10	91.00	87.00	88.90	(0.10)
CHEVRON	71,439	108.00	108.50	108.50	106.25	107.00	(1.00)
CIC	903,059	61.90	61.30	62.50	59.90	61.90	0.00
CIC [CIC.X0000]	455,584	49.70	50.90	50.90	47.50	49.00	(0.70)
CITRUS LEISURE	60,787	10.00	10.20	10.20	9.00	9.60	(0.40)
COLD STORES	12,148	699.75	700.00	700.00	682.25	689.00	(10.75)
COLOMBO CITY	136	1,000.00	1,047.00	1,047.00	960.00	993.75	(6.25)
COLOMBO LAND	19,562	27.20	27.30	27.80	26.20	27.00	(0.20)
COMMERCIAL BANK	363,744	90.00	90.00	90.00	85.90	87.80	(2.20)
COMMERCIAL BANK [CON	4B X0000198 130	81.50	81.80	81.80	80.00	80.10	(1.40)
CONVENIENCE FOOD	2,674	1,502.25	1,502.00	1,502.00	1,394.00	1,467.50	(34.75) (0.20)
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	647,084	14.60	14.90	14.90	13.70	14.40	
DFCC BANK PLC DIALOG DIMO	130,016 1,570,011	65.20 12.40	66.00 12.40	66.10 12.40	63.00 11.90	64.40 12.10 580.00	(0.80) (0.30)
DIPPED PRODUCTS DOCKYARD	763 490,578 10,587	609.00 733.75 82.00	591.00 749.00 87.00	591.00 749.75 87.00	576.00 690.00 78.00	718.50 79.00	(29.00) (15.25) (3.00)
DOLPHIN HOTELS DURDANS	1,167 3,020	26.00 101.25	102.00	26.00 105.00	102.00	105.00	0.00 3.75
DURDANS [CHL.X0000]	1	100.00	104.75	104.75	104.75	100.00	0.00
E B CREASY	350,901	56.14	61.50	62.50	50.00	58.30	2.16
EAST WEST	108,099	12.00	12.00	12.20	11.80	11.80	(0.20)
EAST WEST EASTERN MERCHANT EXPOLANKA	28,700 7,355,287	6.40 53.50	6.50 53.50	6.50 53.50	6.10 50.50	6.30 51.70	(0.20) (0.10) (1.80)
FORT LAND	66,799	15.00	15.70	15.70	14.90	15.10	0.10
GESTETNER	41	111.25	109.00	111.00	109.00	111.25	
GRAIN ELEVATORS	435,192	159.25	162.00	167.00	152.00	160.25	1.00
HAYCARB	397,414	1,590.25	1,669.00	1,670.00	1,475.00	1,499.00	(91.25)
HAYLEYS	149,470	776.00	780.00	780.00	730.00	746.50	(29.50)
HAYLEYS FABRIC	330,817	35.90	35.90	36.00	34.50	35.40	(0.50)
HAYLEYS FIBRE	16,502	204.75	204.75	208.00	195.00		0.25
HDFC	68,734	42.10	42.10	42.10	41.00	41.60	(0.50)
HEMAS HOLDINGS	7,254,777	91.00	90.50	91.00	88.00	90.00	(1.00)
HNB	294,541	145.00	144.00	144.00	138.00	142.25	(2.75)
HNB ASSURANCE	153,909	59.60	60.00	62.00	58.50	61.40	1.80
HNB [HNB.X0000]	517,291	113.00	115.00	116.00	109.75	111.75	(1.25)
HORANA	11,863	23.50	23.50	23.50	22.80	22.80	(0.70)
HOTEL SIGIRIYA	10	65.60	65.40	65.90	65.40	65.60	
HOTELS CORP. HUNTERS NDUSTRIAL ASPH.	7,700 128 3,917,849	12.00 763.25 0.60	11.80 796.00 0.60	11.80 796.00	11.50 750.00 0.50	11.50 750.50	(0.50) (12.75) (0.10)
JANASHAKTHI INS. JKH	19,526 2,095,193	0.60 30.10 154.75	30.00 155.00	130.73	29.50 152.00	0.50 29.50 154.00	(0.60) (0.75)
KANDY HOTELS	20,442	5.00	5.30	5.30	4.90	4.90	(0.10)
KEGALLE	14,677	129.75	127.00	137.75	115.25	123.75	(6.00)
KELANI CABLES	135	150.75	150.00	150.00	144.00	145.25	(5.50)
KELANI CABLES KELANI TYRES KELANI VALLEY	76,875 10,793	90.00 95.00	89.90 93.50	89.90 95.00	87.00 91.60	88.10	(1.90) (3.00)
KINGSBURY	35,837	13.20	13.40	13.40	12.30	12.70	(0.50)
KOTAGALA	28,741	6.90	6.80	6.90	6.60	6.70	(0.20)
LO L C HOLDINGS	1,166,384	440.25	440.00	440.00	404.00	422.75	(17.50)
LAKE HOUSE PRIN.	5	160.00	159.75	159.75	159.75	160.00	0.00
LANKA HOSPITALS	6,283	48.90	49.00	50.00	48.20	49.50	0.60
LANKA IOC	85,109	23.20	23.50	23.50	22.70	22.90	(0.30)
LANKA REALTY	10,453	35.00	34.20	35.00	34.10	35.00	
_ANKA TILES	67,021	235.75	245.00	245.00	215.00	224.25	(11.50)
_ANKA VENTURES	11,114	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	0.00
_ANKA WALLTILE	66,270	239.25	239.25	239.25	215.00	229.75	(9.50)
LAUGFS GAS	35,393	26.70	26.70	27.00	24.80	26.90	0.20 (0.30)
LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	65,897	20.30	20.50	21.00	19.60	20.00	
LAXAPANA	98,313	14.30	14.30	14.30	14.10	14.20	(0.10)
LB FINANCE	99,417	235.75	235.75	236.00	216.00	225.00	(10.75)
LEE HEDGES	9,705	75.90	75.00	77.50	74.00	74.00	(1.90)
LION BREWERY	101	583.25	583.00	583.00	580.00	580.50	(2.75)
LMF	131,463	173.50	180.00	180.00	160.25	165.75	(7.75)
LVL ENERGY	348,503	10.00	10.00	10.10	9.90	10.00	0.00
MALWATTE	74,397	13.70	13.20	14.00	12.00	13.70	
MALWATTE [MAL.X0000] MELSTACORP MERC. SHIPPING	30,157 284,397	9.00 59.50	9.20 60.00	9.20	8.30 55.00	8.90 57.60	(0.10) (1.90)
WERC. SHIPPING	33	86.10	86.00	86.00	86.00	86.10	0.00
WERCHANT BANK	70,313	7.50	7.40	7.40	7.20	7.20	(0.30)
WULLERS	411,229	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.10	1.20	0.00
NAMUNUKULA	8,270	190.00	190.00	190.00	180.00	182.50	(7.50)
NAT. DEV. BANK	510,900	89.60	89.70	92.00	89.00	91.60	2.00
NATIONS TRUST	48,239	61.00	61.00	62.00	59.50	60.70	(0.30)
NATIONS TRUST [NTB-X-0)	000] 30	75.30	56.50	56.50	56.50	75.30	0.00
NAWALOKA	74,703	5.30	5.30	5.40	5.20	5.40	0.10
NAWALOKA NESTLE OVERSEAS REALTY	432 426,891	1,178.75 16.20	1,178.75 16.50		1,175.00 15.80	1,189.50 15.90	10.75 (0.30)
PAN ASIA	804,367	17.70	17.90	18.50	17.00	17.50	(0.20)
PANASIAN POWER	1,562,154	3.70	3.80	3.80	3.60	3.70	0.00
PEOPLE'S INS	161,476	33.50	32.80	33.50	32.00	32.70	(0.80)
PEOPLES LEASING	617,344	13.40	13.40	13.40	12.90	13.00	(0.40)
PIRAMAL GLASS	3,535,439	9.60	9.70	9.70	9.50	9.60	0.00
PRINTCARE PLC	10,923	32.40	33.90	34.30	33.00	33.50	1.10
R I L PROPERTY	437,663	7.30	7.40	7.40	7.00	7.10	(0.20)
REGNIS RENUKA AGRI RENUKA CITY HOT.	4,939 759,024 384	121.50 4.40 250.25	124.75 4.40 248.75	124.75 4.50 260.00	115.50 4.40 235.00	118.75 4.40 236.50	(2.75) 0.00
RENUKA CITY HOT. RENUKA FOODS RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X	41,497	16.40 13.40	16.60 13.70	16.60 13.70	15.10 13.60	16.00 13.60	(13.75) (0.40) 0.20
RENUKA HOLDINGS	347,524	17.40	17.50	17.60	16.30	17.30	(0.10)
RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.	X0000] 26,773	13.90	13.20	13.50	13.10	13.40	(0.50)
RESUS ENERGY	17,174	26.00	25.90	25.90	25.10	25.20	(0.80)
RICHARD PIERIS	244,133	15.00	15.00	15.00	14.50	14.90	(0.10)
ROYAL CERAMIC	519,164	321.25	315.25	320.00	290.00	311.75	(9.50)
S M B LEASING	8,769,775	0.80	0.60	0.70	0.40	0.60	(0.20)
S M B LEASING [SEMB.X00		0.30	0.30	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.10
SAMPATH	802,338	169.25	170.00	170.00	160.50	167.50	(1.75)
SAMSON INTERNAT.	156	146.75	149.50	149.50	149.50	149.50	2.75
SANASA DEV. BANK	32,228	62.30	62.30	62.30	60.20	60.40	(1.90)
SEYLAN BANK	56,031	56.00	56.00	56.20	51.00	54.70	(1.30)
SEYLAN BANK (SEYB.X000	00] 677,064	48.00	47.00	48.50	46.00	48.00	0.00
SEYLAN DEVTS	87,909	16.00	16.40	16.40	15.80	15.80	(0.20)
SIERRA CABL	1,036,783	7.20	7.20	7.30	6.80	7.00	(0.20)
SIGIRIYA VILLAGE	57	39.90	38.90	38.90	38.50	39.90	0.00
SINGER FINANCE	58,469	15.30	15.20	15.40	15.00	15.20	(0.10)
SLT	20,255	37.60	37.50	37.50	36.70	36.90	(0.70)
SUNSHINE HOLDING	205,505	91.30	91.50	91.50	84.10	88.00	(3.30)
SWISSTEK	151,201	133.00	135.00	135.00	117.25	125.50	(7.50)
TALAWAKELLE	29,153	96.40	95.50	99.00	90.60	95.20	(1.20)
TANGERINE	501	43.00	42.50	42.50	42.00	42.20	
TEA SMALLHOLDER	211	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	0.00
TEEJAY LANKA	265,907	40.90	41.00	41.20	40.00	40.50	(0.40)
THREE ACRE FARMS	125,361	252.00	258.00	258.00	240.00	255.75	3.75
THREE ACRE FARMS FOKYO CEMENT FOKYO CEMENT [TKYO.X0	409,943	75.30 69.00	75.30 69.00	77.00 69.50	70.10 66.00	74.40 68.90	(0.90) (0.10)
UNION BANK	1,446,829	12.80	12.90	13.00	12.40	12.50	(0.30)
UNION CHEMICALS	8	850.25	828.00	828.00	787.00	850.25	0.00
INIIQVOT	6,372	16.90	17.00	17.00 76.00	16.70 75.00	16.80 75.00	(0.10) 0.00
UNITED MOTORS	13,813 543,455	75.00 8.10	75.00 8.20	8.20			(0.10)
UNISYST UNITED MOTORS VALLIBEL VALLIBEL FINANCE VIDULLANKA	543,455 64,431 236,695	8.10 121.50 5.50	8.20 125.00 5.70	8.20 131.00 5.70	7.90 110.75 5.40	8.00 118.50 5.50	(0.10) (3.00) 0.00
UNITED MOTORS VALLIBEL VALLIBEL FINANCE	543,455 64,431	8.10 121.50	8.20 125.00	8.20 131.00	7.90 110.75	8.00 118.50	(3.00)

stic	cs on 09.02.2021						
	Security Volume	**V.W.A. Previous	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's	Change (Rs.)
		Close				Close	(NS.)
	A014 0 A DITAL			0.70		0.00	(0.40)
	ASIA CAPITAL 92,534 BROWNS BEACH 14,579	6.30 13.00	6.60 13.00	6.70 13.00	6.00 12.00	6.20 12.30	(0.10) (0.70)
	COMM LEASE & FIN 327,875 DIALOG FINANCE 12	6.80 52.30	7.30 53.10	7.30 53.10	6.20 53.10	6.50 52.30	(0.30)
	DISTILLERIES 94,566 FIRST CAPITAL 123,641	20.50 58.60	21.00 59.50	21.00 59.90	20.20 55.90	20.40 57.90	(0.10) (0.70)
	KOTMALE HOLDINGS 296	236.00	234.50	253.25	234.50	243.50	7.50
	LOLC DEV FINANCE 121 LOLC FINANCE 1,634,088	88.90 6.40	88.00 6.60	90.00 6.60	87.00 6.00	87.10 6.20	(1.80) (0.20)
	MADULSIMA 14,165 ODEL PLC 11,821	9.30 19.60	9.20 19.00	9.70 19.10	9.10 18.00	9.20 18.20	(0.10) (1.40)
	PDL 2,153 SELINSING 17	120.75 817.25	120.75 800.00	124.50 800.00	120.75 800.00	122.75 817.25	2.00
	SERENDIB LAND 131	2,800.00	3,499.00	3,499.00	2,650.00	2,773.75	(26.25)
	SINGER SRI LANKA 138,731 DIRI SAVI BOARD	62.80	62.50	62.50	59.80	60.10	(2.70)
	AGSTAR PLC 103,835 ALUMEX PLC 398,775	7.30 24.20	7.30 25.00	7.60 25.00	7.00 22.50	7.20 23.30	(0.10) (0.90)
	AMANA LIFE 1 AMANA TAKAFUL 4,971	8.70 9.10	8.70 9.20	8.70 9.20	8.70 8.60	8.70 8.60	0.00 (0.50)
	AMBEON HOLDINGS 39,539 AMF CO LTD 76	22.00 300.25	22.30	23.00	21.50 296.00	22.40 300.25	0.40
	ARPICO INSURANCE 100	24.20	297.75 24.20	310.00 24.20	24.20	24.20	0.00
	ASIA SIYAKA 162,686 BANSEI RESORTS 1,002	2.90 8.40	3.00 8.70	3.00 8.70	2.80 8.30	2.90 8.30	0.00 (0.10)
	BERUWALA RESORTS 165,116 BOGALA GRAPHITE 7,292	0.80 25.30	0.90 25.00	0.90 25.00	0.80 22.80	0.90 23.60	0.10 (1.70)
	BOGAWANTALAWA 708	12.90	13.00	13.00	12.70	12.70	(0.20)
	BROWNS 134,980	14.80 189.50	14.80 189.00	15.00 199.00	14.40 165.00	14.90 186.50	0.10 (3.00)
	BROWNS INVSTMNTS 49,819,395 C T LAND 1,454	6.30 29.20	6.30 29.00	6.40 29.70	5.80 26.00	6.00 27.00	(0.30) (2.20)
	DIRI SAVI BOARD C.W.MACKIE 14,522	46.00	47.00	49.50	47.00	48.00	2.00
	CEYLON TEA BRKRS 92,371	3.60	3.60	3.70	3.50	3.60	0.00
	CFI 1,511 CITRUS HIKKADUWA 158,370	100.00 5.90	98.00 5.80	100.00 5.80	96.00 5.30	96.30 5.40	(3.70) (0.50)
	CITRUS WASKADUWA 53,382 COM.CREDIT 6,506	3.70 24.20	3.80 24.40	3.80 24.40	3.50 24.00	3.70 24.20	0.00
	COMMERCIAL DEV. 3,432 DILMAH CEYLON 871	125.00 675.25	122.75 675.25	122.75 676.00	120.00 650.50	120.25 675.00	(4.75) (0.25)
	E - CHANNELLING 156,108	6.80	6.90	6.90	6.60	6.60	(0.20)
	EDEN HOTEL LANKA 103,712 ELPITIYA 35,885	11.90 51.40	11.90 50.60	11.90 50.70	11.30 48.10	11.70 49.90	(0.20) (1.50)
	FORTRESS RESORTS 6,433 GALADARI 20,241	11.10 9.00	11.50 9.00	11.50 9.00	11.00 8.30	11.10 9.00	0.00
	GUARDIAN CAPITAL 2,103 HARISCHANDRA 52	33.20 3,504.75	33.00 3,700.00	33.00 3,700.00	32.20 3,200.00	32.60 3,504.75	(0.60) 0.00
	HATTON 45,071	10.40	10.20	10.20	9.00	10.00	(0.40)
	HNB FINANCE 40,674 HNB FINANCE [HNBF-X-0000] 10,518	9.70 7.30	9.70 7.50	9.70 7.50	9.40 7.20	9.40 7.20	(0.30) (0.10)
	JETWING SYMPHONY 2 JOHN KEELLS 6,956	9.20 80.00	9.50 80.00	9.50 80.00	9.50 80.00	9.20 80.00	0.00
	KAHAWATTE 3,002 KEELLS FOOD 21,752	29.90 155.00	30.00 156.00	32.00 160.00	30.00 151.00	31.10 156.00	1.20 1.00
	KEELLS HOTELS 403,405	11.10	11.10	11.30	11.10	11.10	0.00
	LANKA CERAMIC 1,103 LANKEM CEYLON 862	162.50 31.70	164.00 31.40	167.00 32.50	157.50 30.10	165.00 32.00	2.50 0.30
	LAUGFS POWER 9,184 LAUGFS POWER [LPL-X-0000] 27,771	10.70 7.30	10.90 7.20	10.90 7.50	10.00 7.10	10.20 7.30	(0.50)
	LOTUS HYDRO 155,405 MAHAWELI COCONUT 67	10.20 28.00	10.20 28.10	10.30 28.10	10.00 28.10	10.00 28.00	(0.20) 0.00
	MARAWILA RESORTS 5,127	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.00	2.10	0.10
	MASKELIYA 1,099 MILLENNIUM HOUSE 34,064	13.10 6.70	12.80 6.30	12.80 6.60	12.70 6.20	12.70 6.40	(0.40) (0.30)
	NUWARA ELIYA 10 ON'ALLY 1,247	1,171.50 36.50	1,100.00 35.10	1,100.00 35.10	1,100.00 30.70	1,171.50 35.10	0.00 (1.40)
	ORIENT FINANCE 174,348 PALM GARDEN HOTL 7,172	16.50 29.00	15.60 28.00	16.50 28.00	14.30 26.00	16.30 27.00	(0.20) (2.00)
	PEGASUS HOTELS 137	34.80	33.00	33.00	32.80	33.00	(1.80)
	PEOPLE'S MERCH 8,961 PRIME FINANCE 12,664	8.70 13.50	8.60 13.40	8.80 13.60	8.00 13.20	8.80 13.50	0.10 0.00
	RAIGAM SALTERNS 76,297 RENUKA CAPITAL 343,357	5.90 8.90	5.90 9.00	6.10 9.00	5.70 8.30	5.80 8.80	(0.10) (0.10)
	RICH PIERIS EXP 3,381 ROYAL PALMS 382	444.25 17.00	433.00 16.90	433.00 16.90	402.25 16.50	408.00 16.80	(36.25) (0.20)
	SATHOSA MOTORS 83	236.50	236.00	240.00	236.00	236.50	0.00
	SERENDIB ENG.GRP 30,120 SERENDIB HOTELS 633	7.00 16.00	7.00 16.00	7.00 16.00	6.50 15.60	6.50 15.60	(0.50) (0.40)
	SERENDIB HOTELS [SHOT.X0000] 1,002 SINGER IND. 701	9.30 109.00	9.90 103.75	9.90	9.30 92.50	9.30 92.50	0.00 (16.50)
	SINGHE HOSPITALS 86,206 SINHAPUTHRA FIN [SFL.P0000] 340	2.70 4.50	2.70 4.70	2.80 4.80	2.60 4.70	2.70 4.80	0.00 0.30
	DIRI SAVI BOARD						
	SOFTLOGIC 103,269 SOFTLOGIC CAP 112,542	13.90 4.10	13.90 4.00	14.10 4.00	13.10 3.80	13.20 3.90	(0.70) (0.20)
	SOFTLOGIC FIN 6,212 Softlogic Life 42,676	11.30 32.00	11.30 32.00	11.30 32.00	11.30 31.50	11.30 32.00	0.00
	TAL LÄNKA 854 TRANS ASIA 50	15.10 63.00	14.90 63.60	15.00 63.60	14.10 63.60	14.70 63.00	(0.40) 0.00
	UDAPUSSELLAWA 4,248	26.00	26.00	27.50	25.00	26.60	0.60
	UNION ASSURANCE 284 VALLIBEL ONE 3,380,604	313.50 66.40	313.00 67.00	314.00 67.00	313.00 58.00	313.25 61.50	(0.25) (4.90)
	WATCH LIST ANILANA HOTELS 50,610	1.20	1.20	1.30	1.20	1.20	0.00
	BIMPUTH FINANCE 1,216 BLUE DIAMONDS 928,063	8.50 0.70	8.50 0.60	8.50 0.70	8.50 0.60	8.50 0.60	0.00
	BLUE DIAMONDS [BLUE.X0000]3,950,052	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.30	(0.10)
	CEYLON PRINTERS 231 HVA FOODS 90,019	65.20 6.00	62.00 6.10	65.20 6.10	62.00 5.90	62.70 6.00	(2.50) 0.00
	LANKEM DEV. 80,626 MACKWOODS ENERGY 54,231	4.00 3.00	4.00 3.00	4.10 3.10	3.80 3.00	3.90 3.00	(0.10) 0.00
	NATION LANKA 302,670 OFFICE EQUIPMENT 2,556	0.90 85.00	0.80	0.90	0.80 70.00	0.80 75.60	(0.10) (9.40)
	PARAGON 101 RADIANT GEMS 800	69.90 29.70	60.00	65.90 30.00	60.00 28.00	60.10	(9.80) (0.70)
	SINHAPUTHRA FIN 1,010	7.90	7.80	8.20	7.80	7.80	(0.10)
	STANDARD CAPITAL 666	72.00	72.00	72.00	65.00	71.60	(0.40)

COLOMBOSTOCK EXCHANGE - STOCK MARKET STATISTICS

MARKET STATISTICS

TESS AGRO [TESS.X0000]

TESS AGRO

1,328,923

271,944

EQUITY DETAILS	TODAY	PRV.DAY
VALUE OF TURNOVER(RS.)	4,946,079,475.75	4,799,415,846.05
VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.)	128,822,278	142,751,894
TRADES(NO.)	32,994	34,856
MARKET CAPITALIZATION(RS.)	3,481,431,301,033.20	3,546,752,420,325.85
GOVT. SECURITIES	TODAY	PRV.DAY
VALUE OF TURNOVER(RS.)	-	-
VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.)	-	
TRADES(NO.)		
MARKET CAPITALIZATION(RS.)		
1		
CORPORATE DEBT	TODAY	PRV.DAY
		3-Feb-21
VALUE OF TURNOVER(RS.)	120,430,259.00	13,075,000.00
VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.)	1,000,000	125,000
TRADES(NO.)	1	2
EQUITY INDICES	TODAY	PRV.DAY
PRICE INDICES		
CSE ALL SHARE INDEX	7,963.77	8,113.26
S&P SL 20 INDEX	3,169.92	3,227.66

0.60

0.60

0.70

0.50

0.60

0.50

0.60

0.50

0.60

0.50

Bourse nose-dives below 8,000

10,674.12

5,208.42

Bourse continued its downfall for the second consecutive session, dipping below 8,000 after almost 3-weeks. Index nose-dived within the first few minutes of trading, hitting its intraday low of 7,853. Subsequently the market bounced back and experienced a wave pattern for the rest of the session and closed at 7,964 losing 149 points.

