

Electricity from garbage soon

The first power plant to generate electricity using garbage in Sri Lanka will be opened by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa on February 17 at Kerawalapitiya, Hendala, states Minister of Power and Energy Dullas Alahapperuma in a release.



The power plant is planned to generate 10 megawatts using 700 tons of garbage daily and will operate by collecting waste from the area. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Muslim Marriage Law to be amended - Justice Minister

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



Necessary steps have already been taken to amend the Muslim Marriage Law, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC stated in Parliament yesterday (12).

Minister Sabry made this observation responding to a question raised by MP Ven. Athuraliye Rathana Thera under Standing Order 2/27 in Parliament.

Minister Sabry said that the time has come to introduce adjustments to the Muslim marriage rules and regulations and that steps are being taken to that end. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

COPE postpones meeting with SLC

The Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) on Thursday admonished and postponed a meeting with Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) after accusing the governing body for cricket in Sri Lanka of being underprepared for the meeting convened to examine the Auditor General's report on the financial performance of the SLC for 2017 and 2018 and its current performance.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, SLC was directed to return within a month to inquire into the matter, the Parliament's Communications Division said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Daily News

100 PLUS YEARS

LAKE HOUSE



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ORDERS STATE, SCHOOL TEACHER TO PAY RS.650,000 COMPENSATION TO STUDENT FOR SLAPPING INCIDENT

SC REAFFIRMS CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BAN

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the State and a school teacher who slapped a child across the face to pay compensation of Rs.650,000 to the child for causing permanent auditory impairment.

The Supreme Court observed that a total of

Rs.650,000 as compensation has to be paid within six months from the date of the judgement.

The Supreme Court held that a 15-year-old student's Fundamental Rights have been violated by the respondents due to punishment in the form of Corporal Punishment that

occurred at Puhulwella Central College in Matara.

The Supreme Court three-judge-Bench comprising Justice Sisira de Abrew, Justice Murdu Fernando and Justice S. Thurai-rajah made this order pursuant to a Fundamental Rights petition filed by the parents and the victimized child challenging

the infringement of their Fundamental Rights.

In his judgment, Justice S. Thurai-rajah observed that Fundamental Rights of the Child Petitioner enshrined in Article 11 of the Constitution have been violated by school teacher Jayantha Prema Kumara Siriwardhana (first respondent) and the State.

On February 13, 2017, the Child Petitioner attended school as usual. The first and second periods of the day had been allocated for Agriculture. The Child Petitioner was made part of one of three groups in the class and was directed to plough the plant nursery at the school.

The Child Petitioner had felt fatigued and had sat on a half wall near the plant nursery for a short amount of time prior to resuming this activity.

While he was washing his hands, two students had approached him and told him that the first respondent asked him to come to his office. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa inaugurating the Deegawapiya Aruna fundraising programme for the renovation of the historic Deegawapi Dagoba at the Sri Sambodhi Viharaya in Colombo yesterday. **Picture courtesy President's Media Division**

Foreign inflows to outpace outflows in 2021 - CBSL Governor

DINESH PERERA



The Central Bank is projecting that foreign inflows will outpace outflows for year 2021, said Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman.

He noted that there were politically motivated attacks on the state of Government finances. There are currently negotiations ongoing to secure credit lines with the rate of borrowing between 6-7% and tenure between 1-8 years. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

ASPI records highest single day points gain

The All Share Price Index (ASPI) of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) yesterday recorded the highest single day points gain in history, a gain of 387.19 points, the CSE said.

It had reportedly recorded a growth of 363 points by mid-day trading. The index closed with 7,985 points by the end of day's trading. The S & P 500 index recorded a gain of 140.96 points, closing trading with 3180.24 points.

Death penalty for drug trafficker

MAHINDA PLIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Corr.

Southern Provincial Galle High Court Judge W.P.S. Nissanka yesterday (12) sentenced a man to death on the charges of possession and trafficking of 328 grams and 3 milligrams of heroin.

The death sentence was imposed on Sudath Nishantha Koman-godage (51), a resident of Gonamulla,



Kurunduwatta in the Akmeemana Police Division, Galle.

Indictment had been filed in the Galle High Court on May 15, 2001 against the accused for possession and trafficking of 382 grams and 3 milligrams of heroin.

According to the information received by the Colombo Narcotics Bureau from a private spy, the officers of the Narcotics Bureau had arrested the suspect with the said quantity of heroin. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

UK COVID-19 variant detected from four areas in Sri Lanka

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

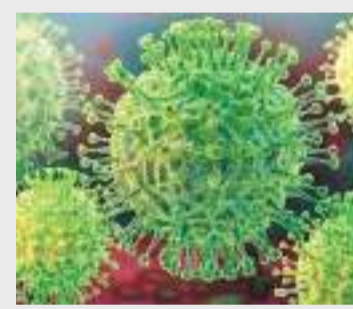
The highly contagious new variant of the coronavirus found in the UK was detected from samples obtained in Colombo, Avisawella, Vavuniya & Biyagama, said Dr. Chandima Jeewandara, Director of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

In January 2021, Sri Lanka reported that a new variant of the coronavirus found in the UK had entered Sri Lanka. A person who had arrived from the United Kingdom was confirmed to have been infected with this new variant of B.1.1.7 lineage.

As per the statistics of the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health, the country is recording

over 800 COVID-19 cases on a daily basis.

In late January, with the receipt of free vaccines from India, the Health Ministry launched a vaccination programme for the frontline health workers and the military. The Secretary to the State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control Dr. Amal Harsha de Silva **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Army probes social media post

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Army said it is investigating an incident involving a soldier in uniform and a group of people behaving in an unruly manner which had been circulating over social media.

According to the Army Media Unit, a video is circulating on social media showing the incident taking place.

The Army Media Unit said that as a disciplined institution it does not condone such acts by soldiers and a comprehensive investigation had been launched to get to the bottom of this incident. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

AG requests copy of Easter Attacks Commission Report

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula de Livera had requested a copy of the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Attacks from the Secretary to the President.

The Final report of the Presidential Commission to Inquiry (PCoI) probing the Easter Sunday Attacks that took place on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019 was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The report consists of 472 pages, 215 attachments and six volumes. The First Interim Report was presented to the President on December 20, 2019 and the second interim report on March 02, 2020.

The Commission was appointed by former President Maithripala Sirisena on September 22, 2019 through a Gazette Notification to investigate and report on the series of terrorist attacks on Easter Sunday and to recommend the necessary action based on the findings. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Rs.10 mn worth medical equipment found at Borella warehouse

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

A stock of obsolete medical equipment worth nearly Rs. 10 million was found in a warehouse on Gothami Road in Borella yesterday (12) in a raid carried out by the Drug Regulatory Authority and the Police.

The raid was carried out on a tip off received from the Western Provincial Intelligence Division that a stock of expired medical equipment had been imported into the country. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Brian Thomas remanded

SHAVINI MADHARA

Former Cricket commentator Brian Thomas who was arrested over a financial fraud was ordered to be remanded till February 18 by Colombo Additional Magistrate Bandara Nelumdeniya.

The Criminal Investigation Department informed the court that the suspect, while acting as an intermediary, had requested a sum of Rs.1.4 billion from a businessman with the aim of investing it in a well-known company in Sri Lanka.

The CID told the Court that the suspect had been arrested when he was summoned to the Criminal Investigations Department to record a statement. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

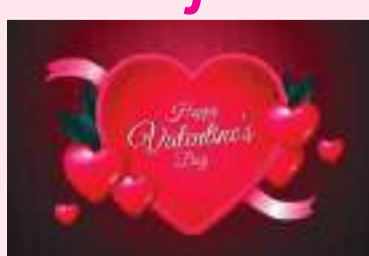


Beware of Valentine's Day fraudsters, warn Police

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

Police yesterday said it has received information that some fraudsters are planning online scams with the intention of embezzling money from young people on Valentine's Day.

Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said information has been received that some fraudsters are planning to send online messages asking people to make cash deposits to a delivery service in order to receive a gift sent by their



loved ones. DIG Rohana requested the public not to be fooled by such tricks.

Police investigations have

revealed that the fraudsters will disconnect their online connections as soon as they receive money from a person.

Police intelligence has revealed that there is also a tendency to hold various illegal parties on Valentine's Day through social media networks or via email and the Police Media Spokesman requested the public to refrain from attending such parties which violate health guidelines and quarantine laws.

Minor tremor reported from Madolsima

ASELA KURULUWANSA

A tremor measuring 1.5 on the Richter Scale was reported from the Madolsima area in the Lunugala Divisional Secretariat Division in the Badulla District yesterday.

Residents of Egoda Gama, Aluthwatte and Pallewela villages in the Akiriya Grama Niladhari Division felt the tremor around 4.53 a.m. yesterday (12). **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Buddhist Rights Commission report handed over to PM



All Ceylon Buddhist Congress (ACBC) president Jagath Sumathipala handing over the report of the Buddhist Rights Commission to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday. Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division

The All Ceylon Buddhist Congress (ACBC) handed over the report of the Buddhist Rights Commission to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at his official residence at Wijerama yesterday.

Established at the Mihintale Sacred Area on Posa Day in 2018, the Commission prepared this report after examining evidence island wide for more than two years.

The President of the All Ceylon Buddhist Congress Jagath Sumathipala handed over the report of the Commission to the Prime Minister.

Palitha Fernando (Retired Attorney General), the Chairman of the Commission and other members of the Commission were also present on the occasion.

Simultaneously, the book on the history of modern lay Buddhism and the centenary of the Buddhist Conference was presented to the Prime Minister.

Insulators for electric fences to be produced locally

IRANGIKA RANGE

An agreement was signed yesterday to locally produce and procure insulators needed for electric fences that mitigate the Human-Elephant conflict, in the presence of State Ministers Prasanna Ranaweera and Wimalaweera Dissanayake.

The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) has certified the effectiveness of these locally manufactured insulators. These insulators have been produced by local companies with a higher specification than imported insulators.

Insulators required for the construction of elec-

tric fences as elephant barriers have been imported from New Zealand, China and several other countries spending massive amounts of foreign exchange.

It has been reported that the country has spent nearly Rs.1000 million to import insulators from these countries. We will be able to save massive amounts in foreign exchange with the commencement of local manufacture of insulators.

Cane, Brass, Clay, Furniture and Rural Industry Promotion State Minister Prasanna Ranaweera said the Gov-

ernment has decided to extend the electric fencing up to 1,400km with the aim of mitigating the human-elephant conflict. Therefore, this project will boost the national economy while helping to uplift the livelihoods of local manufactures as well as save foreign exchange," the Minister said.

The agreement was signed by Clay, Cane, Brass, Furniture and Rural Industry State Minister, Secretary A.B.Vijitha Bandaranayake and Wildlife Protection State Ministry Secretary retired Major General W.P.P.Fernando.



Cane, Brass, Clay Furniture and Rural Industry Promotion State Minister Prasanna Ranaweera and Wildlife Conservation Protection Programmes including Electric Fence and Trench Construction and Re-Forestation and Wildlife Resources Development State Minister Wimalaweera Dissanayake at the signing ceremony.

Brian Thomas... From page 01

The CID also stated that a statement has been recorded from the suspect with regard to the incident.



Rs.10 mn worth medical... From page 01

The detection was made while the equipment was labeled for reuse.

Preliminary investigations revealed that a stock of unregistered medical equipment and chemicals were found at the location.

It was revealed that the medical equipment and chemicals had been brought to Sri Lanka without labels and then labeled and distributed to a number of private hospitals, earlier as well.

Chief Food and Drug Controller of

the Drug Regulatory Authority Amit Perera said an investigation has been launched into the nature of the racket and the locations where the goods were distributed and that legal action would be taken in this regard.

He said that investigations have been initiated into how the expired medical equipment was imported and that errors in unhygienic storage have already been identified and necessary legal action will be taken.

SC reaffirms Corporal... From page 01

The 1st Respondent also admitted this and added that on seeing the child petitioner seated on the culvert during the previous period, summoned him and reminded him that the Principal had previously warned them not to sit on that specific culvert as it was dangerous and questioned him as to why he had done so even after the warning.

The first respondent then questioned the Child Petitioner asking "where were you sitting" and slapped him across the face. The Petitioner states that the blow landed on his face, upon his left ear. The Petitioner had felt excruciating pain, severe discomfort, and was disoriented. The Petitioner had then been chased out of the classroom by the first respondent.

The Child Petitioner had then been in his class and remained in excruciating pain. When the first respondent was informed of the Child Petitioner's situation, the first respondent had said "don't take it so seriously".

Thereafter, the Child Petitioner informed about the incident to his class teacher. The teacher has responded saying "It will pass. Now don't go home and exaggerate it and tell your parents".

The report from the Audiology Department had made the comment that there is normal hearing in the right ear, but

that there is Mild Conductive hearing loss at low frequencies in the left ear.

"Sri Lanka as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has understood the need to curb the

widespread use and acceptance of Corporal Punishment.

This evolution in mindset can be viewed through the development of laws through the enactment of amendments to existing laws, circulars exhibiting the attitude of the Ministry of Education as well as the changing attitude expressed in Judgements, in regards to Corporal Punishment," Justice Thurairaja observed.

The Petitioners had invoked the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 11 of the Constitution for an alleged violation of the Child Petitioner's Fundamental Rights, the provision which reads as "No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

Counsel Thishya Weragoda with Sanjaya Marambe, Sewwandi Marambe, Meinusha Gamage and Sashya Karunokalage appeared for the petitioners. Counsel Harishke Samaranyake instructed by Namal Premardana appeared for the first respondent. State Counsel Swasha Fernando appeared for the Attorney General.

"I must also recognise that the elimination of the practice of Corporal Punishment may not be achieved through isolated incidents, but a profound understanding by those entrusted with the care of children that violence is not a justifiable means to the end of discipline. Cruelty, violence, physical harm, particularly in the view of setting an example is condemned by all major faiths of our country," Justice Thurairaja added.

Electricity from garbage... From page 01

"The use of waste collected in this manner for the generation of electricity in the entire district is also environmentally important," the Minister's Media Unit said in a communiqué.

In addition, the Ministry of Power and Energy plans to launch the first project to generate electricity from biogas using biodegradable waste in the Matara District.

The project, which is being constructed in Kotawila in the Matara District, is planned to add 400 Kilowatts to the national grid using 40 tons of garbage daily.

The Minister said that as the Min-



ister in charge, he has been given the challenge of increasing the contribution of renewable energy to 70% of the national grid by the year 2023.

He said he will fulfill his responsibility to overcome the challenge and provide uninterrupted, quality, reliable and affordable electricity to electricity consumers.

Accordingly, steps will be taken in the future to implement the process of generating electricity from garbage as well as the process of generating electricity from biogas at the district level covering the entire island, said Minister Alahapperuma.

Army probes social media... From page 01

The Army Media Unit said that preliminary investigations revealed that there had been other incidents between the soldier and the other group in the past as well.

A comprehensive investigation has now been launched and the Army says appropriate action will be taken based on the outcome of the probe.

AG requests copy of Easter... From page 01

According to the Gazette notification, the Presidential Commission carried out its activities from October 31 to January 28, 2021 and officially concluded its proceedings on January 27, 2021.

On April 21, 2019, a series of attacks targeting hotels and Catholic churches were carried out by eight suicide bombers. St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade, St. Sebas-



tian's Church, Katuwapitiya, Zion Church, Batticaloa and the Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand Hotels were targeted by them.

Following that, two terrorists committed suicide by detonating bombs in Dematagoda and Dehiwala areas.

A series of attacks killed at least 270 people and injured nearly 500 others.

Death penalty for drug... From page 01

Delivering the verdict, the High Court Judge said that although the accused had made a statement from the dock during the trial stating that he had been falsely accused, it had not revealed that the police officers had any resentment or previous acquaintance or any other problem with the accused.

"Accordingly, the complaint has been proved beyond reasonable doubt," the High Court Judge said.

When asked by the High Court judge what he had to say before the death sentence was delivered, the defendant pleaded not guilty. State Counsel Randima Fernando prosecuted.

Foreign inflows to outpace... From page 01

Prof. Lakshman criticised models that forecast default on the basis of the level of reserves and upcoming commitments. He said these forecasts were based on unfair extrapolations of the economy with 2020 figures that were hampered due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Prof. Lakshman was speaking on February 12 at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on a webinar on the state of the economy.

In 2021, the Central Bank forecasts Port City leases to bring in US\$ 1 billion, remittances US\$ 7.5



billion, merchandise exports US\$ 13 billion, tourism US\$ 1.75 billion, and IT/BPO US\$ 1.75 billion. Merchandise imports are projected to be US\$ 17 billion. With import restrictions, the Central Bank forecasts a small current account surplus in 2021.

The Governor noted that financing through the IMF would bring in undesirable conditionality. The governor provided assurances that the secured financing would not be tied even tacitly to favourable terms on other agreements.

Muslim Marriage Law to be... From page 01

Minister Sabry pointed out that proposals have been submitted suggesting that the minimum age of marriage should be 18 and that women should be allowed to act as Khati and that Muslim women should also sign at the time of marriage. Accordingly, a special advisory committee has been appointed to amend the Constitution based on the said proposals, Minister Sabry added.

Minister Sabry also pointed out that the statement made regarding the involuntary marriage of young children under Muslim law was incorrect and that it is not done in practice. He furthered that following discussions, it could be amended if necessary.



However, Minister Sabry pointed out that this should not be turned into a slogan and should not be used to attack religious leaders. He noted that the law should be enforced equally for all the citizens.

Minister Sabry also said that a number of rules and regulations pertaining to personal law are being implemented and that they are being implemented in foreign countries as well. He said that Muslim law alone should not be abolished.

"Even in Saudi Arabia today, the age of marriage has been amended to 18. Thus these laws should go through timely amendments," Sabry noted.

Minor tremor reported... From page 01

The first tremor struck in the area at around 3.30 a.m. on the 22nd last month and there have been five tremors in three weeks.

Senior Professor of Geology at the University of Peradeniya Athula Senarathne said people should not be unduly worried about it, as it was only a very small tremor.

He said that when the geological map of the central highlands is observed, it is clear that there are a large number of fissures (cracks) in the Earth's interior and there are signs of an earthquake when there is any movement in these fractures.

He added that when a map of the



quake-hit areas of Victoria, Walapane and Madolsima in Kandy is drawn, it is clear that there is a similarity between these differences and those tremors.

He said that no other part of the world had experienced a tremor at the time of the quake and therefore it could be concluded that the quake was limited to this area.

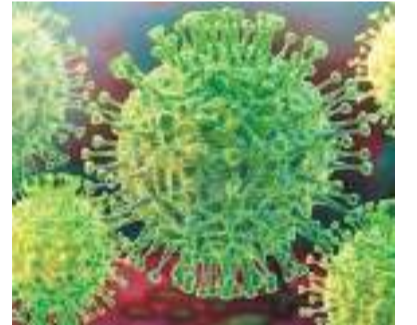
UK COVID-19 variant detected... From page 01

said that the vaccination of 178,087 persons had been completed by yesterday evening (11).

