

Cabinet agrees 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 complexity as well.

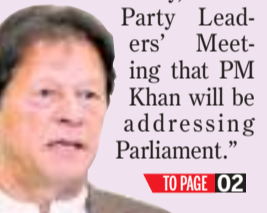


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Pakistani PM to address Parliament

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 us today, at the Party Leaders' Meeting that PM Khan will be addressing Parliament."



TO PAGE 02

DEVISE MECHANISM TO REPAY VEHICLE LEASE ARREARS - PM INSTRUCTS OFFICIALS

FURTHER GRACE PERIOD SUGGESTED

RUKSHANA RIZWIE
Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has instructed officials to formulate a system that will ease the burden on vehicle owners, giving them a grace period to pay off arrears for leased vehicles due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister added that vehicle owners despite being granted a grace period last year, were facing difficulties in repaying their vehicle lease instalments after many financial institutions have requested them to pay both the monthly instalments and arrears

DOCUMENTATION IN SINHALA AND TAMIL TOO

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has instructed officials to formulate a system that will ease the burden on vehicle owners, giving them a grace period to pay off arrears for leased vehicles due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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 Rs.500.

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



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

students entering the University for the year 2021 at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday morning. Education Minister

Prof. G.L Peiris, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundara, Education Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera, University Grants

Commission Chairman Prof. Sampath Amarathunga and People's Bank Chairman Sujeewa Rajapaksa were present.

'Plantation workers to receive Rs.1,000 daily wage'

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The proposal to increase the daily wage of plantation workers to Rs.1000 will be published through a gazette notification within two

weeks, Plantation Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said. Responding to a question raised by MP Velu Kumar in Parliament yesterday, he said that a two week window would be available

COVID jobs to be completed by May - Minister

RUKSHANA RIZWIE

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,

Sixteen COVID deaths in Eastern Province

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa special corr.

Eighteen Grama Niladhari divisions under lockdown were released while the Katankudy GS division is still under lockdown.

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

Schools in Colombo can re-open on 15

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

The Minister speaking at a media briefing said that consent has been sought to open schools in Thimbirigasyaya, Homagama, Kesbewa, Dehiwala, Moratuwa, Kolonnawa and Seethawaka.



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.



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 14.

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.

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 Heshu 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.

Sajith raises issue over State Bank lendings

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

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 yesterday (9).

Raising a question under Standing Order 27 (2),



TO PAGE 02

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

SHAVINI MADHARA

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) will hold the 'National Law Conference 2021' on February 12 and 13 at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo. The conference will focus

on the ways in which the legal profession can be fashioned to meet the requirements of the fast developing and oncoming future while preserving the fundamentals within the profession.

'No plans to regulate, censor media'

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella yesterday refuted allegations levelled by various groups claiming that the government is seeking

to regulate and censor the media. Responding to a question raised by a journalist at the Cabinet media briefing held at the Government Information Department yesterday (9),

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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.



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena called on the Chief Prelates of the Malwatte and Asgiriya Chapters last week. The Minister briefed the Chief Prelates 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.

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. This 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 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 three-wheelers. 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.

'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 and employers on a number of occasions and although it was decided to give this idea on a collective 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 the matter to the Tea and Rubber Industry Wages Board for a decision in this regard. The Minister said that all these companies are legally obliged to pay the 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.

'No plans to regulate, From page 01

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

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.

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

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 Amarasingha 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.

Sajith raises issue over State... From page 01

the Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa 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.

It appears that the present government is making decisions that will adversely affect the country's financial sector and the banking system. It has been revealed that the state-owned banking system built on public money has provided unjust and unacceptable financial relief to government loyalists and cronies."

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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 Jayawardanapura 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 activity."

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.

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HARTWIG SCHAFER AND SHIXIN CHEN

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

Zahida 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

workers and informal workers in cities.

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 systems. 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, ADB)



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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 Jayawardanapura.



A group of Major Generals after receiving their insignias from Army Commander General Shavendra Silva.

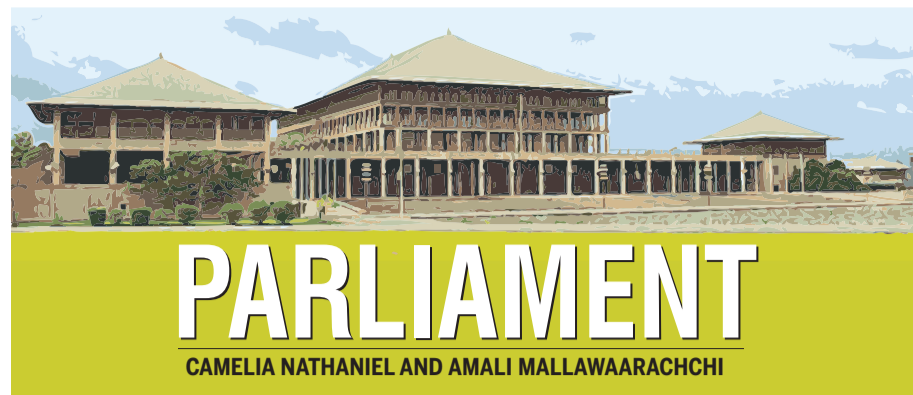
Major General Priyal Nanayakkaraswami of the Army Service Corps, Commander Forward Maintenance Area - Killinochchi; Major General Prasanna Ranawaka of VIR, General Officer Commanding 12 Division; Major General Nalin Koswatta of VIR, General Officer Commanding 23 Division; Major General Nandana Dunuwila 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 Gemunu 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 community-oriented development tasks while paying equal focus on varied welfare benefits of All Ranks serving under new Major Generals. 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.