TOTAL RETURN INDICES TRI ON ALL SHARES (ASTRI)

TRI ON S&P SL 20 INDEX (S&P SL20 (TR))

Capital Goods sector took over the lead of the turnover followed by Diversified Financials making a joint contribution of 50%. Foreign investors continued to be net sellers while recording low participation.

Meanwhile in the secondary market yield curve continues to witness an upward pressure while overall market witnessed limited activi-

Selling interest was seen on shorter tenors 15.03.22 trading at 5.30%, 01.09.23 at 5.93%, 01.10.23 at 5.95%, 01.12.24 traded in the range of 6.51%-6.54% levels, 01.05.25 traded in the range of 6.85%-6.80% levels, in addition, long tenor maturities 15.08.27 traded at 7.30% and 15.05.30 traded at 8.00%. (FC Research)

10,874.49

5,301.14

ties amidst thin volumes.

COCONUTS

Coconut Products - Prices on 09.02.2021	
1. FRESH COCONUT	

1. FRESH COO Market Price 0	CONUT 20cth Oct –08 2020) Wholesale	Retail
(a)Large Size Small Size	Rs/Nut Rs/Nut	72,00-75.00 65.00-70.00	80.00-90.00 70.00-80.00
(b)Coconut De History Use) Average Price Offers Nuts Trated	velopment Authority	- Colombo Auct 56,493,75 707,125 529,709	ion 24/09/2020 (For
(c)Coconut Dev (For Industry U Average Nuts Offered Nuts Traded	velopment Authority Ise)	– Kuliyapitiya Au 92.93 T 195,481 40,281	action 08.09.2020)
(d)Locally Trade	ed (Farm-gate price		Rs/Mt (Husked Ex-
Mill) Kurunegala Dis Puttalam Dist. Gampaha Dist. Hambantota Di		75,000-90,000 70,000-82,000 75,000-82,000 75,000-90,000	135,000-140,000 133,000-138,000 130,000-138,000
2. COPRA – (L Copra Edible M.S. No.1 Cop 80,000	ocally Traded) ra	(08.02.2021) (Rs. /250 Kg) (Rs. /250 Kg)	:
M.S. No.2 Cop 70,000	ra Ordinary) Copra	(Rs. /250 Kg) (Rs. /250 Kg)	-
M.S. No.1 Cop M.S. No.2 and	ra Offered ra Sold	(Rs.250kg) rage Price)(Rs.25	
3. DESICCATE Fine Sri Lanka Medium		(Rs/Kg) (Rs/Kg)	615-625 T 615-625 T
4. COCONUT (Local Wholesa Philippines (CII (Oil World) (04)	le Price F-Rott)	(Rs/Mt)	485,000-540,000 N 272,716
5. POONAC 6. MATTRESS 7. OMAT FIBRE 8. MIX FIBRE 9. MIX FIBRE 10. BRISTLE FI 11. COCONUT District Puttalam Gampaha Matara Kurunegala	FIBRE E (FAQ) BRE 1 TIE FIBRE 2 TIE HUSKS	(Rs/Mt) (Rs/50kg) (Rs. /50 kg) (Rs. /50 kg) (Rs. /50 kg) (Rs. /50 kg) (18.01.2021) Der 1,000 husks 4,000-5,000 4,000-5,000 4,000-5,000	
Coir Fibre (Moi Coir Fibre (Moi	isture is more than sisture is 40%-50% isture is 30%-40% isture is 20%-30%	50%) Rs/Kg Rs/Kg Rs/Kg Rs/Ka	7.00 7.50 8.50 8.50

14. COCONUT EKELS T - Traded

12. COCONUT SHELL 26,500-27,500 T

Courtesy: Coconut Development Authority

Coir Fibre (Moisture is 10%-20% Coir Fibre (Moisture is less than 10%

13. COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL

exchange rates

(Rs/MT)

100.000.00 T

International Operations Department 09.02.2021
(1)The average rates of the following currencies quoted by commercial banks in Colombo for Telegraphic Transfers (TT) at 9.30 a.m. are as fol-

Currency **Buying Rate** 147.8049 152.7674 Canadian Dollar 150.1166 155.7011 231.1213 1.8260 237.9966 1.8775 271.2625 Euro Japanese Yen Sterling Pound 263.9340

(2) The approximate exchange rates of GULF Currencies based on previous day's market weighted average rate for the US\$ are as follows;

(3) The Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (AWPR) and the Lowest Prime Rate (LPR) during the week ended 05-Feb-2021, by all commercial banks was 5.59 percent and 4.50 percent respectively. (4)The Average Weighted Deposit Rate (AWDR) of commercial banks for the month of January- 2021 was 5.58 percent.

Just In Time Group to host Virtual Career Fair on Feb.11



Tirantha Mahapatuna - Business Relationship Manager, Outsourcing, Dilshani Fernando - Group Manager HR and Kushan Basnayake - Senior HR Executive of JIT.

As a part of its continued efforts to recruit members to its ever-growing Team JIT and to support job seekers, Just In Time Group (JIT) has organized its first Virtual Career Fair - on February 11. This is a free registration event, taking place 10:00am to 1:00pm via MS teams.

"As we are all aware, the pandemic has had a great impact on businesses especially on the hiring process, as many employers and job seekers have sought to utilize what may have been previously unfamiliar methods of recruitment and career development," said Dilshani Fernando -Group Manager HR. "By leveraging on virtual services, we continue to connect with job seekers and find the best of breed talent"

This first, JIT Virtual career fair aims to enhance the company's recruitment efforts to provide a robust and multi-faceted service with a skilled and varied pool of candidates that can service all industries. The Virtual Career Fair will be conducted by the HR Team together with the IT Resource Outsourcing Unit, where they will be covering the required candidate qualifications, experiences and interested areas when hiring, and additionally, JIT's HR Team will also talk about its unique Culture and Business strengths. The fair will be aligned for job seeking professionals, students and graduates.

This will be the first of a series of Virtual Career Fairs planned for 2021, to highlight the demand of opportunities in the ICT sector, giving job seekers the chance to ask questions directly to learn more on the opportunities and about JIT.

More information could be obtained from careers@jithpl.com and o through their Facebook event page, JIT Virtual Career Fair 2021 https://fb.me/e/W2HPdd17.

iPay extends support to Central Bank's LANKAQR islandwide campaign

payment platform extended its support yet again to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) in its initiative to promote cashless digital payments across the country through the national Quick Response (QR) Code platform LANKAQR. The main event was held

recently at the Broadwalk, Diyatha Uyana, attended by the State Minister of Money, Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Central Bank Director Payments and Settlements D. Kumaratunge, Central Bank Deputy Governor T.M.J.Y.P. Fernando and other senior officials of CBSL. Conrad Dias, Director and CEO, LOLC Finance PLC and Charitha Jayasingha, Head of iPay participated at the event, representing LOLC Finance.

During the event day, iPay acquired over 1,200 merchants carrying out promotional activities in multiple locations across Colombo, coinciding with the main event. Multiple events were held at the LOLC Finance Head Office, City Office, Kollupitiya, Rajagiriya, Dehiwala, Homagama, Kohuwala, Maharagama, Mount Lavinia and Wellawatta branches

Extending its fullest support to the CBSL initiative, iPay accepts payments made via the National Quick Response (QR) Code which was introduced by the regulator in order to champion a digitalised national payments system and to streamline financial inclusivity, encouraging a less cash society. The nationwide campaign to promote digital transactions through a QR code system was ceremonially

launched in the town of Matale

iPay has been built on an architecture that allows easy integration with any system and has been designed with a host of features, giving the user a unique, one of a kind transaction experience. The vibrant and well-organized graphical user interface of iPay promises a unique experience whilst carrying out payments. LOLC Finance currently operates as iPay's merchant acquiring part-

"iPay is an easy to use payment platform that can be used by anyone with any bank account, said Head of iPay, Charitha Jayasingha. "iPay users can conveniently plan and pay their everyday bills like reloads, utility bill payments, bank transfers and much more. Other

unique features include, doctor channelling, iPay marketplace, e-commerce purchases and bill presentment. iPay users can register for the bill presentment service and receive a bill notification on the due amount and pay simply by one touch".

Commenting about iPay's efforts and the CBSL's initiative of driving cashless payments in Sri Lanka, Conrad Dias, Director andCEO of LOLC Finance PLC said, "Contactless payments play a huge role in the new normal that people are adapting to. It is also an essential solution for all types of businesses as it ensures optimum speed and safety. iPay continues to play a leading role in this rapid adoption of cashless payments as we have introduced some groundbreaking features that facilitates both merchants and customers".



State Minister of Money, Capital Markets & State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal, and Central Bank Deputy Governor T.M.J.Y.P. Fernando purchases goods from the appointed iPay Merchant. Director and CEO, LOLC Finance, Conrad Dias and Head of iPay, Charitha Jayasingha is also present

DSI enters into Synthetic Leather Manufacturing

D. Samson Industries (Pvt) Ltd a subsidiary of DSI Samson Group (Pvt) Ltd enters into Synthetic Leather Manufacturing by acquiring a state of the art production facility in Katana in the Negombo precincts, during a crucial period in which the government has encouraged Sri Lankan entrepreneurs to take a step forward to invest in the manufacturing

This was part of our businessrelated integration initiatives under the 2020-2022 strategic plan and a much needed investment to manufacture the raw materials that is being used for footwear manufacturing. It will also cut down the supply chain and logistics lead time when it comes to sourcing materials while we can reduce the much needed foreign exchange spent on imports. Another benefit to the country and its economy is the provision of additional employment to the youth of our country. With the in-house training in skills development, it gives a much needed boost to improving the inherent talents of these employees, said Managing Director of DSI, Kasun Rajapaksa.

DSI Synthetic Materials Plant is the only manufacturing venture in Sri



Managing Director of DSI, Kasun Rajapaksa and Executive Director of DSI, Dilshan Rajapaksa displays the synthetic leather sheet

Lankan to use the Transfer Coating Technology which can manufacture 0.3 mm to 4.0 mm thickness range.

While manufacturing the internal requirements for DSI footwear manufacturing, DSI Synthetic Materials plant will also cater its full range for the local Footwear Manufacturers, Upholstery, Automotive, Bags and Stationary Sectors in the country. While introducing new products to the domestic market, our synthetic

leathers have already entered into export markets such as UK and Europe with required compliances and standards.

We are confident that we can increase our exports this year since the demand for synthetic leather is also increasing, especially in the automotive industry worldwide as its manufacturing does not involve animal killing, said Executive Director of DSI Dilshan Rajapaksa.

SLASSCOM's Tech Forum to position Sri Lanka as vibrant tech eco-system

With the objective of positioning Sri Lanka as a vibrant tech ecosystem in Asia, the Tech Forum of Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASS-COM) is focusing its efforts towards developing the technology knowledge base of the country, to gear it to strategically compete in the global arena.

"Enabling Sri Lankans to take our country to the world stage as an incubator for smart working professionals is a passion that has been continuously driving the Tech Forum," says SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan, citing that the forum's objectives align to SLASSCOM's Vision 2022 of achieving US\$ 5 billion in revenue, 200,000 jobs and 1,000 start-ups, thus making it a unified and well directed commit-

The Tech Forum has formulated a three-pronged strategy in its plan to position Sri Lanka as a country that offers not low cost labour as is the



Nuwan Perera

case previously, but sustainable value additions in technology to the world's economies and organizations

The strategies include the formation of Centres of Excellence (COEs) and Accelerators, building future skills and a strong technical community, and positioning Sri Lanka via engagement through differentiated events.

"When it comes to setting up COEs and Accelerators, we have advisory boards with professionals from around the globe," explains SLASSCOM



Channa Manoharan

Board Director-Tech Forum Nuwan Perera. The Forum already has several established COEs namely SLASSCOM Product and Platform Council, SLASSCOM AI COE and SLASSCOM Cybersecurity

All the forum's accelerators and COEs follow a particular governance structure that is very well defined in order to maintain efficiency, continuity and synergistic benefits.

The Tech Forum is also actively engaged in building a strong tech community in Sri

Lanka, and have put in place many plans to host multiple events including Tech Talks, Webinars and Meetups, as well as engaging with global and local audiences through tech summits and recruiting international resource personnel to embrace learning opportuni-

"In our journey of positioning Sri Lanka as a tech eco system, we will be establishing several MOUs with local and international bodies," avers Nuwan highlighting that the forum is looking at leveraging international networks and ecosystems to amplify Sri Lanka's capabilities through them, and will be signing MOUs with research laboratories in Europe and other parts of the world in the near future.

The next exciting event in the Tech Forum's agenda is the AI Asia Summit scheduled to be held on 25th- 27th February, one of many industry networking and knowledge creation activities planned for the

ComBank wins Robotic Process Automation award from SLASSCOM

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon, a leader in tech innovation in Sri Lanka, has won the Banking and Financial Services Category Award presented by Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM) at its Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Awards Conference 2020.

The RPA Award for the category was presented to the Bank for its end-to-end automation of User ID Management function which automates key Human Resources Management request processes. The

to facilitate the process using the automation approach.

Case studies submitted for the consideration of the SLASSCOM RPA Awards had to include any solution which involved Robotics Process Automation as a key catalyst in deriving desired outcomes and showcase improvements in process efficiency, client delivery,

increased quality, and cost savings. Upon being adjudged the winner of the Award for its case study in

Bank has established a special unit the automation of the User ID Management function, the Comlatest robotic technology and hyper mercial Bank was invited to present a video demonstration of its RPA journey at the virtual SLASS-COM RPA Conference 2020 in December. The Bank revealed that the Application Programming Interface (API) of its User ID Management function is integrated with the Bank's HR systems to obtain details of permanent and banking trainee employees, employment changes on the effective date, and backdated employment changes.

"Other banking systems integrated with Robotic Process Automation include the active directory, anti-money laundering (AML), leasing, branch letter generation module, payment processing, cheque clearance, trade finance, core banking, core banking query, card management, loan origination, operational risk management, signature & documents management, email management, bank guarantee, credit monitoring and procurement approval", the Bank

D'las International makes history, obtains COSMOS organic certification



The D'las International team obtaining COSMOS organic certification

D'las International (Pvt) Ltd, one of the leading manufacturers of fine fragrances and natural body care products in Sri Lanka, made history by obtaining internationally recognized COSMOS organic certification for its high end products range and became the first company in the Island to own such certification awarded by Control Union, a globally recognized certification body based in Netherlands. COSMOS (Cosmetic Organic Standard) is a worldwide private standard that adheres to principles such as promoting the use of ingredients from organic farming, using environmentally sound and healthy production and manufacturing processes and expanding the concept of 'green chemicals'. With its foundation in agriculture and presence in over 70 countries, Control Union Certifications

has focused its efforts in developing services around the sustainability of the industry's supply chains which feed into the food, feed, forestry, biomass, bio energy, social compliance and textiles markets.

For D'las International the certification process was conducted and awarded by Control Union -South Korea and presented by its Sri Lankan branch. D'las International (Pvt) Ltd is a proud member of the HDDES Group of companies, which engages in the supply of natural, organic raw materials and ingredients for the past four decades

To give a modern dimension on general working standards, HDDES Group of Companies creates an atmosphere whereby the manufacturing of products is carried out using the best of business practices, which is

one of the few praiseworthy efforts of the organiza-

D'las offers a range of cosmetics including fine fragrances, aromatic soaps, aromatic shampoos, body lotions, conditioners, shower gels, aromatic oils, aromatic diffusers and AURA incense sticks. All, D'las products are manufactured using eco-friendly and green concepts that are 100% natural, under best ethical practices with cruelty free processes.

More than 80% of the raw materials used in the manufacturing process are derived from organic or natural sources. D'las range is mainly exported to USA, Europe and Japan markets while it is also available locally for an affordable price.

All required quality certifications for above markets such as USDA-NOP, EEC and JAS have been obtained for D'las range.

SDB bank appoints three diverse cross-industry professionals

In line with SDB bank's continuous advancement as one of the country's top banks, they have further strengthened their corporate management setup with three fresh appointments earlier this month.

SDB bank filled several key corporate management positions with the recent appointment, in the critical areas of Risk, Marketing, and Retail Banking. This adds further bankingfocused, cross-industry, plus international experience to their already diverse team.

The bank's new Chief Risk Officer, Udana Fernando, is a veteran in the critical areas of risk, compliance, plus credit, and







Theekshana Pandithasekar, Hasitha Samarasinghe and Udana Fernando

has extensive international and corporate banking experience.

In addition to numerous C-suite positions at leading banks in Myanmar and Sri Lanka, he counts top roles in recoveries, credit, and risk management across Indian and local banks

among his experience. Appointed to the position of Head of Marketing, Hasitha Samarasinghe is a professional marketer counting over 12 years of experience in areas such as strategic brand management, digital marketing, and corporate communica-

tions. Having performed key roles in top-rated local and multinational companies across FMCG, Industrial and Supermarket sectors, he has spearheaded some of the prominent product launches and marketing campaigns in the

the ladder in his banking career, accruing expertise in diverse areas such as branch operations, retail networks, credit card sales, and lifestyle loans. His experience includes key roles across local operations of a premier foreign bank plus top organizations in education and automobile sales. SDB bank is set to draw

Head of Retail Banking,

Theekshana Pandithasekara.

has progressively risen up

on the extensive experience of these high-caliber professionals, their banking and multi-industry expertise, plus their impressive academic credentials, in further cementing the bank's position as one of the island's top banks across sectors.

Anverally and Sons wins Export Brand of the Year award at SLIM

Anverally and Sons (Pvt) Ltd., one of Sri Lanka's oldest and most respected exporters of tea, received the Export Brand of the Year – Bronze award at the 2020 Brand Excellence Awards presented by the Sri Lanka Institute

of Marketing (SLIM) The award was conferred on the Company's export brand 'Al-Otuor' – a distinctive Earl Grey flavoured tea ranked No 1 in several Middle Eastern markets including Iraq and Libya, and believed to be popular for its

strong fragrance, as borne out by its name, which translates to fragrance. The Company said the flavour of the tea is customised exclusively for the brand, making it a unique product.

This is the ninth occasion that Anverally and Sons was honoured at the SLIM Brand Excellence awards.

Commenting on this achievement, the Company's Chairman Mr Mohamed Anverally said, "We are honoured to be a consistent winner at these awards. The

concluded year was one of many challenges especially for exporters, with disruptions of production, logistics issues and the lockdowns in many overseas markets. Our ability to retain our market leadership in key markets speaks to the consistency in the quality of our products as well as the consumer loyalty we have built for the brands.'

'Al-Otuor' is one of the principal brands of Anverally and Sons, a company with a history of more than 130 years. Established in

1890 by the great grandfather of the present Chairman, Anverally and Sons employs more than 1,000 people today and exports Ceylon Tea to over 100 countries. The Company's selection of teas ranges from black, green, herbal, organic, iced, health and fruit teas in packing options of bulk, tea bags, packets, metal caddies, bottles, pouches, tea gifts and more.

An organisation driven by innovation, Anverally and Sons has also worked towards product diversification, expanding to

Ceylon King Coconut Water and Ceylon Virgin Coconut oil. The Company said it plans to roll out innovations this year too in response to the dynamic external landscape to meet consumer

In 2019, Anverally Teas was awarded a Presidential Export Award in the Tea sector,a National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) awardin the 'Extra Large' category and a special award for the highest export turnover at the NCE awards.



Tharindu Lorenso Hewage, the Company's Assistant Manager Tea flanked by Goonawardena and Thiska Goonatilleka. Manager Business Development at the awards ceremony

HNB Assurance produces record 113 MDRT Qualifiers in 2020

HNB Assurance PLC (HNBA) recently announced that the Company had produced 113 MDRT qualifiers for the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table Conference (MDRT)in the United States of America.

This brilliant achievement bears great importance as the Company surpassed its number of qualifiers in the previous year, setting a new record for 2020. Amongst the top achievers are 2Top of the Table qualifiers (TOT) and8 Court of the Table (COT) qualifiers.

Commending the winners, Chief Executive Officer of HNBA and **HNB General Insurance Limited** (HNBGI), Prasantha Fernando

added, "Yet again our very own champions have brought great glory to the Company, by establishing ourselves as a player to reckon with in the industry in terms of producing MDRT qualifiers, demonstrating that HNB Assurance as a company and we as Sri Lankans in general have what it takes to be neck-to-neck with the best insurance professionals from around the globe. The Distribution Management, Bancassurance, and Sales Training teams have come together as one powerhouse, driven by unparalleled commitment and potency to deliver their best in the year that was anything but normal."



CEO Prasantha Fernando

"I believe that career-shaping achievements of this nature not only encourages our new-comers



coo Lasitha Wimalaratne

to set the bar higher and stay true to their goals and aspirations in life, but also further strengthens

the Company's Sales Force poten-

Chief Operating Officer of HNBA, Lasitha Wimalaratne expressed his appreciation stating, "I applaud the captivating vigor with which the Sales Training team, Bancassurance team and the Advisor Channel have marched forward through this challenging time victoriously to have produced 113 MDRT qualifiers of which 8 achieved the Court of the Table recognition, whilst 2 received the covetous Top of the Table qualification." HNB Assurance PLC (HNBA) is one of the fastest growing Insurance Companies in Sri Lanka with a network of 63 branches.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

99x COO Shehani Seneviratne (centre) and 99x Chief People Officer Damitha Jayasinghe (right) receiving the Best Workplace for Women award from The Great Place to Work Institute Sri Lanka CEO Kshanika Rat-

99x ranked Best Workplace for Women in Sri Lanka again

Technology company 99x was recognised for its best practices in diversity and equality in the workplace as it was listed a Best Workplace to Work for Women in Sri Lanka for a second consecutive year.