"With the completion of the vaccination of frontline health workers, police and forces staff, the ministry plans to start the vaccination of frontline health workers of the private sector.

Requests have already been received from university staff engaged in COVID-19 prevention and also from the Airport Staff. The Ministry will take necessary measures to respond to those requests as soon as possible," he said.

Dr. Amal further said that the country has already sent a purchase order for 18 million doses of the



Oxford AstraZeneca COVID 19 vaccine and a consignment of 3 million vaccines will be received by March 1. Sri Lanka has so far recorded 73,116 COVID-19 cases with 379 fatalities.

COPE postpones meeting... From page 01

This Committee meeting was convened to examine the Auditor General's Report and SLC's current performance for Financial Years 2017 and 2018, and the members of the Committee decided to take this decision due to the institution's unpreparedness for audit inquiries.

COPE Chairman Prof. Charitha Herath said that it has been observed that a number of problems have arisen due to the inefficiency of the financial administration of Sri Lanka Cricket. He emphasized that public dissatisfaction with Sri Lankan cricket had increased and that it belonged to the country and not to just one party.

Committee Members blamed Sri Lanka Cricket for not submitting to the audit the relevant documents such as contracts, letters of assignment and commencement of work and due dates for unfinished works amounting to over Rs. 240 million by 2017.

Sri Lanka Cricket failed to submit the files correctly at the committee meeting.

The Committee also paid special attention to the increase in the value of unfinished projects to the tune of Rs. 511 million by the year 2020.

The Committee questioned the non-recovery of Rs. 29 million in revenue due for sponsorship of the South Africa-Sri Lanka Cricket tour in 2018, and the CID has commenced an investigation into the matter, SLC Chairman Shammi Silva informed the Committee.

Chairman Prof. Charitha Herath instructed the Secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports Anuradha



Wijekono to conduct an inquiry and submit its report to the Committee within a month.

It was revealed at the meeting that the money had been deposited in the account of an American citizen and that investigations were focused on how it happened.

The Committee pointed out that the agreement regarding the recruitment of Chandika Hathurusinghe as the head coach of SLC was flawed and that Hathurusinghe has taken legal action as a result.

SLC informed the Committee that Hathurusinghe's contract was for three years but he had to be removed prematurely as he did not make the expected changes.

It was revealed at the meeting that SLC has so far spent Rs. 20 million as legal fees for the case filed by Chandika Hathurusinghe.

The Committee also noted that the Annual Reports of SLC have not been submitted to Parliament for several years.

The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry to submit the reports to Parliament immediately.

The committee meeting was limited to one and a half hours and it was decided to reconvene the meeting in another month.

Ministers Mahinda Amaraweera, Mahindananda Aluthgamage, State Ministers Indika Anuruddha, Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Nalaka Godaheva, Parliamentarians Patali Champika Ranawaka, Jagath Pushpakumara, Eran Wickremaratne and others were present at the meeting chaired by Prof. Charitha Herath.

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Halt this devastation

A dangerous trend is being observed relating to acts that have caused great harm to the environment such as clearing of forests, encroachment on reservations, destruction of biodiversity and large-scale sand mining etc. allegedly with local-level political backing, that if not checked could lead to a great calamity for the country's ecosystem.

Hardly a day passes without some act of environmental depredation including wanton destruction of forest land being reported on television. The latest is the attempt to fell an endangered and priceless tree in Gampaha that stands in the way of a road development project. The tree was about to face the axe but for the timely intervention of the Gampaha Assistant Forest Conservator that recalled a similar intervention of the self-same intrepid female officer to salvage a rich stretch of mangroves that was about to be cleared to pave the way for the construction of a playground. Prior to this we reported that vast acreages of mangroves in the Puttalam District were being cleared for prawn farming but this was stopped in the nick of time by the authorities, preventing grave environmental destruction.

The authorities must put a halt to this runaway destruction of the environment through massive deforestation, indiscriminate sand mining and other depredations that had gravely impacted the ecosystem, contributing to Climate Change. The country's forest cover which stood at 40 percent in the 1920s has today dwindled to a pathetic 17 percent. Ambitious programmes have commenced to extend this to 20-30 percent by 2050 and it is estimated that 65,000 hectares of new forest cover should be added to increase forest density by just 1 percent.

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said 100 persons who used political and money power to cause environment destruction had been brought before the law during the past six months. From what is evident this has not acted as an effective deterrent as forest destruction is going on apace. The Minister also says that plans are afoot to plant nearly 100,000 saplings countrywide during the next three months. But will this suffice if we are to see forest cover increased to 30 percent by 2050? How long will this programme be sustained? Besides, replanting if it is to have any effect, should be carried out where the original destruction had taken place.

Today farmers are hamstrung having to confront erratic climatic shifts, the chief cause for crop destruction and/or crop failure. Mass tree planting campaigns should be done where it matters most. Having schoolchildren carry out tree planting in their school premises or getting commercial establishments to grow trees along roads is no solution in the effort to increase the country's forest cover. The denudation of forests to the extent it has taken place has not only wreaked environmental havoc and caused an ecological imbalance, it has also robbed the country of its much acclaimed beauty. Unlike in the past what we see today in the once salubrious climes in the hill country are dried up streams, spouts and waterfalls that once gushed in their entralling majesty and the equally forlorn flora and fauna - all victims of rampant forest rape, which is a tragedy of immense proportions.

This Government came to power with a fund of public goodwill and great expectations that it will right the wrongs of the past. There is no doubt that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa would start cracking the whip against those responsible for clearing forests and inflicting other forms of environmental destruction on the ecosystem.

The President showed by example when he took prompt action to issue orders that the roadway being built across the Sinharaja forest should be constructed with no damage to the environment. The President should read the riot act once again. The wanton destruction that is being caused to the environment will certainly lead the country into a great calamity making it vulnerable to a myriad of natural disasters resulting from geological imbalances.

The spate of unprecedented landslides in hitherto safe zones has been directly attributed by experts to the indiscriminate damage caused to the environment. President Rajapaksa who as Secretary Urban Development Ministry, launched several environment friendly projects in the city of Colombo no doubt, would ensure the country would go green once again by regaining its lost forest cover which will also see an end to droughts, distorted weather patterns and ecological shifts.

The present human-elephant conflict which has gained the close attention of President Rajapaksa could also be directly attributed to the wanton destruction of the elephant habitat by politically backed businessmen for the construction of tourist hotels and similar projects.

True, economic advancement and commercial imperatives have placed all available space and land at a premium with the massive demand necessitating inroads into the country's pristine forests. If the trend continues, we will soon see this country turned into a desert land sans its signature flora and fauna as greed overtakes the future well-being of the country reducing it to a wasteland for our future generations. All efforts must be taken to prevent such a catastrophe.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We won't have a society if we destroy the environment. - Margaret Mead

Fair Distribution of Economic Welfare: Science against Myth

Part 2

P. SAMARASIRI

The supply of public services whether fiscal or monetary or market regulation themselves are subject to and have created large distributional disparities. Some of examples are listed below.

- Although school education is free and common to all, the disparity among the quality of school facilities country-wide causes disparities of skill, knowledge, higher education and employment opportunities of students finishing school education.

- Licensing of businesses helps those parties to monopolize and accumulate wealth. Although the concept of fair market is applied, it helps those parties to monopolize and accumulate wealth.

- Despite the concept applied for market regulations, various mechanisms of insider dealings are driving markets to accumulate wealth to those parties.

- Although the distribution of law and order is free to all citizens, the system generated cost and processes prevent its fair distribution while causing wealth to system operators.

- Price controls that are intended to benefit consumers of low-income brackets lead to black-markets due to failure of the state to provide adequate supplies and create wealth accumulation to those marketeers.

- Tax concessions given to entrepreneurs to supply products at low cost/price to the public end up in wealth accumulation to those parties as there is no mechanism to ensure the fair distribution of those products.

- Various state policies on protection of natural resources and environment divided among various strata of bureaucracy without aligning them with underlying economic activities push many folks to poverty due to conflicts of bureaucracy.

The list can go on long pages to understand the brutality of disparities prevailing due to distributional issues of public services. President's discussions with villages programme reveal numerous examples for detrimental effects of distribution disparity of public services country-wide.

GOVERNMENTS AS THE CAUSE FOR DISTRIBUTIONAL DISPARITIES

The review of the history of economic governance systems in the world shows the origin of economic disparities throughout the history of human being is the governments. In primitive human stage, people lived in groups on natural resources without owning them by any individuals. In later civilizations, areal tribes emerged with leaders with the power to control people, resources and economic activities in the respective areas where the leaders started assigning or distributing land to their supporters and to tax people to fund the government.

Such control and distribution of land or resources and taxes have continued in systems of monarchy and present democratic governments around the world. That power is the prize available to those who attempt to win the governments. Therefore, human civilization has caused emergence of governments with the ownership of resources and the powers to distribute resources at their discretion which has caused present distributional disparities everywhere. Meantime, while continuing with similar distribution, governments themselves attempt to reduce disparities (caused by them) through another set of public services causing further disparities. This is true for all



These labourers trying to make a living inspite of adverse conditions.

Policies required for fair distribution are neither rocket science nor economic models. Therefore, all are hypotheses-based tools. Their efficiency depends on the implementation efficacy. Therefore, the implementation strategy and the process matter. This can have various dimensions.

authorities although monopolies also are fair market outcomes in market Economics.

DISTRIBUTION POLICY SCENARIO PROPOSED FOR SRI LANKA

There is no debate over the duty bound on the government to ensure fair distribution of economic benefits among its citizens, given its public mandate. Under the Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties of the Sri Lankan Constitution (Chapter VI), Articles 27(2) (c)-(f), 27(7), 27(8), 27(13)-(15) assign the government with specific duties on fair distribution. These Directive Principles (although not enforceable in judiciary) are to guide the Parliament, President and Cabinet in the enactment of laws and the governance of Sri Lanka for the establishment of just and free society. There are various state institutions that have legal objectives, duties, mandates and discretionary powers directly and indirectly connected with distributional duties. Therefore, no new legal provisions are required to address distributional aspects of the country.

Policies required for fair distribution are neither rocket science nor economic models. Therefore, all are hypotheses-based tools. Their efficiency depends on the implementation efficacy. Therefore, the implementation strategy and the process matter. This can have various dimensions. Some thoughts are given below, given the complexities of the prevailing bureaucracy of the state.

• Identification of Disparities

It is necessary to assess the levels of key distributional disparities as defined and decide whether their levels and directions are unfair because disparities naturally prevail due to differences in human skill and access to productive resources. Further, specific policies may not be required even if the disparities are unfair if they are in the direction of gradual fall whereas disparities may in fact be hypotheses of some political analysts while the public may not be much concerned. Therefore, a careful assessment/investigation is necessary to decide whether disparities are alarming and require public policies to fix them in the public interest. The key hurdle here is the collection of ground data. The conduct of new sample surveys island-wide by statisticians based on questionnaires will not work. Therefore, data from existing sources such as IRD, Banks, Financial Institutions, RMV, Land Registry, Employers, Stock Exchange, EPF and EFT could be used to assess proxy variables to gage some items of distributions. In this regard, time series of information classified on households/persons are required. National aggregates are not relevant as they do not show the status of distribution. If such data are not compilable or investigation is not feasible, there is no basis for concerns over disparities or policies just on the basis of political hypotheses or slogans.

(The writer is a former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka)

To be continued



socialistic and capitalistic governments. Nobody has any practical solution for this.

BROAD CONCERNS OVER DISTRIBUTIONAL POLICY RESULTS

The distribution of fair share and promotion of fair markets to ensure the fair distribution of production are fashionable concepts quoted in economic and political analyses where political slogans are played, especially at times of elections, on further policy actions to improve them. However, the reality is the continuity of all disparities without any material reduction whereas various shocks such as financial crises, natural calamities, geopolitical conflicts and health hazards result in pushing people to new facets of disparities. This is the outcome of several factors.

First, there are no definitions and yardsticks to measure the level of fairness desirable, given the world of disparities. Therefore, disparities are analysed under different hypotheses, mostly on political grounds. Second, although state policies are implemented, the list of policies that target the reduction of disparities and their per-

formance or outcome are not assessed, other than conceptual speeches.

Third, the tendency of the bureaucracy to control markets in pursuit of lowering disparities limits competition and opportunities for innovations and access to productive resources that cause detrimental effects on the prevailing disparities. Intra-bureaucratic conflicts are so merciless and brutal on the disparities. However, their favouritism provided through regulatory approvals and information sharing to some entrepreneurs to accumulate wealth from time to time is well-known. No wealthy persons can emerge without such favouritism of the bureaucracy, given the large number of economic regulations. For example, Mr. Jack Ma in China who created the Chinese e-commerce and IT business empire during the last two decades and entered the world billionaires' list has disappeared since last November where state investigations into his business empire, Ant Group, have suddenly commenced on the charge of creation of a business monopoly. Everybody knows that monopolies in Chinese governance system cannot emerge easily outside the eyes of the Chinese



MYANMAR: RISING PROTESTS AGAINST MILITARY COUP

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

Tens of thousands of protesters have come to the streets in Myanmar calling for the release of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, with major risks of turning the country back to a long period of military rule, a decade after it began withdrawing from civilian politics.

The police have used tear gas, water cannon and also fired into the air to control the crowds, largely of youth. Three youths have been injured by the firing, one female student very seriously.

As pro-democracy protesters continue to flood the streets of many cities in Myanmar, there are fears of another long period of economic isolation.

Fresh protests took place on Thursday continuing days of demonstrations in major cities and towns inside Myanmar calling for the military to cede power following its February 1 coup.

Demonstrators marched peacefully in Naypyidaw - the capital and military stronghold - as well as Yangon, the largest city and commercial hub.

US President Joe Biden has approved an Executive Order for new sanctions on those responsible for the military coup in Myanmar, as the army detained another key aide to civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The office of Suu Kyi's political party was searched by the military.

Washington would identify the first round of targets this week and was taking steps to prevent the generals having access to \$1bn in Myanmar government funds held in the United States. "We're also going to impose strong exports controls. We're freezing US assets that benefit the Burmese government, while maintaining our support for health care, civil society groups, and other areas that benefit the people of Burma directly," Biden said at the White House.

The UN Security Council has "emphasized the need for the continued support of the democratic transition" inside the country, after a military junta was installed on Monday ending five years of civilian rule, announcing that it was taking power for the period of a year before fresh elections.

The Security Council has called for the "immediate release of all those detained", and stresses "the need to uphold democratic institutions and processes, refrain from violence, and fully respect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law".

The Security Council call also had the support of China and Russia. Western countries have condemned the coup, but analysts believed Myanmar's new junta would not be as isolated as previous iterations, with China, India, south-east Asian neighbours and Japan unlikely to cut ties given the country's strategic importance.

India - China troops

India and China have reached an agreement on disengagement at Pangong Tso in Ladakh, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said in the Rajya Sabha, giving details of a breakthrough after a protracted stand-off and several rounds of talks between military commanders and diplomats.

"Our sustained talks with China have led to agreement on disengagement on the north and south banks of Pangong Lake. After this agreement, India-China will remove forward deployments in a phased, coordinated manner," the Defence Minister said.

"I want to assure this House that in these talks we have not conceded anything," he asserted. "The agreement that we have been able to reach with the Chinese side for disengagement in the Pangong lake area envisages that both sides will cease their forward deployments in a phased, coordinated and verified manner."

Mr. Singh said the Chinese would keep their troop presence in the North Bank area to east of Finger 8 and the Indian troops would be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near Finger 3. Similar action would be taken in the South Bank by both sides.

"These are mutual and reciprocal steps and any structures that had been built by both sides since April 2020 in both North and South Bank area will be removed and the landforms will be restored," he said.

The minister said both sides had also agreed to a moratorium on military activities in the North Bank, including patrolling, in traditional areas. Patrolling would be resumed when both sides reached an agreement in diplomatic and military talks. Mr. Singh said there were still some outstanding issues on deployment and patrolling at some other points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh and these would be the focus of further discussions.

Mars - UAE and China

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and China made record reachings to Mars within two days, this week. UAE made history as the first Arab country to reach Mars.

China that has landed on the moon three times, completed its first successful journey to another planet in our solar system. The UAE Mars mission, named the Hope probe, reached the red planet at 7.42 p.m. Tuesday UAE time. It took 204 days and travelled 480 million kms.

This makes the UAE only the second country to ever successfully enter Mars' orbit on its first try, despite attempts being made since the 1960s. The only other country to have done so is India. The Hope probe is the first to complete its journey out of three Mars missions aiming to breach the planet's orbit this year. The US NASA's Perseverance rover is expected to reach Mars next week.

The Hope probe, a \$200 million project called Al-Amal in Arabic, was launched on July 20 from Japan's Tanegashima Space Station. It will now spend one Martian year — equivalent to 687 days on Earth — studying and gathering data on the red planet's atmosphere.

That time will enable it to create the first full map of the Martian atmosphere, with the help of three highly specialized instruments developed by the Emirati team: a highly sophisticated camera to photograph Mars and study its lower atmosphere, an ultraviolet spectrometer that will detect the planet's levels of carbon monoxide and oxygen, and an infrared spectrometer that will measure Martian dust, ice clouds and water.

China's Tianwen-1, spacecraft launched last July, has begun its orbit of the red planet. China is expected to try to place a lander and a robotic rover on the planet later this year. It would join what could be then be a trio of NASA spacecraft studying the Martian surface.

China's spacecraft left Earth last summer, taking advantage of a period when Mars and Earth were closest to each other during their journeys around the sun. That allowed a relatively



Police in Myanmar crack down on crowds defying protest ban.



U.S. President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping

short transit between the two worlds. In arriving at Mars, China far surpassed its last attempt at an interplanetary mission, which failed nearly 10 years ago, although through no fault of the country's own. That Mars-bound spacecraft, Yinghuo-1, burned up in Earth's atmosphere when the Russian rocket it was travelling on failed in flight.

Biden- Jinping talks

U.S. President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping held their first telephone call as leaders, with Biden saying a free and open Indo-Pacific was a priority and Xi warning confrontation would be a 'disaster' for both nations.

President Biden also underscored his "fundamental concerns about Beijing's coercive and unfair practices, its crackdown in Hong Kong, reported human rights abuses in Xinjiang, and increasingly assertive actions in the region, including toward Taiwan", the White House said in a statement.

President Xi told Biden that confrontation would be a "disaster" and the two sides should re-establish the means to avoid misjudgements, according to the Chinese foreign ministry's account of the call, which took place on Thursday. The Chinese leader also maintained a hardline tone regarding Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Taiwan, which Xi told Biden were matters of "sovereignty and territorial integrity" that he hopes the United States will approach cautiously.