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 (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 said.

Migrant workers' PFs to Lanka's EPF

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. 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.

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 Rasamanickam 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 Feb-

ruary 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 Rasamanick-

am & 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 victimised. 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 Nanayakkaraswami 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 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.Jeyalapruruma, 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 Corr.

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

1923 **2021**

OLGA MILLICENT SIRIMANNE
Precious wife of Lionel (Siri), beloved mother of Sunil and Mary; Lakshen 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

ABDUL HALEEM
Mollipothana group,
Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath has designated the 'Yan Oya Valley' as a farming zone free of pesticides. 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

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

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 also instructed the Assistant Agrarian Service Commissioner to prepare a special programme to monitor whether farmers are carrying out such activities.

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.

All COVID-19 patients treated at hospitals - Official

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
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. Dr. Hamdani said that a special unit 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-wide. He said that there are 11,443 beds in all these treatment centers and to date 6,000 COVID patients are being treated 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.

Obituaries

Reverend Brother 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), Bandaranayake (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). 010313

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-in-law of Ajanthini, Geraldine, Ravindra, Jeevaraj, Nimalan, Jothi, Clement, Shashi, Nimali and Inthika. Her remains will be laid at **Jayarathne 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 (Qatar) - + 97450295417, Rukshan - 0763787313. 010135

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	4th Floor	73	CON/J 03/43
31	A/ST/F5/P10	171/50 5/10	South Tower	4th Floor	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

on

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:
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Mode of Payment:

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

1. 10% (Ten Percent) of the Purchased Price.

2. 1% (One Percent) of the Sales Taxes payable to the Local Authority.

3. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 ½ % (Two and a half percent only) on the purchased price.

4. Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,500/=

5. Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.

6. Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale.

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



Distinguish Old Ben Ranjan Nadeshanpillai lighting the oil lamp



OBU Media Co-ordinator Duminda Perera welcome the guest



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



OBU Media Co-ordinator Duminda Perera addressing the gathering



Distinguished Old Ben Devaan Cooray addressing the gathering



Signing the MOU between the OBU & PTA



Handing over the memento of Life Insurance Cover by Rev. Bro. Director of St. Benedict's College (Dr) Pubudu Rajapaksha to President of Past Teachers Association. OBU Gen. Secretary Priyal Perera & rest of the Rev. Brothers also in the picture



Handing over confirmation certificates to Hilary Costa (President of Past Teachers Association) by the project Chairman Darshaka Fernando & Marlon Perera

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



Group Photograph with Retired Teachers

St. Benedict's College, Colombo 13, with a rich historical heritage of more than 155 years, is 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 than 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 Boys' 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 Sollogic Insurance.

The "NAMADIMU" project carries a valuable message to past students of every school in Sri Lanka, as the Old Boys' 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 Boys' 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 bensobusri Lanka@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!



Head Table (L to R) Co-chairman Marlon Perera, OBU Gen. Secretary Priyal Perera, Rev. Bro. Director of St. Benedict's College (Dr) Pubudu Rajapaksha, President of Past Teachers Association Mr Hilary Costa, Project Chairman - Mr Darshaka Fernando

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Applications are called from the eligible candidates for the above examination from 15th February to 2021 05th March 2021

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Incomplete and delayed applications will be rejected.

Application can be downloaded up to 05.03.2021.

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BA Degree in Youth and Community Development

The BA Degree in Youth and Community Development provides the theoretical knowledge and professional competencies related to the broad field of youth and community development work. Successful completion of this degree will be helpful in obtaining employment opportunities in a host of local and international organizations, and in seeking occupational recognition from related professional institutions.

Students can obtain Diploma and Higher Diploma in Youth and Community Development after successful completion of Level 3 and Level 4 respectively.

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- Three (3) passes at the G.C.E (A/L) in any subject stream, **OR**
- A minimum of thirty (30) course credits at SLQF Level 2, **OR** above from any programme offered by a Higher Education Institution approved by the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka, **OR**
- Completion of NVQ Level 4 or accredited work experience equivalent to NVQ Level 4, **OR**
- An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Medium : English

Duration : Minimum Three (03) Years

Academic activities will be conducted at Colombo Regional Centre (CRC) only.