Building an inclusive workplace for all is a key area of focus for 99x and being on the list, spearheaded by the Great Place To Work Institute Sri Lanka, once again reaffirms its commitment to

"It is a testament to our efforts to be recognised by Great Place To Work Institute once again. However, it's important that we all, not just as a company, but as an industry and country, work together continuously to bring about much-needed change across sectors, and promote a truly inclusive workforce," observed Shehani Seneviratne, Chief

Operating Officer of 99x. Gender inclusivity is still an aspect woefully absent on many corporate and

social agendas, despite the great strides made in this area. Indexes such as the Best Workplaces for Women in Sri Lanka are a constant reminder of its importance and are instrumental in setting industry standards to work toward.

By creating equal opportunities for all within an open organisational structure, 99x drives inclusivity at all levels and reaps its benefits in a multitude of ways – an innovative and energised workforce, low attrition rates and a highly positive effect on the triple bottom line, to name a few.

"Over the years, I've grown in my career as a senior QA Lead and 99x gave me the opportunity to bloom by expanding my knowledge through training, offshore experiences, achieving my MBA and empowering me to handle technical teams," commented Mihiri Lekamge, Senior Quality Assurance Lead at 99x, describing her experience at 99x.

Sarvodaya Development Finance strengthens partnership with DIMO

To accelerate post-COVID agriculture revival

Accelerating post COVID-19 economic recovery, Sarvodaya Development Finance (SDF) renewed its MOU with DIMO covering a wide range of agriculture machinery products through its comprehensive leasing solutions, to support local farming communi-The agreement between SDF

and DIMO was envisaged to facilitate access to modern agriculture equipment for Sri Lankan farmers, while enhancing their productivity and profitability. As a majority of Sri Lankan farmers cannot afford to outright purchase of modern agricultural equipment, SDF developed a lease financing scheme, in partnership with DIMO, to bring agricultural equipment within the reach of farmers.

The initial agreement paved the way for Sri Lankan farmers to acquire high quality Mahindra tractors from DIMO through a concessionary leasing scheme of



(Left) with Gahanath Pandithage - Group Chief Executive Officer of DIMO and DIMO team (right)

SDF. The scheme was an immediate success, with strong demand maintained in 2020, despite of Covid-19 containment restrictions across the island. SDF notes with pride that many farmers in the country's main agricultural regions of Anuradhapura and Ampara took this opportunity to benefit from SDF's leasing arrangement when purchasing Mahindra tractors from

This intervention by SDF, to make mechanisation of farming affordable to local farmers, ensured continued livelihoods for farming communities during the pandemic year of 2020, while maintaining continuous supplies of essential food products for the rest of the country.

The renewed agreement between SDF and DIMO has expanded the product range that can be leased

through SDF. SDF's latest financing scheme is now applicable for all tractor models of Mahindra and Swaraj which offered with DIMO trust. CLAAS Harvesters and Lovol Harvesters from DIMO are other products that covered through this leasing agreement which will enable local farmer community to access the latest technology in the agriculture sector for an affordable price

tive benefits for customers. SDF will extend an attractive special repayment scheme for

Under this scheme, DIMO and

SDF will provide array of attrac-

customers who purchase Mahindra tractors, Swaraj tractors, **CLAAS** Harvesters and Lovol Harvesters. SDF will also provide a unique set of benefits to all new customers who purchase under this scheme and will offer an attractive down payment from the total tractor value during the Yala season In addition, customers will

receive a free Farmers Kit, free oil filters for two years and three free services for all Mahindra and Swaraj tractors, and three free services for CLAAS and Lovol combine harvesters from DIMO.

This unbeatable offer reflects SDF's commitment to support Sri Lanka's agricultural revival during the current period of post-Covid

World Women Leadership Congress awards Dr. Thesara Jayawardane

World Women Leadership Congress and Awards was held in Colombo recently and Dr. Thesara Jayawardanewas was recognized as 'Outstanding Women Excellence Award' in Academic Teaching'. Her contribution in the

field of academics was duly recognized with this international recognition.

Dr. Jayawardane is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Industrial Management and is the Director of Business Research Unit of the Faculty of Business of the University of Mor-

She obtained her BSc. Engineering Degree in Materials and Process Engineering from the University of Waikato, New Zealand. She obtained the PhD and MPhil from the University of Aldersgate - UK. She is an Attornev at Law of Sri Lanka with LLB (Honors) from the University of London and her MA is from University of Kelaniya.

She is a Chartered Mar-

keter and a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Marketing - UK, a Chartered Manager and Fellow of Chartered

Managers Institute - UK. Dr. Thesara has a successful career in Arts and Aesthetics as well. She won the Best Actress Award in 'Signis OCIC' and 'State Tele Awards'. She is an author who has Three Novels and Four Translations under her name. Currently, she presents a

Morning Show on ART TV.

Royal Fernwood Porcelain manufactures heat insulator for Rakon, New Zealand Royal Fernwood Porcelain imited, a large-scale manufacturer of high quality white and decorated porcelain tableware recently manufactured a very delicate and important engineering component, the heater

insulator for Rakon Limited, New Zealand, a global high technology organization that is in the forefront of enabling connectivity and communications by designing and manufacturing world leading frequency control solutions.

The heater insulator which was manufactured by Royal Fernwood to precision is said to be used in the temperature chamber, which is capable of handling varying temperatures from -60°C (minus 60 degree Celsius) to 120°C (120 degree Celsius) and heating is done

with three phase electricity. The heater insulator is used for holding heater coils in place thus can withstand high heat appli-

With the launch of this heater insulator. Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited transforms its product offering from a mere tableware company to a

porcelain base manufacturer all items. This results in the Company's ability to enhance its manufacturing capabilities and expand its product offering to produce any product to precision from porcelain raw mate-

"As an entity that constantly looking for fresh opportunities and innovative methods to



launch new products, it is with great pleasure that we launch this product into the market" stated Yoshan Fernando Director and Chief Executive Officer, Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited.

Rakon is a global high technology company and a world leader in its field. The company designs and manufactures advanced frequency control and timing solutions. Its three

core markets are Telecommunications, Global Positioning and Space and Defence. Rakon products are

found at the forefront of communications where speed and reliability are paramount. The company's products create extremely accurate electric signals which are used to

generate radio waves and synchronise time in the most demanding communication applications. Rakon has three manufacturing plants, and has six research and development

"We were trying to source a supplier for heater insulator after our existing partner discontinued the product lines" stated Sarath Dhamgagolla,

Project Engineer, Equipment Development Group, Rakon Limited, New Zealand.

An Ambeon company and subsidiary of Dankotuwa Porcelain PLC., Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited was incorporated in 1994 and commenced commercial production in 1997, exactly 20 years post the company's first successful export to the United Kingdom.

Royal Fernwood Porcelain, reputed for their coloured and youthful designs, enjoys the heightened value addition through a wide range of extremely popular designs and decorations that include inglaze, on-glaze, under-glaze, hand painted, etching and microwave-safe designs including gold and platinum.

Rotary Club Colombo Metropolitan partners with S-Lon, PickMe and Keells to enable safer travel

The Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan in partnership with S-Lon, PickMe and Keells Supermarkets have today launched a 'handwashing unit for three-wheelers' intending to help 'Stop the Spread' during the global Covid-19

The initial stage of the partnership will see 500 three-wheelers (Tuk Tuks) that are registered with PickMe in the Colombo District fitted with the 'hand wash unit'. The project was initiated by the Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan (RCCM) in line with the District 3220's objective of stopping the spread of Covid-19.

Tuk Tuks are a convenient and flexible method of mass transportation. The introduction of the handwashing unit in Tuk-Tuks aims to negate some of this by promoting hand hygiene in public areas and also more generally even in homes wherein handwashing with soap remains one of our best defences against the virus, along with other public health measures such as maintaining physical distance, avoiding crowded places, practising cough etiquette and wearing a mask wherever recommended.

Ruwan Gunasena, President, Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan said, "This project that was



initiated by one of our members after seeing a similar product go viral in India in June 2020. The handwashing unit was aptly titled a 'Coronainvention'. We at RCCM decided to redesign and re-engineer the unit to comply with our motor regulations in Sri Lanka and were thrilled when S-Lon, PickMe and Keells Supermarket saw this product as an opportunity for the greater good of our community. The Tuk Tuk hand washing unit aims to promote hand hygiene in public spaces to drive one of the main defences prescribed for reducing COVID-19 infection rates and also as a wider means to raising public mass awareness of the need for responsible care and civic responsibility in driving down the spread of

the virus."

Chamara Lokupothagamage, General Manager Marketing from S-Lon Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, added, "When we were initially approached by the RCCM we saw

it as a great opportunity to give back to our community. Our partnership with the RCCM sees us fabricate and manufacture the main cylinder used to carry the water and soap dispenser that would be attached to the Tuk Tuk using S-Lon uPVC pipes and fittings. We have managed to give this unit to the RCCM at a highly subsidized price and we hope from this project to create awareness amongst the general public that the pandemic is still among us and it is far from

Isira Perera, Chief Operations Officer, PickMe said, "Since the pandemic began early 2020, PickMe has been able to ensure safer travel for all our customers and riders with our execution on the ground from educational programs to our Driver Partners, temperature checks and visi-

bility on the App, Separator Screens in the vehicle fleet and various sanitization protocols followed by the fleet.'

Nilush Cooray, Head of Operations (Retail), Keells Supermarket, added, "At the onset of the pandemic we at Keells too prioritized the safety of our customers and team members. We are happy to partner a project that encourages good hygiene and habits amongst the general public to stop the spread of Covid-19 with the donation of liquid soap for the 'hand wash unit' initiated by the RCCM".

The Rotary Club of Colombo Metropolitan with their partnerships aim to take the Tuk Tuk 'handwashing unit' project next to the Gampaha and Kalutara Dis-

Ceylon Green Produce presents ECO Tablets

Ceylon Green Produce (Pvt) Ltd has launched 'ECO Tablets' an organic product mixed with Nanotechnology to improve the quality of the fuel used in your vehicle.

Coming in two versions, namely, 'ECO Racing', for petrol vehicles and 'ECODiesel', for diesel vehicles, this fuel booster enhances the engine's performance and the efficiency from total fuel combustion. 'ECO Tab-

lets' doubles the engines lifespan while cleansing spark plugs, combustion chambers and the fuel tank. It saves fuel from 20% to 50%. ECO Racing boosts octane value from 5 to 10 in petrol while ECODiesel increases cetane value of diesel from 2 to 5. Using 'ECO Tablets' regularly improves fuel combustion, efficiency and engine's performance. Also it reduces the emission of Carbon Monoxide (CO) 100% and Sulphur dioxide SO2 up to99%

'ECO Tablets' has been certified as an eco friendly product by the Central Environment Authority. The International racing champ Dilantha Malagamuwa has joined hands with 'ECO Tablets' as the Brand Ambassador to pro-



some of the products

mote the concept of "Environmentally protected Sri Lanka"

A large number of senior mechanical engineers have recommended 'ECO Tablets' as a real fuel booster with multiple benefits to the users. 'ECO Tablets', a product known internationally for its quality and effectiveness over a decade, can be used in all vehicles including motorbikes, Generators and heavy machinery. 'ECO Tablets' are one of the many eco projects of Ceylon Green Produce (Pvt.) Ltd.



MADAPATHA CHINTAKA

he slasher film has seen better days. Although much of the generic horror we get from the genre is still there – the masked antagonist, the pure teenage victims, the hapless enforcers of the law, the indifferent parents, and the final standoff – the tropes have been used again and again so much that we don't feel what the director's trying to make us feel.

Not unlike exorcism movies, slasher flicks tend to bore us with their sense of predictability. When was the last time you saw a film about possession where the possessed victim – almost always a girl, and almost always in her adolescence – reminds you of sweet little Linda Blair from The Exorcist (1973)?

Directors today love predictability: it's a safer bet. The 70s brought us a lot of exciting genre films, and almost all of them were hits at the box-office. By the end of the 80s and the beginning of the 90s, the studios let go of any innovativeness.

At one level, the slasher movie is a continuation of 19th century Victorian horror – it's the old Frankenstein story, where the pure, chaste heroine forms the object of the monster's lustful attention – and the old vampire myth. We never get an explanation as to why the freak who's out to kill everyone with a knife or chainsaw or axe acts the way he

MINDLESS EXCESS

Is he working out his libido, or just taking revenge on imagined slights? The best slasher films did not answer that question, because the directors knew how to engage audiences with the action, the blood, the gore without mindless excess; they knew how to milk the terror and the horror without insulting audiences, their intelligence, and their expectations. The first real slasher flick, in that sense, has to be Hitchcock's Psycho (1960); though there's no real rampage, no out-of-control killer on the loose, he kills out of a perverse impulse: he is his mother. Psychoanalysis doesn't work out that way in real-life, but that's the charm of the perverse killer movie: his logic is the logic of Freudian surreal-

If George A. Romero invented the zombie thriller (Night of the Living Dead, 1968) and Tobe Hooper the slasher thriller (The Texas Chain Saw Massacre, 1974), John Carpenter went on to reinvent the latter by borrowing tropes from the former. Texas doesn't fit the mould of the modern slasher flick: it concentrates the tension and the energy on one girl, and it's set in a far-off locality which the protagonists might as well have crossed dimensions to reach. Night of the Living Dead pits an entire population to the horde of the undead; this is closer to the slashers that Carpenter directed and started out with in Halloween (1978).

een (1978).

The timing of the latter film couldn't have been better: Brian de Palma was about to release The Fury (1978) two years after Carrie (1976), and Bob Clark had made Black Christmas four years earlier. I've often wondered why the slasher flick became a vogue at the end of the 70s, just as possession and exorcism movies became a vogue at the end of the 60s. Was it the fact that it could be

made for so little? Halloween certainly was made for little – it cost USD 350,000 dollar – and reaped so much – USD 70 million, according to one estimate the most an independent movie ever made in that decade.



The Ward



Assault on Precinct

The formula that Carpenter works through, and with, in Halloween has been hacked today, and it no longer offers any surprises. Who doesn't expect all those girls and boys, some of them engaged in premarital coitus, to fall off under the villain's knife one after another? Who doesn't expect jump-scares at the most unlikely of moments, like washing your face and then facing the bathroom mirror only to find the killer right behind you?

SHAKY GROUND

In Halloween Carpenter paid tribute to Psycho and the reference is there even in the name of the psychiatrist who attempts to capture the killer: Sam Loomis, the first victim's lover in Hitchcock's movie. The psychoanalytical framework in which the slasher flick is supposed to work has always tread on some shaky ground, and it's more pretentious than you'd expect. It's like the science in Star Wars (1977): glamorised and mystified, and carefully worked out to evoke horror from the audience.

I felt like laughing at the final scene in Psycho, where the psychiatrist explains why the villain acted as he did, and it's the only weak point in that film, but that has become the norm in the slasher flick. The psychiatrist is there to rationalise, but also to confuse, to philosophise about the villain.

He couldn't rationalise why the killer did what he did to all those people in Psycho to Janet Leigh, because by the time they arrested him she was already underwater, hidden away, dead; but he could rationalise

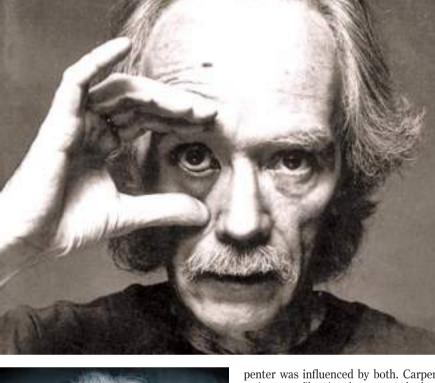
why the killer went on a rampage to Janet Leigh's daughter, Jamie Lee Curtis, the killer's primary target in Halloween. Unlike Leigh, Curtis survives, though just barely. The slasher flick didn't necessarily get good responses from mainstream critics – Roger Ebert was no fan of it, and nor was Pauline Kael – but they responded well to Halloween. Ebert liked it – the only Halloween in the entire franchise that he really liked – though Kael saw it as a "pitiful, amateurish plot", a horror film "stripped of everything but dumn scariness" – words better suited to the slasher flicks today.

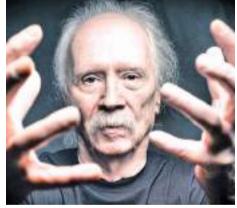
Kael was wrong, I think: Carpenter gave us the best he could with a USD 350,000 flick, and though he staggers and falls once or twice, especially towards the end with the final face-off between Curtis and the killer, it works. It's not dumb scariness that brings the whole plot together: we feel what all those young men and women feel before the killer runs loose in their midst; they aren't emotionless jerks like their successors in later slasher flicks; and the killer, when he makes appearances, isn't just scary, he's intriguing. Carpenter may well have been influenced by the Master of Suspense – though Brian De Palma was busy proving himself as the next Hitchcock - but his conception of horror, and terror, is more or less his. Halloween bears this out.

FIRST HORROR FLICK

John Carpenter grew up on a diet of Westerns and sci-fi. As a child growing up in New York, he craved, and watched, John Ford and Howard Hawks Westerns. He wasn't in high school, we are told, when he began making his first horror flick on 8mm film. His other obsession was sci-fi horror: The Thing from Another World (1951) and Forbidden Planet (1956), the latter of which was based, loosely, on Shake-

speare's The Tempest.







After attending Western Kentucky University, he moved to the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. In 1968, he decided to get out, and make his first film. This was Captain Voyeur (1969), which contained elements of, and indeed predicted, Halloween.

een.
An Oscar-winning Western short flick (The Resurrection of Broncho Billy, 1970) and a sci-fi comedy flick (Dark Star, 1974) followed, and these were followed by his first major work, Assault on Precinct 13 (1976), which, among other novelties, cast an African-American as a cop trying to protect and cordon off a police station from a bunch of gang members. To the extent that the film is about law enforcers and law abiding citizens protecting them-

selves from an group of murderous outlaws, Assault bears the stamp of not just the Western, but also the zombie thriller, and indeed Carpenter was influenced by both. Carpenter's next film in that sense had to expand on the Western and zombie motif, and it did: Halloween, even though it seems to borrow heavily from the zombie thriller, also bears the distinct mark of a Western, with the pure, chaste heroine but minus the cowboy.

Carpenter's ventures in the 80s have been more or less panned by critics. Some have been received warmly, others lukewarmly, and still others badly. I find them intriguing, though none of them can be termed a classic. The Fog (1978) is about a group of marooned sailors, ghosts really, coming back to kill off the descendants of those who had them killed centuries ago. Escape from New York (1981) is a dystopian sci-fi adventure set in New York (obviously) and featuring Kurt Russell, who starred in Carpenter's next production, The Thing (1982). This, widely considered to be Carpenter's best and most effective sci-fi horror outing, was based on The Thing from Another World, a childhood favourite of his; a prequel was shot in 2011, and a remake, with Blumhouse Productions, was planned out last year.

Christine (1983), about a sentient car that tries to do what killers do in slasher flicks, and Starman (1984) were moderately received, as was Big Trouble in Little China (1986), where Carpenter returns to his teenage fascination with comedy. They Live (1988), though partsatire, is a searing indictment of capitalism, and Memoirs of an Invisible Man (1994) tells us what H. G. Welles might have written if he concentrated just hard enough on the biology and not just physics of being invisible, while Village of the Damned (1995), Escape from L. A. (1996), Vampires (1998), Ghosts of Mars (2001), and The Ward (2010) were all barring none poorly received. The Thing, still considered his best after Halloween, spawned two sequels: Prince of Darkness (1987), a chilling melange of sci-fi horror and apocalyptic horror, and In the Mouth of Madness (1994), a wry look at the world of mass publishing. Enter VIOLIN!

Dr SUBASHINI **PATHMANATHAN**

he entry of Violin in the Carnatic music traces back to over a hundred and fifty years. According to the earlier history of Carnatic Violin states that one of the ministers of Marathi regime of Thanjavur, named Varahapayya was the very first person who was attracted by this very sharp and high tonal quality Western string instrument. He, first of all, heard the melodious music of the violin at a European band of East India Company. Minister Varahapayya, before trying to introduce this instrument in the Carnatic music, tried his best to explore all the possibilities in using this instrument for the Carnatic

Violin has become a part and partial of Carnatic instrumental music arena. It generally accompanies the vocal and instrumental music. It is considered that Violin was the first alien instrument from West, which penetrated the Indian musical system, and gained the social and cultural recognition, especially in the traditional South Indian Carnatic music world.

four-stringed instru-This ment is played with a bow and with fingers.

Limited music

From the 16th century onwards gradually the alien influence started penetrating the Indian musical system

slowly but in a limited manner. It is said that Baluswamy Dikshitar 1786-1859, one of the brothers of the great Carnatic musicians undertook training in Western Violin and tried to adopt this alien string instrument into Carnatic music with its own identity.

While using this Western musical instrument in Carnatic music, it avoids all the Western musical influences. For instance, when Violin is used for Carnatic music by tuning the instrument, playing posture position, adopting techniques are entirely different from the usage of Western Violin. The player of Carnatic Violin sits down on the platform and plays. The player holds the Violin in between his right heel and his chest. The left-hand fingers are freely allowed to move, while the right-hand plays the bow.

Vadivelu of Tanjore Quartette, a Carnatic music stalwart, boldly adopted violin for Carnatic music as well as Tamil classical dance. Vadivelu was the eminent court musician of the famed Swathi Thirunal Maharaja. With time, many Carnatic Violinists emerged into the Carnatic music world.

This string instrument is more or less considered as an easy and adjustable instrument to any type of human voice. The melody of Violin instrument is beautifully blended to a different pitch and a different quality of human voice. Among the strings the fourth string is much more suitable for the human voice, this particular

Playing the Violin is an exceptional and remarkable talent. It sweeps from one sting to another smoothly. The use of Violin in Indian music could be divided into two different categories. One is for the Hindustani Music violin and the other is for the Carnatic music Violin. The purpose of using Violin in Carnatic music as well as in Hindustani music is the same, yet the trend and tendency of the musical factors of two varieties are different

steel string has a high tonal and excellent expressive quality. Violin in the Carnatic music arena beautifully and expressively expresses the Gamagas and the nuances of Ragas clearly and exceptionally.

from one another.

Revealing emotions

Today Violin in Indian music is used as a separate solo musical instrument as well as an accompanying musical instrument for vocal, instrumental and dance performances. In dance sometimes during the performances, musical interludes are adopted to reveal certain emotions. Especially in

dance, violin music is used to reveal emotions like sorrow and sadness. Even sometimes it is used to play the opening bars of the song in the music and the dance con-

Playing the Violin is an exceptional and remarkable talent. It sweeps from one sting to another smoothly. The use of Violin in Indian music could be divided into two different categories. One is for the Hindustani Music violin and the other is for the Carnatic music Violin. The purpose of using Violin in Carnatic music as well as in Hindustani music is the same, yet

the trend and tendency of the musical factors of two varieties are different from one another.

Still, Indian Violin has its origin from the Western Violin, yet there are some Western scholars who felt that the Indian Violin has had its origin from some of the ancient traditional native ancestral Indian string instruments. Especially from the oldest Indian string instrument and the folk musical instrument known as Ravanastram.