It was the first call between Xi and a U.S. president since the Chinese leader spoke with former President Donald Trump in March last year. Since then, relations between the two countries have plunged to their worst level in decades, with Trump blaming China for the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the Trump administration, the United States launched a series of actions against China, including a trade war, sanctions against Chinese officials and firms perceived to be security threats and challenging Beijing's South China Sea territorial claims. Chinese officials have expressed cautious optimism that bilateral relations will improve under Biden and urged Washington to meet Beijing halfway.

Xi congratulated Biden on his election in a message in November, even though Biden had called him a "thug" during the campaign and vowed to lead an international effort to "pressure, isolate and punish China."

The Biden administration has made it clear that it will continue to maintain pressure on China, however, although it has also pledged to take a more multilateral approach. A senior Biden administration official told reporters ahead of the telephone call that Biden would be "practical, hard-headed, clear-eyed" in dealings with Xi, but wanted to ensure they had the opportunity to have an open line of communication, despite U.S. concerns about Chinese behaviour. The official said the call came at a time when the United States believed it was in a position of strength, after consultations with allies and partners, to lay out core concerns about China's "aggressive activities and abuses".

The Biden administration will look in coming months at adding "new targeted restrictions" on certain sensitive technology exports to China in cooperation with allies and partners, the official said. He also said there would be no quick moves to lift the tariffs the former Trump administration left in place against Chinese imports.

UK - India trade

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is seeking a major trade deal with India in what is being described as an "enhanced trade partnership", after the breakaway from the



European Union and the economic issues that follow this break. PM Johnson was to visit India for its Republic Day celebrations last month, but could not come due to the COVID spread in the UK.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab visited India in December last year for initial talks, and the International Secretary, Liz Truss has met Indian ministers on the trade talks.

India is already the UK's sixth largest non-EU trading partner after the US, China, Japan, Switzerland and Norway, and the relationship now supports more than 500,000 UK jobs.

For PM Johnson, signing a trade deal with a large market like India will help him politically sell the benefits of pro-Brexit to voters, ahead of the next general election.

In 2019, bilateral trade in goods and services between the two countries were respectively worth US\$15.7 billion and US\$18.9 billion (£11.5 billion and £13.8 billion), becoming increasingly important. The UK's services exports to India have grown at 7% a year between 2013 and 2018, and yet India continues to enjoy a trade surplus with the UK. The UK is also the second largest investor in India.

Meanwhile, India is the second largest investor in the UK after the US. India invested in 120 projects and created 5,429 new jobs in the UK in 2018-19. Indian companies in the UK turn over an excess of £40 billion. Steel to car-making giant Tata is easily the largest, but there are many other major Indian employers.

Late last year there was a declaration of a ten-year road map towards upgrading the nations' 2004 strategic partnership into a new "comprehensive strategic partnership" involving closer military ties, cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, and measures to counter terrorism and fight climate change.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is invited to attend the G7 summit in Cornwall, south-west England in June, and the changed geopolitical priorities following Brexit provide an incentive for both sides to negotiate a fast-track trade deal. For the UK, this reiterates the government's "Global Britain" strategy of developing stronger ties in Asia Pacific — in line with the country's application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) free-trade bloc. Economic and political analysts see a new trade deal with India as an opportunity to foster post-Brexit and post-COVID recovery, giving British businesses greater access to a market of 1.3 billion people, when the prospects for global growth after the pandemic still remain uncertain.

UK companies already have a growing market share in India in several sectors, including food and drinks despite high tariffs and other trade restrictions. Notably, India is the third largest market for Scotch whisky, for instance.

WHO - COVID Wuhan search

An international team of scientists led by the World Health Organisation has said that the coronavirus "most likely" originated in animals before spreading to humans, and dismissed a theory that the disease had been leaked by

a laboratory in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Scientists have been working in Wuhan, where the disease was identified, for the past four weeks as part of their search for clues to the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The long-awaited probe comes after months of negotiations between China and WHO about the arrangements of the investigation. The delay raises questions about the reliability of the findings. The investigators have visited hospitals, laboratories and markets, including the Huanan Seafood Market, the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Wuhan Centre for Disease Control laboratory.

The visit, which has been shrouded in secrecy, was also expected to see researchers speak with early responders as well as some of the first patients. The team completed two weeks of quarantine before beginning to visit local sites.

Dr. Peter Ben Embarek, the WHO's food safety and animal disease specialist and chairman of the investigation team, told reporters the "most likely" pathway for COVID was a crossover into humans from an intermediary species. This hypothesis will "require more studies and more specific (and) targeted research," he said.

The initial findings of the investigation did not find evidence of large COVID outbreaks in Wuhan or elsewhere before December 2019. However, researchers did find evidence of wider COVID circulation outside the Huanan Seafood Market that month, Ben Embarek said.

He added it was not yet possible to pinpoint the animal intermediary host for the coronavirus, describing the findings after nearly a month of meetings and site visits as "work in progress."

"In terms of understanding what happened in the early days of December 2019, did we change dramatically the picture we had beforehand? I don't think so," Ben Embarek said.

"Did we improve our understanding? Did we add details to that story? Absolutely," he said.

It is hoped that information of the earliest known cases of the coronavirus, first detected in Wuhan in late 2019, could help to identify how the outbreak started and prevent future pandemics. The team had reached the conclusion that a lab leak should be regarded as extremely unlikely "on the basis of a serious discussion and very diligent research," added Liang Wannian, head of the expert COVID panel at China's National Health Commission.

Trump trial in US Senate

The trial of ex US President Donald Trump is in progress in the US Senate following the Impeachment passed in the House of Representatives, which is the second impeachment trial for Trump within one year, and the first ever to a US President.

Prosecutors took US senators on a wrenching journey inside the horror of the US Capitol insurrection, making a devastating case that Donald Trump had plotted, incited and celebrated a vile crime against the United States.

Their previously unseen video evidence showed a blood-thirsty mob defiling Congress, heroism from overpowered police officers pleading for backup, high-profile lawmakers running for their lives and staffers hiding behind locked doors.

Surveillance footage depicted then-Vice President Mike Pence being hustled away with rioters calling for him to be hanged only yards away. A police officer screamed in pain, trapped between a door and an invading crowd. In a horrific scene, Trump supporter Ashli Babbitt tried to climb through a window smashed by rioters before falling back, shot dead by a Capitol Police officer.

The Senate decided by a majority of 56 to 44 that the Trump trial was constitutional, and made way for the trial to continue, in the absence of Donald Trump who will not attend it.

COVID spread and vaccine

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread, there are increased concerns about the variants of the virus that increase the infections, and thus leads to increased deaths. With 106.1 million confirmed cases and 2.3 million deaths at midweek, this remains the global crisis.

Countries are introducing partial lockdowns and many other restrictions to control the spread of the virus, with increased concerns about the UK, South African and Brazil variants.

Several coronavirus vaccines have now been approved for use, either by individual countries or groups of countries, such as the European Union and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Of the 72 countries and territories administering vaccines and publishing rollout data, 51 are high-income nations, 21 are middle-income and none are low-income.

Some countries have secured more vaccine doses than their populations need, while other lower-income countries are relying on a global plan known as Covax, which is seeking to ensure everyone in the world has access to a vaccine.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has warned that despite the growing number of different vaccines, current manufacturing capacity meets only a fraction of global need. "Allowing the majority of the world's population to go unvaccinated will not only perpetuate needless illness and deaths and the pain of ongoing lockdowns, but also spawn new virus mutations as COVID-19 continues to spread among unprotected populations," he told *Foreign Policy* magazine.

The US (41 million) and China (31 million) have given the most doses overall, while the UK has administered more than 12 million so far. The EU has admitted to delays in ordering and supplying the vaccines.

But when breaking the figures down by population, looking at doses administered per 100 people in the 10 countries giving the most vaccinations, Israel, the UAE and the UK top the list. Most countries are prioritising the over-60s, health workers and people who are clinically vulnerable.



Prime Minister extends condolences to families of late political leaders

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa extended his condolence to the families of late Members of Parliament K.P. Silva, Surangani Ellawala, and Kapil Abeyratne in Parliament, yesterday. Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa moved the Motion of Condolence.

K.P. Silva

Prime Minister Rajapaksa, extending his condolences to late K.P. Silva's family, stated that K.P. Silva's name is indelible in the leftist political history of the country.

"His demise is a major absence felt by all those engaged in leftist politics and the country in general. Our young politicians have a lot to learn from him. He was a symbol of the working class. Although the Lanka Sama Samaja Party left handbooks on politics, K.P. Silva allowed theoretical controversies. He later joined the Communist Party of Sri Lanka and continued his political ideology," the Prime Minister said.

"As such, he became the first leftist party leader to emerge from the working class. Silva led the Communist Party until 1993. Most of the people who knew him referred to him as 'Comrade KP'. Many who have been involved in politics in recent times do not know who he is. However, when examining the political history of Sri Lanka, the then Parliamentarian's politics should be studied," he added.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa said, "Working at a factory in Kolonnawa and leading a political trade union, Silva soon became the leader of his comrades. He was one of the main trade union leaders who led the 1947 strike. Silva was also a leader of the government workers' union."

"Today, the pension rights and other privileges enjoyed by public

servants did not fall from the sky. K.P. Silva is one of the few Communist trade union leaders who took the lead in those struggles. He studied political science at the Moscow Institute of Political Science in Russia. Many of the leading leaders of the International Communist Movement had close ties with him," he added.

"K.P. Silva was a leader who was committed to the unity of the left, as well as national unity. He was awarded the People's Companionship Award, the highest award in the Soviet Union at the time. In the midst of the breakdown, as a solo fighter, K.P. Silva did not leave the Communist Party. He did not suffer from the inferiority of political leaders who rose from the ranks of the proletariat. As a tribute to him, I would like to remind you that he upheld his political principles until his last breath," the Prime Minister said.

Surangani Ellawala

Extending his condolences to the family of late Surangani Ellawala, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said, "Surangani Ellawala, the beloved wife of late Nanda Ellawala, a renowned leftist leader, worked closely with us both politically and personally."

"Surangani Ellawala was a descendant of the Tennakoon family, which had a distinguished history in the Ratnapura area, and was a close relative of Hector Kobbekaduwa. Therefore, politics was not a new experience for her. In 1967, as a private secretary to Nanda Ellawala, who was an active member of the Sirimavo Bandaranaike government, Surangani Ellawala was well-aware of the problems of the people," he said.



Kapil Abeyratne

Extending his condolences to the family of late Kapil Abeyratne, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said, "Late Attorney-at-Law Kapil Abeyratne was a benevolent representative of the people. He served as the Member of Parliament in the Ratnapura electorate after the demise of MP Nanda Ellawala. From 1990 to 1994, he and I were very close both politically and personally."

"As a connoisseur of leftist politics, his continued service to the people of Ratnapura was exceptional. Kapil Abeyratne was a descendant of the Abeyratne family who had a distinguished history in Ratnapura's politics. His father and brother also served as Mayors of Ratnapura. Therefore politics was not new to him," he added.

"Kapil Abeyratne also served as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment from 1997 to 1999. In 2011 during our government, he contested the Ratnapura Municipal Council election and secured the highest number of preferential votes. Dedicated to the service of the people as the Mayor of Ratnapura until his death, Abeyratne was a public representative who rendered an invaluable service to the people of Ratnapura," the Premier said.

"It is unfortunate for all of us to say goodbye to such a committed public representative at such a crucial moment of the country's history. I extend my deepest condolences to all his relatives, including the two beloved daughters of the Abeyratne family who work closely with us. I wish that Kapil Abeyratne attains the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana," he added.

Late Governor Ellawala rendered yeoman service: Dinesh

The late Surangani Ellawala rendered a yeoman service to the people of Ratnapura as Parliamentarian, as well as to the Central Province as a Governor, Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena said in Parliament yesterday.

He said so moving the Condolence Motion on the late Parliamentarian Surangani Ellawala, who passed away at the age of 76 years on March 14, 2016.

Surangani Ellawala was born to Kuruvita Navadun Koral D. Tennakoon and Seelawathi Delgoda Kalawana Kumarihami in 1939. She studied at Fergusson College, Ratnapura, and was an artist with many talents, the Leader of the House said.

Surangani was the wife of late Parliamentarian Nanda Ellawala and mother of late Parliamentarian Nalanda Ellawala. She contested the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council election in 1999 and the General Election on October 10, 2000, from the People's Alliance and won both times. She functioned as a



Parliamentarian until October 10, 2001, he added.

She was appointed Governor of the Central Province in 2015 by former President Maithripala Sirisena and remained in the office until 2016, Gunawardena said.

He proposed that the official copy of the Condolence Motion should be sent to her family members.

Late K.P. Silva rose to politics from the working class: Dinesh

Former Member of Parliament and the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Communist Party, the late K.P. Silva, was a politician who rose from the working class, Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena said in Parliament yesterday.

He was moving the Condolence Motion on late Parliamentarian K.P. Silva, who passed away at the age of 96 years on March 9, 2019.

K.P. Silva was born at Thalpitaya in Wadduwa, Kalutara, on April 28, 1923. He received his education from the Thalpitaya College and Wadduwa Junior College before going on to get a Social Sciences Degree from the Moscow Institute of Political Science in Russia. He was an eloquent speaker of the Sinhala, Tamil, English, and Russian languages.

He later married Somawathi Alwis. Their son, Hemantha Kumara Silva, became a doctor. K.P. Silva also joined Lanka Sama Samaja Party, the Viplawakari Sama Samaja Party, and the Sri Lanka Communist Party. He was appointed the General Secretary of the latter. Silva joined hands with all the progressive leaders in the country and represented the Communist Party in Parliament.

Minister Dinesh Gunawardena proposed that the official copy of the Condolence motion should be sent to family members of the late Parliamentarian.

Import restrictions aimed at uplifting local industries, not pressuring people

- Semasinghe

The government restricted the importation of certain goods not to pressure people, but to allow local industries to flourish, State Minister of Microfinance and Self Employment Shehan Semasinghe said in Parliament yesterday. He was participating in the debate on three regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act.

In reply to a Point of Order raised by the Opposition, State Minister Semasinghe said that the revocation of the Extraordinary Gazette Notification issued by the Minister of Finance allowing the importation of tiles and bathroom kits due to lack of resources and rising prices was done at the request of tile manufacturers.

He added that the President held discussions with the manufacturers of tiles and other ceramic products, at which the manufacturers had agreed to increase production within two weeks.

"If that is not enough, steps would be taken to import products in a limited manner. Steps will be taken to import such supplies if they are not able to meet the demand locally," Semasinghe said.

"When the government came to power, the country was facing many challenges. The economy, which had collapsed due to the Easter attacks, was fur-



ther affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"However, the government can solve these issues through infrastructure development, employment of graduates, creating a conducive environment for business, correct tax management for the convenience of taxpayers, changing the rules in calculating government revenue, and creating a conducive environment for farmers," he added.

The state minister said the week starting from March 2 would be declared the 'Week of Prosperity', and that a number of development programmes will be launched to mark it.

He added that contrary to what the Opposition proclaims, the government has been able to manage the country's economy properly in the midst of numerous challenges.



Government striving to strike balance between imports, exports : Cabraal

The government has issued a reorder suspending the gazette notification issued by the Minister of Finance on February 2 restricting the import of tiles and ceramics after reviewing the requests made by local manufacturers, State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal told Parliament yesterday.

He was responding to a question raised by MP Anura Kumara Dissanayake under Standing Orders 27 (2).

When asked whether the suspension of the gazette notification was an order to Customs regarding the Import and Export Control Act, the Minister of Public Finance stated that the Director-General of the Department of Import and Export Control had ordered the suspension



of Regulations 3 and 4 only.

MP Dissanayake inquired whether the head of a department could cancel the gazette notification put by the Minister of Finance on the Import and Export Control Act, and State Minister Cabraal said that the order issued by the Minister of Finance had not been revoked.

The Minister of Finance has stated that

the importers had not opened letters of credit for the re-import of tiles and ceramics during the period from the issuance of the gazette notification to the suspension, Cabraal said.

He added that it was due to the limited time span and due to it being a period where banking activities were not functioning.

However, he said that in the event such LCs had been opened, it would be looked into and appropriate measures would be taken.

State Minister Cabraal said that the government was trying to move towards a stable economic pattern by issuing another gazette notification on Thursday in order to strike a balance between imports and exports.

OBITUARY NOTICE

ELAYATHAMBI RAMALINGAM
 Of Urukadu, Kankesanthurai & Resident of 114/3, Ward Place, Colombo 07 expired on 26th January 2021 in Dubai.
 He is Grand son of late Mr. & Mrs. Swamy Nathan Eyyathambi (Jidayar of Poonagari) and Gurunathapillai Nagaalingam Visagaperumal & Nagacilai; son of late Eyyathambi Ramalingam & Maheswary, and beloved Husband of Granassundari (Sathya) Son-in-law of late Mr. & Mrs. Nattaniya Sugithum, Beloved brother of Ramalingam Visagaperumal, and Late. Theivamar Ramalingam, Balagopalarama Ramalingam (France), Pathmarani Srija (London), Late. Theivendran Ramalingam, Magendraraja (London).
 Cremation took place in Dubai on 09th February 2021. Ashes will be immersed at Muttuel on 25.03.2021. 31st day religious ceremony will take place on 26.02.2021 at his residence. 114/3, Ward Place, Colombo 07.
 Information - Elder Brother - Ramalingam Visagaperumal & Family Members

Sajith urges Speaker to allow Ranjan to attend Parliament

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa urged Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to allow MP Ranjan Ramanayake to enter Parliament in the same way MP Premalal Jayasekara was permitted.

He requested the Speaker to allow Ramanayake to maintain his Parliamentary seat in accordance with his Parliamentary privileges.

The Opposition Leader pointed out that when the Court of Appeal has issued an order to the Secretary-General of Parliament to refrain from taking any action pertaining

to MP Ramanayake's Parliamentary seat, it indicates that his Parliamentary seat will continue to be maintained.

Moreover, the Chairman of the Election Commission had explained to Parliament that MP Ranjan Ramanayake's seat would remain effective for the first six months of his four-year imprisonment.

Therefore, he said that not one, but several orders had been issued suggesting that MP Ramanayake could continue as a Member of Parliament, requesting that he be allowed to attend Parliament



in the same manner MP Jayasekara had been allowed to do so.

Death of veteran actor Jayalal Rohana



Veteran actor Jayalal Rohana passed away at the age of 56 while receiving treatment at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital in Ragama on Thursday evening. Rohana made an immense contribution to the fields of cinema, teledrama, radio, and theatre.

Although primarily known for his versatile acting, Jayalal Rohana has also made great contributions to the Sri Lankan entertainment industry as a theatre director, writer, makeup artist, and radio playwright.