BA Degree in Social Sciences

The BA Degree in Social Sciences offers you the opportunity to obtain a multi-disciplinary social science training. Students who register for the BA degree can choose from the following areas of focus:

- Communication Studies
- Economics and Development Studies
- Politics and International Studies
- Society and Culture Studies

Entry Requirements

- A minimum of three (03) passes at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) examination in any stream, **OR**
- A minimum of thirty (30) course credits at SLQF Level 2 **OR** above from any programme offered by a Higher Education Institution approved by the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka, **OR**
- Qualification or accredited work experience equivalent to NVQF Level 4, **OR**
- An equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

Medium : English

Duration : Minimum Three (03) Years

Academic Activities will be conducted at Colombo, Kandy, Matara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Rathnapura and Badulla Regional Centres and at Ampara, Puttlam, Killinochchi, Vavuniya, Mannar, Gampaha, Hatton, and Kalutara Study Centres.

MA Degree in Development Studies and Public Policy

The MA Degree in Development Studies and Public Policy is offered by the Department of Social Studies of the Open University of Sri Lanka to produce expertise in national development through integrative social sciences. This programme is open to graduates who aspire to make a career in the development sector, locally as well as internationally.

Entry Requirements

- A degree from a recognized university with at least one (01) year of work experience in the fields of planning, administration and implementation of development projects, **OR**
- Secured an equivalent or higher qualification acceptable to the Senate of the Open University of Sri Lanka with at least one (01) year of work experience preferably in the fields of planning, administration and implementation of development projects, **AND**
- Selection through a written test and interview conducted by the Department of Social Studies whenever the need arises.

Language Pre-requisites for Admission

- English medium degree from a UGC recognized institution, **OR**
- IELTS with a minimum overall score of 6.5 or TOEFL (paper-based scores between 500 and 550) or internet-based scores between 61 and 79.

Medium : English

Duration : Minimum Two (02) years

Academic activities will be conducted at Colombo Regional Centre (CRC) only.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The department is accepting applications for the above programmes throughout the year. These programmes are designed with the development studies focus which can be approached from the perspectives of Social Science disciplines such as Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Communication, Politics and International Studies and Youth Studies. For further details please contact Dr. S. Pathmanesan with a research proposal via spath@ou.ac.lk



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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

A victory for truth

As we have explained in these spaces earlier, there 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 was averted.

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

Concluding 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 Commission.

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.

He said that he had already given instructions to implement the recommendations of the PCoI report on the 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, Malcolm Cardinal 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



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa receiving the Easter PCoI report.

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

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 political parties and civil society groups last week to highlight the issues faced by 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 Pan-nai 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 Kootani (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 Fall".



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



St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade, was one of the churches attacked by suicide bombers in April 2019

Corruption, irregularities at Trade Ministry during last four years will be investigated afresh – Minister Bandulla

The Criminal Investigation 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

audit commenced on the 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

even salaries. Sathosa has to 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 missing. We must, therefore, audit up until the period that the

files have gone missing and hand the investigations over to the CID. The House will be updated on the investigations. There is no political revenge or any other political reason involved in this matter," the Minister said.

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 coconut oil.



Camelia Nathaniel and Amali Mallawaarachchi

CPP will recommence soon – Minister Lokuge

Committee on Public 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

could not be summoned to Parliament in the pandemic. State Minister Jayantha Samarawera 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 Petitions.

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.



at 206th in the world rankings and the country will be brought to the 150th position in the index.

'Football Friday' has been launched but the sponsorship of the sport was insufficient.

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

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

team by the 2023 World Cup.

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

He said that a new promotional programme called

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

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

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

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

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 Fernando said. She was responding to MP Heshu 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. Fernando said that while new cases were being reported, those recovering were being released from hospitals. She confirmed that the reported data are accurate.

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

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 yesterday.

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

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.

"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 said.



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

Denying the Opposition's allegations that there were discrepancies when granting the loan facility, the State Minister Cabraal said the procedures of the bank have not been violated when granting the loan.

"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 maintained by the Bank of Ceylon Katuwana Branch since 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 long-term business relationship and the company's viability, the bank has duly approved

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.

"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

CHP approves four Ministry Secretaries, two Ambassadors

Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said that Secretaries to Four Ministries and Ambassadors for two countries have been approved by the Committee on High Posts (CHP).

General Sanjewa Munasinghe to the Health Ministry.

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 qualifications.

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

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

Leader of the House Dinash Gunawardena, Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Johnston Fernando, Udaya Gammanpila, Sudarshani Fernando and Vidura Wickremasinghe to Seychelles have been approved by the Committee on High Posts.

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. Dolawatte.

riage Law is basically a religious law. However, this law is not implemented in many countries where Muslims live," the Thera said.



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.

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 Fernando stood at that time and seconded Rathana Thera's speech.

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 Podujana 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, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

'MPs not allowed to visit Ranjan'

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



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

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

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.

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.

"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 undergone the PCR test and had the

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 meet prisoners," he said.

SPORTS EXTRA



Nirvana has a passion for Motorcross and 4x4 events

NIRVANA

a multi talented young sports prodigy



Nirvana with his karate Master

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 Abeysekera (Jnr.), who has inspired many young people around Sri Lanka.