This folk instrument Ravanastram is still in use in certain Indian states like Rajasthan and Gujarat.

VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS

Chance intends to introduce five aspects of psychology that links two concepts: learning and behaviour. The work is intended for the use by undergraduate students who so desire to obtain a higher grade of insight into the discipline. The five main chapters discuss the aspects of learning and resultant behaviour.

SUNANDA MAHENDRA

ooks on psychology and psychiatry appear in various forms. Some are highflown textbooks suitable for higher academic purposes. Some others are catered to the average reader in a lighter vein enabling them to gather aspects of the subject as well as the new trends around the world. The work of Paul Chance titled Learning and Behaviour (1979) published by Wadsworth Publishing Co in California is an innovative attempt.

Chance intends to introduce five aspects of psychology that links concepts:learning and behaviour. The work is intended for the use by undergraduate students who so desire to obtain a higher grade of insight into the discipline. The five main chapters discuss the aspects of learning and resultant behaviour. Chapter One underlines the main streams linked to learning and the behaviour patterns such as reflexes, instincts and matura-

tion. These lead to a wider area known as to how learning involves a change in the life of an individual. This includes various types of behaviours, experiences, exposures and the ultimate goal of finding a definition of learning. This factor of defining includes a scientific scheme of measuring with the help of graphs

This section becomes automatically a deeper area of topography, errors, strengths, speed as the types of questions like how many kinds of research could be involved.As a reader I found that the introduction of learning and behaviour cannot be undermined in the teaching of all the accepted subject areas like anthropology biology, history, literature and communication stud-

Controversial psychologist

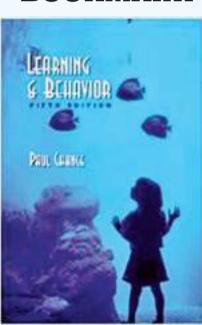
Chapter Two takes the reader into a wider perspective by titling it Classical Conditioning. The meaning of the concept is referred to at the outset to the scientific surveys performed by the biologists around the world. One good example comes from Pavlov in Russia whose experiment was a topic that led to quite a number of controversies. The problem Pavlov decided to study was called the psychic reflex. According to Chance, Ivan Pavlov attempted to know via his experiment how a dog learns to know the phenomenon of the reflex action that leads to the area of a wider perspective of learning. Chance works in this area as a cue line to a broader aspect of instinct and intelligence.

Chance introduces Ivan Pavlov as a fierce, reluctant psychologist who was praised as well as abused by most other psychologists. Triggering off from Pavlov, the reader comes to know of another significant concept known as Instrumental Conditioningas laid down with examples in Chapter Three. This covers areas such as the use of various types of instruments in order to gauge the grades as rates of learning and behaviour in various animals and humans. This area too is marked by scientists with the advent of the use of technology in the field of psychology.

Perhaps this area leads to quite a number of medical disciplines uncovered briefly in the work. The reader is taken into deeper waters in this chapter. As recorded in the work of Chance, the pio-



BOOKMARK



neer of the instrumental conditioning had been a series of experiments conducted by the scientist named Thorndike in his book Animal Intelligence (1898).

Limitless capacity

Accordingly, thousands of experiments have been conducted an instrumental conditioning. In this direction, hundreds of rats, pigeons, chicken, dogs, cats, people and dozens of other creatures have learned to press levers, run mazes, peck discs, jump hurdles, escape boxes and perform countless other acts. The reader of the work then enters another area of learning and behaviour in Chapter Four:Observational Learningor Vicarious Conditioning. As observation is seen in various ways, the learning process too basically involves and embraces the concept.

This concept is also branded as observational learning by researchers into various fields of psychology. Various observational learning views are introduced. This concept presumably was broadened with the advent of the visual media into the human frames of reference in any society. As such, learning via observation too is taken seriously into consideration in the study of visual communication.

The well-known psychologist Albert Bandura and his colleagues at Stanford University have conducted several studies on observational learning in Children. In several of these studies, a child observes a model whose aggressive acts are reinforced wither by another party or by natural consequences of behaviour. The changes in behaviour could be gauged.

The Limits of Learningis the title given to the concluding Chapter Five of the work. This chapter underlines the various aspects of learning that is generally known as limitless learning. But the scholar shows with several examples to prove that though knowledge is a field is vast and limitless, the life span of a person disallows to learn all instead a few that could be absorbed as time goes by. As such, learning too has limits. This may be a factor that could not be gauged via any experiments. An understanding of learning is essential to an understanding of behaviour, especially in human behaviour. As Chance points out, however, important limits exist on the ways in which learning can contribute to behaviour.

AN UNSEEN LIFE

SURESHINI PILAPITIYA

s William Shakespeare mentioned a few hundred years ago, "Life is a stage, and we are all actors on it" and the validity and value of this quote resonates even during these modern times. "The Unseen Wings", an epic collection of poems carefully selected and written by Indian poet and writer, Bipin Kuriakose, who currently resides in

This masterpiece includes life in a nutshell, our fears, challenges, love and emotions, hopes, expressions which are endless - and describes all aspects of life in one small book but ultimately delivers a unique message to the audience, expressing what we are destined for in life, and makes one think about the reality of life, and live accordingly, knowing that life itself is temporary, and teaches us to value each moment of the life we live.

Depending on the current pandemic situation and abiding by the new health protocols, the book launch took place on a virtual platform, bringing together all the respected literary scholars, poets and professionals from every field. Several guest speakers participated at the event including Milinda Rajapaksha and Sureshni Pilapitiya from Sri Lanka, who shared their respective viewpoints on the book. The meeting turned out to be an intellectual discussion regarding poetry amongst a distinguished group of like-minded poets, scholars and intellectuals from different fields, who looked at its content from different angles and perspectives.

Each guest speaker was given a selected poem to speak upon and

express his or her thoughts and feelings, and the rest of the guest speakers included Jamie Anderson from Belgium, Dr Said Al Shanfari from Oman. from Ahmed Oman, Milinda Rajapaksha from Sri Lanka, Ash-Sharma from Indonesia, and Yenuli Binara, a talented young Sri Lankan artiste residing in Oman. web The launch was skilfully moderated

Katti Power from the

description of each guest at every intro-Some of the comments given by

USA, and she gave a thorough

guest speakers are as follows: Jamie Anderson: "I urge you to read Bipin's book – The Unseen Wings and to get inspired and not to be afraid to enter that tunnel and move towards the light, which is the next chapter in the amazing life that you can have."

Asish Sharma: "Bipin does a really commendable job with his poems. His observation is so accurate and so indepth. He has the capability of turning the ordinary to the extraordinary."

WITHIN YOU BIPIN KURIAKOSE

person with a lot of talents and whenever he gets in touch with people can guarantee you that he makes an impact. The Unseen Wings is a book that I recommend everyone to buy because it does tickle your feelings, it speaks to you and your emotions. Milinda Raja-

Said Al

Shanfari:

"Bipin is a

"Amazing paksa: work! Very timely and important words!"

Ahmed: Tufail "The book reaffirms the fact that Bipin can see the things that are unseen by many. Bipin writes in simple, easy to understand, humour soaked words. His words are simple yet powerful. His poems leave an everlasting memory in the mind and heart of the readers.'

Yenuli Binara: It is such a pleasure to read Bipin's poem - simple, easy to understand and yet having an amazingly inspirational message. The poem 'Castles' has taken the collection to a different level and has really brought life to this amazing book of poems -The Unseen Wings. This finds a place of pride in my collection. I was right there on the sand, on the beach and could see the Castle right there as I was mesmerized by the poetic vivid image-

I personally feel that there is something behind each poem that has a wonderful meaning. It talks about our emotions, fears, hopes and dreams. And it also makes us think about the reality of life, and that nothing is permanent. The only thing which we can take back with us are the good memories, and how we had been during our lifetime, and how people remember us for who and what we were. The Unseen Wings is a beautiful piece of work, and truly inspirational. I think this is a collection of poems that should be thoroughly read, and the readers will be able to gain a great deal from it.

As the cover of the book describes, the Unseen Wings with its universal themes, insightful messages and profound messages will resonate with your memories, deepest feelings, hopes, fears and dreams. The power and the capacity of the book, plus the writer's excellent writing skills are such, that each poem has something special for you as they evoke a nostalgic smile, a random sigh, and possibly some reckless tears.

It will provoke your thoughts and mesmerize you with a landscape of rhyme, rhythm and imagery. The book has now won global accolades and is becoming an international bestseller. The book is a perfect treat to read in the utmost solicitude and tranquillity, and enhance the knowledge and looking at life with a different perspective. Book lovers are sure to find joy in reading this gem of a book, and the weblink can also be found on YouTube. So sit back, relax, and enjoy a peaceful read!







he Gratiaen Trust, in association with John Keells Foundation, will convene an online workshop on translations on March 6. To be held with the support of the Department of English Department of the University of Peradeniya and the Seagull School of Publishing, Kolkotta, Doubling Ourselves is designed for aspiring and experienced translators of Sinhala and Tamil literature into English. This practical, oneday workshop facilitated by accomplished Sri Lankan translators, will give participants crucial insights into successful translations of literary works.

The workshop will combine talks on translation and interactive, assignment-based, feedback-oriented sessions conducted in parallel for Sinhala and Tamil translation into English. The sessions will also include talks on how to publish translations. One of the big attractions will be a session conducted by the Seagull School of Publishing. Affiliated to Seagull Books, one of the world's leading publishers of translations, the Seagull School of Publishing will guide participants on publication and successfully negotiating relationships between authors and publishers. Naveen Kishore, the Founder of Seagull Books, is a stalwart in the world of publishing and a much sought after speaker. He will

be delivering the keynote speech. This workshop, which is the first activity of the Gratiaen Trust for 2021, coincides with the presentation of the H.A.I. Goonetileke Prize for Translation which will be awarded later this year. The Trust has two **Familiarising** the Other

Gratiaen Trust presents Doubling Ourselves, an online workshop on translations

flagship awards, the annual Gratiaen Prize recognising the best creative English writing by Sri Lankan writers resident in the country, and the H.A.I. Goonetileke award for Translation, which is presented every two

Translations of Sinhala and Tamil literature into English are of particular interest to the Gratiaen Trust because it enables local literature to transcend language boundaries and enjoy a wider readership. Professor Neloufer de Mel, Chairperson of the Gratiaen Trust, noted that Michael Ondaatje's vision in establishing the H.A.I. Goonetileke Prize was to recognize translations as an important way of learning about different perspectives and cultures, bringing about a greater understanding between communities. She further noted that Sri Lanka had a wealth of literary works in Sinhala and Tamil, and that good translations of these works into English will demonstrate

their depth and breadth to readers of literature in English within Sri Lanka and beyond.

The Gratiaen Trust is grateful to John Keells Foundation, the Department of English of the University of Peradeniya and the Seagull School of Publishing for supporting the workshop.

To participate, entries must be emailed to gratiaenworkshops@gmail.com by February 15. Participants will need to have a good command of English and Sinhala or Tamil. They must have good digital literacy and have access to uninterrupted internet connectivity and good computer facilities. Further, all participants must be Sri Lankan citizens who are resident in

Sri Lanka. Further details can be found on

www.gratiaen.com.

The Gratiaen Trust's key mandate of nearly three decades has been to support and promote literary excellence in Sri Lanka. Established in 1992, The Trust has worked closely with authors, academics, readers, publishers and other professionals in Sri Lanka's literary world to promote better works of creative English writing. Doubling Ourselves is one of a series of workshops that aims to add value to the quality of creative output of Sri Lankan writers. Towards this, the Trust has forged collaborations with individuals and organisations from Sri Lanka as well as from within the region and beyond, with the goal of providing Sri Lankan writers with the opportunity to work with and learn from experts in different areas of writing and publishing.

What's your story?

'Table Top' Performance Making Workshop Series, Colombo-London-Kathmandu

salt and pepper pot for the king and queen. A vase for the prince. A matchbox for the servant. A kitchen table for

January 2021 began for Floating Space with an opportunity to collaborate, reconnect, and slip back into thinking with a community of artists about what creative practice might feel like again, especially how it might take shape following a year of constraint and uncertainties. Interestingly, working within this broadbased collective sharing, artists returned to thinking through patterns and approaches to storytelling, and how we might find our voice through the structures of a story.

'Table Top Stories' is a performance making workshop series led by the UKbased theatre company Forced Entertainment. The workshops were convened by Floating Space in Sri Lanka, and Katha Ghera in Nepal, in collaboration with the British Council. These workshops, which for each artist became a means of returning to practice and finding community amidst isolation, brought together 10 performers/performance makers from Sri Lanka and Nepal to create a series of performance work conceived and performed using the top of a table and a selection of objects. This performance making approach is based on Forced Entertainment's Complete Works: Table Top Shakespeare at *Home* which tells the plots of all of Shakespeare's 36 plays featuring a table top, household objects and a compelling approach to stoTABLE TOP **STORIES** jan 2021 BRITISH COUNCIL

rytelling.

The creative provocation thus comes in the form of a table - the most functional of furniture, the most ubiquitous of props - transformed into a 'stage' that one might explore as form and structure, as well as experience the dynamic of storytelling in deeply personal,

as well as playful ways. Over a period of four weeks, and a staggered process of large group workshops and partnered mentoring sessions all conducted online, artists came together in an act of translation: where tables they found in their homes were transposed into a stage where stories might unfold, where worlds may be imagined. Another compelling aspect of the performance making approach was the way in which entire casts of characters were made up of objects found around the house, in pantry cupboards, or under the sink, for example. Sometimes decorative, sometimes banal, these objects that lie around the house, were seen anew, as they came to hold the core of the stories told. What 'Table Top Stories' has given this community of artists is the space and context to ask questions; questions that have always been asked in some ways: why we make work, and *how* we approach making. That this collective sharing straddled a pandemic heightens these questions, as collaborators also explored the problems and the poetics of the online interface, finding ways of

being present. The participating artists from Sri Lanka are Abiramy Patkunam, Arun Welandawe-Prematilleke, Chalana Wijesuriya, Sumathy Sivamohan and Tasmin Anthonisz. Having completed the workshop period, artists will be sharing their works-in-progress online. For more information on the sharing, please visit the Floating Space website (www.floatingspace.org) and Facebook Page.

Forced Entertainment

Forced Entertainment is a UK-based theatre company founded in 1984. Touring presenting their ground-breaking provocative performances across the UK, Europe, and the rest of the world, the group have sustained a unique collaborative practice of genre, narrative and theatre itself, drawing influence not just from drama but from dance, performance art, music culture and popular forms such as cabaret and stand-up. "Forced Entertainment have long had an obsession with virtual or described performance, exploring in different ways over the years the possibilities of conjuring extraordinary scenes, images and stories using language alone. Complete Works: Table Top Shakespeare explores the dynamic force of narrative in relation to Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, histories and late plays. What follows is simple and idiosyncratic, absurd and strangely compelling as, through a kind of, the stories of the plays really do come to life in vivid miniature."

Floating Space

Floating Space is a contemporary performance company based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and was initiated in 2007 by Jake Oorloff and Ruhanie Perera as an independent interdisciplinary artistic, teaching and research context to explore possibilities and question perceived limits in perfor-

REPENTANCE

from the basket

"Shi" is the name of the lady Who surprised me really Time has gone year by year I rang the doorbell but no answer still I tried exactly three times "Shi" may come sometimes. My stress disappeared Hope just appeared "A basket of red roses! A bunch of white flowers was ordered." The young-looking girl Who looked through the door, Said with a melodious voice I was not the person she had expected, I Unexpected something happened It's amazing! Still "Shi" is so young I couldn't believe my eyes Memory remains I just came in a rocket speed to this moment. "Shi..i...i..i" 20 years gone You haven't grown up. The flower pots placed against the wall, were circling I felt I was raised, for a while... When I was requested to join her, to the cemetery

To the cemetery! I murmured "Let's tribute my mother on the fifth death anniversary ." I'm sure of my hearing is not poor "Shi" is therenot here My mind kindly explained. She.... the angel, requested me to come in

got to know there is something for me I bent down & picked up my broken heart, Shown emotionally on flowers; thrown

Shi might have thought, that silence Was an act of revenge or hatred. She brought to me what Shi had left for

"Here you are", she broke my pondering. I could hold the big letter properly, after Stopping fingers shivering When I opened curiously, I remembered the first letter Shi gave That would be a long letter like that I said to myself I opened quickly, the three times folded

I felt helpless at once, when I saw only those few words In the long paper; "Thanks for coming. Go back home care-

Carefully the word carefully, I remembered You told me really: "Shi" has gone... Without leaving anything for me. Thouah Shi aone A nice mirror is shown I see you through your angel; She requested me to keep red roses there

Which I had brought for Shi Who do I answer for the questions, You asked in the past? My heart whis-. I kept the flowers begging pardon.

Himashi Dilruni Fernando



Aggression and intimidation — in to A Sovereign nation is barbaric and inhu-

Civilised today are nations

Freedom fighters' deftness, perseverance And Sacrifices **Endedvictorious** Independence or freedom is License to practice Anything and everything law allows Living method be Living and affording others, life. Nothing like a homeland for living Unity is strength and mighty - for Beloved motherland Sri Lanka May peace and serenity Be everlasting

Fahim Latiff



growing silently Not minding what happens on the surface Quicksilver fish darting around playfully In tremendous freedom, joy and grace Fossils lying there for millions of years Among coral reefs of colours and sizes Echoing the voices unheard, of cheers Can man imagine, it brings, what prizes? Memories of many, once mysteriously hidden Sweet turning to bitter suddenly, incredible As if entrance is completely forbidden The seabed lulls in silent beauty, adorable.

Kumari Weerasooriya

When I'm gone

Don't cry me a river, When I'm gone... as you stare at the patterns that my presence has left.... "Laugh!" It's my wish for, You are not gone... Let your laughter roam in it's angelic form... Sing me a song to soothe my soul... Close your eyes open your heart

Don't fall! Point out a star Or two for me Never fret that you failed to aet me The moon.... Don't Crv me a river Don't cry at all.. LAUGH ME A SKY where mv soul can roam...

Phusathi Liyanaarachchi

She lay surrounded by the silver moon-

On the dark, soft grass, staring at space *Trying to count the infinite stars* Could life be more beautiful? Her laugh was like the summer, It melted every cold heart She was full of courage and determina-

Her beauty won many hearts But a real girl isn't perfect And a perfect girl isn't real. A drop of blood turns the white snow red A speck of dust turns pure water brown She had troubles, sorrows and burdens

For the world is not a wish granting fac-Now she lay on crisp, scratchy white Imprisoned by the dull walls of a hospital

There were dreams and plans for her

longed for

stepped on

Till the doctor told her gravely, She had only one hour more Tears did not flow from her bright eyes For what good would that do? Amidst sad goodbyes and sorrowful fare-

Her path to success had not yet been

She drew in her last breath Amidst wails and weepings of despair She left to meet her king, eternal Though she was just another patient, One in a million deaths Her death was mourned, her smile was

A red rose, the epitome of love, trampled The sun is missed only when it snows She was loved only when she was let go But shattered pieces and splinters still lie on the floor

A broken glass can never be repaired.

Lavanya de Mel

THURSDAY CHRONICLES

"... Speaking indifferently to him, who had driven out the cold and polished my good shoes as well. What did I know, what did I know of love's austere and lonely offices?" Robert Hayden – Those Winter Sundays Thursdays I`ve always been in love with. Years ago, while schooling, when I'd be waiting for the weekend, Thursday was always a delightful harbinger to Friday, the last day of the school week. My special liking for Thursday,

over the rest of the week was not without some more delicate

Every Thursday, from the fair in Kuliyapitiya town, I'd look forward to my father bringing those delicacies-jam buns, fried gram, peanuts, sweet buns, pan cake, wiskirignana and the likes; my share of sweetmeats would await my return from school, dusty, stinking, soaked in sweat. After a perfunctory wash at the well, and changed into a pair of shorts, I`d jump on to my lofty perch on the short wall overlooking the gravel road and clouds of dust floating above it beyond the clump of coffee trees, and relish my sweetmeat.

This ritual became a little less important only after I met her, who brought a sea change in my hitherto simple life; Thursdays became even sweeter then, as I`d be waiting for her to return from the Business Studies class, in the shade of the big Jam-fruit tree by the abandoned garage, and be accompanying her back to the town -1, she and our mutual friend in chattering away without a care in the world;

I'd return home late in the evening to eat my share of the sweetmeat my father, a bricklayer's helper full time still, never forgot to bring us on his return

from the fair in the town. Soon afterwards, there came a time, when I`d begrudge the very arrival of Thursday, for we'd part on Thursday to meet back on

But, as usual, I'd wait for my father to return from the fair to savour my sweetmeat, lying on my bed, recounting dreamily the sweeter memories of the past four days, blissfully oblivious to the rest of the world. More recently, I`d eagerly wait for Thursday To dawn to return home from Colombo; arriving home late in the bag hanging from a hook on a rafter above the big table, and eat it while watching late-night news or a soap opera. Now back at home, I still await the arrival of Thursday with the childish eagerness to eat the sweetmeat, hoarded away in the

I'd shower, dine and fish for my share of delicacies in the sugar

bottom of his battered blue leather bag, hanging from the handle of his rickety bicycle which has aged as much as he. All this time, now I see, he's kept giving and I've kept taking, never saying 'Thank you appachchi' not once in my life. Our home has all changed now. Out of the six beds, only four are occupied now; I`ve grown up; so has my brother.

It has all changed – the village, the school, the temple, The grocery shop, the bus-halt and the cemetery My father is now a sexagenarian, Of late, I've grown more obedient than rebellious to him,

My fear of him has now turned to respect,

My affection for him to concern.

Jayashantha Jayawardhana

TOWN & COUNTRY

extstyle extAUTHOR: **Flora Harding**

s war rages across the world, Princess Elizabeth comes face to face with the dashing naval officer she first met in London nine years before. One of the youngest first lieutenants in the Royal



Navy, Philip represents everything she has always been taught to avoid. Instability. Audacity. Adventure. But when the king learns of their relationship, the suitability of the foreign prince is questioned by all at court. He is the risk she has never been allowed to take. The risk not even the shadow of the crown will stop her from taking...

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AUTHOR: JULIA OUINN

ut not just any family. Eight brothers and sisters, assorted inlaws, sons and daughters, nieces and nephews, (not to mention an overweight corgi), plus an irrepressible matriarch who's a match for any of them... These are the Bridgertons: less



a family than a force of nature. Through eight bestselling novels, readers laughed, cried, and fell in love. But they wanted more.

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TITLE: **The Human AUTHOR: NEAL ASHER**

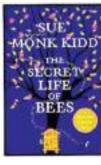
Jain warship has risen from the depths of space, emerging with a deadly grudge and a wealth of ancient yet lethal technology. It is determined to hunt down the alien Client, and will annihi-

late all those who stand in its way. So Orlan-

dine must prepare humanity's defence. Available at Sarasavi Bookshop

TITLE: THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES **AUTHOR: SUE MONK KIDD**

et in South Carolina in 1964, The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother," Rosaleen, insults three



of the deepest racists in town, Lily decides to spring them both free.