Interviews for trainee teachers' courses

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Corr.

Prof. Kapila Perera, Secretary to the Ministry of Education, told the media yesterday that the Education Ministry has made arrangements to hold interviews to recruit trainee teachers to the National Colleges of Education for three-year residential teacher training courses.

Accordingly, the Presidents of the National Colleges of Education would send letters calling for applicants, and the interviews are to be held from February 15 onward at the respective National Colleges of Education, the Ministry Secretary added.

Obituaries

ABEYGOONEWARDENA - CAMELIA RAJEVA

(Deputy Inspector General of Police (Rtd.) - Traffic Administration & Road Safety), Vice Patron & Past President of St. Peter's College Old Boys Union, Past President retired Senior Police Officers' Association, Past President Nondescript Cricket Club, Former Chairman & Member of SLC Disciplinary Committee, Former Member of SLC Executive Committee, Member of the Blessed Joseph Vaz Trust, Former Security Advisor - Japan International Cooperation Agency Sri Lanka, Honorary Trustee of Sasakawa Memorial Sri Lanka - Japan Cultural Center Trust, President JICA Alumni Association, Executive Director Lanka Safeguard Pvt. Ltd., Advisor - International Police Association (Sri Lanka Section), dearly beloved husband of Mali, loving father of Sanjeeva, late Lashan and Dilan, loving father-in-law of Keshini and Sandra, loving brother of late Lakshman and of Sita, affectionate grandfather of Cheval, Janik, Seth and Carven. Remains lie at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour. Cortege leaves the Parlour after service at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday 13th February for Burial at the Galkissa General Cemetery, Mt. Lavinia. 010991

DAVID - LUKE COLIN (Ex. Heptulabuys), dearly beloved husband of Desrine nee Vanden Driessen (Deso), son of the late Joy & Doreen David, brother of Claudette, Sherine, George (Heritage Expediciones), Marie, Aloma (India), Patricia, Christobel, Ricky & Judy (Australia), brother-in-law of Lawrence (Deceased), Patricia, Ramilus, Aubrey, Pierina, Alex (India), Ralph & Brian (Australia), Elmo, Doreen & Jenny (Australia) and Edward Passedaway peacefully at home. Remains will lie at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour from 8.00 a.m. on Saturday 13th February. Cortege leaves the Parlour at 4.30 p.m. on same day for Cremation at the General Cemetery, Kanatte (Old Crematorium) at 5.00 p.m. 011879

EMMANUEL, LUCIAN NATHAN - Retired Teacher St. Benedict's College, Kotahena, and former Visiting Lecturer at Aquinas University / College, passed away peacefully on the 13th of January 2021 in Toronto, Canada, shortly after his 90th birthday. Proud student, old boy and dedicated Teacher at St. Benedict's College and First President and Patron of the Old Boys Union in Toronto, Canada, loving husband of the late Clara, loving father of Vimalan, loving father-in-law of Darshini, loving grandfather of Clara and Jerome, beloved brother of the late Chelvam, late Gunam, late Jeyam, late Nasen, late Ranjan, late Pushpam, late Ranji, late Nawaraj, Rajini and Mohan, beloved brother-in-law of the late Mr T A Benedict, late Mrs Mary Rose Seemanpillai, late Mrs Mary Oblate Benedict, late Dr D A Peters and Mr A R Walter laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery, Thornhill, Ontario on the 20th of January, after a private ceremony, due to the prevailing restrictions. Condolences can be sent via SMS to the family at + 14165505347. 010746

HECTOR COLLIN VAN CUYLENBURG, Retired Surveyor, dearly loved husband of late Aelda (nee Weber), loving father of Christopher, Therese, Louis and Celine, father-in-law of Antionette, Ananda, Nayana and Vijitha and cherished grandfather of Gayathri, Chrisanne, Harsha, Calum, Udara and Kasun passed away peacefully. Viewing on Sunday the 14th February from 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon at Pingrove Cemetery, Kington Street, Minchinbury, NSW 2770. Service will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, cnr Todd Row & Moore Street, St. Clair, NSW 2759 at 9.00 a.m. on Monday the 15th February and burial at Pinegrove Cemetery at 10.30 a.m. 010968

MORTIMER - ROY PATRICK (Formerly of Rickitt and Colman) called to Rest. Beloved husband of Anne Mortimer nee La'brooy, brother of Allan. Funeral took place on 12.02.21 at Angulana. 19/8, Fonseka Road, Laxapathiya, Moratuwa. 011678

Navy provides Rs.5 million for restoration of Deegawapiya Stupa



Maha Sangha and other participants at the event.



Commander of the Navy Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne handing over the cheque to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Japan provides Rs.115 million for demining activities in Northern Province

The Government of Japan provided a sum of US\$ 620,379 (approximately Rs.115 million) to the Skavita Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Project (SHARP) for demining activities in Northern Sri Lanka. The grant contract was signed by Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Sugiyama Akira and SHARP Programme Manager Lt. Col. (Rtd.) V.S.M. Jayawardhana on Thursday at the Ambassador's Residence in Colombo.

The Government of Sri Lanka aims to achieve 'A Mine-Impact-Free Sri Lanka' within a few years and become the next mine-impact-free country in the world. Towards this endeavor, Japan has been a major donor in mine clearance in the country since 2002. The Government of Japan is SHARP's primary donor and has provided necessary funding for mine clearance since its inception in 2016, when its first programme was launched in Kilinochchi. Subsequently, SHARP cleared more than 1.5km² of minefields through funds disbursed from Japan's Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP). Japan has provided financial assistance amounting to US\$ 38.8 million to SHARP and to the other three demining NGOs currently operational in Sri Lanka.

The project is expected to contribute to the efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka in ensuring that mine-contaminated areas are safe, enabling the resettlement of displaced people and enhancing their livelihoods directly or indirectly in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts. Commenting on the provision of this grant, Lt. Col. (Rtd.) V.S.M. Jayawardhana said, "Today marks the granting of GGP funds to SHARP by the Embassy of Japan for the fifth consecutive year, for which we are appreciative and grateful for the assistance of Japan in Sri Lanka for assisting and encouraging SHARP to commence demining operations in 2016 and, thereafter, continuously grant funding support annually for SHARP. SHARP receives funding only from the Japanese GGP programme. SHARP has cleared a total of 1,574,573m² and recovered 9,135 anti-personnel mines, 119 anti-tank mines, 3,289 UXOs, and over 12,000 SAAs since November, 2016, to date, with over 1,500 families directly and indirectly benefitted. "SHARP will continue to carry out its operations to the best of its ability; diligently, efficiently, and effectively, cooperating with the staff of the Embassy of Japan and all other agencies to completely justify the funds provided and fulfil the desires of our sponsors," Jayawardhana said.

"The gratitude and thanks of all members of SHARP is conveyed to Ambassador Sugiyama Akira, all GGP staff members of the Embassy of Japan, and the people of Japan for their unstinted support by sponsoring SHARP since its inception, and more so ever for the Embassy of Japan for being in the forefront of demining activities in Sri Lanka and for their continuous concern and assistance for the well-being of the people of our country," he added.

Preparatory UN Mission Orientation FTX commences in Mailady

The preparatory Army Field Training Exercise (FTX) 'Harmattan - 3' for Combat Convoy Company (CCC) duties in UN Peacekeeping Missions commenced last morning at Mailady, Jaffna.

The exercise enables troops to develop mission orientation and competency before they undertake tasks in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission (MINUSMA) in Mali and Goa. It began with the participation of 20 officers and 223 Other Ranks of the Gajaba Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Sri Lanka Engineers, Sri Lanka Signal Corps, Mechanised Infantry Regiment, Corps of Engineer Service, Sri Lanka Army Ser-

vice Corps, Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps, Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps, Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police, and the Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps. As instructed by General Shavendra Silva, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, the mock FTX, made up on the directions of the General Staff Branch Director-General Major General Priyanka Fernando, will cover 457.2 km. This includes the areas of Mailady, Point Pedro, Nagar Kovil, Wettalakerni, Paranthan Visuvamadu, Pudukuduirippu, Mullaitivu, Nayar, Welioya, Padaviya, Pulmodai, Thawul

Wewa, Gomarankadawala, Trincomalee, Kinniya, Muttur, Seru Nuwara, Kandakadu, Pulathisigama, Polonnaruwa, and Giritale. The mock FTX will be carried out under five Phases in 47 vehicles, including six armoured vehicles, six unibuffs, and 19 administrative vehicles before it reaches its end at the Minneriya Infantry Training Centre next Tuesday. Major General Champaka Ranasinghe would function as the Exercise Director. He is also the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 58 Division. Meanwhile, Major General Deepal Pussella, GOC of the 62 Division, would be the Deputy Exercise Director. Friday morn-

ing's brief inaugural occasion saw Major General Champaka Ranasinghe as the chief guest. He signalled the start of the passage of the CCC in Mailady. The FTX 'Harmattan - 3', comprising 12 Regiments of the Army, would exercise their challenges under simulated threat conditions prevailing in Mali and Goa. A separate Headquarters (HQ-EXCON) staff would simultaneously monitor the applicability of standard drills against varying scenarios and would recommend improvements for effectiveness of the CCC. The CCC is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel B.A.D.N.K. Bulathsinhala as the Convoy Commander, while Major L. Udagedara serves as his Second-in-Command. The designed FTX, as per the plan, covers Northern Province, North-Central Province, and a section of the Eastern Province. The new UN-bound CCC would undertake responsibilities as the replacement for the second CCC of the Sri Lanka Army who are scheduled to return upon completion of their one-year tenure this year. The Sri Lanka Army, recognised globally as a UN Troop Contributing Country (TCC), with its third contingent of 243-strong Combat Convoy Company (CCC) after proper orientation exercises, would wing to Mali, a landlocked West African country marred by ethnic tensions.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF SEA CUCUMBER EXPORT VILLAGE AT IRANAITIVU

With the guidance of State Minister for Ornamental fish, Inland fish & Prawn farming, Fishery harbour Development, Multiday fishing activities and fish Exports Honourable Kanchana Wijesekera the export village will be inaugurated at Kilinochchi district.

The Ceremony will be under the leadership of Minister of fisheries Honourable Douglas Devananda. The inauguration ceremony will be held on 14th February 2021 at 10.30am at Iranaitivu, Kilinochchi district. Secretary Ministry of Fisheries

11.02.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 720,121
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 32,093,590.00
Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES 33

Vasana Sampatha

Official Results
 Draw No. 1665
 Date 2021.02.11

English Letter: **C**
 Winning Nos.: **04 41 55 60**

Prize	Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
1st Prize	Four Five Numbers are correct	1,000,000/-	01
2nd Prize	Three Numbers and English letter are correct	100,000/-	07
3rd Prize	Two Numbers and English letter are correct	2,000/-	08
4th Prize	One Number and English letter are correct	500/-	162
5th Prize	Four Numbers are correct	100/-	3,123
6th Prize	Three Numbers and English letter are correct	60/-	2,285
7th Prize	Two Numbers are correct	20/-	37,182
8th Prize	One Number and English letter are correct	20/-	9,019

Total prize money won in this Draw **Rs. 2,787,220.00**

Next Super Prize **Rs. 26,775,837.90**

Mega Power

Draw Number: 702
 Official Results
 DATE: 11.02.2021

English Letter: **D**
 Winning Numbers: **12 32 50 54 73**

Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,000,000.00 01
2nd Prize	If any 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00 03
3rd Prize	If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00 07
4th Prize	If any 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	500.00 23
5th Prize	Only 2 Numbers are correct	100.00 4958
6th Prize	If any 1 Number with English Letter is correct	40.00 3294
7th Prize	Only 1 Number are correct	20.00 8102
8th Prize	Only English Letter are correct	20.00 14868

Value of prizes won in this draw - **Rs. 13,729,210.00**

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 13,153,427.00**

Next Mega Super Prize **Rs. 65,727,420.80**

Next Power Super Prize **Rs. 20,527,409.20**

Next Grand Super Prize **Rs. 32,458,982.00**

Total Prizes Won in This Draw **Rs. 4,052,460.00**

Mahajana Sampatha

Draw Number: 4395
 Official Results
 DATE: 11-02-2021

Winning Letter: **R**
 Winning Numbers: **2 3 9 5 7 1**

Prize Structure	Prize Money	No. of Winners
1st Prize	2 3 9 5 7 1	2,000,000/- 02
2nd Prize	3 9 5 7 1	300,000/- 13
3rd Prize	9 5 7 1	10,000/- 128
4th Prize	5 7 1	1,000/- 1290
5th Prize	7 1	100/- 12774
6th Prize	1	20/- 129338

Value of prizes won in this draw - **Rs. 13,729,210.00**

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 13,153,427.00**

Dhana Nidhanaya

Official Results
 Date - 11/02/2021
 Draw Number - 432

English Letter: **G**
 Winning Numbers: **32 53 63 82**

Prize	Combination	Prize	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	English Letter and 1 number are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	04
3rd Prize	2 numbers are correct	Rs. 3,000.00	63
4th Prize	English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	220
5th Prize	3 numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	3854
6th Prize	If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 60.00	3590
7th Prize	If 1 number is correct	Rs. 20.00	94244
8th Prize	If only English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	17579

Total prize money won in this draw **Rs. 3,878,740.00**

Number of Prize Winners in this draw **121,382**

Next Draw Super Prize **81,303,976.00**

Govisetha

Official Results
 Draw Number 2690
 Draw Date 11/02/2021

English Letter: **V**
 Winning Numbers: **54 59 64 78**

Prize	Combination	Prize	No. of Winners
1st Prize	If all 4 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	If Letter & any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 100,000.00	06
3rd Prize	If any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 2,000.00	177
4th Prize	If Letter & any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000.00	428
5th Prize	If any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 100.00	10228
6th Prize	If Letter & any number correct	Rs. 40.00	6734
7th Prize	If any number correct	Rs. 20.00	16973
8th Prize	If only the letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	30617

Total Winners of this Draw **216,164**

Total Prize Money Won in this Draw **Rs. 7,645,960.00**

Super Prize for the next Draw **Rs. 62,339,389.20**

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.

DAYANTHA LAKSIRI MENDIS

“Treaties and non-treaty instruments are the bones and sinews of global politics, making it possible for states to move from talk through compromise to solemn commitment.” – Professor Thomas M. Frank (Taking Treaties Seriously [1988] 82 AJIL 67)

The implementation of the Geneva Resolution is an onerous task. It will encounter various challenges and dilemmas. It requires the establishment of institutional structures and national legislation to give effect to the operative part of the Geneva Resolutions. Implementing legislation must not offend the 1978 Constitution and the 1976 Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties (VCLT 1976)

The Geneva Resolutions

The Geneva Resolution can be classified as a non-treaty instrument. It is different from a treaty in many respects (Anthony Aust – Modern Treaty Practice). It does not require the consent of the State to be bound by such Resolutions. It has a preambular and operative part. It is likely to be interpreted in the same way as a treaty by reference to articles 31 and 32 of the VCLT 1969. It resembles the Resolutions of other UN Specialised Agencies such as IMO or ICAO which are of a binding nature.

The proposed Geneva Resolution is likely to be different and devastating for Sri Lanka if it is based on the Report of the UN High Commissioner for HR. If so, it is desirable at this point of time to draft a counter resolution and outline Sri Lanka’s proposals relating to reconciliation and accountability without taking a confrontational approach at this time.

OPERATIVE PART OF THE GENEVA RESOLUTIONS

Implementation of the operative part of the Geneva Resolutions can be dealt under four areas. These areas are – (a) Establishment of a truth-seeking and reconciliation commission; (b) Investigation into violations relating to human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL); (c) Reparation to victims; and (d) Guarantee of non-recurrence. All these areas are seen as an integral part of transitional justice.

(A) TRUTH-SEEKING AND RECONCILIATION

Establishment of a Commission for Truth-seeking and Reconciliation is an important consideration in dealing with transitional justice. It is a sensitive area. It can ‘open old wounds’ and therefore such investigation should not be undertaken in Sri Lanka. It can create ‘new wounds’ that can get festered over a period of time. If so, the situation might become worse for reconciliation.

In South Africa, such commission was established under National Unity and Reconciliation Act No. 34 of 1995. It was necessary to do so as apartheid was an inherently anti-democratic and unjust system perpetrated by a white minority. The global community denounced apartheid with sanctions and recognised the right to self-determination by the majority community. In Sri Lanka, LTTE was engaged in an armed conflict to establish a separate state in defiance of the Constitution and International law. The global community proscribed LTTE as a terrorist organisation.

Hence, we should gently reject this requirement in the preambular part by reciting the reasons as outlined above.

(B) INVESTIGATION INTO VIOLATIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Geneva Resolutions require investigation into violations relating to human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL). It is a requirement of transitional justice. Investigation should not be restricted to the final phase of the war, where Sri Lankan Security Forces had to proceed, amidst protests, to save the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka



Security Forces engaged in the Humanitarian Operations.

IMPLEMENTING GENEVA RESOLUTIONS

from the tentacles of the rebel forces who used child soldiers and civilians as a human shield.

The Resolution requires Sri Lanka to establish a credible domestic mechanism. It must be fair to the accused as well as to the victims. The Resolution requires the inclusion of Commonwealth judges and prosecutors along with national judges and prosecutors. Inclusion of Commonwealth judges and prosecutors may encounter political and constitutional issues. In this context, when formulating the Report on Sri Lanka, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights should read Article 46 of VCLT 1969 which says that any treaty or non-treaty instrument should not offend the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

Any investigation relating to violations of human rights law or IHL would be dangerous in Sri Lanka, unless such investigation is conducted as a non-international armed conflict under Common Article 3 of Geneva Conventions 1949. Unfortunately, in Sri Lanka, the Common Article 3 was not given effect to by the Geneva Conventions Act of 2006. The initial draft Bill prepared by me in 2001 incorporated the provisions relating to Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (draft Bill is on file with me) on the advice of the top legal advisers at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

These legal advisers came to the conclusion after consulting Jean Simon Pictet’s five points enshrined in the negotiating record (*travaux préparatoires*) of the Geneva Conventions 1949 and I was given the go-ahead to draft the requisite legislation.

International human rights standards are also not properly transformed into national legislation in Sri Lanka. There are many ‘deficiencies’ and ‘inconsistencies’ in our national legislation. Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, No. 4 of 2015 requires substantial amendments.

Unless international human rights standards are properly transformed into the domestic legal system by way of new legislation or amendment to existing law using the correct legislative techniques, any domestic mechanism established for this purpose will not be effective and will not be able to function according to international standards.

The operative part of the resolution will recite that accountability will be determined under Common Article 3



The Sri Lanka Army put in thousands of hours and manpower to detect and destroy mines in the North.