Q: What made you to enter the world of sports?
Inspiration from my siblings

Q: Who has supported you the most?
Parents

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?
Kusal Mendis

Q: What's your favourite holiday 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?
Yes

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 in

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



Young Nirvana celebrating his batting prowess

2021.02.08 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 603,033
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 30,770,790.00
Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 32

Govisetha OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DRAW NUMBER: 2687 DRAW DATE: 08/02/2021
 ENGLISH LETTER: **Q** WINNING NUMBERS: **08 21 26 77**
 COMBINATION PRICE NO. OF WINNERS
 1st PRIZE: IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 1,000,000.00 -
 2nd PRIZE: IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 100,000.00 07
 3rd PRIZE: IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 2,000.00 186
 4th PRIZE: IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 1,000.00 405
 5th PRIZE: IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT Rs. 100.00 10,028
 6th PRIZE: IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT Rs. 40.00 6,555
 7th PRIZE: IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT Rs. 20.00 164,800
 8th PRIZE: IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT Rs. 20.00 30,229
TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 212,210
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 6,642,580.00
SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 61,240,582.40
 Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes over Rs. 500,000/- are liable to government taxes. To obtain prizes, Presenting National Identity card is a must.

Vasana Sampatha OFFICIAL RESULTS
 Draw No. 1664 Date 2021.02.08
 English Letter: **N** **ONCE A HERO ALWAYS A HERO**
 Winning Nos. **06 14 63 68**

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
01	If only Four Numbers are correct	1,000,000/-	-
02	If Three Numbers and English Letter are correct	100,000/-	04
03	If only Three Numbers are correct	2,000/-	84
04	If Two Numbers and English Letter are correct	500/-	149
05	If only Two Numbers are correct	100/-	3,859
06	If one Number and English Letter are correct	60/-	2,283
07	If only One Number are correct	20/-	56,598
08	If only English Letter is correct	20/-	9,413

Total prize money won in this Draw Rs. 2,485,600.00
Next Super Prize Rs. 26,744,260.40

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DATE: 08-02-2021
 DRAW NUMBER: 4392
 WINNING LETTER: **P** WINNING NUMBERS: **8 3 3 8 9 4**
 Prize structure - from right to left

Prize	Winning Numbers	Prize Money	No. of winners
1st Prize	8 3 3 8 9 4	Rs. 2,000,000/-	02
2nd Prize	3 3 8 9 4	Rs. 100,000/-	12
3rd Prize	3 8 9 4	Rs. 10,000/-	126
4th Prize	8 9 4	Rs. 1,000/-	1,256
5th Prize	9 4	Rs. 100/-	12,524
6th Prize	4	Rs. 20/-	124,643

 Prize structure - from left to right

Prize	Winning Numbers	Prize Money	No. of winners
7th Prize	8 3 3 8 9	Rs. 10,000/-	13
8th Prize	8 3 3 8	Rs. 1,000/-	120
9th Prize	8 3 3	Rs. 100/-	1,283
10th Prize	8 3	Rs. 50/-	12,501
11th Prize	P	Rs. 20/-	49,709

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs.13,458,790.00
The Super Prize of next draw Rs. 11,883,548.00

Mega POWER OFFICIAL RESULTS
 DRAW NUMBER: 759 DATE: 2021.02.08
 English Letter: **N** Super Number: **10** Winning Numbers: **12 29 45 47**

Prize Structure	Prize Money Rs.	No. of Winners
1st PRIZE: If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00	-
2nd PRIZE: If only 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00	03
3rd PRIZE: If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00	85
4th PRIZE: If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	500.00	191
5th PRIZE: Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00	5,001
6th PRIZE: If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	40.00	3,259
7th PRIZE: Only 1 Number are correct	20.00	80,976
8th PRIZE: Only English Letter are correct	20.00	14,620

Next Mega Super Prize Rs. 65,471,240.40
Next Power Super Prize Rs. 20,271,228.80
Next Grand Super Prize Rs. 32,202,801.60
Total Prizes Won In This Draw Rs. 3,022,880.00

DHANA NIDHANAYA OFFICIAL RESULTS
 Date: 2021.02.08
 Draw Number - 429
 English Letter: **T** Winning Number: **27 32 56 80**

Prize	Combination	Prize	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	06
3rd Prize	If any 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 3,000.00	107
4th Prize	If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	232
5th Prize	If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	5,512
6th Prize	If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 60.00	3,843
7th Prize	If 1 number is correct	Rs. 20.00	93,707
8th Prize	If only English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	17,601

Total prize money won in this draw Rs. 5,160,940.00
Number of Prize Winners in this draw 121,009
Next Draw Super Prize Rs. 80,640,494.80
 Prizes of Over Rs. 5 lakhs are subject to the government tax regulations.
 Winners must produce National Identity Card to receive prizes.
 Winning tickets are valid from the draw for a period of 6 months only.



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 Devananda Vidyalaya, 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 Medal."

"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, Indonesia and Malaysia. I am always proud about my

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."

"Today, I am the number one ranked Women's player. I was the National Junior champion three times in-a-row from 2005 to 2007. Those were the achievements 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 with the same opponents most of the time at all



Ishara Madurangi hails from a table tennis family from Ambalangoda

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

"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 skills."