Available at Sarasavi Bookshop TITLE: THE HOBBIT, OR THERE AND BACK AGAIN

AUTHOR: JRR TOLKIEN n a hole in the ground

there lived a hobbit. Not a nasty, dirty, wet hole, filled with the ends of worms and an oozy smell, nor yet a dry, bare, sandy hole with nothing in it to sit down on or to eat: it was a hobbit-hole, and that means comfort. Written for J.R.R. Tolkien's own

children, The Hobbit met with instant critical acclaim when it was first published in 1937. Available at Sarasavi Bookshop



$\top | \top \sqcup \exists :$ Transportation and Logistics in SRI **LANKAN CONTEXT AUTHOR: CHANDANA WEERAKOON**

TRANSPORTATION

SRI LANKAN CONTEXT

commendable collection of commentaries and reflections on issues of logistics and transport. The Sri Lankan perspective presented, is well defined. An inspiring selection of articles for beginners. A helpful guide to practitioners.

Perceptive observations found in ample supply will undoubtedly compel the reader to develop a deeper awareness of the complexities of logistics and transport in the current context.

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TITLE: **GIRL ALONE AUTHOR: CATHY GLASS**

his is the true story of Joss, 13 who is angry and out of control. At the age of nine, Joss finds her father's dead body. He has committed suicide. Then more recently her mother remarries and Joss bitterly resents her step-father who abuses

her mentally and physically.

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Golden Opportunity to make your **Business** Carbon Neutral





Register for the free Webinar:

Carbon Credit Options of Sri Lanka Carbon Crediting Scheme (SLCCS) for Corporate Level Carbon Neutrality

DATE : 18 February 2021 TIME: 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Jointly organized by Sri Lanka Climate Fund and Climate Mitigation Action Support Project (CMASP) of Ministry of Environment to create awareness on the carbon credit options of SLCCS among the carbon conscious industry players.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Energy Service providers & consultants
- Renewable Energy Project Developers,
- Corporate Sustainability Managers,
- **Energy Managers**
- Prospective Carbon Credit Buyers & Sellers,
- Parties interested in carbon Insetting and Offsetting.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- An overview of local and global carbon market
- Operational mechanism of SLCCS
- Rules and procedures of SLCCS
- Guidance to corporate level carbon neutrality

SPEAKERS



Dr. Sunimal Jayatunga Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment (Opening remarks and evolution of Sri Lanka Carbon Crediting Scheme)



Eng. Buddika Hemashantha CEO, Climate SI (Present status of global and local carbon market)



Dr. Suren Batagoda Director, Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Operational Mechanism of SLCCS)



Eng. Mahesh Chamara CEO, Sri Lanka Climate Fund (Role of SLCCS in corporate level GHG neutrality)

Visit website www.climatefund.lk for registration details or send an email with name and contact details to our team at info@climatefund.lk by 15th February 2021

For more information please contact,

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: 011 2053 065

E mail: gayanslcf@gmail.com

Climate Mitigation Action Support Project Climate Change Secretariat Ministry of Environment Sobadam Piyasa, No. 416/C/1, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, **Battaramulla**

$hinspace ag{IIILE}$: Asirimath Gautama Budu sasuna BABALAI

AUTHOR: VERONICA JAYAKODY

and example of the Buddha have made an impact on billions of people. But what do we really know about him? While there is much we cannot say for certain about the historical Buddha, this persuasive



new biography provides the fullest and most plausible account yet. Damayanthi Jayakody's latest Buddhist book is the seventh of the series of the life story of the Buddha. Available at Dayawansa Jayakody Bookshop

hinspace hinsp**INCREDIBLE WORLD**

xpand your mind with this amazing book of incredible

information about our weird and wonderful world. Dive into a world of fascinating facts and cool comparisons about our world, from the very bot-

tom of the



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$\top | \top \mathsf{LE} :$ blood and oil AUTHOR: **Bradley Hope and Justin SCHECK**

5-year-old Mohammed bin Salman's sudden rise stunned the world. Political and business leaders such as former UK prime minister Tony Blair and WME chairman Ari **Emanuel flew** out to meet with the crown prince



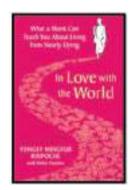
WINDWISS OF SHERRY

convinced that his desire to reform the kingdom was sincere. He spoke passionately about bringing women into the workforce and toning down Saudi Arabia's restrictive Islamic law. He lifted the ban on women driving and explored investments in Silicon Valley. Rs 2340

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TITLE: IN LOVE WITH THE WORLD AUTHOR: Yongey

MINGYUR RINPOCHE t thirty-six years old, Yon-A years old, gey Mingyur Rinpoche was a rising star within his generation of Tibetan masters and the respected abbot of three monasteries. Then one night, telling no one, he slipped

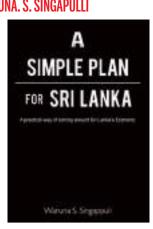


out of his monastery in India with the intention of spending the next four years on a wandering retreat, following the ancient practice of holy mendicants. His goal was to throw off his titles and roles in order to explore the deepest aspects of his being.

Available at Sarasavi Bookshop

TITLE: **A SIMPLE PLAN FOR SRI LANKA** AUTHOR: **Waruna. S. Singapulli**

n this book, the author gives the Nine point challenge for the next President and Parliament. These are admittedly difficult yet achievable targets over five years. Rather than focusing on hundreds of minor

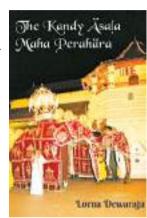


issues, if the focus is on these nine matters and significant progress is made, the country would be in a far better position economically in five years.

Available at VijithaYapa Bookshop

TITLE: KANDY ASALA MAHA PERAHARA **AUTHOR: DR. LORNA DEWARAJA**

orna Dewaraja's book consists of 10 chapters. Chapter One gives the vicissitudes of the Tooth Relic from the time it left the funeral pyre of the Blessed One, its sojourn in India for eight centuries and its arrival in Sri Lanka in the

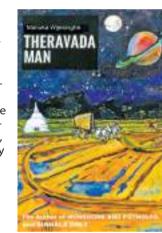


fourth century. Chapter Two describes how the Tooth Relic became the palladium of sovereignty of the Sri Lanka rulers and as the capitals changed the kings took the Relic with them till it arrived at its final resting place in Kandy. Chapter Three provides an account of the Gods and Festivals in the Kandyan Kingdom and the amalgamation of the Dalada Festival with the Festival of the Gods on the orders of King Keerthi Sri Rajasingha. Rs 2000

Available at VijithaYapa Bookshop

TITLE: **Theravada man AUTHOR: MANUKA WIJESINGHE**

his is a story of a village schoolmaster who finds his unwavering faith in Theravada Buddhism and the British educational system, challenged by the irrational forces of astrology, numerology and humar desire. The story com-

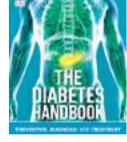


bines the satirical take on the Sinhala myth with a healthy dose of its brand of mysticism. It is an absorbing conflict between reason and emotion- a conflict that cannot be resolved through the pure reason of Theravada Buddhism. This is a revised edition of Manuka's classic novel.

Available at VijithaYapa Bookshop

THE DIABETES HANDBOOK

f you or a loved one is living with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, you need this friendly guide to managing health, diet, physical activity, and treatment. This book is packed with simple, easyto-understand



explanations of how diabetes works and practical, positive advice for preventing or living with it.

Rs 2340 Available at Vijitha Yapa Bookshop



State Ministry of Internal Security, **Home Affairs and Disaster Management** Disaster Management Center



Expression of Interest

Reference to the advertisement published on Sunday Observer newspaper on 24-01-2021 regarding the request to the solution providers to express their interest for the development of a multi-hazard warning communication system for disaster management.

The last date for expressing the interest has been extended to the 01" March 2021 as per the request made by the solution providers at the pre-solution providers' meeting held at the Disaster Management Center at 02.00 pm on 05.02.2021. Accordingly, the Expression of Interest can be sent on or before 10.00 a.m. Monday, the 1" of March 2021. The words "Expression of Interests" should be indicated on the top left corner of the envelope and should be sent by registered post to the below mentioned address or can be deposited in the tender box kept at the Procurement Division. Proposals will be opened on the same day at the Main Hall of the Disaster Mangement Center at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman,

Advisory Procurement Committee, Disaster Management Center No 120/2, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07.



GOERGIA OFFICIALS TO REVIEW TRUMP PHONE CALL

Brad Raffensperger, on Monday started an investigation into former President Donald J. Trump's attempts to overturn the state's election results, including a phone call he made to Mr. Raffensperger in which Mr. Trump pressured him to "find" enough votes to reverse his

Such inquiries are "fact-finding and administrative in nature," the secretary's office said, and are a routine step when complaints are received about electoral matters. Findings are typically brought before the Republican-controlled state board of elections, which decides whether to refer them for prosecution to the state attorney general or another agency.

The move comes as Fani Willis, the Democratic district attorney of Fulton County, which encompasses much of Atlanta, is weighing whether to begin a criminal inquiry of her own. A spokesman for Ms. Willis declined to comment on Monday.

The January call was one of several attempts

The office of Georgia's secretary of state, Mr. Trump made to try to persuade top Republican officials in the state to uncover instances of voting fraud that might change the outcome, despite the insistence of voting officials that there was no widespread fraud to be found. He also called Gov. Brian Kemp in early December and pressured him to call a special legislative session to overturn his election loss. Later that month, Mr. Trump called a state investigator and pressed the official to "find the fraud," according to those with knowledge of the call.

"The Secretary of State's office investigates complaints it receives," Walter Jones, a spokesman for the office, said in a statement on Monday. "The investigations are fact-finding and administrative in nature. Any further legal efforts will be left to the Attorney Gen-

David Worley, the sole Democrat on the state elections board, said Monday that administrative inquiries by the secretary of state's office could result in criminal charges.

"Any investigation of a statutory violation is a potential criminal investigation depending on the statute involved," he said, adding that in the case of Mr. Trump, "The complaint that was received involved a criminal violation."

Mr. Worley said that now that an inquiry had been started by the secretary of state's office, he would not introduce a motion at Wednesday's state board of election meeting, as he had originally planned to do, in an effort to refer the case to the Fulton County district attorney's office.

Not long after the call to Mr. Raffensperger became public, several complaints were filed. One came from John F. Banzhaf III, a George Washington University law professor.

Former prosecutors said Mr. Trump's calls might run afoul of at least three state laws. One is criminal solicitation to commit election fraud, which can be either a felony or a misdemeanor; as a felony, it is punishable by at least a year in prison. There is also a related conspiracy charge, which can be prosecuted



either as a misdemeanor or a felony. A third law, a misdemeanor offense, bars "intentional interference" with another person's "performance of election duties."

Jason Miller, a senior adviser to Mr. Trump, said in a statement: "There was nothing improper or untoward about a scheduled call between President Trump, Secretary Raffensperger and lawyers on both sides. If Mr. Raffensperger didn't want to receive calls about the election, he shouldn't have run for secretary of state."

Mr. Biden's victory in Georgia was reaffirmed after election officials recertified the state's presidential election results in three separate counts of the ballots: the initial elec-state to resign. (NYT)

tion tally; a hand recount ordered by the state; and another recount, which was requested by Mr. Trump's campaign and completed by machines. The results of the machine recount show Mr. Biden won with a lead of about 12,000 votes.

Mr. Biden was the first Democrat to win the presidential election in Georgia since 1992. Mr. Trump accused Mr. Kemp and Mr. Raffensperger, both Republicans, of not doing enough to help him overturn the result in the weeks after the election. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Raffensperger had each resisted numerous attacks from Mr. Trump, who called the governor "hapless" and called on the secretary of

COVID results to be scrutinized for air travel

The Biden administration is considering a rule that would require negative Covid-19 test results for domestic air travel, according to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Buttigieg mentioned the possible testing requirement for air travelers within the United States in an interview Sunday with "Axios on HBO."

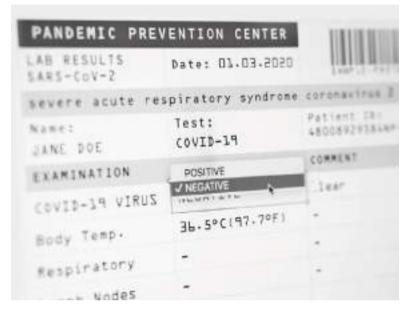
"There's an active conversation with the CDC right now," Buttigieg told Axios. "What I can tell you is, it's going to be guided by data, by science, by medicine, and by the input of the people who are actually going to have to carry this out."

On Monday, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said that screening US travelers for Covid-19 could be helpful. But she did not expand upon whether there are plans to test domestic travelers.

"To the extent that we have available tests to be able to do testing, first and foremost, I would really encourage people to not travel," Walensky said during a White House briefing. "But if we are traveling, this would be yet another mitigation measure to try and decrease the spread.'

The discussion follows a CDC rule that went into effect at the end of January requiring negative Covid-19 United States.

national nonprofit industry body, has also expressed concern about the ranted," the letter reads. (CNN)



hailed that rule for inbound travelers as "key to reopening international

However, the group does not support a testing requirement for domestic air travelers.

The group called mandatory testing for domestic travelers "impractical," noting that there aren't defined ports of entry and that such a meastests for international travelers, US ure could "divert scarce public health citizens and residents entering the resources away from other priori-

The US Travel Association, a Industry body Airlines for America

possible testing requirement for domestic air travel.

In a recent letter to the White House, the organization highlighted the risk-based measures to stemming Covid-19 transmission that the industry has adopted and research showing that the risk of in-flight infection is

"Given the strong scientific evidence that the risk of Covid-19 transmission onboard an aircraft is very low, we believe that a testing requirement for domestic air travel is unwar-

Two promising COVID drugs unveiled in Israel

Even with Israel's worldleading rollout of Covid-19 vaccinations, drugs to treat Covid patients are in desperate need across the world.

Two such drugs developed in Israel show great promise in clinical trials: EXO-CD24 and Allocetra.

EXO-CD24, an experimental inhaled medication developed at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, cured all 30 moderate-to-severe cases in a Phase I clinical trial.

Developed over the past six months at the hospital, EXOCD24 stops the "cytokine storm" - where the immune system goes out of control and starts attacking healthy cells – that occurs in the lungs of 5-7% of Covid-19 patients.

"To date, the preparation has been tried with great success on 30 severe patients, in 29 of whom the medical condition improved within two to three days and most of them were discharged home within three to five days. The 30th patient also recovered but after a longer time," the hospital reports.



lular communication. We enrich the exosomes with 24CD protein. This protein is expressed on the surface of the cell and has a known and important role in regulating the immune system," explained Dr. Shiran Shapira, director of the laboratory of Prof. Nadir Arber, who has been researching the CD24 protein for over two decades.

"The preparation is given by inhalation, once a day, for only a few minutes, for five days," Shapira said.

She said the experimental treatment has two unique exosomes, [vesicles] that are secretion of cytokines. The released from the cell mem-second is that it is delivered brane and used for intercel- directly to the lungs and of the medical center, said, (Israel/21C)

therefore has no systemic side effects that injected or oral drugs can cause.

"Even if the vaccines per-

form their function, and even if no new mutations are produced then still in one way or another the corona will remain with us," said Arber, director of the medical center's Integrated Cancer Prevention Center. "To this end, we have developed a unique drug, EXO-CD24."

Arber added that advanced preparation "can be produced quickly and efficiently and at a very low cost characteristics. The first is in every pharmaceutical facili-"The drug is based on that it inhibits the over- ty in the country, and in a short time globally." Prof. Ronni Gamzı

'Prof. Arber's results for firstphase research were excellent and gave us all confidence in the method he has been researching [here] for many years. I personally assisted him in further obtaining the approvals from the Ministry of Health for further research."

Meanwhile, Enlivex Therapeutics last week reported positive results from a multicenter Phase II clinical trial of its experimental Covid-19 immunotherapy drug Allocetra in severe and critical Covid-19 patients. We reported in October that five Covid-19 intensive care patients were discharged from Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem after treatment withAllocetra.

Nine severe and seven critical Covid-19 patients were treated with Allocetra in the Phase II clinical trial. Fourteen of them recovered and were discharged from the hospital after an average of 5.3 days. The Phase II trial originally was expected to enroll 24 patients but was "completed early in support of anticipated accelerated regulatory filings of the trial's positive safety and efficacy data." Enlivex reported

Facebook shuts vaccine misinformation pages

claims it will remove from its platforms related to COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccines, and vaccines in general starting today. The company began removing debunked COVID-19 claims in December of last year and notifying customers when they had interacted with a post that has false information that same month. But now the list of potential claims that could get a post removed has grown.

Highlights from the new expanded list of false COVID-19 and vaccinerelated claims that will be removed include: COVID-19 is man-madeVac-

the disease they were created to protect againstIt's safer to get a disease than to get its vaccineVaccines are dangerous, toxic, or cause autism

Facebook says it will start enforcing this policy immediately, focusing on groups, pages, and accounts that share content from its new list of debunked claims. The company also says it would consider removing the sources of the posts entirely if they became repeat

Notably, the company says that it will only be enforcing this change during the "COVID health emergency," so

cines are not effective at preventing while tamping down on such claims misinformation net. Studies into the could be a major blow to the anti-vaccine movement on Facebook, it might not last long. Even if it remains brief, it's an important change, Facebook was a major source of vaccine misinformation even before the pandemic and addressing it more directly could have a meaningful impact on people who might have otherwise become anti-vaxxers.

> Expanding what counts as COVID-19 and vaccine misinformation is a smart move for Facebook, but some people worry what posts might get caught in the company's new, larger

effectiveness of certain masks, vaccines, and tests are still ongoing. As written, Facebook's new guidelines might prevent conversations around new research results, as UNC Professor Zeynep Tufekci notes.

Looking at the list, Facebook may have to take down some current real news and public health statements, too. We have ongoing clinical trials with no placebo, for example. (UK heterologous prime boost trial) Also today's reports on ChAdOx1? May need to go under these guidelines. pic. twitter.com/iCCNi6eeBT (The Verge)



Trump's second impeachment trial begins

Donald J. Trump's lawyers laid out their first extended impeachment defense on Monday, arguing that holding him responsible for the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol attack was nothing more than "political theater" by Democrats, and that the Senate had no power to sit in judgment of a former presi-

In a 78-page brief submitted to the Senate on the eve of the trial, the lawyers asserted that Mr. Trump did not "direct anyone to commit unlawful actions" or deserve blame for the conduct of what they called a "small group of criminals" who stormed into the Capitol. They said the former president's rash of falsehoods about a stolen election, delivered at a rally outside the White House before the pro-Trump mob mounted its assault, were protected by the First Amendment.

legal arguments, they also contended that the Senate "lacks jurisdiction" to try a



Trump holding a newspaper announcing his acquittal after the first impeachment

former president because, by appeared to be aimed at perdefinition, he cannot be removed.

Hours later, in their own filing, the Democratic impeachment managers from the House called the lawyers' attempt to dismiss their charge "wholly without Relying on contested merit," and argued that the Constitution gave them clear jurisdiction to proceed.

Mr. Trump's defense

suading at least 34 Republicans needed to win acquittal on the charge of "incitement of insurrection" to stick with former president, despite their outrage over an assault that put their lives at risk. And it brimmed with partisan attacks.

"This impeachment proceeding was never about seeking justice," wrote the ments arrived as the rules

lawyers, Bruce L. Castor Jr., David I. Schoen and Michael T. van der Veen. "Instead, this was only ever a selfish attempt by Democratic leadership in the House to prey upon the feelings of horror and confusion that fell upon all Americans across the entire political spectrum upon seeing the destruction at the Capitol on Jan. 6 by a few hundred people." The House managers

framed it instead as an effort to hold Mr. Trump accountable for egregious actions and to disqualify him from holding office in the future.

"As charged in the article of impeachment, President Trump violated his oath of office and betrayed the American people," the managers wrote. "His incitement of insurrection against the United States government which disrupted the peaceful transfer of power is the most grievous constitutional crime ever

committed by a president." The flurry of written argu-

and timeline for the trial came into sharper focus on Monday and as Washington braced for the second impeachment trial of Mr. Trump in two years. Top Senate leaders reached a bipartisan agreement to set up an exceptionally swift proceeding that could conclude in less than half of the time of Mr. Trump's first The rules allow each side

up to 16 hours to make its case and give the House managers the option of forcing a debate and vote on whether to include witnesses at the trial. Senators had originally planned to honor a request from Mr. Schoen to recess the trial at sundown on Friday and reconvene on Sunday to observe the Jewish Sabbath, but he abruptly pulled back his request late Monday, saying the defense could go ahead

without him. Either way, a final vote on conviction or acquittal could take place early next week.

US Congressman Ron Wright succumbs to COVID

US Republican congressman Ron Wright has died aged 67 after testing positive for Covid-19 last month, officials say.

The Texas lawmaker "passed away peacefully" with his wife Susan by his side on Sunday, his office said.

The couple had both been infected with the virus and were receiving treatment at Baylor Hospital in Dallas.

Mr Wright, who had also been battling cancer in recent years, is the first sitting member of Congress to die with the coronavirus.

On 21 January, he released a statement announcing that he had tested positive for Covid-19.

"I am experiencing minor symptoms, but overall, I feel okay and will continue working for the people of the 6th



Ron Wright

[Congressional district] from home," his statement said.

Mr Wright was elected to the House of Representatives in 2018.

Announcing his death on Monday, his office said that he would be "remembered as a constitutional conservative" who was "a statesman, not an ideologue".

Despite years of painful, sometimes debilitating treatment for cancer, Ron never lacked the desire to get up and go

to work, to motivate those around him, or to offer fatherly advice," it added.

The office provided no further details.

Several members of Congress, from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, have tested positive for Covid-19 over the past year.

In December, 41-yearold Congressman-elect Luke Letlow died due to complications from the coronavirus, just days before he was due to be sworn in.

The US is by far the world's worst-hit nation, with more than 463,000 coronavirus-related deaths and over 27 million cases since the start of the pandemic.

The average number of daily infections in the US, however, has been gradually falling since early January. (BBC)

COVID CASES EXCEED 106 MILLION GLOBALLY

The global case tally of confirmed cases of the coronavirus-borne illness COVID-19 climbed above 106 million on Monday, with the U.S. accounting for more than 27 million of that total, even as cases continue to decline and the post-holiday surge

The U.S. added 87,889 new cases on Sunday, according to a New York Times tracker, and at least 1,301 people died, although those numbers may be underreported given reduced staffing at hospitals on weekends. The U.S. has averaged 118,016 new cases a day in the past week, down 31% from the average two weeks ago.

Hospitalizations are also steadily declining, according to the COVID Tracking Project. There were 81,439 COVID-19 patients in U.S. hospitals on Sunday, down from 84,233 a day earlier. The number has now declined for 24 straight days and stands at its lowest level since Nov.