The rehabilitation programme of Sri Lanka for former LTTE terrorists is considered one of the three such top programmes in the world.

of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and therefore national legislation needs to be enacted to incorporate Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions to the existing Geneva Conventions Act 2006 (A draft Bill is annexed as a schedule to this paper to illustrate the requisite amendment).

(C) REPARATION TO VICTIMS AND TRACING MISSING PERSONS

Reparation to victims is also an important requirement under Geneva Resolutions to promote reconciliation. Legislation has been already enacted to establish a domestic mechanism for such reparation. The amount granted is too small and may be increased in the future.

It does not take into account reparation already provided to victims of war either through legislation or army routine orders or Cabinet Memoranda.

Unfortunately, the civilian victims, especially women who have lost their husbands or children have not been adequately compensated. Hence, there is a great need to compensate civilians who have suffered due to eviction, injuries, unlawful killing and/or those who have suffered due to suicide bomb attacks. The legislation must clearly identify those who are really entitled to these benefits in the context of Sri Lanka’s armed conflict.

The operative part should recite the continued implementation of national legislation relating to reparation and of missing persons.

(D) GUARANTEE OF NON-RECURRENCE

Guarantee of non-recurrence is a very challenging requirement of the Geneva Resolutions.

In most countries, the reconciliation between ethnic and religious groups is handled by ethnic relations commissions. In developing countries such as Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, these commissions are established through constitutional provisions. These commissions are empowered by law to take action where there is a threat to ethnic or religious harmony.

These commissions have produced literature relating to peace, harmony and development and organised drama

festivals to promote racial and ethnic reconciliation. I have seen many plays written by Eric Brathwaite in Georgetown and Port of Spain and cried how backward my beloved country is in regard to reconciliation and creating ethnic harmony and unity. We have not understood that national security is ethnic harmony and unity, and ethnic harmony and unity is national security.

These commissions are empowered to refer any matter to a Tribunal established by legislation. Such matters include ‘hate speech’ or any act which causes ethnic disharmony. Issues relating to burial or cremation regard to those who died from COVID-19 should be referred to such a commission and not to politicians or religious bigots.

Establishment of an Ethnic Relations Commission and a Tribunal may satisfy the reconciliation requirement, as these commissions have prevented a fully-fledged armed conflict between diverse religious groups and ethnicities in many countries.

The Operative Part should recite the establishment of such institutions to make reconciliation more effective and efficient. It can be described as a 13+. Ethnic harmony is national security.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Geneva Resolutions imposes additional requirements. These include the full implementation of the 13th



Different ethnic communities live peacefully in Sri Lanka



UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet

Amendment, reform of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and the Public Security Ordinance. Implementation of the 13th Amendment, PSO and the PTA is part of the ‘domain reserve’ under Article 2(7) of the Charter of the United Nations. Hence, such intervention is not fair and legitimate.

IMPACT ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY

Implementation of the Geneva Resolutions and the recent Report of the HR Commissioner can impact on State sovereignty. In today’s world, State sovereignty is diminished through ratification, accession or succession to treaties. A treaty *per definitionem* may restrict State sovereignty. However, a non-treaty instrument is not in the same category unless there is express or implied consent to be bound by it. Co-sponsoring gives implied consent.

In regard to ratified treaties, a State cannot hide behind State sovereignty to avoid international obligations. International compliance and control measures established by various legal regimes demonstrate that State sovereignty is diminished and the Westphalian Order does not exist anymore in its pristine form.

Implementation of the Resolutions may offend the provisions of the Constitution. In Sri Lanka, the Constitution grants sovereignty to the people and its elements are enshrined under Article 4 of the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka. If the legislative implementation of the proposed Resolution offends the Constitution, Sri Lanka should propose an alternative counter resolution which is in harmony with our constitutional provisions.

CONCLUSIONS

Implementing the Geneva Resolutions is an exacting task. It will encounter many challenges and dilemmas. The draft report evinces that the High Commissioner has not understood the atrocities committed by the rebel forces or ‘Kadi’s Case’ in the European Court of Justice on freezing of assets without due process.

The High Commissioner has gone on to declare unfairly and wrongly that Security Forces who saved Sri Lanka’s territorial integrity and sovereignty as enemies of mankind (*Hostes Humanis*) by subjecting them to universal jurisdiction and International Criminal Court (preambular part).

At this time, we must not forget that Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa saved the country from the rebel forces. If not for him, the armed conflict would have dragged on for many years. In this context, he was assisted by India, Pakistan, USA and many other countries.

He was also assisted by the Defence Secretary, Army Commander and many others. Since then, we have enjoyed freedom from fear and freedom from unlawful killing (preambular part needs to recite this fact).

The Geneva Resolution must not be rejected *in toto*. A rejection might send wrong signals to UN Member States. After all, the UN is the best friend of small and weak States, although the Thucydides’ doctrine (powerful States do what they can and small States must accept what they must) still continue to apply in the conduct of international relations and diplomacy. Notwithstanding the aforementioned phenomenon, the UN has assisted small and weak States in situations where might is not right. Let us engage with

quiet diplomacy and convince the international community to go along with our counter resolution (preambular part needs to recite some of these observations).

Hence, it is necessary to draft a counter resolution and identify how we intend to deal with reconciliation and accountability taking into account ground realities, constitutional provisions and the political ramifications.

We need to understand Morgenthau’s realism in dealing with this vexed issue and not engage in an unnecessary confrontation with Western countries. In my career, I have experienced quiet diplomacy and good reasoning with my Western counterparts at the UN or in diplomatic circles constitute the best tools that lead to victory at the end of the day. Such a strategic approach is important as the victories on the battlefield.

ANNEX

Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 2021

An Act to amend the Geneva Conventions Act 2006 (No. 4 of 2006); to give effect to Common Article 3 and for connected matters.

Be it enacted by the Parliament of

Short title and date of commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 2021 and shall come into operation as the Minister may appoint by Order published in the Gazette.

Amendment of Section 2 of the Act

2. Section 2 of the Geneva Conventions Act No. 4 of 2006 is hereby amended by adding immediately after Section 2, the following Section 2A.

“2A. (1) A person who in Sri Lanka commits or aids, abets or procures any other person to commit a breach of paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d) in sub-article (1) of Common Article 3 of the Conventions as provided in Schedule V to this Act is guilty of an indictable offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under Section 2A is liable –

(a) Imprisonment for life or any lesser period where the offence involves the willful killing of a person protected by the relevant Convention; and

(b) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding fourteen years for any other offence.

(3) An offence against Section 2A shall not be prosecuted in a Court except by indictment in the name of the Attorney General.”

Amendment of the Schedules

(3) The Schedules to the Geneva Conventions Act No. 4 of 2006 is hereby amended by inserting immediately after Schedule IV, the following new Schedule V

“SCHEDULE V (Section 2A) CONFLICTS NOT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER

In the case of an armed conflict, not of an international character occurring in the territory of the one of the High Contracting Parties, each party to the conflict shall be bound to apply, as a minimum, the following provisions.

(1) Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, color, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth or any other similar criteria.

To this end, the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above mentioned persons:

(a) Violence to life and person in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;

(b) Taking hostages;

(c) Outrages upon personal dignity in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;

(d) The passing of sentences and carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced and regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

(2) The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.

(Dayantha Laksiri Mendis LLB (Cey), MPhil (Cantab), was former Legal Adviser to the ICRC, Lecturer on IHL at the KDU and Colombo University, former Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, former UN/DTCD Legal Expert and Legal Adviser to several Caribbean, African and Asian countries. He was also Commonwealth Legal Expert to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in Guyana, South America where he drafted diverse legislation, treaties and non non-treaty instruments.)

(Contact: mendis_law@yahoo.com)



Unity in diversity

103rd birth anniversary of Prof. J.E. Jayasuriya tomorrow

Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara

— Through Prof. Jayasuriya's eyes

DR. INDIRA LILAMANI GINIGE

Former Deputy Director General
National Institute of Education

Prof. Jayasuriya who was born on February 14, 1918, won a scholarship to the University College, Colombo, securing the third place at the Cambridge Senior Examination held in 1933. Due to his logical thinking skills, he graduated at the age of 21 with a First Class in Mathematics. Having to state the name of the Buddhist school he was serving at the selection interview, young Jayasuriya failed to attain his career ambition of joining the Civil Service. Jayasuriya, never repenting this, has stated later that had he joined the Civil Service, he would have lost his mission in life.

In 1947, Prof. Jayasuriya proceeded to the UK to follow Postgraduate Studies at the Institute of Education, London University. Back home in 1949 with a Postgraduate Diploma and a MA in Education, he was appointed to the post of lecturer in Mathematics at the Teacher Training College, Maharagama. In 1952, he joined the Education Faculty of the Ceylon University and became the Professor of Education in the same university by 1957. He retired from university service in 1971 to accept an assignment in UNESCO, Bangkok, as the Regional Advisor in Population Education.

At the completion of this assignment, he returned home and engaged in research and publication and in a variety of projects in an advisory capacity, until his demise on January 23, 1990.

Prof. Jayasuriya had been an exemplary teacher, educational administrator, author, researcher, policymaker, international consultant as well as a devoted family man. He was considered a born teacher with all the characteristics of an exemplary model of an educator. His lessons, interspersed with questions, anecdotes, jokes and remarks had been very interesting to his students. Moreover, his ability to inculcate skills in the learner with practical examples rather than probing much into theory, shows how advanced he had been as a teacher. As a graduate of 21 years, he demonstrated success in managing a prestigious school in Colombo with experienced senior teachers. It is in recognition of his administrative capacity that the then Education Minister Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara hand-picked him for the headship of the Central College that was established in the Minister's electorate, Matugama. Moreover, serving the Education Faculty of the Peradeniya University for 15 years as the Professor, Jayasuriya made it one of the best Faculties of Education. The Bachelor of Education Programme he launched at the same university also demonstrated instant success.

Prof. Jayasuriya has written three sets of books on Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry for schoolchildren from Grade 6 to GCE O/L. His idea to produce school texts sprang from the change in the medium of instruction from English to mother tongue that called for new textbooks in the national languages. The texts he produced were used widely by schools until the government introduced the free textbooks policy in the 1980s. Educational Policies and Progress during British Rule in Ceylon (1796-1948) and Education in Ceylon Before and after Independence (1939 to 1969) are two of his publications wherein he discusses policy matters related to free education and controversial issues related to the medium of instruction, teaching of religion, denominational and government schools and curricular diversification. He has also published over 150 research papers on different aspects of education.

Prof. Jayasuriya's contribution to the field of policy formulation in education is also outstanding. His able guidance and leadership as the Chairman of the National Education Commission established in the 1960s, to propose policy for the period after the takeover of assisted schools, enabled the Commission to come up with some far-reaching proposals for a national system of education.

In recognition of his great contribution to the education of Sri Lanka, Prof. Jayasuriya was awarded the prestigious honour of being the first speaker of the C.W.W. Kannangara Memorial Lecture Series, inaugurated by the National Institute of Education (NIE) on October 13, 1988. On this occasion, he chose to pay his tribute to no other than the great Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara, the Father of Free Education in Sri Lanka, whom he held in high regard. His memorial lecture entitled "Democratization of Education: Contribution of Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara" is of special significance as it was delivered

at the age of 70, just 15 months before his demise, at the height of a life enriched by knowledge and experience. On the 103rd birth anniversary of this great academic, the writer highlights what Prof. Jayasuriya appreciated and admired in Kannangara, in order to shed light on the very values and principles which he himself cherished and held dear to his heart.

Prof. Jayasuriya begins his lecture by acknowledging the privilege he had received to pay his tribute to one of the greatest Sri Lankan patriots. Highlighting the fact that Dr. Kannangara's contribution to education far transcends that of his contemporaries, he justifies the selection of Dr. Kannangara as the first educator to be honoured in this manner. To provide more scope for assessing Dr. Kannangara's contribution, he also introduces the term "democratization of education" that Kannangara has used in place of the common term "free education."

Moving on to sources that he has used in preparing for the lecture, Prof. Jayasuriya mentions the late K.H.M. Sumathipala's book on the History of Education in Ceylon, 1796-1965. Observing that a greater part of the book provides a well-documented account of Dr. Kannangara's life and work, he boldly states that the title of the book is misleading. Prof. Jayasuriya refers to the two books he had written himself, and says that he used these books in preparing for the lecture. Acknowledging that he has drawn a few facts from the first source, he affirms that all the comments and interpretations he is using in the lecture are his own.

Prof. Jayasuriya begins his tribute to Kannangara by discussing his educational and career attainments. He starts from the church where he was baptized and moves on to his early education that enabled him to access a better quality education by winning a scholarship in open competition. In appreciation of the gratitude that Kannangara demonstrated to the principal of the school, who had recognised and nurtured his great potential, Prof. Jayasuriya states that Kannangara set aside his ambition to enter the Law College for a while to yield to the principal's request to serve his alma mater. Prof. Jayasuriya goes on to explain how Kannangara gained recognition as an exceptional teacher of Mathematics due to the outstanding performance of his students in the subject and how he also excelled in his career as a lawyer when he fulfilled his career ambition later.

Prof. Jayasuriya also highlights the school day talents of Kannangara in the areas of General Proficiency, Mathematics and English and how he also excelled in Pali and Sinhala while getting the best of the British public school tradition. He mentions the commanding heights Kannangara reached in both law and politics and the 'felicitous phrase and paper thrust' that were in his repertoire for use as occasion demanded. He also brings to light how Kannangara was beaten by a candidate in an all-island scholarship examination that selected just one student for studies in a British University, and how one journalist disregarding the fact that he was among the cream of the country's youth in terms of intelligence and learning, ridiculed him as a small man who was denied a good education. Thus, Prof. Jayasuriya highlights the special talents of Kannangara, his successes and failures, the praise and ridicule that came his way along with some of his strong personal qualities such as his loyalty to his guru and his love for the national heritage.

Discussing Kannangara's early promise, Prof. Jayasuriya declares that Kannangara was no stooge, no chauvinist nor turncoat. Without these personal qualities, Prof. Jayasuriya claims that Kannangara, would have floundered half way, preventing his magnificent contribution to the progress of education in Ceylon. To justify that Dr. Kannangara was no stooge, Prof. Jayasuriya brings to light how he chose to resign his appointment to defy a manager's order to support his candidature at a Local Board election. To support the fact that Dr. Kannangara was no chauvinist, Prof. Jayasuriya refers to an incident which demonstrated that Kannangara was free of ethnic prejudice. He goes on to explain how Kannangara canvassed untiringly for a person of a different ethnic group who was engaged in a contest with a person from Kannangara's own ethnic background. Furthermore, Prof. Jayasuriya reveals how this action enabled Kannangara to be selected repeatedly as the Chairman of the multiethnic Execu-



Dr. C.W.W. Kannangara



Prof. J.E. Jayasuriya

utive Committee of the State Council, an office associated with the ministerial portfolio for Education. To prove that Kannangara was no turncoat either, Prof. Jayasuriya mentions a financial situation where the government was compelled to introduce an ordinance to impose Income Tax. Considering income tax as an equitable form of taxation, he goes on to explain how Kannangara voted for this Ordinance in both the readings at the State Council, at a time when the majority of people's representatives, yielding to the power of a European lobby, opted to change their stand.

Prof. Jayasuriya next turns his attention to the Executive Committee of the time which played a significant role in the democratization of education. He highlights that this Committee until 1939, had no powers to exercise its supposed functions and refers to this as "the struggle for power of a powerless Executive Committee, 1931-1939." He then discusses how the egalitarian ideology of removing inequities and inequalities became the dominant motivation of the Committee thereafter. To this end, Prof. Jayasuriya notes the effort made by Kannangara to establish a new system that would ensure genuine democratization of education by providing equal opportunities to all children of the country, irrespective of their social class, economic condition, religion and ethnic origin. He identifies Kannangara as the man unwavering in this struggle, who strove with an iron will against overwhelming odds. Referring to other politicians who supported Kannangara, he says that several of them went only part of the way, a few most of the way, and just one nearly all the way.

Prof. Jayasuriya opens his discussion on the free education scheme that was introduced in 1944 by referring to the education context of 1943. He clarifies that it was the medium of instruction - English or bilingual - and not the type of school attended - government or assisted - that brought about the inequality of education. Knowing that the official language of the country was English and that 'no one without the knowledge of English can fill any high post,' he reports how the rich and the influential sent their children to fee levying English schools, leaving the gifted children of the poor to tenuous paid jobs of vernacular teacher, ayurvedic physician or notary.

In order to make equality of education a reality, Prof. Jayasuriya brings to light the recommendations made by the Kannangara Committee not only to make education free in all schools but in institutions of tertiary education as well. He highlights how Dr. Kannangara considering free education at all levels as the panacea, fought for the acceptance of the scheme by stating, "we shall be able to say that we found education ... the patrimony of the rich and left it the inheritance of the poor."

In responding to a comment made by the Financial Secretary in relation to the high cost of free education, Prof. Jayasuriya brings out the subtlety with which Kannangara dealt with the comment by claiming that the proposals are placed only to promote discussion with no commitment expected in respect of the extent or the date of implementation. He also highlights how Kannangara in his

ministerial speech to the State Council meted out a devastating treatment to certain wealthy and prominent citizens who argued for the deferment of the proposals on the ground that their adoption even in principle would materially affect not only the system of education but also the entire economic and social organization of the island. Prof. Jayasuriya also brings to light the formation of the Central Free Education Defence Committee and the islandwide campaign it conducted to make sure that the Bill would not be shelved. Moreover, he indicates how the mass support for the Bill thus made two councillors withdraw their proposals for deferment and how the Bill was passed on May 27, 1947. Irrespective of the struggle, Prof. Jayasuriya observes the adoption of the principle of free education acted as a bonanza to the well-to-do by allowing them to receive free of charge the high-quality education for which they previously had to pay, while letting the masses continue with the poor quality education that had always been free for them.

In this context, Prof. Jayasuriya recognizes Kannangara's effort to establish central schools as a step of far-reaching importance for the democratization of education in Sri Lanka. At a time when Royal College alone, among government schools, was providing a quality education to the children of well-to-do parents in Colombo allowing them to achieve higher education and lucrative employment, he highlights Kannangara's aim to provide through central schools a similar type of education at least to a small number of the most gifted rural children of the country.

Prof. Jayasuriya identifies the staffing of central schools with the best teachers available as a revolutionary measure that facilitated this aim. He explains how this was initiated by creating a Grade II Special post for the headship of Matugama Central School and how this post was stepped up within months to a Grade I post.

He goes on to explain how this move enticed heads of assisted schools to join Central schools, making assisted schools to lose their best teachers to Central schools. Referring to the first distinction in Mathematics gained at the SSC in Matugama Central School, and declaring this as the first from a government school other than Royal College, Prof. Jayasuriya highlights how the recruitment of quality staff made Central schools, centres of excellence equaling Royal College. Furthermore, he highlights the success achieved by Matugama Central School in sending students to the universities first for Arts, and later for Science, and how other central schools followed suit soon after. All in all, he proudly declares how Central schools were thus able to rival long-established assisted schools, opening vistas of hope and opportunity to thousands of able students in rural Ceylon.