"After leaving school, my coach was former National player Rohan Sirisena, who also played with us in the same period. I must thank the TT officials for giving me a big hand and espe-

cially the Sport Ministry for backing me to go on overseas tours."

"After leaving school, I joined 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 Jakarta.

"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 resumed our training and already we have started to

take part in domestic tournaments."

"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 build-up our strength to remain in this sport."

Ishara Madurangi's performances at National and International level:

Three-time Junior Nationals champion. Seven-time Senior Nationals champion. Three-time Senior Nationals runner-up. 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.



ACTION FROM THE COLOMBO OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Wenuka Kithnula

Dumindu Dilum

Saajida Razick and Dinethya Dharmarathne

Savith Weerasinghe

Thehan Wijemanna

Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya



CHAMPIONS

Northern Warriors celebrate with the Trophy

Warriors conquer Bulls to emerge T10 champions

Through disciplined bowling from Sri Lanka's promising players, 20-year-old off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana and 22-year-old Dhananjaya Lakshan, Northern Warriors emerged champions with an eight-wicket win over Delhi Bulls in the Abu Dhabi T10 League final played at the Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Bulls' batting choked in the crucial match and Warriors sailed to victory with 10 balls to spare through Waseem Muhammad's 27 runs and Lendl Simmons and Rovman Powell remaining unbeaten with 14 and 16 runs respectively.

Theekshana bagged three wickets for 13 while Lakshan took two wickets for 14. Siddiqui too chipped in with two for 19.

Except for Mohammad Nabi who hit 21 runs, none of the other batsmen were allowed to play the big shots.

Chief scores:

Delhi Bulls: 81/9 in 10 overs (Mohammad Nabi 21, Junaid Siddiqui 2/19, Maheesh Theekshana 3/14, Dhananjaya Lakshan 2/14)

Northern Warriors: 85/2 in 8.2 overs (Waseem Muhammad 27).

Player-of-the-Match: Maheesh Theekshana.

Player-of-the-Series: Nicholas Pooran.



Action from the final

Daily News Business

Business Editor : (011) 242 9221 Fax : (011)2343694 e mail : business.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

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 the ease 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 Gunawardane 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 Gunawardana. Picture by Dinesh Perera

also facilitate the reduction in non-tariff barriers to trade. Dr Gunawardane 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 Chaibi said that the trade portal had been designed to help agricultural exporters access European markets. He noted the high standard-based barriers to trade in the European market. Chaibi noted that Sri Lanka's trade restric-

tions were warranted given the economic fallout of the pandemic but was concerned with a lack of a timeline on the lifting of restrictions. Chaibi 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 'Saubhagayay Dekma' vision.



HNB ASSURANCE
PRODUCES RECORD... | PAGE 20

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

The COVID-19 pandemic 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 perspective: top to bottom approach. The industry pressure high-



Chairman, SLPA, Daya Ratnayake



Director General of Sri Lanka Customs Vijitha Ravipriya

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

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. (SS)

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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 SkyCargo - the 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-(Ika)/Stable) proposed Sri Lanka rupee-denominated Basel III-compliant subordinated debentures an expected National Long-Term Rating of 'A(EXP)(Ika)'. 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 base of the bank and to support the bank's balance-sheet growth.

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SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 09.02.2021

Main Board table with columns: Security, Volume, V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.).

COCONUTS

Coconut Products - Prices on 09.02.2021 table with columns: Product, Market Price, Wholesale, Retail, and various specifications.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns: International Operations Department, 09.02.2021, Currency, Buying Rate, Selling Rate.

COLOMBOSTOCK EXCHANGE - STOCK MARKET STATISTICS table with columns: EQUITY DETAILS, GOVT. SECURITIES, CORPORATE DEBT, EQUITY INDICES.

Bourse nose-dives below 8,000

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 intra-day low of 7,853.

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



Tirantha Mahapatana - 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.

Daily News

T/ING

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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

CARPENTER'S HORROR



MADAPATHA CHINTAKA

The 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 does?

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 surrealism.

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).

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-scars 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.