18. Average daily cases are now down 60.3% from their peak and average daily hospitalizations are down 33.3%, according to Raymond James analyst Chris Meekins.

"While time is passing from the frequent congregations of the holiday season which contribute to increased cases, and a larger portion of the population (up to one-third) likely already contracting the virus; in our view vaccinations are the leading contributor to the improving state of the pandemic in the U.S.," Meekins wrote in a note to clients.

And while for now, vaccine demand is outpacing supply, "that will likely change within two months when it will become critical to convince the half of the population not as eager to get the vaccine that they need it despite the lower case counts," he

Dr. Ashish Jha, dean and professor of health services, policy and prac-



tice at the Brown University School of Public Health, said the U.S. is at a crucial phase given the new variants of the virus that are circulating and that are more infectious than the original virus.

"This is not the time to get sick not that it ever was the time to get sick," he told MSNBC in an interview. "But we're so close to the finish line. We're asking people to hold and we're not asking people to hold on forever. We're talking about the next couple of months."

Jha is optimistic that even if the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca PLC with Oxford University is less effective in dealing with the variant that emerged in South Africa, the other authorized vaccines — the one developed by Pfizer Inc. and German partner BioNTech SE, and one developed by Moderna Inc. — will work.

The one-dose regimen developed by Johnson & Johnson which is under review for authorization is another reason for hope, he said. The other vaccines all require two doses, taken several weeks apart.

"And we can update the vaccines," he said, a process than can be achieved in about six weeks and then

South Africa has suspended its plans to inoculate front-line health care workers with the Oxford-Astra-Zeneca vaccine after a small clinical

trial suggested that it isn't effective in preventing mild to moderate illness from the variant dominant in the country, the Associated Press report-

South Africa received its first 1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine last week and was expected to begin giving jabs to health care workers in mid-February. The disappointing early results indicate that an inoculation drive using the AstraZeneca vaccine may not be useful.

"The AstraZeneca vaccine appeared effective against the original strain, but not against the variant," health minister Zweli Mkhize said on Sunday. "We have decided to put a temporary hold on the rollout of the vaccine ... more work needs to be done."

The World Health Organization is holding a meeting Monday about the latest news from South Africa. (Market Watch)

Sputnik V gets boost from Lancet study

Russian tscience — and President Vladimir Putin's ambitions of turning the country into a global technology powerhouse — is having something of a moment.

Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine now has a globally recognized seal of approval after British medical journal the Lancet published a peer-reviewed paper last week that put the vaccine in the same league as Western doses with 91.6 percent efficacy 21 days after thefirst shotand 91.8 percent for those over 60 years old.

For Russia's biotech industry, the results are heady validation after facing Western skepticism, fueled largely by Russia's decision to release the vaccine before medical trials were complete — even using researchers as test subjects.

It's also a powerful calling card for Sputnik in a world desperate to expand vaccine supply lines.

Sputnik V is registered in at least 16 other countries or territories, mainly in the former Soviet Union, the Middle East and Latin America. The European Union, facing vaccine supply shortfalls, is now looking at possibly clearing the way for Sputnik and a Chinese vaccine.

Sputnik's apparent success capped an audacious, and at times seemingly reckless, push that reflected Russia's capacity for scientific improvisation. Russian experts piggybacked on existing vaccines developed in the Gamaleya National Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology but ranroughshod over normal scientific

funding for science collapsed and researchers flocked to the West. Putin has tried to re-energize stagnant Russian science, pouring money into universities and research labs. In 2018, he called for more published research and practical applications.

In the past decade, Russia has built several cutting-edge science institutions such the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, also called Skoltech, outside Moscow. But a lingering Soviet mentality sets bureau-

Sputnik V

research materials. Ilya Yasny, head of scientific research at Moscow-based investment fund Inbio Ventures, called the Sputnik V development "more of an outlier" than a signal that Russian medical science has emerged as a serious global contender.

cratic barriers for collaboration with

foreign scientists or imports of

"The main problem is regulation," he said. "Our laws and guidelines are, I would say, 15 years behind the European Union.'

promised 900 new laboratories. After the fall of the Soviet Union, including 15 world-class research centers focused on mathematics, genomics, materials research and robotics. Yasny said many Russian drug developers still see the global standard for clinical trials — three stages and broad demographic testing — as "unnecessary hurdles."

To gain lasting credibility, experts say, Russian scientists need to publish more papers in peer-reviewed international journals like the Lancet and collaborate with foreign scien-

S-putnik V

But Russia is heading in the other

It has been trailing the world for many years in publications in major international scientific journals, according to a study of 22 million scientific papers from 2005 to 2017 by Vit Machacek and Martin Srholec from the Institute for Democracy and Economic Analysis in Prague.

Scandals around plagiarism and duplication in Russian scientific research saw the Russian Academy Three years ago, Putin announced of Sciences announce the retraction a national research strategy that of more than 800 scientific papers in

January 2020. Putin's 2012 "Project 5-100" poured money into select Russian universities, targeting 21 institutions and aiming to get five into the top 100 globally by 2020. It failed. Only one, Lomonosov Moscow State University, made it to No. 84 in the QS World University rankings. The

Times Higher Education rankings included none.

Russian and Soviet science has always focused the most resources on nuclear physics, weapons and space. Putin often boasts of the country's deployment of hypersonic missiles, a development that could presage an arms race.

Still, Russia has chalked up some solid achievements in medical research, including the development of an Ebola vaccine and a vaccine for Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, another coronavirus outbreak first reported in 2012.

And money is flowing. On Friday, Putin dubbed 2021 as Russia's "Year of Science," and the government pledged science and medical research funding of \$280 billion to 2030. Russians, too, are slowly warming to Sputnik after some initial hesitation. A survey published Feb. 2by the Levada Center, an independent polling agency, found only 38 percent of Russians were willing to be vaccinated in December. Of those who were unwilling, 30 percent planned to wait for the results of clinical trials. At the dowdy first-floor corridor in Moscow municipal clinic No. 5, nurse Irina Vasilyeva syringed up 0.5 milliliters of Gam-COVID-Vak — otherwise known as Sputnik V. She as queues for the vaccine sighed

"It seems as if the whole of Russia decided to get vaccinated today," she said on a holiday morning, Russian Christmas Eve on Jan. 6.

Russian officials, meanwhile, have basked in the Lancet glow.

"There are no arguments left for critics of this vaccine. The article in the Lancet is a checkmate," said Kirill Dmitriev, head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which backed the vaccine's development.

(Washington Post)

Another cancer drug has high potential to reduce Covid-19



Veru shares surged double digits to new highs Monday after the oncology biopharmaceutical company released positive data about a cancer drug being studied to help fight Covid-19.

The Miami-based company, which develops drugs for breast and prostate cancer, disclosed that a prostate cancer treatment yielded positive efficacy and safety results in a Phase 2 clinical trial in hospitalized patients suffering from acute respiratory distress syndrome caused by Covid-19. The oral drug, called

VERU-111, showed an 82% reduction in deaths or respiratory failure almost 30 days after treatment, compared to patients receiving a placebo, Veru announced.

Dr. Mitchell Steiner, CEO of Veru, told CNBC's Jim Cramer that the cancer medicine can serve as both an anti-inflammatory and antiviral against the some-

times deadly respiratory 'We were able to show

some real hard endpoints," he said in a "Mad Money" interview. "For example, a hard endpoint is death and so we showed a reduction in death from 30% in the placebo arm to 5.3% in the treatment arm. So that, as you mentioned, that's a reduction of 82%.

Veru is in line to meet with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as part of its efforts to begin a Phase 3 clinical trial to study the drug's impact on individuals with severe cases of Covid-19. About patients that are the sickest 200 hospitalized patients and try to stave off death and high risk for acute res- and respiratory failure. piratory distress syndrome are expected to participate in the next trial study.

The Phase 2 trial included 40 patients and was carried out in five sites across the U.S.

next clinical stage in April and to complete the trial in the fourth quarter of this year. The company said it would seek funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to supply needs in the U.S., should the FDA approve the drug for usage.

"We think if we can get started in April and be done by year-end, that's record time and gives everybody the comfort that we have something here that's got the robustness that will be required to go after Steiner said.

Veru stock jumped nearly 28% during the trading day, closing at a record \$13.92 for a \$1 billion valuation.

As of Monday evening, U.S. deaths of Covid-19 Veru hopes to begin the exceeded 464,800. (CNBC)

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY & MINES BUREAU MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



Obtaining a Building on rent or lease for an office

RATNAPURA REGIONAL OFFICE

- Wanted a building on rent or lease to maintain the Ratnapura Regional Office of this Bureau. This building should fulfill the requirements mentioned below.
- The Building should have obtained the approval from the relevant Local Government Institution.
- The extent of the building should be above 2500 sq.ft.
- Should have a minimum of 05 rooms.
- There should be 02 toilets within the building and atleast 01 toilet outside.
- Should have pipe-borne water and electricity facilities.
- Should be situated within 4Km (four) facing the Main Road from the Ratnapura Urban
- Should have a Security fence or a surrounding wall with gate.
- Should have parking facilities for a minimum of 04 vehicles.
- The land area allocated for the office should be reserved entirely for the Bureau and should not be used for any other need.

Parties interested in this matter should sent their quotations along with a copy of the deed. a copy of the plan and a contact telephone number of the owner to the address below by registered post to be received at or before 2.00 p.m. on 03.03.2021 or should be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Administration Division at the Head Office. The words "Quotations for obtaining a building on rent or lease for the Ratnapura Regional Office" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the bid. The tenderer or an authorized officer could participate on this occasion.

The building selected from all other applications will be referred to a Government valuation and when this building is handed over on lease or rent basis to the Bureau, it is the responsibility of the owner to provide an insurance cover against fire/burglary and calamities.

Chairman,

Procurement Committee, Geological Survey & Mines Bureau, No. 569, Epitamulla Road, Pitakotte.

171 still missing in Indian glacial burst

At least 171 people are missing and 26 have diedin northern India after part of a Himalayan glacier fell into a river sending a devastating avalanche of water, dust and rocks down a mountain gorge, and crashing though a dam.

Rescue teams worked through the night to find survivors trapped under the debris. Most of the missing are workers from two hydroelectric projects in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, which were hit by the avalanche.

Footage from Sunday's disaster shows a fast-moving wall of water and rocks barreling down a narrow gorge and smashing through a dam at the smaller hydroelectric project before surging downstream, wiping out buildings trees and people.

Ashok Kumar, Uttarakhand's police chief, told CNN on Monday that 26 bodies had been recovered in the affected region. He said a further 171 people were still missing, including 35 workers who are believed to be trapped inside a tunnel at the larger, state-owned hydroelectric project.

Some 2,500 people in 13 villages were initially cut off by the flash floods sparked by the glacier's collapse, Ashok Kumar, senior official with the Uttarakhand police said Monday.

Rescuers had reached all 13 villages by Monday afternoon and relief work is now underway in them, Kumar said. Meanwhile, rescue efforts are

focused on clearing sludge and debris from the tunnel where the 35 workers are thought to be trapped. Rescuers managed to clear the mouth of the tunnel on Monday, according to a Twitter post from the Uttarakhand State Press Information Bureau.

The bureau hailed the "tireless



efforts of Indian Army personnel," adding that relief operations in the area were still underway.

According to Reuters, teams had managed to drill through 150 meters of the 2.5 km (1.5 miles) long tunnel, but the sheer volume of debris had slowed progress.

On Sunday, rescuers pulled 12 people out alive from another, smaller tunnel at the same site, according to Kumar. The ecologically sensitive Hima-

layan region is prone to flash floods and landslides. Himalayan glaciers are also vulnerable to rising global temperatures because of man-made climate change. As the ice melts, glaciers become

unstable and start to retreat. Large glacial lakes can form, and when parts of the glacier in front of it break away they unleash the water trapped behind it causing an outburst of floods. A 2019 study found that Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast as last century, losing almost half a meter of ice each vear.

Others have pointed to a high level of construction along the state's rivers, which in recent years have seen an increasing number of hydroelectric dams, projects and

infrastructure connecting them, such as roads and new develop-

While environmentalists have long warned that rampant development in the Himalayan state is an ecological catastrophe waiting to happen, authorities described Sunday's landslide as a freak event.

"This was a one-time incident. The glacier broke, and with ... debris all came down and flooded the power project here," said Kumar, the Uttarakhand police official. Sunday's floods brought back memories of a similar devastating incident in 2013, when the state was hit by what was dubbed by the area's chief minister as a "Himalayan tsunami." Nearly 6,000 people lost their lives in those floods, according to Reuters.

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said at a press conference Sunday that "Uttarakhand has witnessed a terrible disaster" and the state was expecting "significant loss to human lives and infrastructure.

It was after 10 a.m. local time when a piece of the Nanda Devi glacier broke apart, sending torrents of water down the Dhauli Ganga river valley located more

than 500 km (310 miles) north of New Delhi, according to authori-

Most of the destruction was centered on two hydropower projects. The Rishiganga Power project - a small dam of 13.2 megawatts -- was completely washed away in the deluge, India's Ministry of Power said in a statement Monday.

The state's chief minister said 35 people were working at the plant when the waters hit, and "roughly 29 to 30 people are missing." Rising waters prompted authorities to issue urgent evacuation notices to peopleliving further down the Alaknanda River.

As flash floods surged down the valley, they caused extensive damage to a second and much larger 520 megawatt hydro project under construction about 5 kilometers away from the other project. Some 176 laborers were workingon the Tapovan Vishnugad hydropower project site, which has two tunnels, and is state-owned by NTPC, India's largest power utility.

More than 30 workers could be stuck in the second tunnel, he warned. Rescuers are battling to reach them but the surrounding road is covered in debris.

A witness told Reuters that the avalanche of dust, rock and water came without warning.

"It came very fast, there was no time to alert anyone," Sanjay Singh Rana, who lives on the upper reaches of the river in Raini village in Uttarakhand, told Reuters by phone. "I felt that even we would be swept away."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent a message of support in the wake of the disaster. "Am constantly monitoring the unfortunate situation in Uttarakhand," he tweeted. (CNN)

TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF 70 GSM - 80 GSM - WOODFREE PAPER & 80 GSM - D/S ART PAPER

IMP/ADV/2021/02

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from foreign principals and local suppliers for the supply of "70 GSM - 80 GSM - Woodfree Paper & 80 GSM - D/S Art Paper" as specified below.

Quantity	<u>Description</u>
60 MT	70 GSM - Woodfree Offset White Printing Paper - Size: 24" x 30"
40 MT	70 GSM - Woodfree Offset White Printing Paper - Size: 24" x 36"
20 MT	80 GSM - Woodfree Offset White Printing Paper - Size: 24" x 36"
40 MT	80 GSM - D/S Art Paper - Gloss - Size: 24" x 35"

Packing: Palletized packets with extra Seaworthy Export packing with moisture barrier.

Foreign Offers

Bidders should quote both FOB and CIF Colombo prices, (on at sight as well as 90 days usance) CIF offers should clearly indicate detailed Cost, Freight & Insurance charges separately. ANCL reserves the right to place the order on FOB or on CIF term.

Offers with samples and specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Quotations for 70 GSM - 80 GSM - Woodfree Paper & 80 GSM - D/S Art Paper" on the top left hand corner.

Local Offers

Ex-stock price indicating transport charges, VAT and other levies separately with samples should be submitted in a separate cover in the same manner.

Offers should be sent to the **Head of Procurement to reach on or before 22nd February 2021 at 2.30 p.m**. which will be opened immediately. No separate documents will be issued. Suppliers may use their own formalities.

Probable date of delivery, validity of price, terms of payment etc. should be clearly indicated in the offers

Acceptance of new sources / product is subjected to a quality test.

The successful bidder should provide a Performance Bond to the value of 05% with a validity period of 90 days.

Bidders or accredited representatives will be allowed to be present at the opening. However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Head of Procurement
THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF CEYLON LIMITED
Lake House, No.35,

D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.

For Details: 2429451, 2429452

TENDER NOTICE

WELIKANDA PRADESHIYA SABHA -LEASING OF SHOPS - 2021

- 1. Tenders are invited by me for leasing of 11 Shops at the Upper Floor of the Welikanda Weekly Fair Building belonging to the Welikanda Pradeshiya Sabha for a period of three (03) years.
- 2. Relevant details of the shops are shown in the schedule below:
 - Issuing of Tender Forms : From 03.02.2021 up to 10.00 a.m. on 23.02.2021
 Accepting of Tenders : From 03.02.2021 up to 12.00 noon 23.02.2021
 Opening of Tenders : At 12.00 noon on 23.02.2021 at the Welikanda Pradeshiya Sabha

Tender conditions and further details could be obtained from the Welikanda Pradeshiya Sabha Office located at Welikanda, Polonnaruwa and by Phone / Fax No. 027-2259095 and by email: welikandaps@gmail.com

Schedule

Serial No.	Shop No.	Size in Square Metres	Guarantee Deposit Amount (Rs.)	(Non- Refundable) Tender Form Fee (Rs.)	Minimum Bid (Monthly Shop Rent) (Rs.)
1	1	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,700.00
2	2	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,700.00
3	3	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,800.00
4	4	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,800.00
5	5	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,900.00
6	6	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,900.00
7	7	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,900.00
8	8	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,900.00
9	9	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,800.00
10	10	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,700.00
11	11	4.5 x 4.5	50,000.00	2,500.00	2,700.00

J.M. Ameen

Assistant Commissioner of Local Government - Polonnaruwa Authorizing Officer Pradeshiya Sabha, Welikanda.

03.02.2021

PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK

INVITATION FOR BIDS



SUPPLY, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOAN ORIGINATION SYSTEM (LOS) & COLLECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS) FOR PRADESHEEYA SANWARDANA BANK

The Pradeshiya Sanwardhana Bank also known as Regional Development Bank of Sri Lanka (RDB) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following.

Item Name	BID No	Bid Security (LKR)	
Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of Loan Origination System (LOS) and Collection Management System (CMS) for Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank	DGM/HR/RDB/2021/016	1,000,000.00	

- 1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Eligible Bidders Should possess following Criteria.
 - Private or Public Company, Government-owned Institution, or any combination of them with a formal intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a Joint Venture, Consortium or Association.
 - Minimum 02 Years experience in Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of Loan Origination System (LOS) and Collection Management System (CMS) for a recognized Bank or Financial Institute in Sri Lanka.
 - Average Annual Turnover should be at least Rs. 50 Million for last 03 years (2017/2018/2019)
 - The Bidder should own the intellectual property rights of the Product / Solution or should have rights from Owner.
- 3. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application, which accompany the receipt of payment of a non-refundable deposit of Rupees 10,000.00. The bid documents will be issued on working days from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm commencing from 11th February 2021 up to 03th March 2021.
- Interested eligible bidders may request in writing further information if any, from Assistant General Manager (Procurement) on or before 03rd March 2021.
- All bids should be accompanied by a Bid-Security (which is en-cashable unconditionally on demand) of Rupees
 One Million (Rs.1,000,000.00) should be obtained from a reputed Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka
 which should be valid up to 01st July 2021.
- 6. Duly filled bidding documents, marked "Technical" and "Financial" separately in two sealed envelopes, and enclosed both in one sealed envelope marked "Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of Loan Origination System (LOS) and Collection Management System (CMS) for Regional Development Bank-DGM/HR/RDB/2021/016"on the top left hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post to the following addresses or deposit in the Tender Box kept at the Regional Development Bank, Head Office, Ground Floor on or before 02.00 pm on 04th March 2021. Late bid submissions are not accepted.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person immediately
 after the bid closing at 02.00 pm, on 04th March 2021.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on 25th February 2021 on 10.00 am at Regional Development Bank, Head Office, 2th Floor Meeting Room.

Head of Human Resource Development & Administration, Regional Development Bank, Head Office, No.933, Kandy Road, Wedamulla, Kelaniya. T.P.011 2035454/011- 2035455/011-2035456 Fax.011 2906883 www.rdb.lk

PEOPLE'S BANK

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from reputed Principals/Manufacturers/Suppliers or their accredited Local Agents in Sri Lanka for Supply of the items given below.

Tender No.	Description of the Item	Qty	Delivery schedule from the order Date	Value of Bid Security	Last date & time of issuing Documents	Date & time of closing tender
P/017/2021	Sanitizers (hand wash) (Alcohol percentage should be above 70%. A test report obtained from an authorized laboratory confirming the percentage of alcohol)	12000 L (5L/4L packing)	1st Lot - 4000 L within 30 days. Balance stock supply within 60 days (4000 L per month)	total cost exceeds	24.02.2021 at 2.00 p.m.	25.02.2021 at 2.00 p.m.
P/018/2021	Gloves	50000 pairs	Within 14 days from the purchase order date	1% of the total estimated value of each tender (if total cost exceeds Rs. 5 Mn)	24.02.2021 at 2.00 p.m.	25.02.2021 at 2.00 p.m.

- 1. Tender documents could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 or via E-mail depositing **Rs. 1500.00 for each tender** document to the Account No. **204100120011913** maintained at Headquarters Branch. Deposit could be made at any People's Bank Branch to the named account. Issuance of Tender documents will be made on receiving the scan copy of the cash paying in slip and a request letter between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. from 10.02.2021 to 24.02.2021 as indicated above on working days of the Bank via E-mail: supplies@peoplesbank.lk
- 2. All prospective bidders are kindly requested to obtain their tender application including all terms and conditions, tender using e-mail as far as possible due to Covid 19 situation in the country.
- 3. However, all bidders should submit their tender submissions as sealed bids.
- 4. Each perfected tender document should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee/Bid Bond from a commercial bank (other than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank for the value of 1% of total cost of tender valid for a minimum period of **180 calendar days** from the date of opening the tender. Bank pay orders/Bank drafts with minimum period of **180 calendar days** are also acceptable in lieu of Bid bonds. Cheques drawn by the tenderer will not be accepted.
- 5. Sealed tenders may be sent by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 25.02.2021. Tender submissions received after 2.00 p.m. on 25.02.2021 will be rejected and returned unopened.
- 6. The bank reserves to itself the right of rejecting any or all bids or cancelling the whole tender and the right of accepting any portion of a tender without assigning any reasons.
- 7. Further details could be obtained from Chief Manager (Supplies), People's Bank, Supplies Department, on the telephone Nos. given below.

Chief Manager (Supplies) People's Bank, Supplies Dept, No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 Tel. No. 2439577/8 Fax No. 2439576 E-mail: supplies@peoplesbank.lk Web: www.peoplesbank.lk





AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating

BANK OF CEYLON

INVITATION FOR BIDS

COURIER SERVICE FOR BANK OF CEYLON

BID NO: BOC/PROC/P/2020/221

1. The Chairman, Corporate Procurement Committee, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 now invites sealed bids from Courier Service Providers for Courier Services for Bank of Ceylon as described below.

The works consist of following activities.