Prof. Jayasuriya also sheds light on Kannangara's effort to give the national languages their rightful place in the education system. To this end, he describes the inferior status given to the national languages within the education system of the time although the vast majority of people were literate only in the national languages. He elaborates that it was only seven percent of the population that was literate in English

by the early 1940s, irrespective of the fact that it was the English Language that held the position of pre-eminence in educational and administrative settings.

Prof. Jayasuriya goes on to explain how Kannangara placed a set of recommendations before the State Council in May 1944 to establish the sole use of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction at the primary level, the use of the mother tongue or the bilingual system as the medium of instruction at the post-primary lower level, and the mother tongue, the bilingual system or English as the medium of instruction at the post-primary higher level. He delightfully points out how this initiative enabled the introduction of Sinhala and Tamil as the media of instruction in post-primary classes, and how it enabled the action to be extended to the tertiary level with the admission of Swabhasha educated students to the universities.

Prof. Jayasuriya also discusses the attempt made by Kannangara to rationalize the school system. He begins his discussion by introducing the three types of schools - government, denominational, and others managed by private authorities - that were supported by state funds. Next, he explains how the introduction of free education and the accompanying liberal grants made available to denominational schools generated a need for school rationalization. These schools were given 75.2 percent of the government grant while the government treated its own schools with much less generosity. Prof. Jayasuriya explains how Kannangara put forward a proposal to the State Council to make school funding more equitable. He elaborates how Kannangara made his stand on denominational schools abundantly clear by acknowledging that 'where duty demands that justice shall be done, the service rendered by these schools in the past 'should not stand on the way of our taking proper action.' However, in spite of the fact that rationalization of the school system was necessary for the true democratization of education, Prof. Jayasuriya admits that it did not take place to the disappointment of Kannangara.

Prof. Jayasuriya highlights the efforts taken by Kannangara to make religious education a part of the school curriculum in government schools. Explaining the situation that existed at the time, he says that both assisted and government schools were given the opportunity to impart religious instruction to students of their religious denominations, but government schools could do so only before or after the regular school sessions. Prof. Jayasuriya mentions that Kannangara took action to lift this ban so that government schools could impart religious education during school sessions just like the assisted schools.

Prof. Jayasuriya also brings to light Kannangara's steadfast devotion to the ideal of robust and unexploited teaching profession in order to make democratization of education a success. He points out that Kannangara's efforts to eliminate the private sector in education was also motivated by his determination to put an end to the unfair treatment of teachers within the sector.

In the last section of his lecture entitled "Kannangara's contribution and martyrdom," Professor Jayasuriya sums up how Kannangara, for 16 years, strove unceasingly to throw the doors of educational opportunity wide open to every child born to this country. With any cause likely to be beneficial to the common people of the country being dear to his heart, he says that Kannangara became their ardent champion, displaying at all times a dogged perseverance and fearless advocacy to defend their rights.

Prof. Jayasuriya pays his final tribute to Kannangara by harking back to a presidential address that he delivered in Calcutta during his last year of office, and quoting the following eloquent words of Kannangara that enshrine his justifiable pride and satisfaction at his own achievements as the Education Minister: "... in spite of abuse and calumny, vilification and ridicule, I have succeeded in obtaining the sanction of the State Council of Ceylon for a scheme of free education, providing for all children of the land equal opportunity to climb up to the highest rung of the university, ... and for obtaining for our national languages their rightful place in that scheme as an essential prerequisite for building up a free, united and independent nation."



US acquires 200 mn more COVID vaccine doses

US: US President Joe Biden said Thursday the US had signed deals to acquire 200 million more Covid-19 vaccine doses as officials look to immunize the vast majority of the population by July.

The deals with Pfizer and Moderna, which the administration had announced it was seeking last month, increase the country's total vaccine supply by fifty percent, to 600 million doses.

"Just this afternoon, we signed ... final contracts for 100 million more Moderna and 100 million more Pfizer vaccines," Biden said after touring the National Institutes of Health near Washington.

"We're now on track to have enough supply for 300 million Americans by the end of July," he added. Both vaccines currently authorized for emergency use in the US require two shots.

The US immunization campaign got off to a shaky start in December but has since improved: 46.4 million shots have now



US President Joe Biden (L) listens to Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett (R) when he toured the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland on Thursday. White House Chief Medical Adviser on COVID-19 Dr. Anthony Fauci is at Centre. - AFP

reached arms, and at least 34.7 million people have received one or more doses, roughly 10 percent of the population.

The vaccine drive entered a new phase Thursday as 6,500 pharmacies began scheduling shots, but a wave of opti-

mism brought about by falling cases could soon be tested by dangerous variants.

Anthony Fauci, the President's Chief Advisor on the pandemic, told NBC that by April, vaccines would start being available to anyone who wanted

them. While the shots are currently only available to adults, officials have voiced hope that ongoing studies would allow them to be approved for children in the coming months.

Since peaking on January 8 following the holiday



season, the US outbreak has been in steep decline, with an average of just over 100,000 daily cases - down from more than 300,000.

Between the number of people already vaccinated and the number of people who've already been infected, it's thought that around 40 percent of the population might have some immunity, which is also contributing to the slowdown in new cases.

The highly-transmissible B.1.1.7 variant that was first identified in Britain is also rapidly spreading in the US and is set to become the dominant strain by March, according to multiple studies.

This has the potential to reverse current progress, just as it did for example in Ireland, which had gotten its outbreak under control by late 2020, but was hit by a B.1.1.7 driven exponential wave in January and still recovering.

- AFP

Myanmar grants amnesty to more than 23,000 prisoners



A protester hold up a painting of Aung San Suu Kyi and a sign during a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon on Thursday. - AFP

MYANMAR: Myanmar's military regime ordered the release of more than 23,000 prisoners on Friday, following a week of fresh arrests targeting allies of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi and election officials.

Mass amnesties to empty the country's overcrowded prison system are common on significant local dates. Friday was a public holiday in Myanmar.

"The State Administration Council... has remitted the punishment of 23,314 prisoners from the respective prisons, jails and camps," said an announcement in the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar, using the official name of the new army administration. A separate

notice said another 55 foreign prisoners would also be freed. Both orders were signed by junta chief Min Aung Hlaing.

No further details on the released prisoners were given in the announcement.

Suu Kyi and other top political figures were arrested in dawn raids on February 1, following claims by the military that the November election won by her National League for Democracy (NLD) party was undermined by vote fraud.

The Nobel laureate has not been seen in public since she was detained, though NLD officials have reported that she is in "good health". - AFP

Biden, Xi in marathon two-hour call



This February 17, 2012 file photo shows Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and then U.S. Vice President Joe Biden holding T-shirts given to them by students during their visit to the International Studies Learning Centre in South Gate, California.

US: US President Joe Biden revealed Thursday that his first phone call with Xi Jinping lasted a marathon two hours, during which he challenged his Chinese counterpart on human rights, trade and regional muscle-flexing.

But an increasingly assertive Xi pushed back, according to Chinese state media, telling Biden that issues such as Beijing's crushing of opposition in Hong Kong and saber-rattling on Taiwan are China's "internal affairs."

"Last night, I was in the phone for two straight hours with Xi Jinping," Biden told reporters - an unusually long interaction for a US President, with whom even face-to-face meetings rarely stretch beyond an hour.

Biden warned afterwards that if the United States

doesn't "get moving" on China policy, "they're going to eat our lunch."

Wednesday's call - the first between the two since Biden took office in January - was to set the stage for the relationship under the new US leader, after it frayed under former President Donald Trump.

Beijing has tested US patience since Xi came to power, and Trump targeted it with trade tariffs.

Biden is under pressure at home and abroad to maintain Trump's stance, as the West looks to hold China to account for human rights abuses and at a time when some in the United States and wider world blame Beijing for failing to contain the coronavirus pandemic, which was first discovered in the central city of Wuhan. - AFP

House rests Trump impeachment case

US: House prosecutors wrapped up their impeachment case against Donald Trump on Thursday with an impassioned appeal to the Senate to convict the former president of inciting the deadly January 6 attack on the US Capitol and bar him from holding office again.

"We humbly, humbly ask you to convict President Trump for the crime (of) which he is overwhelmingly guilty," said Democratic Representative Joe Neguse, one of the nine impeachment managers from the House of Representatives.

"Because if you don't, if we pretend this didn't happen - or worse, if we let it go unanswered - who's to say it won't happen again?"

The House impeachment managers rested their case after two days of arguments that included Trump's own words and hours of graphic video from the assault on the Capitol by Trump supporters who were seeking to halt certification of Democrat Joe Biden's November 3 election victory.

Trump's lawyers were expected to begin their defense on Friday, arguing that the former President cannot be held personally responsible for the storming of Congress.

They have also argued that the trial itself is unconstitutional because Trump is now out of office, although the Senate rejected that argument earlier this week.

Jamie Raskin, the lead House manager, reminded the 100 Senators who are sitting as jurors of their oath to render "impartial justice."

"Exercise your common sense about what just took place in our country," Raskin said, noting that Trump stood by doing nothing for two hours as his supporters rampaged through Congress. But despite what even some Republicans have said was a strong prosecution case, Trump retains an unshakable grip on the party, making conviction highly unlikely.

It would take a two-thirds majority in the 100-member Senate, meaning 17 Republicans would need to join the chamber's 50 Democrats. - AFP



New York National Guard troops take selfies in the Rotunda during a tour of the US Capitol on Thursday in Washington, DC. National Guard troops from around the country continue to guard Capitol Hill as House impeachment managers continue to make the case against former US President Donald Trump. - AFP

Lockdown contributed to death of disabled boy - UK judge



Olga Freeman with her son Dylan.

UK: A British judge on Thursday said a severely disabled 10-year-old boy who was smothered to death by his struggling mother was an "indirect victim" of the coronavirus lockdown.

Judge Bobbie Cheema-Grubb said Dylan Freeman's mother, Olga, was exhausted and had reached her "wits' end" looking after her son, who required round-the-clock care.

Olga Freeman, 40, admitted manslaughter by diminished responsibility and was ordered

to be detained indefinitely at a psychiatric hospital.

Sentencing her at the Old Bailey court in central London, the judge called the case "rare and desperately sad."

"I have no doubt at all that you were a remarkably loving and dedicated mother to a vulnerable child until multiple pressures overwhelmed you and your mind was swamped by a destructive illness," she said.

"To some unknowable extent, it should be recognised that Dylan was an indi-

rect victim of interruption to normal life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic."

Olga Freeman walked into a police station on August 16 last year to report she had killed her son, who had extensive physical and mental health issues.

Police officers found him in a bedroom at their house in Acton, west London, covered by a duvet and surrounded by toys.

A post-mortem examination established he died from restriction of the airways

caused by pieces of sponge that had been stuffed in his mouth.

The court was told his mother had struggled to cope with looking after her son during the first lockdown and over the summer months, and had a mental health breakdown.

A psychiatrist said she developed psychotic symptoms because of the "very heavy stress" of the stay-at-home restrictions, which was exacerbated by the closure of Dylan's special school. - AFP

COVID deaths in Africa jump 40% in one month - WHO

REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Deaths from COVID-19 in Africa surged by 40 percent over the last month, the World Health Organisation said Thursday, as the continent's toll approaches 100,000.

"Over 22,300 deaths were reported in Africa in the last 28 days, compared with nearly 16,000 deaths in the previous 28 days," said the WHO Africa office based in the Republic of the Congo capital Brazzaville.

"This comes as Africa battles new, more contagious variants and gears up for its largest-ever vaccination drive," the UN agency said in a statement after a virtual press conference.

The first coronavirus infections in Africa were detected in February last year. More than 3.7 million cases have been recorded since, with 96,000 deaths, according to the latest figures released by WHO Africa on Thursday.

"The continent is expected to reach 100,000 deaths in the coming days," the WHO added.

"The increasing deaths from COVID-19 we are seeing are tragic, but are also disturbing warning signs that health workers and health systems in Africa are dangerously overstretched," WHO's Africa director Matshidiso Moeti said in the statement.

Despite fears it would be hit hard, Africa saw fewer cases than much of the rest of the world during the earlier phase of the pandemic.

"In the second wave as cases surged far beyond the peak experienced in the first wave, health facilities have become overwhelmed," the WHO said.

With vaccine scepticism high in some parts of the continent, Moeti urged all Africans to "go out and get vaccinated when a vaccine becomes available in your country". - AFP



A boy wearing a face mask carries a small bowl of "githeri", or mixed beans and maize, for him to eat as he walks past an informational mural warning people about the risk of COVID-19, painted by graffiti artists in Nairobi, Kenya.

MYANMAR'S ARMY CHIEF WARNS ANTI-COUP PROTESTERS TO RETURN TO WORK

MYANMAR: Myanmar's ruling Army Chief General Min Aung Hlaing signalled waning patience Thursday with nationwide protests over the military's takeover, ordering demonstrators to return to work or face "effective actions".

His warning comes after a sixth consecutive day of anti-coup rallies condemning the ouster of civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and follows US President Joe Biden announcing sanctions against the Generals.

While the demonstrations have largely been peaceful, security forces earlier this week used tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets on protesters, with isolated reports of live rounds being fired.

By late Thursday, General Min Aung Hlaing - who now holds legislative, judicial and executive powers - called for civil servants to return to work after days of nationwide strikes supporting the protests.



Musicians take part in a protest against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar on Thursday. - AFP

"Due to unscrupulous persons' incitement, some civil service personnel have failed to perform their duties," he said in a statement. "Effective actions will be taken."

Since the February 1 coup, there has been an outpouring of anger and defiance, calling for the release of Suu Kyi and other detained senior figures of her National League for

Democracy party. Demonstrators again marched peacefully on Thursday in Naypyidaw - the capital and military stronghold - as well as Yangon, the largest city and commercial

hub, which saw tens of thousands flood into the streets.

"Don't go to the office," chanted a group of protesters outside Myanmar's central bank in Yangon, part of the effort urging people to boycott work and put pressure on the junta.

"We aren't doing this for a week or a month - we are determined to do this until the end when (Suu Kyi) and President U Win Myint are released," one protesting bank employee told AFP.

Joining the protest were dozens from the ethnic Karen, Rakhine and Kachin communities - drawn from Myanmar's roughly 130 ethnic groups, some of whom have faced intense persecution from the army.

"Our ethnic armed groups and ethnic people have to join together to fight against the military dictatorship," Saw Z Net, an ethnic Karen protester, told AFP. - AFP



Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, signing an agreement on an August 2020 visit to Slovenia.

MIKE POMPEO OFFERED CUSTOM CHINA-MADE PENS AS MEMENTOS

US: Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, a vociferous critic of Beijing, offered memento pens that were made in China at dinners where he controversially entertained conservative guests, a watchdog said Thursday.

The group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington released records it obtained under US freedom of information laws that found that Pompeo's State Department spent at least \$10,433 for 400 custom pens.

The pens were embossed with the "Madison Dinner" logo, referring to gatherings Pompeo held at taxpayers' expense in which he invited prominent Republicans - many of whom could be useful if he pursues a presidential run, as is widely speculated.

In correspondence released by the group, a company representative explains to a State Department employee that the decorated pens "ship from

China to airport hub in Chicago" and that "we are unable to ship from China facility directly to customer due to customs issues, etc." Pompeo considers his hard line on Beijing a key legacy, tweeting Thursday that the United States "must remain tough on China" after President Joe Biden's first call with his counterpart Xi Jinping. In a speech last year, Pompeo criticized previous administrations' economic and diplomatic engagement of Beijing, warning that China's trade policies "cost American jobs and strike enormous blows to the economies all across America."

The Madison Dinners, named after the US founding father and secretary of state, drew scrutiny as critics said Pompeo was making use of taxpayer resources to further his career.

Pompeo's representatives did not immediately offer comment on the findings. - AFP



In this picture taken on February 9, 2021, street actor Usman Khan, dressed up as silent film star Charlie Chaplin, performs at a train station in the Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar. - AFP

PAKISTAN'S 'CHARLIE CHAPLIN' BRINGING LAUGHS TO FRONTIER CITY

PAKISTAN: Wearing a bowler hat and familiar toothbrush moustache, Pakistan's Usman Khan darts through traffic swinging a cane, teasing motorists and shopkeepers for laughs and a few rupees with a Charlie Chaplin impersonation that has become a viral sensation.

The 32-year-old actor in bustling Peshawar hopes the silent film antics of old will bring a bit of joy to the residents of the notoriously chaotic frontier city.

Khan said the idea to impersonate Chaplin's iconic character from "The Tramp" came to him as he watched a video of the legendary silent film actor while recovering from an illness. "I thought that I should start acting like Charlie and spread happiness among the people, to take their minds off the coronavirus pandemic," Khan told AFP. Dressed as Chaplin, Khan leaps into passing rickshaws, annoys local

shopkeepers, and occasionally swats onlookers with his cane as he shuffles bow-legged across the city, where he is frequently mobbed by fans asking for selfies.

"It is my purpose to make people laugh, to make them happy, to help them get rid of their grief," said Khan. The act has proven to be a hit. In just two months, Khan has attracted more than 850,000 followers and garnered millions of likes on TikTok - the hugely popular platform in Pakistan where he uploads videos of his slapstick routine.

But it hasn't always been all laughs for Khan, who like many in Pakistan is struggling to hold down a full-time job amid the economic fallout of the coronavirus epidemic. The Chaplin shtick, he said, has given him a new purpose. "That's why I like to get up like Charlie Chaplin, to hide all my worries and grief." - AFP

FRENCH NUN, EUROPE'S OLDEST PERSON SURVIVES COVID-19

FRANCE: Europe's oldest person, French nun Sister Andre, turns 117 on Thursday after surviving Covid-19 last month and living through two world wars, with a special birthday feast including her favourite dessert - Baked Alaska.

Born Lucile Randon on February 11, 1904, Sister Andre said she didn't realise she had caught the coronavirus, which infected 81 residents of her retirement home in the south-east city of Toulon, killing 10 of them.

"I'm told that I got it," the nun told AFP ahead of her birthday. "I was very tired, it's true, but I didn't realise it."

But David Tavella, spokesman for the Sainte-Catherine-Laboure nursing home, said she had "experienced a triple confinement: in her wheelchair, in her room and without a visit".

"So her birthday, it reinvigorates us," he added, following the deadly outbreak. Sister Andre said she was not going

to do anything special for her 117th birthday but the home is planning a celebration for her.

There will be a special mass at the home, which has a dozen nuns, and the chef is preparing a birthday feast of foie gras, capon fillet with porcini mushrooms and Sister Andre's favourite dessert: baked Alaska, washed down with a glass of port.