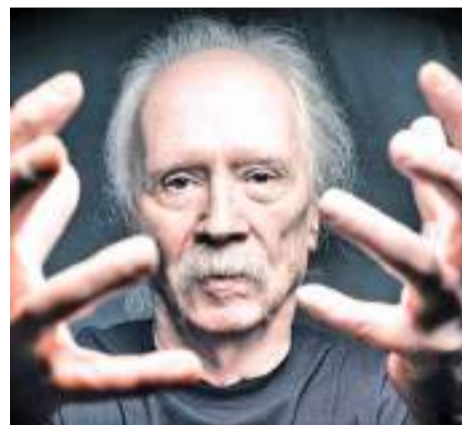
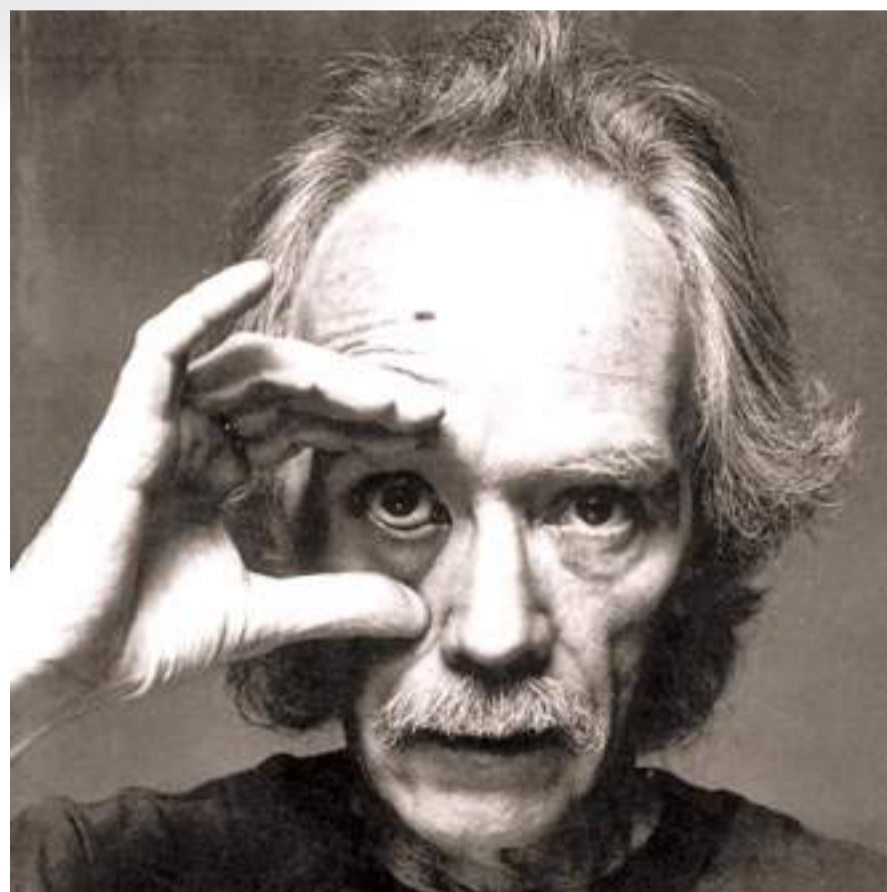
He couldn't rationalise why the killer did what he did to all those people in *Psycho* to Janet Leigh, because by the time they arrested him she was already underwater, hidden away, dead; but he could rationalise why the killer went on a rampage to Janet Leigh's daughter, Jamie Lee Curtis, the killer's 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 dumb 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 Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.



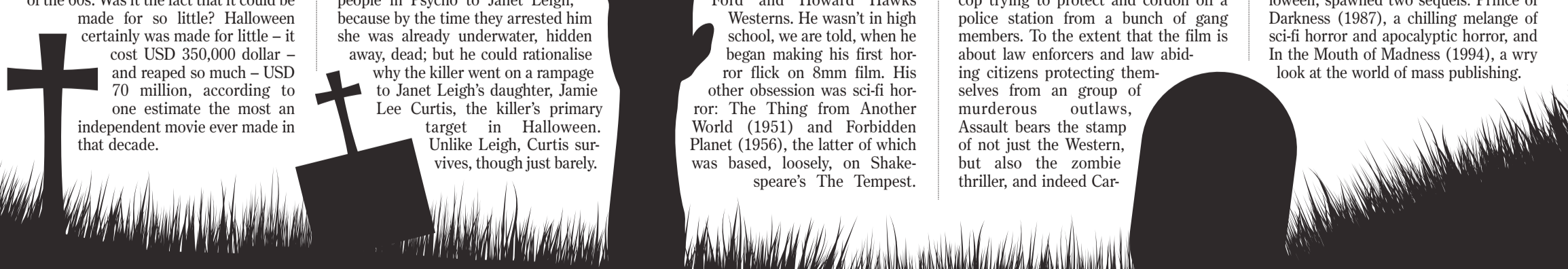
After attending Western Kentucky University, he moved to the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. In 1968, he decided to get out, and make his first film. This was *Captain Voyageur* (1969), which contained elements of, and indeed predicted, *Halloween*.

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 themselves from a group of murderous outlaws, *Assault* bears the stamp of not just the Western, but also the zombie thriller, and indeed Car-

penter 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 part-satire, is a searing indictment of capitalism, and *Memoirs of an Invisible Man* (1994) tells us what H. G. Wells 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 baring 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

The 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 music.

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.