- a. Collect courier bags from Head Office and deliver to Province Offices, Regional Loan Centers and Branches
- b. Collect courier bags from Province Offices and deliver to Regional Loan Centers and Branches
- c. Collect courier bags from Branches, Regional Loan Centers and deliver to Province Offices and to Head Office.
- d. Collect courier bags from Province offices and deliver to Head Office.
- e. Collect courier bags from Head Office and deliver to Metropolitan Branch, Taprobane Branch, Pettah Branch, BOC Premier Center at Kollupitiya and Ginthupitiya Stores and collect courier bags from these places and deliver to Head Office.

The courier services shall be provided to the highest standards and performed to the entire satisfaction of the Management of the Bank of Ceylon.

Initial Contract period shall be two years and it may be extended for further period of one year as required by the Bank with the same terms & conditions and prices subject to acceptable performance of the Service Provider.

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- 3. To be eligible and qualify to contract award, the successful bidder,
 - a. should not be currently placed in the list of defaulters by the Bank of Ceylon.
 - b. should have a valid business registration for a minimum period of 03 years' in providing courier services.
 - c. should have completed at least one courier service assignment covering minimum 250 locations island-wide for a single institute during last 03 years.
 - d. should have at least one regional service center at each administrative province covering services island-wide.
 - e. should provide sufficient number of vehicles for the methodology proposed by the Bidder with dedicated transport arrangements
 - f. should have following financial capabilities
 - i. minimum annual turnover of courier services performed in last 03 years should be at least Rs.25 Million.
 - ii. minimum Rs.5 Million liquid assets and / or credit facilities.
- 4. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Chief Manager (Properties & Procurement), 14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 during working hours from 0900 hrs until 1430 hrs from 10.02.2021 until 03.03.2021.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to The Chief Manager, Properties and Procurement Department, 14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon,"BOC Square", No 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs from 10.02.2021 to 03.03.2021, upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rupees thirteen thousand five hundred (Rs. 13,500.00) including VAT (Rs. 12,500.00 + Rs. 1,000.00 VAT). Method of payment shall be in Cash.
- 6. Bids should only be submitted on the Bidding Documents obtained from Chief Manager (Properties and Procurement), Bank of Ceylon. Duplicated Bidding Documents are not allowed to submit Bids.
- 7. Sealed Bids in duplicate shall be deposited in the Box available at the Ground Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square" No.01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 or sent by registered post addressed to the Chief Manager, (Properties & Procurement), 14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 to reach on or before 1000 hrs on 04.03.2021. Late bids will not be accepted and returned unopened. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- 8. Bids shall be valid up to 03.06.2021.
- 9. The Pre- Bid meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 18.02.2021 at Auditorium, 3rd Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.
- 10. Bidders are required to furnish a Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee; irrevocable, unconditional and on demand, along with the Bid for a sum Rs. 800,000.00 (Eight Hundred Thousand Rupees) from a licensed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka other than Bank of Ceylon, valid up to 01.07.2021. Cash Deposits / Bank Drafts for the same amount are also accepted in lieu of Bank Guarantee. Personal Cheques drawn by the bidder will not be accepted.
- 11. PCA 3 FORM should be accompanied with the Bid as per provision set out in the Public Contract Act No 3 of 1987 or any amendments thereof.
- 12. Authorized person who signed the Bid should be declared by a Board Resolution / registered Power of Attorney as appropriate and the document should be submitted along with the Bid.
- 13. The Bank reserves the right of rejecting any or all Bids and the right of accepting any portion of the Bid without adducing any reason.
- 14. Interested Bidders may obtain further information and all clarifications from the Chief Manager (Properties & Procurement), 14th Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, Tel. Nos. 0112204260 / 0112544310, Fax. 0112449629, E-mail: properties@boc.lk

The Chairman,

Corporate Procurement Committee
Bank of Ceylon,
"BOC Square", No. 01,
Bank of Ceylon Mawatha,
Colombo 01.









Sri Lanka Police
Special Task Force

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

(Procurements of Goods, works and services)

01. Commandant / Special Task Force, STF Headquarters, No: 223, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, now invite for sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following procurements to the Special Task Force (STF) Sri Lanka Police.

Con. No	Procurement No.	Description of Items	Qty.	Document Charges Rs.	Value of Bid Security Rs.
1.	STF/LOG/C/11/2021	Tyres and Tubes	As per List	4,000.00	200,000.00
2.	STF/LOG/C/12/2021	Green color boots	1000	3,000.00	100,000.00
3.	STF/LOG/C/13/2021	Green color wool socks	8000	1,000.00	25,000.00
4.	STF/LOG/C/16/2021	White color long sleeve shirt	2500	2,000.00	60,000.00
5.	STF/LOG/C/17/2021	Blue color Overalls	1000	1,000.00	30,000.00
6.	STF/LOG/C/20/2021	Mosquito Nets (Double)	3000	2,000.00	65,000.00
7.	STF/LOG/C/22/2021	Badges	As per List	1,000.00	20,000.00
8.	STF/LOG/C/25/2021	Walkman Lockers	250	3,000.00	130,000,00
0.	311/100/0/23/2021	Steel towel racks	420	3,000.00	200,000.00 100,000.00 25,000.00 30,000.00 65,000.00 130,000.00 100,000.00 240,000.00 25,000.00 25,000.00 20,000.00 30,000.00 30,000.00 35,000.00 175,000.00 20,000.00
9.	STF/LOG/C/24/2021	Dining Chairs(Wooden)	620	3,000.00	100 000 00
Э.	31172007072472021	Veranda chairs (Wooden)	130	3,000.00	100,000.00
10.	STF/LOG/C/26/2021	Chairs	As per List	2,000.00	60,000.00
11.	STF/LOG/C/29/2021	Explosive/Metal Detection machines	As per List	4,000.00	240,000.00
12.	STF/LOG/C/30/2021	Non-Liner Junction Detectors	04	4.000.00	200,000.00
13.	STF/LOG/C/31/2021	Search Equipment	As per List	1.000.00	25.000.00
14.	STF/LOG/C/35/2021	Canon Toners	As per List	2,000.00	75,000.00
15.	STF/LOG/C/36/2021	Epson Toners	As per List	1,000.00	20,000.00
16.	STF/LOG/C/40/2021	Computer Spares	As per List	1,000.00	20,000.00
17.	STF/LOG/C/42/2021	Sri Lankan National Flag	500	1,000.00	30,000,00
17.	31172007274272021	Sri Lanka Police Flags	500	1,000.00	30,000.00
18.	STF/LOG/C/54/2021	Household utensils	As per List	1,000.00	30,000.00
19.	STF/LOG/C/56/2021	Computer Printers	As per List	1,000.00	35,000.00
20.	STF/LOG/C/64/2021	SUZUKI DR 200 Motorcycle spare parts	As per List	4,000.00	175,000.00
21.	STF/LOG/C/65/2021	SUZUKI GN 125 Motorcycle spare parts	As per List	1,000.00	20,000.00
22.	STF/LOG/C/66/2021	YAMAHA XT 250 Motorcycle spare parts	As per List	2,000.00	70,000.00
23.	STF/LOG/C/68/2021	YAMAHA SR 250 Motorcycle spare parts	As per List	3,000.00	140,000.00
24.	STF/LOG/C/69/2021	Vehicle injector spare parts	As per List	2,000.00	50,000.00
25.	STF/LOG/C/71/2021	TATA 207 Cab Spare parts	As per List	3,000.00	130,000.00
26.	STF/LOG/C/72/2021	Vehicle Batteries	As per List	1,000.00	40,000.00

- 02. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- 03. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Director/Logistics, STF & inspect the bidding documents from the address given below from **0900 hrs**, to **1500 hrs**, on any working days except on Public & Bank Holidays from **10.02.2021 until 24.02.2021**
- 04. Qualified Bidders shall possess legal rights for the above procurements. The Bidder should be registered Business Firm. The Bidder should be registered under Public Contract Act No. (03) Of 1987. (For Total Bid value of over 5 million), failure to produce the registration certificates with the bids' will result for disqualifications. The Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest and bidder's name shall not be included in the list of debarred firms at the National Procurement Commission. A margin of preference for eligible locally produced goods offered shall be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- 05. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders from the STF Procurement Unit on submission of a written application to the address mentioned below, upon payment of a non- refundable tender fee indicated above table in cash per each tender from **0900 hrs, to 1500 hrs**, on any working days from 10.02.2021 up to **24.02.2021** Only a single set of bidding documents for each procurement shall be issued for an institution.
- 06. Bids must be inserted into the tender box placed at the under noted address at or before date of opening (25.02.2021) of the respective tenders. Alternatively, bids may be sent by registered post to reach before the closing time of bids. The respective Tender Number should be indicated at the Top of the Left Corner of the Envelop. Any 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 personally at Conference Hall at STF Headquarters, No: 223, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 at 1400 Hrs. on 25.02.2021. The representatives who will attend on behalf of the bidder should be definitely producing an authorized letter from the organization. Otherwise they will not be allowed for sitting
- 07. Bids shall be valid for 91 days from the date of opening of bids.
- 08. Priority will be given to suppliers with Ex-Stock
- 09. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security at the amount indicated above and it shall be;
 - i. Issued by any Commercial Institution operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
 - ii In the form include in Section IV of the Bidding Documents.
 - iii. In favor of Commandant / STF.iv. Valid up to 25.02.2020 up to 23.06.2021.
- 10. If it is applicable, the Bidder should pay the indicated amount of testing charges for testing process to Accountant / STF and the book receipt issued should be attached to the bid.
- 11. The decision taken by the STF Procurement Committee will be the final decision and the Purchaser reserves the right to make any amendments on Financial Regulations and Treasury Circulars issued periodically.
- 12. For further clarifications, please contact-

Director / Logistics, Special Task Force Headquarters, No.223, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07. Telephone Numbers

Direct : 011-2505933

General : 011-2500471/0112589741 Ext: 251

Fax : 011-2556506

Commandant,
Special Task Force

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CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, THOMMADURA HIRAN HASANTHA DE SILVA (Holder of SL Passport bearing No. N8054534 AND holder of N1C No. 910290396V) of "Amali", Mawadavila, Rathgama in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka presently at Muwailih Commercial, 1793, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates do hereby declare that the Special Power of Attorney dated 03.05.2019 attested by K.A.I.R. Perera of Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Dubai, United Arab Emirates given to Thommadura Jayarathna De Silva (Holder of NIC No. 570491199V) of "Amali", Mawadavila, Rathgama has been cancelled and revoked from 10.02.2021.

Thommadura Hiran Hasantha De Silva, 'Amali", Mawadavila, Rathgama.

Presently at Muwailih Commercial, 1793, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH, NUTRITION AND INDIGENOUS MEDICINE

WIJAYA KUMARATUNGA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL Obtaining a House on Lease for a Nurses Hostel

Quotations are invited for obtaining a house on lease to provide accommodation facilities to Nurses working at the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital for one year period from 01.04.2021 up to 31.03.2022. The following requirements should be fulfilled for this purpose.

- 01. Should have sufficient rooms and space and a kitchen for 10 nurses. (In case one house is not sufficient to fulfill the necessities mentioned above, two annexes would be considered).
- 02. The house should be situated close to the Main Road and the distance should not exceed over 3 Km from the hospital or should be located within easy access. If unable to obtain a house within 3Km distance, a house facing the Main Road within 5Km distance could be considered.
- 03. Should contain pipe-borne water and electricity facilities. Separate bills should be made available for this purpose.
- 04. There should be a minimum of two toilets and bathrooms and they should be within the house.
- 05. There should be a secure fence surrounding the house with fixed gates. Windows should contain gills and the house should have sufficient security.
- 06. The selected applicant should enter into a lease agreement with the Administration Board for a period of one year.

The relevant tender application form could be obtained from the hospital office during working days of the week from 10.02.2021 up to 03.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. by tenderers fulfilling the requirements mentioned above and submitting a written request and paying a fee of Rs. 500/=.

Duly completed tender applications could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Directors Office of this Hospital to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 04.03.2021 or could be sent to the address below. The words "Obtaining a house on lease for a Nurses Hostel - year 2021" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the relevant envelope.

Quotations will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 04.03.2021.

The applicant or a representative could be present on this occasion. All tenders received late will be rejected. The Tender board has the full right to accept or reject any tender. Further details could be obtained from the Administration Officer of the Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Accountant on Telephone Nos. 011-2258862-4, 2258870.

Regional Procurement Committee, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa.



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

TENDER NOTICE

SALE OF USED 04 NOS. STS GANTRY CRANES AND 06 NOS. RTG TRANSFER CRANES AT JCT

TENDER NO : LD/S/T/UD/02/2021 DATE: 24.02.2021

Sealed Quotations are invited for the sale of the following used 04 Nos. STS gantry cranes and 06 Nos. RTG transfer cranes at Port of Colombo.

Item No.	Location	Crane Type	Crane No.	Gross Weight Kg.
1		Gantry Crane - STS	J-17	610,000
2		Gantry Crane - STS	J-18	610,000
3		Gantry Crane - STS	J-19	630,000
4	Jaya Container Terminal (JCT)	Gantry Crane - STS	J-20	630,000
5		Transfer Crane - RTG	TC-10	165,000
6		Transfer Crane - RTG	TC-11	165,000
7		Transfer Crane - RTG	TC-12	165,000
8		Transfer Crane - RTG	TC-13	165,000
9		Transfer Crane - RTG	TC-14	165,000
10		Transfer Crane - RTG	TC-15	165,000

Tender lists can be obtained from the Office of Sales Section, Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority at No. 15, Canal Yard, Lotus Road, Colombo 01 from 10.00 hours on 12.02.2021 to 14.30 hours on 19.02.2021 by payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/= (Plus VAT).

Prospective Bidders are allowed to inspect the cranes at JCT Yard in Port of Colombo within working hours from 12.02.2021 to 19.02.2021.

Tender Forms will be issued on a written request of Bidder addressed to Chairman, Tender Board and payment of a refundable deposit of Rs. 1,000,000/=.

A copy of the receipt for deposit should be accompanied with each Tender offer. Incomplete

Tender Forms submitted without the copy of the deposit receipt will be rejected. Pre Bid Meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m. on 22.02.2021 at Director (Logistics) Office to make Bidders aware of the tender conditions. A Bidder or one of Bidder's representatives will be

allowed to participate at abovementioned meeting. Duly completed & sealed Bids should be deposited in the Tender Box placed at the Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority on 24.02.2021 between 08.00 hours and 10.00 hours. Tender will be opened at Director (Logistics) Office, Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports

The price should be quoted per One Kg. In addition to the quoted value, Customs Duty, VAT & any other applicable Government taxes will be charged.

Authority, No. 15, Canal Yard, Lotus Road, Colombo 01 immediately afterwards.

All Bidders should have been registered with the Dept. of Inland Revenue as VAT payers. VAT where applicable should be paid by the successful Bidders. If any Bidder is not registered for VAT, he/she should submit a letter obtained from the Commissioner General of Inland Revenue Department, certifying that the Company has not been registered for VAT.

Payment has to be made in advance before effecting delivery of listed items. A deposit of Rs. 5,000,000/= should be deposited by the successful Bidder before issuing of awarding letter. Successful Bidder should pay the money based on delivery quantities by maintaining a minimum balance of Rs. 2,500,000/=.

Successful Bidder has to obtain required licenses from the authorities concerned for the purchasing, removal and transportation listed items where necessary. Required letters are issued by the SLPA to facilitate the process.

SLPA will not provide any equipment or support services to facilitate the removal of above listed items free of charge. Successful Bidder should arrange equipment and other facilities required for removal operation of above items.

All persons submitting Bids should conduct themselves in such a manner as to avoid causing any damage to port property or any inconvenience or obstruction to the performances of normal port functions. If there are any damages or losses to assets or employees of SLPA due to misconduct of Bidders or their representatives, Bidders will be totally liable for damages or

SLPA employees and their spouses and their unmarried children are prohibited to submit Bids or to participate in any manner in such instances or to assist Tenders in any other manner.

Respective Bidders should agree to abide by the conditions laid down in the Tender Documents.

Chairman - Tender Board Sri Lanka Ports Auhority, Logistics Division,

No. 15, Canal Yard, Lotus Road, Colombo 01.

10.02.2021

APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE COMPANIES ACT NO. 7 OF 2007

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of Section 34 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 an application has been made to the Registrar General of Companies to incorporate as a company to be formed under the name "HEALING VIBES" to be registered with limited liability without the word

The primary objects for which the company is proposed to be established are as follows:

Creating learning, unlearning, knowledge/ skill building and

- production spaces to instill the culture and practice of sufficient 2. Creating safer physical and psychological spaces to promote awareness
- about psychological issues due to the woundedness in order to bring " Wisdom for caregivers" and " Holistic Traditional Healing".
- Developing capacities to identify, recognize, accept, respect, nourish, promote and celebrate human and biodiversity in order to promote interdependence as a solution for the crisis's humans are facing.
- Introducing social entrepreneurship, fair trade and earth buildings as solutions for ecological and social crises.

A copy of the Articles of Association of the Company Limited by Guarantee may be inspected at the office of Registrar General of Companies, Samagam Medura No. 400, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Notice is hereby given that any person, company or corporation objecting to this application may bring such objection within 21 days from the date of this publication by a letter addressed to the Registrar General of Companies, Department of Registrar of Companies, Samagam Medura, No. 400, D R Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Promoters

afc Gold Loan **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE**

Gold articles pawned at the undermentioned Gold Loan Centers of the Alliance Finance Co. PLC, for the period elapsing on 2019.11.30 not redeemed up to now, will be sold by Public Auction on 2021.02.24 at 9.30 a.m. at the undermentioned place. **GOLD LOAN CENTERS**

Aluthgama, Ambalangoda, Ampara, Anuradhapura, Athurugiriya, Avissawella, Badulla, Balangoda, Batticoloa, Chankanai, Chawakachcheri, Chilaw, Chunnagam, Dambulla, Galewela, Monaragala, Hatton, Homagama, Horana, Ja Ela, Jaffna, Kadawatha, Kaduruwela, Kaduwela, Kalawanjikudi, Kalpitiya, Kelaniya, Kilinochchi, Kiribathgoda, Kirindiwela, Malabe, Matara, Negombo, Nittambuwa, Panadura, Piliyandala, Point Pedro, Pugoda, Ratnapura, Rikillagaskada, Thirunelveli, Trincomalee, Vauniya, Welimada, Dehiattakandiya, Galgamuwa, Kaluthara, Kegalle, Kelaniya, Kurunegala, Nawalapitiya, Ragala, Rajagiriya, Wellawaya, Kohuwala , Nuwaraeliya , Nikawaratiya , Mathale , Hingurakgoda , Medawachchiya

DATE AND PLACE OF AUCTION No. 722, Kotte road, Rajagiriya. 2021-02-24

All those who are participating in the Auction should bring their National Identity Card. The Alliance Finance Co. PLC reserves the right. to cancelling, postponing or amalgamating the Auctions without any intimation.



Head of Division - Gold Loan Alliance Finance Co. PLC No. 722, Kotte road, Rajagiriya. Tel:0115 573600



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chairman, RDA Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority invites Sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following projects.

Item No.	Contract No.	Project Name	Province	Engineer's Estimate (Excld. Contingencies) / (Rs) (Mn)	Eligibility Grade In Highways Specially	Bid Security (Rs.)	Contract Period (Days)
01.	RDA/MM/EP (Akk)/RMTF/ 2021/07	Asphalt Surfacing on Colombo - Ratnapura - Wellawaya - Batticaloa Road. (295+200 to 297+700) km	EP (Akk)	36.11	CS & C4 only	590,000.00	90
02.	RDA/MM/EP (Akk)/RMTF/ 2021/08	Asphalt Surfacing on Colombo - Ratnapura - Wellawaya - Batticaloa Road. (297+700 to 300+200) km	EP (Akk)	36.05	C5 &C4 only	590,000.00	90
03.	RDA/MM/EP (Akk)/RMTF/ 2021/09	Asphalt Surfacing on Colombo - Ratnapura - Wellawaya - Batticaloa Road. (300+200 to 302+700) km	EP (Akk)	35.75	C5 & C4 only	580,000.00	90
04.	RDA/MM/EP (Akk)/RMTF/ 2021/10	Asphalt Surfacing on Colombo - Ratnapura - Wellawaya - Batticaloa Road. (302+700 to 305+200) km	EP (Akk)	36,78	C5 & C4 only	600,000.00	90
05.	RDA/MM/CP GOSL(EM)/ 2021/11	Construction of Retaining Wall on Avissawella - Hatton - Nuwaraeliya Road (A007) 86+400 - 86+500 km	œ	46.41	C4 & C3 only in Highways or bridges	790,000.00	180

- The work consists of asphalt surfacing for item nos. 1 4 and retaining wall construction for item no. 5.
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Since the Total Cost Estimate of procurement for item nos. 01, 02, 03 04 are below Rs. 50 Mn, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (ii) and 5% preference will be given to State Owned Enterprises at the financial evaluation for all items as per public finance circular No.: 03/2020 (i).
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall be currently registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in grades given in the above table.
- Interested bidders can be downloaded at the web site of Road Development Authority (http://www.rda.gov.lk/source/bids -ads.htm) from 10.02.2021 to 15.00 hrs. of 02.03.2021.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following offices.
 - (a) Director (MM),
 - Road Development Authority,
 - 6th Floor, 'Maganeguma Mahamedura', No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
 - Tel: 011-2882196 Fax: 011-2882195
 - (b) For item nos. 01, 02, 03 04 from Provincial Director (Akkaraipattu), Road Development Authority, Akkaraipattu. Tel: 067-2277428 Fax: 067-2278971.
 - (c) For item no. 05 from Provincial Director (Central Province), Road Development Authority, Kandy. Tel: 081-2226150 Fax: 081-2237931.
- The Pre Bid meeting will be arranged on 18.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, Akkaraipattu, for Item no. 01, 02, 03, 04 & Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, (Central Province), Kandy for Item No. 05. The site visit will be arranged thereafter. As per the public contract act No.: 3 of 1987, the bidders shall be registered in the Department of registration of Companies.
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as per the format given in the bid document for an amount given in the above table. Bid security shall be valid up to 30.06.2021.
- The interested bidders should obtain a pay order of Rs. 6,750.00 for item nos. 01, 02, 03 04 and Rs. 12,500.00 for item no. 05 (valid for 90 days) for non - refundable tender fee drawn in favour of the "Director General, Road development authority" and submit with the Bidding Documents.
- 9. Bid, with original pay order along with the copy of the registration from registrar of Public Contracts, with the contract name marked at the top left hand corner of the envelope, shall be delivered in duplicate to the address given bellow on or before 13.00 hrs. on 03.03.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing. Online method will be exercised for the Bid opening. Zoom meeting link will be informed later. The Bidding Document without the pay order and Non submission of the copy of the registration from register of public contract obtained via www.eroc.gov.lk will not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

Chairman,

Road Development Authority Procurement Committee C/o. Director General, Road Development Authority 1st Floor, 'Maganeguma Mahamedura',

No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.