She says her favourite food is lobster and she enjoys a glass of wine. Born in Ales in a Protestant family, she grew up as the only girl among three brothers.

One of her fondest memories was the return of two of her brothers at the end of World War I.

She is the second-oldest living person in the world, according to the Gerontology Research Group, after Japanese woman Kane Tanaka, who is 118. Asked what she would say to young people, Sister Andre said: "Be brave and show compassion." - AFP



Sister Andre, the second oldest person in the world, has survived COVID-19.

MEGHAN MARKLE WINS PRIVACY CLAIM

Revealed: The handwritten letter showing true tragedy of Meghan's rift with father she says has broken her heart into a million pieces - and why she feels forced to make the 'devastating' missive public

By Caroline Graham for The Mail On Sunday
14:00 GMT on Feb 12, 2021, updated 15:00 GMT 14 Feb 2021

Meghan Markle and her husband Prince Harry quit frontline royal duties in March last year.

UK: Meghan Markle on Thursday won her high-profile privacy claim against a British newspaper for publishing a private letter that she wrote to her estranged father.

The Duchess of Sussex, who is married to Queen Elizabeth II's grandson Prince Harry, brought the case against Associated Newspapers after extracts of the 2018 letter appeared in 2019.

Judge Mark Warby ruled that Meghan had a "reasonable expectation that the contents of the letter would remain private".

The letter to Thomas Markle was written a few months after Meghan married Harry, and asked her father to stop talking to tabloids and making false claims about her in interviews.

The judge called it "a personal and private letter" about Meghan's own behaviour, her feelings of anguish about her father's behaviour - as she saw it - and the resulting rift.

The newspaper group's defence team argued the publication was to correct inaccuracies in a previous article in the US magazine People.

But the judge said the extracts published were "manifestly excessive and hence unlawful".

Meghan, 39, welcomed the



Meghan Markle and her husband Prince Harry quit frontline royal duties in March last year.

ruling, and thanked the court for holding Associated to account for what she said were "illegal and dehumanising practices".

She accused the Mail on Sunday weekly, its daily sister title the Daily Mail and the MailOnline website of exploiting individuals like "a game".

"For me and so many others, it's real life, real relationships and very real sadness. The damage they have done and continue to do runs deep," she added.

"The world needs reliable, fact-checked, high-quality news. What the Mail On Sunday and its partner publications do is the opposite."

Lawyer Mark Stephens, who specialises in reputation management, told AFP that "this is a very big win for the Duchess of Sussex".

Meghan and Harry quit frontline royal duties in March last year and now live in California. They have launched a number of legal cases against news outlets alleging invasion of privacy, including over paparazzi shots of their son Archie.

This has attracted criticism from some, as the couple are also launching themselves into the public eye with high-profile projects such as a Spotify podcast in which Archie made a brief appearance. - AFP

WE BEAT FOREIGN 'BLITZKRIEG' - LUKASHENKO



Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko delivers a speech at the All-Belarusian People's Assembly in Minsk on Thursday. - AFP

BELARUS: Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said Thursday his country had defeated foreign attempts to overthrow his government and showed no signs of heeding the embattled opposition's calls for him to resign.

In a defiant address to loyalists, Europe's longest serving leader pushed back a timeline to introduce constitutional reforms that he had promised in the wake of mass protests against his decades-long rule that erupted last summer.

During the wave of demonstrations Lukashenko, 66, claimed the protesters had been incited by foreign governments to orchestrate his ouster,

but on Thursday he said Belarus had successfully fended off the attacks.

"The blitzkrieg did not succeed. We held on to our country," Lukashenko said, using language especially resonant in a country that suffered huge losses at the hands of Nazi forces in World War II.

"Despite the tensions in society artificially created by external forces, we survived," Lukashenko told hundreds of delegates on the first day of the All-Belarusian People's Assembly. "We have to resist at all costs. And 2021, this year, will be decisive."

Belarus's opposition, whose leaders including Svetlana Tikhonovskaya and Maria Kolesnikova have either been jailed or forced into exile in neighbouring EU countries, dismissed the assembly as a piece of political theatre.

The protests that broke out in August were the most serious threat to Lukashenko's rule since coming to power in the ex-Soviet country in 1994.

Tens of thousands took the streets across the country to demand his resignation after he claimed to have won a sixth Presidential term in an August vote opponents said were rigged.

The authorities unleashed a violent crackdown on protesters, detaining thousands, many of whom reported torture and abuse in custody. Several people died in the unrest.

Lukashenko in November promised to change the Constitution to calm the protests, just weeks after he was shown during a demonstration brandishing a Kalashnikov assault rifle and referring to protesters as "rats".

Lukashenko reiterated Thursday authorities would draft a new constitution this year and put the changes to a popular vote in the beginning of 2021. - AFP

WHO warns against virus complacency



DENMARK: The World Health Organization (WHO) warned Europe against rash reopenings on Thursday despite a fall in new Covid-19 cases and Germany announced a partial border closure, reminders of the long battle ahead before vaccines can tame the pandemic.

Mass COVID-19 vaccination programmes are being ramped up in many countries in the race against more contagious variants, and governments are urging populations to continue to cope with closures as the inoculation campaigns move ahead.

But while new cases and deaths have come down in some places, a WHO official said it was by no means time to ease up.

"The decline in cases conceals increasing numbers of outbreaks and community spread involving variants of concern," said WHO Europe Director Hans Kluge.

"At this point, the overwhelming majority of European countries remain vulnerable," he added, pointing out the "thin line between the hope of a vaccine and a false sense of security".

More than a million cases are registered every week across the 53 member states in the UN agency's European region, which includes several in Central Asia.

But the number of reported cases has been falling over the past four weeks and deaths have also been declining over the past two weeks.

Worldwide deaths have meanwhile climbed to nearly 2.4 million, with the United States the hardest-hit, while the Middle East surpassed 100,000 fatalities on Thursday.

Germany said on Thursday it will ban travel from Czech border regions as well as Austria's Tyrol due to concern over new variants.

The AstraZeneca shot forms the bulk of doses being rolled out around the world – especially in poorer countries – under the Covax programme.

WHO expert Alejandro Cravioti said the organisation was awaiting more specific data on the vaccine's efficacy in over-65s, but it "would not be appropriate" to wait with "thousands of people dying". WHO said deaths from



WHO Europe Director Hans Kluge

COVID-19 in Africa surged by 40 percent over the last month, as the continent's toll approaches 100,000.

Two African nations announced deliveries of China's Sinopharm vaccine, including Equatorial Guinea, which said Beijing had donated 100,000 doses.

Zimbabwe will receive 800,000 doses by the start of March, with China donating a quarter and the government paying for the rest. Instagram blocked Robert F. Kennedy Jr – nephew of assassinated US president John F. Kennedy – for spreading misinformation about the virus and vaccines. - AFP



A man walks past the barriers placed opposite the Trump Tower in New York on Wednesday. - AFP

NEW YORK POLICE REMOVE BARRIERS FROM TRUMP TOWER

US: New Yorkers walking down Fifth Avenue in recent years have become used to navigating security barriers outside Trump Tower. Now, there's more space on the sidewalk.

The barricades that went up after Donald Trump won the presidential election in November 2016 have been removed, New York police confirmed on Thursday.

Police had already reduced their presence around Trump's New York home, located between 56th and 57th street, following President Joe Biden's inauguration on January 20.

Last Friday, "In partnership with the US Secret Service, the decision was made to remove the barriers around Trump Tower," an NYPD spokesman told AFP. Since leaving the White House, Trump has moved to

his resort at Mar-a-Lago in Florida, which he made his official residence at the end of 2019.

But his company the Trump Organization, which is headed by his two sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, remains based in the 58-story skyscraper near Central Park.

The spokesman would not say what security has been left in place to protect the Tower or when members of the Trump family visit.

"The NYPD does not discuss security measures" he said. Trump Tower has been the site of many anti-Trump protests over the past four years.

Last summer, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, took great joy in joining with activists to paint a giant Black Lives Matter slogan outside the tower. -AFP

RUSSIA SAYS NORWAY BECOMING 'PARADE-GROUND' FOR NATO

RUSSIA: Russia on Thursday claimed Norway was becoming the site of a military build-up on its frontiers ahead of the arrival this month of US bombers for exercises.

"We certainly can't talk of calm when tensions are rising on Russia's borders and a powerful parade-ground is forming for military operations against our country" Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters in Moscow.

American B-1B strategic bombers are expected this month at Norway's Orland airbase for joint training with the country's air force, which guards the NATO alliance's northern flank.

Zakharova claimed the Norwegian-US cooperation was "the latest in a series of similar events", highlighting the "permanent" presence of "American, British and Dutch" marines in northern Norway. She also noted a "port for maintaining American nuclear submarines" near Tromso.

"Such activities by Oslo threaten regional security and end the Norwegian tradition of not allowing foreign military bases on its territory in peacetime," Zakharova said.

Europe's far north has in recent years seen levels of military activity unprecedented since the Cold War, as tensions grow between Russia and the West.

A US aircraft carrier was in 2018 sent to Norway for the first time since the 1980s, while the following year surface combat ships entered the Barents Sea in Russia's exclusive economic zone.

Norway's neighbour Sweden has announced a massive increase in military spending, even though it does not itself belong to NATO.

Moscow itself has announced that it will build new bases and has deployed military units further and further afield, as melting ice increasingly opens the Arctic to navigation.

- AFP



NATO have led larger military operations in the region.

SAUDI FEMALE ACTIVIST'S FAMILY CREDITS BIDEN FOR RELEASE

SAUDI ARABIA: The family of Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul said Thursday US President Joe Biden's election win helped secure her release after nearly three years' imprisonment, but cautioned she was still far from free.

Hathloul, 31, was provisionally released in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

She had been detained in May 2018 with about a dozen other women activists, just weeks before the kingdom's historic lifting of a decades-long ban on female drivers – a reform they had long campaigned for.

"I would say thank you Mr President that you helped my sister to be released,"

Alia al-Hathloul told a virtual press conference.

"It's a fact that Loujain was imprisoned during the previous administration, and she was released a few days after Biden's arrival to power.

"Biden's arrival helped and contributed a lot in my sister's release."

Biden, inaugurated last month, has pledged to intensify scrutiny of powerful Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's human rights record after the kingdom received something of a free pass under his predecessor, president Donald Trump.

Saudi Arabia, which has detained hundreds of activists, clerics as well as royal family members, abruptly accelerated some political trials – including that of Hathloul – after Biden's election win late last year.

On Wednesday, Biden welcomed the decision to release her, saying it was "the right thing to do".

The US State Department said the activist should never have been jailed.

The release of Hathloul, who is still under probation and is barred from leaving Saudi Arabia, came after her siblings launched a vigorous campaign overseas for her freedom in a major embarrassment for the kingdom.

The siblings posted pictures on Twitter of the smiling activist, who appeared physically weaker and had streaks of grey hair.

When asked what was the first thing her sister did upon her release, Alia said she "bought an ice-cream", a joy denied to her in detention.

In their first post-release video call with the activist on Wednesday, her other sister Lina al-Hathloul said they could not "trust her smile".

"We asked her 'when you were in prison, you said you were fine,'" said Lina.

"She said 'what did you want me to do?... An electric (stun gun) was on my ear... They (prison authorities) were ready to electrocute me!'" - AFP



Saudi activist Loujain al-Hathloul

TRUMP IS OFF TWITTER PLATFORM FOR GOOD - TWITTER CFO

US: Twitter will not allow former President Donald Trump back on the platform even if he runs for office again, the company's chief financial officer said.

"The way our policies work, when you're removed from the platform, you're removed from the platform, whether you're a commentator, a CFO or a current or former public official," Twitter Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Ned Segal said in an interview with television network CNBC.

Trump's "de-platforming" by Twitter came after a violent uprising by his supporters leading to a deadly siege at the US Capitol on January 6. Facebook and other social networks also banned Trump after the incident.

"Our policies are designed to ensure that people are not inciting violence," Segal said.

"And if anybody does that we would have to remove them from the service and our policies don't allow people to come back."

Trump was a prolific user of



Twitter during his campaign and in his four years at the White House, using the platform for policy announcements, to settle

scores and for his political campaign. He had more than 80 million followers when his account was suspended. - AFP

AT LEAST FIVE DEAD IN 100-CAR PILEUP ON ICY TEXAS FREEWAY

US: At least five people were killed and dozens more injured Thursday when about 100 cars crashed in a pileup on an icy freeway in Texas, authorities and a witness said.

The incident unfolded on a busy interstate road north of downtown Fort Worth, authorities said, when approximately 100 vehicles smashed into each other. Fort Worth Fire Department spokesman Michael Drivdahl told a news conference the crash was likely caused by icy conditions. Drivdahl said five people had died and 36 people were taken to local hospitals. He warned the toll could rise as rescue workers were still going through vehicles. Jason McLaughlin, a professional storm chaser, posted a video on Twitter he'd filmed at the scene showing dozens of mangled cars and trucks.

He wrote that "100+" vehicles were involved. "It's still chaos," McLaughlin told The Weather Channel.

"It looks like a couple of vehicles lost control and when that happened, everything just piled up behind them."

The National Weather Service warned of continued freezing rain and sleet in the area, making for ongoing treacherous driving conditions. - AFP



Cars and trucks are wedged together after a deadly multi-vehicle pileup on the ice covered I-35 in a still image from video in Fort Worth, Texas on Thursday.

National Building Research Organisation
(State Ministry of National Security, Home Affairs & Disaster Management)

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Human Resource Manager for National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) & Reduction of Landslide Vulnerability by Mitigation Measures Project (RL VMMP)

NBRO invites Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified HR Managers having proven experience for development and implementation of HR related work at NBRO and RLVMMP Project. More details could be obtained from the www.nbro.gov.lk Interested persons should submit details with a CV as per the TOR. EOI should be sent on or before 19th February 2021 to reach Director General, National Building Research Organisation, 99/1, Jawatte Road, Colombo 5 or email to info@nbro.gov.lk

Replies to Classifieds

&

Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post.

Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CAR		
SP GF-XXXX	BLUE BIRD 1973.00 CC	2000
WP CBD-XXXX	DAA-MH555 WAGON R 650.00 CC	2018
WP KQ-XXXX	PERODUA AM/2HR 1000.00 CC	2011
WP CAA-XXXX	TOYOTA/DAA-ZVW30 PRIUS 1790.00 CC	2013
WP KC-XXXX	SUZUKI SWIFT LA -HT 5 15 1320.00 CC	2002
WP CBD-XXXX	SUZUKI/DAA-MH555 650.00 CC	2018

LORRY		
UP LN-XXXX	ISUZU BKG-NP85AN ELF 2990.00 CC	2014

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
INQUIRY- Nuwan 0767 763 317
Yard - Nawala Sale point
No: 305/1, Rajagiriya Road, Nawala

CLC
COMMERCIAL LEASING & FINANCE

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER SECTION 29 D OF 1961 AS AMENDED BY ACT NO. 32 OF 1986



PEOPLE'S BANK - ANAMADUWA BRANCH

AUCTION SALE

OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY WITH LAND, BUILDINGS, TREES, FRUITS, PLANTATIONS AND EVERYTHING STANDING THEREON

All that divided and defined allotment of the land depicted in Survey Plan No. 531 dated 19.11.1992 made by R.B. Prensathilake Baodan, Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land known as "PALUGAHA KELE" situated at Anamadawa Village, in the Grama Niladhari Division of Anamadawa, within the Anamadawa Pradeshiya Sabha Limits in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Anamadawa and aforesaid which said Lot 1 is bounded on,

North by : the land claimed by K.B. Weerakoon
East by : the land claimed by G.G. Rupiet
South by : the lot No. 02 of the land in Plan No. 531
West by : the road leading from Chilaw to Anamadawa

Containing in extent of **FIVE DECIMAL NINE PERCHES (A.00-R.00-P5.9)** together with buildings, trees, fruits, plantations and everything standing thereon according to Plan No. 531.

The aforesaid land is resurveyed as follows: -

All that divided and defined allotment of the land marked Lot 1 depicted in Plan No. 292 dated 20.08.2006 made by J.A.V. Rajalingam, Licensed Surveyor from and out of the land known as "PALUGAHA KELE" situated at Anamadawa Village, in the Grama Niladhari Division of Anamadawa, within the Anamadawa Pradeshiya Sabha Limits in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Anamadawa and aforesaid which said Lot 1 is bounded on,

North by : the road and the land belonging to A.A. Tudor and others
East by : the land belonging to Rupert and the land belonging to A.A. Tudor
South by : the land claimed by Rupert and the land belonging to L.C. Fernando
West by : the land claimed by L.C. Fernando and the road

Containing in extent of **SIX PERCHES (A.00-R.00-P.06)** alias Naught Decimal Naught One Five Two Hectares in extent (H.0.0152) together with buildings, trees, plantations and everything standing thereon.

And together with right of way as a common road depicted as the access road of west boundary in the aforesaid land.

Property secured to People's Bank for the facilities granted to MRS. WICKRAMASINGHE GAMLATH GEDARA ENOKA RASANGIKA WICKRAMASINGHE as the Obligors mortgaged and hypothecated in payment due on Bond No. 2749 attested by Mrs. P.D.S. Ransirini Joseph, Notary Public Marawala.

Under the Authority granted to us by People's Bank, I shall sell by Public Auction
On Tuesday, 9th March 2021
Commencing at 10.30 a.m. at the spot

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY

The property is located in front of the clock tower in the center of Anamadawa Town, facing the road leading to Chilaw.

FOR NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Please refer the Government Gazette, Daily News, Dinamina, and Thirukann Newspapers of 26th April 2019 for additional information.

MODE OF PAYMENT:-

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

- 10% (TEN PERCENT) of the Purchased Price.
- 2% NBT on the Purchased Price.
- 4% VAT on the above.
- 1% (ONE PERCENT) Local Sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
- Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the Purchased Price.
- Cost of Sale and all other charges, if any.
- Stamp Duty to the Certificate of Sale.
- The balance 90% of the Purchased Price will have to be paid within 30 days from the auction date to the People's Bank Regional Main Office - No. 79, Marawala Road, Nattandya.

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 resale the property.

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

The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice.

Regional Manager - Puttalam,
People's Bank Regional Main Office
No. 79, Marawala Road, Nattandya
Tel. Nos.: 0322253300, 0322253301
Fax: 0322255247

DALLAS KELAART

Specialist Licensed Auctioneer

No. 146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela.

Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111

E-mail: aucslk@gmail.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE UNDER SEC. 34 OF THE COMPANIES ACT NO. 07 OF 2007

In pursuance of Sec.34 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 application has been made to the Registrar General of Companies for a licence directing a Forum about to be formed under the name "KITHUSARA" to be registered as a Company limited by Guarantee without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name. The primary objects for which the Forum is proposed to be established are :

(A) OBJECTS the Company's objects are for the benefit of the public :

- Implementing spiritual, psychological and economic programs for the welfare of the poor.
- Contribute to protect the nature and the environment whenever they are at risk
- Collaborate with various organizations both local and foreign, which are in line with the objectives of our group, to provide and receive mutual assistance
- Build and maintain centers that facilitate access to libraries, internet, seminars, discussions, workshops, etc.