This four-stringed instrument 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

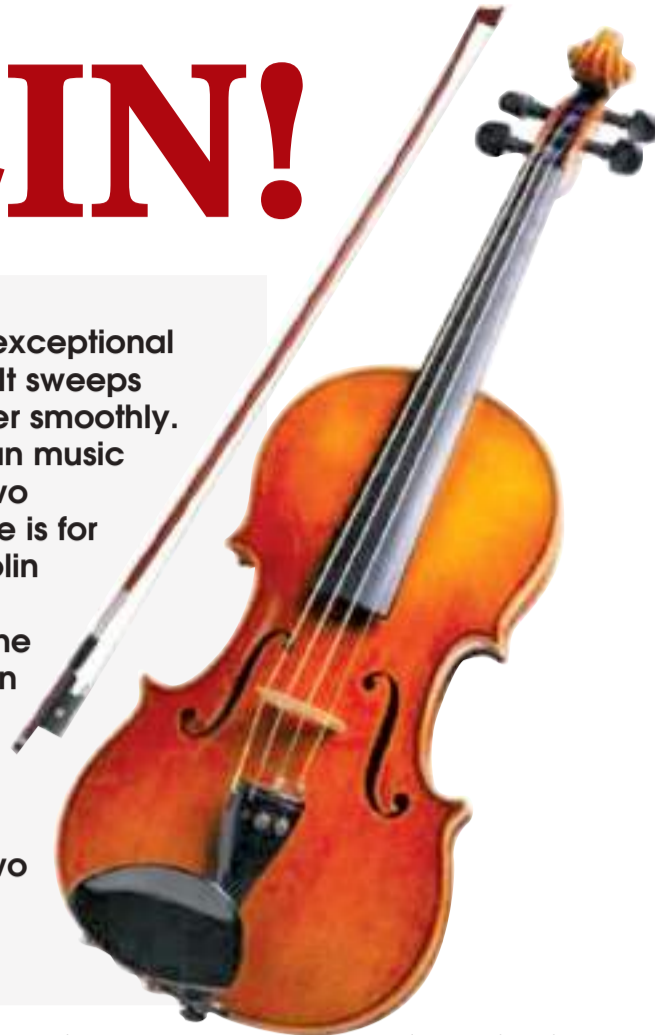
slowly but in a limited manner. It is said that Baluswamy Dikshitar 1786-1859, one of the brothers of the great Carnatic musicians undertook training in Western Violin and tried to adopt this alien string instrument into Carnatic music with its own identity.

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 from one another.



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.

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 concerts.

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.

Professor SUNANDA MAHENDRA

Books on psychology and psychiatry appear in various forms. Some are high-flow text books 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 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. Chapter One underlines the main streams linked to learning and the behaviour patterns such as reflexes, instincts and maturation. 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 etc.

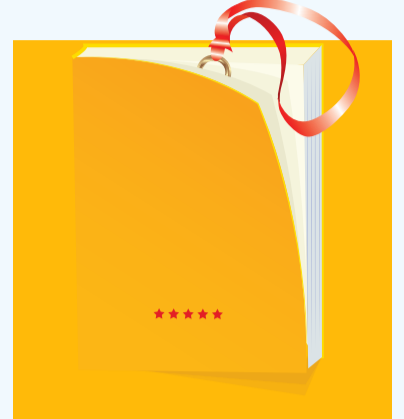
This section becomes automatically a deeper area of topography, errors, strengths, speed as the types of questions like how many kinds of research could be involved. As a reader I found that the introduction of learning and behaviour cannot be undermined in the teaching of all the accepted subject areas like anthropology biology, history, literature and communication studies.

Controversial psychologist

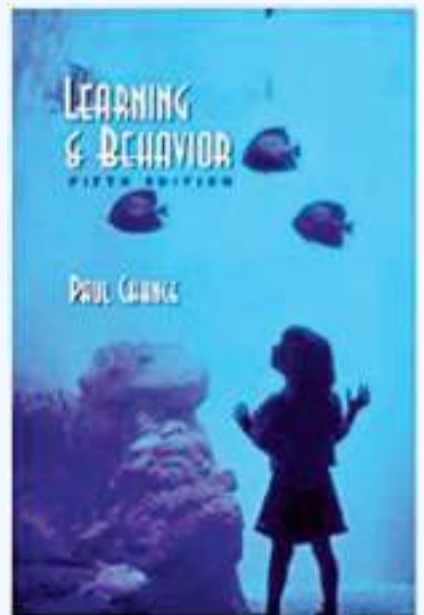
Chapter Two takes the reader into a wider perspective by titling it Classical Conditioning. The meaning of the concept is referred to at the outset to the scientific surveys performed by the biologists around the world. One good example comes from Pavlov in Russia whose experiment was a topic that led 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 Conditioning as 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 Learning or 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 with by another party or by natural consequences of behaviour. The changes in behaviour could be gauged.

The Limits of Learning is 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

As 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 Oman.

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 Sureshini 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, Tufail Ahmed from Oman, Milinda Rajapaksha from Sri Lanka, Ashish Sharma from Indonesia, and Yenuli Binara, a talented young Sri Lankan artist residing in Oman. The web launch was skilfully moderated by Katti Power from the USA, and she gave a thorough description of each guest at every introduction.

Some of the comments given by 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."

Ashish Sharma: "Bipin does a really commendable job with his poems. His observation is so accurate and so in-depth. He has the capability of turning the ordinary to the extraordinary."



Said Al Shanfari: "Bipin is a person with a lot of talents and whenever he gets in touch with people I 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 Rajapaksa: "Amazing work! Very timely and important words!"