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Helpers - Rs. 40,

000/-, * Juice &

Counter Helpers -

Rs. 40,000/-, Kottu

& Rotty Makers -

Rs. 65,000/- - 70,



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MINISTRY OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES

STATE PLANTATION CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for sale of 760 timber trees to be disposed Woodside, Alakolla, Midland and Rangala Plantations under the management of the State Plantation Corporation of Sri Lanka. Conditions and Tender documents including tender forms for submitting quotations could be purchased up to 3.00 p.m. on 22.02.2021 from the Head Office of State Plantation Corporation in Colombo or from the Regional Office in the Galpihilla Plantation after paying a sum of Rs. 2,000/-. The duly completed tenders should be inserted in the Tender Box kept at the Head Office of the State Plantation Corporation to be received before 1.00 p.m. on 23.02.2021 and all tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the same

Tender forms will not be issued after 3.00 p.m. on 22.02.2021 for whatever reason. The State Plantation Corporation Procurement Board has the right to accept or reject or cancel any quotation or a part of quotations and this decision is deemed final.

Chairman,

Procurement Board, State Plantation Corporation of Sri Lanka,

No. 21, Meeraniva Street, Colombo 12.

Inquiries: 011-5235749 09.02.2021

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weekly/monthly. 0775590415. 010233

Urgent requirement for Tea Maker in Hawai Restuarant (Salary Rs. 45000/ -) for inquiries: 0773658648. 009661





GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

01. The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the project in Badulla district as described below:

Contract No.	Contract Name	Engineer's estimate (w/o contingencies) / (Rs)	Contract Duration (Calendar days)	Bid Security (Rs)
RDA/DC/ UVA/IR-GOSL/ 2021/01	Construction of Pedestrian Underpass near Bandarawela Junction CH: 144.8 for Beragala- Haliela Road (AA 016)	118.94 Mn	301	1.60 Mn

- 02. The work consists of construction of pedestrian underpass consists of 16.7m long single cell box of 3.5m x 3.0 m, road works and other structures .
- 03. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 04. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall be currently registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in C4 or C3 Grades in Bridge Specialty.
- 05. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following office during office hours and refer the bidding document via www.rda.gov.lk from 11/02/2021
 - a. Director (Construction), Road Development Authority, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
 - Tel.: 011-2864388 Fax: 011-2861821 b. Provincial Director (Uva), Road Development Authority, No. 40, Dharmapala Mawatha, Bandarawela

Tel.: 057-2222170 Fax: 057-2222170

- The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 10:00 hrs on 17/02/2021 at the office of the Provincial Director (Uva), Road Development Authority, No. 40, Dharmapala Mawatha, Bandarawela and a site visit will be arranged immediately thereafter if necessary.
- 07. A complete set of Bidding Document in English language shall be purchased by Interested bidders on submission of a written application with a Pay Order of Rs.21,600.00 (with VAT) (valid for 91 days) for non-refundable tender fee drawn in favour of the "Director General-Road Development Authority" to the Director (Construction), RDA, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla from 11/02/2021 until 03/03/2021 during 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs. As per the Public Contract Act no. 3 of 1987, the agent and successful winners of the tender shall be registered in the Department of Registrar of Companies.
- 08. Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid- Security for an amount given in the above table. Bid- Security shall be valid up to 30/06/2021.
- 09. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, C/o Director General, Road Development Authority, First Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla on or before 14:00 hrs on 04/03/2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 02/06/2021.

The Chairman,

Road Development Authority Procurement Committee

Road Development Authority

First Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura",

216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified bidders for the projects in Western Province which described below .:-

Contract No.	Contract Name	Engineer's Estimat exclu. Contingencies (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security (Rs. Mn.)	CIDA Grade	Duration (Days)	Scope of works
RDA/DC/WP/IR - GOSL/2021/05	Widening of bridge no. 3/1 on Orugodawatta - Ambatale road - B435	106.5	1.5	C3 or C4	273	Widening of bridge (including bored pile foundation), construction of approaches and incidental works
RDA/DC/WP/IR - GOSL/2021/06	Reconstruction of bridge no. 3/2 on Orugodawatta - Ambatale road - B435	157.1	2	C3 or C2	273	Reconstruction of bridge (including bored pile foundation), construction of approaches and incidental works

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for contracts award, the successful bidder shall be currently registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in relevant grades as mentioned in the above table in Bridges specialty.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following offices and refer the bidding document via www.rda.gov.lk from 11.02.2021.
 - Director (Construction), Road Development Authority, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.

T.P.: 011 - 2864388 Fax No.: 011 - 2861821

Project Director (Western Province), Road Development Authority, 1st floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla

> T.P.: 011 - 2876600 Fax no.: 011 - 2877226

- The Pre Bid meeting will be held at 10:00 hrs on 19.02.2021 at the office of Project Director (Western Province), Road Development Authority, 1st floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla (T.P.: 011 - 2876600 and Fax no.: 011 - 2877226) and a site visit will be arranged immediately thereafter if necessary.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written applications with Pay Orders of Rs. 21,600.00 (with VAT) (valid for 90 Days) for non - refundable tender fee drawn in favour of the "Director General - Road Development Authority" to the Director (Construction), RDA, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla from 11.02.2021 until 03.03.2021 during 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs for each contract. As per the Public Contract Act no. 3 of 1987, the Agent and successful winners of the tender shall be registered in the Department of Registrar of Companies.
- Each Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security for an amount given in the table. Bid Security shall be valid up to 30.06.2021.
- Bids shall be valid up to 02.06.2021.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, C/o Director General, Road Development Authority, 1st Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla on or before 14:00 hrs on 04.03.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

Chairman,

Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, Road Development Authority 1st Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka, will receive bids from prospective suppliers in Sri Lanka for the supply of following Printing Papers in ex-stock or to be supplied within 14 days after awarding Bid.

1. Item - Grade - Gray Board - 2 mm \pm 5% - 25"x31" -33,500 sheets

Substance - 1200 gsm \pm 5%

2. Item - Grade - Gray Board - 2.5 mm ± 5% - 25"x31" -7,500 sheets Substance - 1500 gsm \pm 5%

Closing Date of Bid: 24.02.2021 - 2.00 p.m. Bid Reference No: SCP06/GB/NCB04/2021-05

Bidding documents relevant to this notice will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08 on written application along with a non refundable fee of Rs 3,500/= per each Bid. Bidding documents will be issued by the Supplies Division itself before 2.00 pm on or before the day prior to the closing date given above.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

> Gangani Liyanage Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08.

Telephone/Fax 011-2694898 Web site:- www.documents.gov.lk

04.02.2021



The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka, invites bids from suppliers in Sri Lanka and their authorized agents for the supply of **following Item**.

- UPS 30 KVA (3 phase in/3 1. **Item** phase out)

Quantity Required - 01 Unit

Closing Date of Bid: 24.02.2021 - 2.00 p.m. Bid Reference No: SCP04/UPS/NCB12/2020-28

Bidding documents relevant to this notice will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08 on written application along with a non refundable fee of Rs 1000/ = per each Bid. Bidding documents will be issued by the Supplies Division itself before 2.00 p.m. on the day prior to the closing date given above.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

> Gangani Liyanage Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08.

Telephone/Fax 011-2694898 Website:- www.documents.gov.lk 22.01.2021

Vehicle No.

THE WAGES BOARDS ORDINANCE **NOTIFICATION**

WAGES BOARD FOR THE RUBBER GROWING AND MANUFACTURING TRADE

In accordance with the provisions of Section 28 of Wages Boards Ordinance (Chapter 136) the Wages Board for the Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade hereby notifies that the Board by virtue of powers vested in it by Section 30 of the aforesaid Ordinance propose to vary the decisions mentioned in the Schedule hereto, as specified in that Schedule.

Objections to aforesaid proposal will be received by me until 12.00 noon on 25th July

Every objection should be submitted in writing with a statement indicating the reasons for such objection.

> Sgd./ C.K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi Chairman Wages Board for the Rubber Growing and **Manufacturing Trade**

Department of Labour, Colombo 05.

09.02.2021

SCHEDULE

The Part II of the Wages Board for the Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade set out in the Schedule to the Notification published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 10047 dated 25th November 1949 as varied from time to time and last varied by the Notification published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 1881/43 of 26.09.2014 shall be further varied by the substitution of the following new part.

Part II

The minimum rate of daily wage for time work

Rs. 900.00 Budgetary Relief Allowance Rs. 100.00

THE WAGES BOARDS ORDINANCE **NOTIFICATION**

WAGES BOARD FOR THE TEA GROWING AND **MANUFACTURING TRADE**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 28 of Wages Boards Ordinance (Chapter 136) the Wages Board for the Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade hereby notifies that the Board by virtue of powers vested in it by Section 30 of the aforesaid Ordinance propose to vary the decisions mentioned in the Schedule hereto, as specified in that Schedule.

Objections to aforesaid proposal will be received by me until 12.00 noon on 15th February

Every objection should be submitted in writing with a statement indicating the reasons for such objection.

> Sgd./ C.K. Prabath Chandrakeerthi Wages Board for the Tea Growing and **Manufacturing Trade**

Department of Labour, Colombo 05.

09.02.2021

SCHEDULE

The Part II of the Wages Board for the Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade set out in the Schedule to the Notification published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 9441 dated 31st July 1945 as varied from time to time and last varied by the Notification published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 1872/31 of 24.07.2014 shall be further varied by the substitution of the following new part.

Part II

The minimum rate of daily wage for time work

Budgetary Relief Allowance

Rs. 900.00 Rs. 100.00

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CAR

KU	-8XXX	TATA	NANO	2012
ΚY	-1XXX	MICRO	PANDA L C 1.0	2014
CAV	-3XXX	SUZUKI	WAGON R MH44S	2016
			BUS	
NC	-6XXX	NISSAN DI	ESEL JA530RANMJ	2000
NF	-7XXX	TOYOTA	SPG-XZB50	2016
			BIKE	
BIH	-5XXX	TVS	METRO	2017
		THREE	WHEELER	
НХ	-2XXX	BAJAJ	AUTO RE 2 STROKE	2003
JU	-0XXX	BAJAJ	AUTO RE 2 STROKE	2004
QB	-9XXX	BAJAJ	AUTO RE 2 STROKE	2005
QG	-8XXX	BAJAJ	AUTO RE2 STROKE	2006
QK	-0XXX	BAJAJ	AUTO AR4S	2007
YL	-2XXX	BAJAJ	RE 205	2011

Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC Vehicle Yard - No: 176, Lake Road, Maharagama Tel - 0112 088 505

Vehicle Inspection:

Dates for inspection of vehicles

10th, 11th, 12th & 15th February 2021 from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm at the above address (Acceptance of tenders will be closed at 5.00 pm 15th February 2021)

Tender forms could be obtained from the Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC Vehicle Yards at the above addresses upon making a

non-refundable payment of Rs.200/-.

Successful bidders will be notified over the telephone, and they should remove the relevant vehicles within 7 days from the date of notification. The company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the tender without stating any reason. While the successful bidders shall accept the relevant vehicles in the existing condition, any outstanding payment in relation to revenue license and government taxes etc shall have to borne by such bidders.

Decision of the Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC pertaining to this tender shall be final.

Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC



Head Office 236, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel No. 2343720 - 7 EXT: 210

Mercantile Investments

Contact: Janaka - 071 1624559 / Moditha - 071 9530350



AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED GOLD ARTICLES

All Gold articles pawned and pledged at all branches of Pan Asia Bank and unredeemed up to 19.02.2021 and due to be redeemed on or before 30.09.2020 will be sold by Public Auction from 20.02.2021 Daily (until auction is cleared) at 9.00 a.m. at the

Kurunegala Branch

No. 22, Suratissa Mawatha, Kurunegala. The Bank reserves the right to postpone or cancel the Auction.



Assistant General Manager (Operations and Administration) 450, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Quotations are invited for installing a Computer Network System at the New Sabha Building Office of the Narammala Pradeshiya Sabha and fixing a Security Camera System.

All relevant Tender Forms and specifications for this purpose could be obtained from the Narammala Pradeshiya Sabha after paying a Form Fee of Rs. 1000.00.

Tender Forms will be issued up to 12.30 p.m. on 24.02.2021 and accepting of Tenders will close at 2.00 p.m. on 25 February 2021 and Tenders will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on the same day.

(You should contact the Technical Officer on Tel.Nos. 037-2249275 / 0374947457 and make arrangements for inspection of the worksite and for obtaining more details).

Secretary Narammala Pradeshiya Sabha, Narammala.



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

STATE MINISTRY OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION, ADOPTION OF SAFETY MEASURES INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRIC FENCES AND TRENCHES AND REFORESTATION

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids are invited from eligible and qualified Bidders for the cleaning of textile (Cloth) available at office buildings, office premises, bungalows and bungalow premises and bungalows of National Garden Headquarters for the year 2021 under National Competitive

Lot No.	Name of Garden	Bid Security Amount
1.	Yala	72,000.00
2.	Udawalawa	54,000.00
3.	Wilpattu	72,000.00

- Bidders could quote for one, two or all three lots.
- The square area of office buildings and compounds, GPS Co-ordinates that depict the location of the buildings in National Gardens' Headquarters and other information are included in Bid documents and if required could inspect the premises and submit Bids.
- The contract company relevant to cleaning work should have the Business Registration Certificate to run a cleaning institute and should have exceeded a service period of 10 years as at 01.01.2021 and should be engaged in providing similar services to a minimum of the (10) institutes by the date of submitting Bids.
- Documentary evidence should be provided to establish that services not less than Rs. 300,000.00 per month and Rs. 3,600,000.00 per annum have been supplied during past 03 years and Audited Finance Statements for the nearest 03 years should be provided to prove that the company is a reputed institute with financial stability.
- If expected to quote for all three lots there should be a minimum work force of 75 and if quoting for 2 lots there should be a minimum of 50 and if quoting only for one lot there should be a minimum of 25. This should be confirmed by EPF documents.
- Bid documents could be inspected at the Finance Division of Department of Wildlife Conservation up to 01.03.2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and Bid documents could be obtained on submission of a written request on a company letterhead to the Director General of Department of Wildlife Conservation and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 4,000.00 to the Shroff of the Department.
- All bids should be accompanied with a Bid Security / Securities equivalent to the amounts mentioned in the above table obtained from a government approved commercial bank which should be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Bids or the Bid Security could be paid in cash to the Shroff of the Department of Wildlife Conservation before 1.30 p.m. on 02.03.2021. Bids not accompanied with a Bid Security will be rejected.
- Bids should be valid for a minimum of 90 days from the date of opening of Bids.
- Completed Bids inserted in two separate envelopes as "Original" and "Duplicate" should be enclosed in one sealed cover of which the name and number of the contract is marked on the top left-hand corner and sent to reach the following address by registered post or deposited in the container box kept at the Finance Division of the Department of Wildlife Conservation before 2.00 p.m. on 02.03.2021. Bids received late will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. the same day and Bidders or their authorized representatives could participate at the time.
- Further details over Bid documents could be obtained from the Deputy Director (Finance) through Telephone No. 011-2871537. The Department Procurement Committee reserves the right of making decision over Bid documents and the Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation reserves the right to decide over any matter relating to this Procurement mentioned or not mentioned in this notice or Bid document.
- The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee will not be responsible for any cost incurred in preparation of bids.

Department Procurement Committee, Department of Wildlife Conservation, No. 811/A, Jayanthipura Mawatha, Battaramulla.

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RECRUITMENT

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DATABASE



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA **MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS**

ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY OF HAND SANITIZER IN 500ML CANS TO HEAD OFFICE OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- 1. The chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee on behalf of the RDA, invites sealed bids for Supply of Hand Sanitizer Bottles (500ml) to Head office for Road Development Authority.
- 2. Executing agency will be the Road Development Authority.
- 3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 4. Bidding documents shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of written application and a Pay Order (validity 90 days) drawn in favour of the "Director General - Road Development Authority" for non-refundable Tender fee of Rs. 2,500.00 (with VAT) to Director Procurement, Procurement Division, Road Development Authority, 4th floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla from 10.02.2021 until 23.02.2021 during 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
- The bidder shall submitted a sample of Hand Sanitizer 500ml Bottle with test certificate from Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) and certificate of registration from National Medicine Regulatory Authority (NMRA) to evaluation purpose.

Contract No	Description	Unit	Total Quantity	Bid Security (Rs)
CONTRACT RDA/DPR/SHS/2021/29	Supply of Hand Sanitizer Bottles (500ml)	Nos	5000	25,000

- 6. Bid shall be valid up to 90 calendar days from the dates closing of the Bid and bid shall be accompanied by a Bid security (Valid up to 25.05.2021) for the amount mentioned above. Any Bid not accompanied by a valid Bid Security will be rejected.
- 7. Completed Bids shall be delivered to the Director Procurement. 4st floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla on or before 14.00hrs on 24.02.2021 Late bids will be rejected.
- 8. For further details, please contact Director Procurement, RDA on Tel: 011-2046481/011-2884790. E mail: dirprorda@gmail.com

Chairman,

RDA Procurement Committee, Road Development Authority, 1st floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla.



QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF HIGH BRIGHT NEWSPRINT PAPER IN REELS

IMP/ADV/2021/03

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from foreign principals and local suppliers "300 MT - 52 - 55 GSM High Bright Newsprint Paper for the supply of in Reels - 27 1/2" & 34 1/2" Reel Width" as specified below:

Quantity Description

100 MT High Bright Newsprint Reel form

Grammage: Ranging from 52 GSM - 55 GSM

Reel Width: 27 1/2"

200 MT High Bright Newsprint Reel form Grammage: Ranging from 52 GSM - 55 GSM

Reel Width: 34 1/2"

Packing: Sea Worthy export Packing in 3 - 4 sheets of thick hard board with one inner layer of moisture barrier including reinforced sides.

Foreign Offers

Bidders should quote both FOB and CIF Colombo prices, (on at sight as well as 90 days usance) CIF offers should clearly indicate detailed Cost, Freight & Insurance charges separately. ANCL reserves the right to place the order on FOB or on CIF term.

Offers with samples and specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Quotations for 52 GSM - 55 GSM - High Bright Newsprint Paper in Reels" on the top left hand corner.

Local Offers

Ex-stock price indicating transport charges, VAT and other levies separately with samples should be submitted in a separate cover in the same manner.

Documents can be collected on any working day from 08th February 2021 to 19th February 2021 between 9.00 a.m. & 3.00 p.m. from Head of Procurement, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mw.,

Offers should be sent to the **Head of Procurement to reach on or before** 22nd February 2021 at 2.30 p.m. which will be opened immediately.

Probable date of delivery, validity of price, terms of payment etc. should be clearly indicated in the offers. Acceptance of new sources / product is subjected to a quality test.

The successful bidder should provide a Performance Bond to the value of 05% with a validity period of 90 days.

Bidders or accredited representatives will be allowed to be present at the opening. However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



HOUSE CEYLON LIMITED

Lake House, No.35, D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.

For Details: 2429422, 2429451

MINISTRY OF MASS MEDIA DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

VACANCIES

Applications are invited from applicants who have served as Technological Officer / Technical Officer in Public Service / Provincial Public Service and have retired from service to recruit on contract basis for the Post of Technical Officer (Building Repairs and Maintenance) of the Department of Government Information.

- 01. Qualifications for the Recruitment to the Post
 - (a) Age Limit: Should be not more than 67 years
 - (b) Educational Qualifications and Professional Qualifications:

Post	Technical Officer (Building Repairs and Maintenance)
Educational Qualifications	I. Should have passed the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination in three Science subjects including Physics / Chemistry in one sitting
	II. Should have passed the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (06) subjects in one sitting with credit passes in Sinhala / Tamil / English language, Science, Mathematics and another subject
Professional Qualifications	National Diploma in Technology offered either by the University of Moratuwa or the Hardy Institute, Ampara or
	National Diploma in Engineering offered by the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA)
	Or
	Higher National Diploma in Engineering offered by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education
	Or
	Diploma in Technology offered by the Open University of Sri Lanka
	Or
	Should have successfully completed Part I of the Engineering examination conducted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Engineers
	Or
	Should have completed the National Vocational Qualification (N.V.Q. Level 6) Level 6 relevant to Building Repairs and Maintenance (Civil Engineering)
	Or
	Should have obtained any other technical qualification recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission as equivalent to the technical qualifications mentioned above upon obtaining clarification from the Ministry of Higher Education and above mentioned institutes that issue certificates of technology.
01. Method of R	ecruitment: An applicant who qualifies at the interview would be recruited.

- Method of Recruitment: An applicant who qualifies at the interview would be recruited.
- 02. Conditions of Service: This post is subject to a contract period of one (01) year.
- 03. Salary: Total monthly allowance: Rs. 38,840.00

Applications mentioning the qualifications, experience and other relevant information regarding all details and the names, addresses and Contact Numbers of two non related referees should be sent by registered post addressed to "Director General of Government Information, Department of Government Information, No. 163, Kirulapona Avenue, Polhengoda, Colombo 05" mentioning the post applied for on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application to receive on or before 05.03.2021. Originals of the certificates should be submitted at the interview.

Director General of Government Information Department of Government Information 05.02.2021

SANITATION AND HYGIENE INITIATIVE FOR TOWNS (SHIFT) PROJECT

VACANCIES

(Project Contract Basis)

Applications are hereby invited from citizens of Sri Lanka for the following vacancies in the Sanitation and Hygiene Initiative for Towns (SHIFT) Project. The applicants should possess the qualifications as given below.

POST OF PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

(01 Post)

: PS 4 Category A

Salary Code

Project Category: Above USD 100 million and Less than USD 250

million **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

1. A Successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

A qualification recognized by the University Grant Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

With

At least 08 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field.

An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/II or above or similar status in the relevant field.

With

At least 08 years of experience in Class III/ II post.

POST OF SENIOR SOCIAL OFFICER (01 Post.)

Salary Code : PS 5

Project Category: Above USD 100 million

and Less than USD 250 million

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

Or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

An associate membership/ A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

At least 05 years of experience in the water and sanitation sector. Preference will be given to those who have experience in community mobilization activities for infrastructure projects.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

AGE LIMIT:

Age limit below 64 years by the closing date of applications.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

The appointments will be on contract basis initially for a period of one year renewable annually, subject to satisfactory performance appraisal. Conditions in the Management Services Circular No. 01/2019 will apply in relation to the appointment.

METHOD OF SELECTION:

Shortlisted applicants based on the qualifications and experience will be called for an interview and selection will be based on the performance at the interview.

Applications giving full bio-data together with all copies of educational and professional qualifications, past experience etc., should be sent under registered post to reach the following address on or before 24.02.2021. Late submissions will be rejected.

The post which you applied should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Applicants from public/corporate sector organizations should channel their applications through the respective Head of Organizations.

Project Director

Sanitation and Hygiene Initiative for Towns (SHIFT) Project No. 38, Charles Place,

Rawathawatte Moratuwa.

Date: 02.02.2021