Tufail Ahmed: "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 imagery."

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 per-



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	Description
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

- 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.
- 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 PRADESHIYA 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

- 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.
- 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 03rd 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**.
- 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, 2nd Floor Meeting Room.

Head of Human Resource Development & Administration,
Regional Development Bank, Head Office,
No.933, Kandy Road, Wedamulla, Kelaniya.
T.P.011 2035454011- 2035455011-2035456
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)	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.
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.

- 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
- 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.
- However, all bidders should submit their tender submissions as sealed bids.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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



www.peoplesbank.lk



PEOPLE'S BANK

AA+ (Ike) 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.

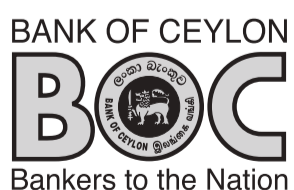
- Collect courier bags from Head Office and deliver to Province Offices, Regional Loan Centers and Branches
- Collect courier bags from Province Offices and deliver to Regional Loan Centers and Branches
- Collect courier bags from Branches, Regional Loan Centers and deliver to Province Offices and to Head Office.
- Collect courier bags from Province offices and deliver to Head Office.
- 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.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- To be eligible and qualify to contract award, the successful bidder,
 - should not be currently placed in the list of defaulters by the Bank of Ceylon.
 - should have a valid business registration for a minimum period of 03 years' in providing courier services.
 - should have completed at least one courier service assignment covering minimum 250 locations island-wide for a single institute during last 03 years.
 - should have at least one regional service center at each administrative province covering services island-wide.
 - should provide sufficient number of vehicles for the methodology proposed by the Bidder with dedicated transport arrangements
 - should have following financial capabilities
 - minimum annual turnover of courier services performed in last 03 years should be at least Rs.25 Million.
 - minimum Rs.5 Million liquid assets and / or credit facilities.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Bids shall be valid up to 03.06.2021.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



www.boc.lk



**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
		Steel towel racks	420		
9.	STF/LOG/C/24/2021	Dining Chairs(Wooden)	620	3,000.00	100,000.00
		Veranda chairs (Wooden)	130		
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
		Sri Lanka Police Flags	500		
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

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- 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**
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- Bids shall be valid for 91 days from the date of opening of bids.
- Priority will be given to suppliers with Ex-Stock
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security at the amount indicated above and it shall be;
 - Issued by any Commercial Institution operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
 - In the form include in Section IV of the Bidding Documents.
 - In favor of Commandant / STF.**
 - Valid up to **25.02.2020 up to 23.06.2021**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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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Vocational

EP LO-3670 Ashok Leyland, 2017, lorry for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0714-542958. 010061

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

Learn to drive accurately and perfectly within the city without fear. Most welcome inexperienced driving licence holders. 0762905252, 0714225441. 009329

Business

201
Business Opportunities

Need Directors/ partners for a company/business. High payments of 10% - 15% is paid and you can get daily/ weekly/monthly. 0775590415. 010233

Urgent requirement for Tea Maker in Hawaii Restaurant (Salary Rs. 45000/-) for inquiries: 0773658648. 009661

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 Galphilla 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 day.

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, Meeraniya Street,
Colombo 12.**

09.02.2021

Inquiries: 011-5235749

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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.
- 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.**



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-Hallela Road (AA 016)	118.94 Mn	301	1.60 Mn

- 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 .
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 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.**
- 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
 - Director (Construction), Road Development Authority, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla. Tel : 011-2864388 Fax : 011-2861821
 - 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.
- 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.
- 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**.
- 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

SUPPLY OF HAND SANITIZER IN 500ML CANS TO HEAD OFFICE OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- 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.
- Executing agency will be the Road Development Authority.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 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

- 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.
- Completed Bids shall be delivered to the Director Procurement, 4th floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw, Koswatta, Battaramulla on or before 14.00hrs on 24.02.2021 Late bids will be rejected.
- For further details, please contact Director Procurement, RDA on Tel : 011-2046481/ 011-2884790.
E mail : dirprda@gmail.com

Chairman,
RDA Procurement Committee, Road Development Authority,
1st floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura",
No. 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mw,
Koswatta, Battaramulla.

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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 for the supply of "300 MT - 52 - 55 GSM High Bright Newsprint Paper 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., Colombo - 10.

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.



**Head of Procurement
THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF
CEYLON LIMITED
Lake House, No.35,
D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10.**

For Details: 2429422, 2429451

Employment Opportunities

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.

- Qualifications for the Recruitment to the Post
 - Age Limit:** Should be not more than 67 years
 - 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.

- Method of Recruitment: An applicant who qualifies at the interview would be recruited.
 - Conditions of Service: This post is subject to a contract period of one (01) year.
 - 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)

Salary Code : PS 4 Category A
Project Category : Above USD 100 million and Less than USD 250 million

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A Successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

Or
A qualification recognized by the University Grant Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field.

Or
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

- 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.

Or
An associate membership/ A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field.

And
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