(B) Other following activity consistent with the public good in the field.

- A universe where all men and women, other creatures, nature and environment can live in peace and harmony sharing the God-given resources with each other promoting love, justice and equality among themselves.
- As a group to get actively involved in building up a society where justice, peace and love prevail and to live in harmony with the nature.
- Engaging in activities to promote justice, peace and harmony among various ethnic and religious communities.

Further details in Articles of Association can be examined where kept in No. 496/B, DALUWAKOTUWA, KOCHCHIKADE, NEGOMBO. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may make such objection within 21 days from this publication, by a letter addressed to the **Registrar General of Companies, 400, D.R. Wijewardena Mw., Colombo 10.**

Board of Directors (REV. FR. W.K.B.P.E. SHERARD FERNANDO JAYAWARDANE, REV. FR. KELAMBA ARACHCHIGE KUSUM KUMARASIRI & REV. FR. MARIMUTHU SATHIVELOO)

CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

TENDER FOR THE SALE (EXPORT) OF NAPHTHA

Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CEYPETCO) invites firm offers for the sale (export) of **110,000** Barrels plus/minus 5 pct. of Naphtha on FOB Colombo basis for loading during laycan **16-17/03/2021** Ex Dolphin Tanker Berth (DTB), Colombo.

Tender document could be obtained from the undersigned between 09.00 a.m. and 03.00 p.m. on any working day from 11th February 2021 to 22nd February 2021 or could be downloaded from the CEYPETCO official website www.ceypetco.gov.lk

Offers should reach the Chairman, Special Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SSCAPC), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 3rd Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09 at or before 1200 hrs. on Tuesday the 23rd February 2021.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER,
COMMERCIAL FUNCTION,
7TH FLOOR,
CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION,
NO. 609, DR. DANISTER DE SILVA MAWATHA,
COLOMBO 09.

TELE : 011 5455115 / 011 5666338
E-MAIL : cm@ceypetco.gov.lk / commercial@ceypetco.gov.lk

(Chapter 262) Local Government Elections Ordinance
Notifications under Section 66 g

It is hereby announced that the first meeting to elect the Chairman of the Thalawakelle Lindula Urban Council in the Nuwara-Eliya District of the Central Province as per the powers vested in me under Section 66 g of the amended Local Government Elections Ordinance of the Local Government Elections (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2012 shall be held at the Thalawakelle Lindula Urban Council Meeting hall at 10.00 a.m. on 05th March 2021 at the venue mentioned therein.

H.M.M.U.B. Herath
Commissioner
Department of Local Government
Central Province

Provincial Council Complex
Pallekele, Kundasale

on this date of 11th February 2021



PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(W/P)

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

(Ministry of Roads, Transport, Cooperative Development & Trade, Housing & Construction, Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Industries and Rural Development - Western Province)

SUPPLY OF EMULSION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS INSIDE THE HOMAGAMA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Open quotations will be received from suppliers for the purchase of **CSS1/CRS 1 Emulsion** required for the Executive Engineer's office of this Authority.

Bid No.	Qty to be supplied		Non-refundable Form Fee - Rs. -	Value of Bid Security (Bank Security) - Rs. -	Value of Bid Security Cash - Rs. -
	CSS 1	CRS 1			
PRDA/WP/PRO/2021/07	20000	10000	2,160.00	20,750.00	10,375.00

2. Relevant set of bid documents can be obtained from the Procurement Section of this Authority, from **15.02.2021** up to **01.03.2021** between 9.00 a.m. and 2.45 p.m., subject to the above mentioned tender form fee. The bid security, either by cash or by Bank / Insurance Security, for the value stated above, should be submitted as per the conditions stated in the bid documents.

3. To qualify for granting of bid, the bidder should submit the public contract registration certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies under the **Para 08 of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987** on occasions when the Bid Amount exceeds **Rupees Million 5.0**.

4. Acceptance of bids will be closed on **02.03.2021** at **10.30 a.m.** and bids received will be opened immediately thereafter at this office.

5. Bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the bid opening.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Provincial Road Development Authority (W/P),
No. 59, St. Sebastian Hill,
Colombo 12.
Tel.: 011-5676903



INVITATION FOR BIDS
PURCHASE OF LAND OR LAND WITH A BUILDING FROM THE UNDERMENTIONED DISTRICTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED ELDER'S HOME

Tenders are hereby invited for purchase of building or Land with a building according to specifications mentioned below from Land Owners or Institutions by the abovementioned Society for inaugurating as a Welfare Programme by the Education Employees Co-operative Thrift & Credit Society Limited.

01. This property should be located within 10 metres of Galle, Avissawella, Jaffna, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Towns close to the Main Road and should have transport facilities and convenient access.
02. The extent of this premises should be more than 01 acre (More than 160 perches) and as there is a proposal to establish an Elders Home, it is preferable that this location provides peace and tranquility and contain aesthetic beauty and the building should have a clear title.
03. In case there is a building in the said land, it is mandatory to have the Certificate of Conformity (COC) approved by the relevant Local Government Authority for this building and it is preferred to attach the Certificate of Assessment of the said property by a recognized Valuer/Assessor.
04. Tenders submitted by Brokers, sans the Power of Attorney will not be accepted and they will be rejected.

Relevant Tenders along with a copy of the deed of land, copy of the plan of the land and if it is a land with a building, the approved plan of the building and if the land or building is assessed, a valuation report should either be sent by registered post to the Chief Chairman, at the address below to be received before 3.00 p.m. on 27.02.2021 or should be hand-delivered. The words "**Tender Invitation for Elders Home**" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the tender.

The Hon. Director Board of the Society, reserves the right to take the final decision regarding the matters, pertaining to tenders.

Chief Chairman,
Education Employees Co-operative Thrift & Credit-Society Limited
No. 294, Galle Road, Colombo 03.
Telephone Nos. 011-2370067 / 011-2575737
Fax No : 011-2577475

VEHICLES FOR SALE

MOTOR COACHES		
62-XXXX	NISSAN 3290.00 CC (28 SEATERS)	1998
WP NA-XXXX	L/A LEYLAND VIKING 6540.00 CC (42 SEATERS)	2007
THREE WHEELERS		
WP YA-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
SG QS-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.00 CC	2009
SG YG-XXXX	PIAGGIO APE CITY 395.00 CC	2010
WP QU-XXXX	BAIAJ 4 S 173.50 CC	2009
CP QS-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.50 CC	2009
SP QE-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 S 145.45 CC	2006
SP QM-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR 45 173.50 CC	2007
WP QB-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 S 145.45 CC	2005
SP QB-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 STROKE	2005
WP ABF-XXXX	PIAGGIO APE CITY 197.00 CC	2015
SP QA-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 S 145.45 CC	2005
SP QX-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
WP ABC-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.98 CC	2015
SP YZ-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 200.00 CC	2012
SP QV-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.50 CC	2009
SP QD-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.50 CC	2008
SG AAG-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 200.00 CC	2013
CP YA-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45 173.50 CC	2010
SP QP-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR 45 173.50 CC	2008
SP YC-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO RE 2 S 173.50 CC	2010
SP QO-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR 45 173.50 CC	2008
SP YO-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
SP AAZ-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2015
WP YE-XXXX	BAIAJ AR RE 200.00 CC	2010
WP YA-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.50 CC	2010
WP QU-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.50 CC	2009
SG QD-XXXX	BAIAJ 45 173.50 CC	2008
SG YR-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
WP YR-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45-UG 198.75 CC	2011
CP YL-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
CP QK-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.00 CC	2007

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
INQUIRY- DAMIAN 0775081838 , 0114526600
 Vehicle facility centre at No. 98 J/1, Avissawella Road,
 Mahabuthgamuwa, Wellampitiya.

CLC
COMMERCIAL LEASING & FINANCE

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, Shewalingam Praveen Raja (N.I.C. No. 823494432 V) of No. 214/2, Udakalewatta, Polgahawela, Kurunegala District, North Western Province do hereby inform that I have annulled and cancelled with immediate effect the Power of Attorney No. 2297 dated 09.06.2017 attested by Mr R.M. Ganga Kumari Karunaratne, Notary Public, Kurunegala District, entered in day book No. 2594, Folio 8815, Volume 109 of the Power of Attorney Book of the Registrar General's Department and confirmed on Welu Jebamani (N.I.C. No. 522453005 V) of Ilukewala, Weuda post and that, henceforth, I shall not be held responsible for any deed or transaction committed by her under the said Power of Attorney, in my name or on my behalf.
Shewalingam Praveen Raja
 27.01.2021

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Buddhists and Hindus United

Notice is hereby given that an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies under Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 for a Licence directing an Association about to be formed under the name and style of Buddhists and Hindus United Limited by Guarantee to be registered with limited liability. Approved Objects (a) To foster, encourage and promote participatory programs integral and sustainable development and to stimulate and promote development alternatives that translate cultural values onto development programs and projects and encourage power sharing resource participation and decision making at all levels and to promote and carry out action oriented research locally, nationally, regionally and internationally with emphasis on cultural and linguistic issues at community level. (b) To seek and promote means of communication between and among individuals and groups in different countries and to promote informal participation in overcoming obstacles to peace, development, and social justice in the Asia Pacific Region and to promote friendship and understanding between different peoples and cultures and provide a tourism for grassroot exchanges and imitate and strengthen people to people exchange and alliances and to promote peace and harmony. (c) To hold meetings, seminars discussions and commissions and organize research studies, feasibility studies and a continuing dialogue on issues related to the objects of the Association and to provide training and other facilities, technical support and establish a pool of resource personnel and to print and publish newsletters, pamphlets and other publications and to give receive collect gifts, grants donation subsidies and to rouse money required for the purpose of the organization from local and foreign sources, provided that the association does not engage in primary and secondary education.
 Any Person, Company or Corporation objecting to the name or structure may bring such objections within 14 days from above Notice.

Registered Office : Thamocharampullai Road, Sanghaththani, Chavakachcheri
Mr Vinayagamoothy Elangkumar A.A.L. Company Secretary
 K.K.S. Road, Kondavil West, Kondavil.
Directors : Ven. Siri Vimala Thero, Dr S. Ganesanathan, Mr K. Ganesanathan
K. Ganesanathan NIC No. 473305437V

REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, BANDULA GUNARATHNA (NIC No: 571113660V) of No. 93/01, Nugathalawa, Welimada wish to mention that the General Power of Attorney No. 390 dated 14.05.2014 attested by Nalin Weerasinghe, Notary Public Badulla and granted to Sakalalaka Wallaba Adhipadayange Chandrawathi (NIC NO. 566572257V) of No. 93/01, Nugathalawa, Welimada is revoked and cancelled with immediate effect.

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REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice is hereby given to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that the Power of Attorney bearing No. 711 dated 19/07/2009 attested by Ms. Nilanthi P. Sirwardane of, Kandana in the District of Gampaha, Notary Public granted by me Galapaththige Vajira Chandana De Silva bearer of NIC NO. 590513393V of No. 73/E/17, 5th Lane, Aththidiya, Dehiwala to Galapaththige Wilson De Silva of 'Sagala', Welipenna Road, Aluthgama is hereby revoked, cancelled and annulled as from the 28th day of January 2021 I shall not hold myself responsible for any transaction entered into by the said Galapaththige Wilson De Silva on my behalf/henceforth.

Galapaththige Vajira Chandana De Silva

STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL ROADS & OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE



STATE DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION



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01. POST OF CIVIL ENGINEER (MM 1-2)

Qualifications :

Degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University or equivalent qualification.

Preference will be given to those who have experience in a recognized Construction organization

Salary : Negotiable, based on the qualifications & experience

Age : Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

02. POST OF CONSTRUCTION SUPERINTENDENT (JM 1-1)

Qualifications :

National Diploma in Technology (NDT - CIVIL) or equivalent qualification

Preference will be given to those who have experience in a recognized Construction organization

Salary : Negotiable, based on the qualifications & experience

Age : Should not be less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.

The Selected candidate will be offered an attractive remuneration package including

- Annual Bonus
- Payment for unutilized medical leave
- Medical Insurance Cover
- Incentives

Application with full details of qualifications, copies of certificates and the names and addresses / contact numbers of two non-related referees, should be forwarded to the Senior Manager (Human Resources & Administration) within 14 days of this advertisement. Candidates should indicate the post applied for on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

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Daily News Classifieds

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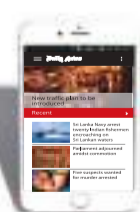
406
Furniture
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Urgent requirement for Tea Maker in Hawaii Restaurant (Salary Rs. 45000/-) for inquiries: 0773658648. 009661

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 * 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/= - Rs. 70,000/= * Cleaning Staff - Rs. 40,000/= . Company will be providing food & lodging as well as 04 days off per month. Please kindly call for interviews. 0773658648. 011445

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KADUWELA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 05.03.2021 for leasing of the Toilet System at the Kaduwela Bus Stand and at the Kaduwela Sathi Pola belonging to the Kaduwela Municipal Council for a period of one (01) year for a minimum Annual Tender Amount of Rs. 144,000/-

Last date and time for issuing of tender forms - 04.03.2021 at 3.00 p.m.

Last date and time for accepting tenders - 05.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Date and Time for opening of tenders - 05.03.2021 at 10.15 a.m.

Tender applications could be obtained from the Municipal Finance Department of the Kaduwela Municipal Council by submitting the National Identity Card and paying a non-refundable Tender Form fee of Rs. 5,000.00 and a refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 25,000.00

Tender applications should be sent by registered post to be received before the stipulated date and time or should be hand-delivered to the Tender Box kept at the Municipal Finance Department. The words "Obtaining the Toilet System at the Kaduwela Bus Stand and at the Kaduwela Sathi Pola on Lease" should be marked on to top corner of the envelope containign the tenders.

The full right of accepting or rejecting tenders lies with the Council. Further details could be obtained during office hours from the Municipal Accountnat (Tel.No. 0112-539562).

Sanjeeva Bandukcerith,
Municipal Commissioner

Kaduwela Municipal Council
 11.02.2021

Employment Opportunities



UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA VACANCIES

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura invites applications from prospective candidates for Post of the Technical Officer (Audio Visual) Grade III.

01. Technical Officer (Audio Visual) Grade III

Qualifications:-

- (i) Should pass in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in one sitting in any stream.
 AND
- (ii) (a) Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 in the field of Electronics and Telecommunication / Electronics / Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques from an Institution recognized by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or a Statutory Institution which has been established by an Act passed by the parliament.
 OR
- (b) Having obtained technical qualifications in the field of Electronics and Telecommunication / Electronics / Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques accepted as equivalent to the above qualification of (ii) (a) by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with one year experience in Audio Visual work in reputed organization.

Salary Scale : Rs. 31625 - 7x300 - 10x355 - 37275 p.m. [(U-MT 1 (III))]

Selection : By written and/or practical test and an interview.

Age : Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years.

APPLICATIONS AND PARTICULARS :-

- Application forms and further particulars including qualification could be downloaded from the University website www.sjp.ac.lk. Duly completed application (downloaded from the website) should be sent to the Assistant Registrar / Non-Academic Establishment Division, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda with copies of relevant certificates to reach on or before 25.02.2021.
- Applicants from University System / Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of their respective Institutions.
- Selected candidates will contribute 10% of their monthly salary to the Universities' Provident Fund while the employer will make a contribution of 8% to the Universities Pension Fund and 7% to the Universities Provident Fund. In addition they will contribute an amount equivalent to 3% of the salary to the Employees' Trust Fund.
- The post applied for should be mentioned on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Applications which do not conform to these qualifications, incomplete applications and the late applications will be rejected.

Registrar,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura,
Gangodawila, Nugegoda.

10.02.2021

Nishantha Chanaka ruggerite and coach par excellence

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Some sportsmen are blessed with natural talent from birth in certain sporting disciplines. When they mature, they tend to move into various other sports with the influence of either their family or friends. Kalubowilage Don Nishantha Chanaka better known as 'Alex' was one of the indefatigable sportsmen who engaged in several sports and ended up as a quality rugby player representing school, club and country bringing honour and fame, to the country.

Alex was born in 1971 and his father Kalubowilage Don George Aloysius was a businessman and his mother was late Withanage Don Catherine a house wife. He had two younger brothers Shandika Tharanga an engineer by profession and Dhanushka Amaranath the other brother is a Naval officer while the sister Achala is a housewife. He started his primary and secondary education at St. Sebastian's College, Enderamulla and later attended Alexandra College, Colombo 7 when they were living in Enderamulla town.

After completing his G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination he was compelled to move out to a Colombo school for his



Nishantha Chanaka

higher studies where he finally enrolled at Lumbini College to continue his G.C.E. Advance Level studies.

Even though he was renowned as a rugby player, Alex had a liking to play soccer and volleyball during his school days. He captained the volleyball team in the under-18 and 19 age groups while engaging in soccer in 1988/89 seasons while later being appointed as the

National Youth Centre SC captain in 1988.

Getting into rugby was a very interesting story as Alex had a friend called Kevin White who mingled with him closely in his free time. Kevin was a great follower of rugby and gradually motivated and encouraged him to take up rugby while his school Lumbini was in the limelight producing several champion players. Subsequently, Alex was quite impressed with the oval

shaped ball game and went on to represent Lumbini first XV side at the age of 18 playing a dual role in the 'Pack' either as a number eight or as a flanker, as and when the need arose under the guidance of coaches Sujith Priyankara and Saman Pushpakumara in 1989/90 seasons. The Lumbini first XV team in those two seasons were captained by Amith Samarasinghe and

Rasika Rohan. During his tenure as a player in 1989 and 1990 season they qualified to play against S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia in the Milo Championship final in 1990 and also was a member of the Sri Lanka Schools National pool in 1989.

Soon after completion of the school season, he was pumped up to get into

club rugby and on an invitation extended by Michael Jayasekera he decided to join the Havelock Sports Club, which was within a hop step and jump. When he enrolled to the Park Club, the sevens team was coached by former National cap Michael Jayasekera and the XV-side team was handled

by S.W. Chang while Graham Raux was the captain. He continued his marathon 14-year rugby career as a player while donning the CH and FC jersey in between for two seasons in 1997/98 (coach Tony Amit) and the rest with the Park Club. He rejoined the Park Club in 1999 and continued his stint as a player until his retirement. At the club he played as a flanker at the outset and it was Michael Jayasekera who spotted his running skills and moved him to occupy the wing three quarter position. He was finally entrusted to lead the sevens team in 1995 where they ended up becoming champs and led the XV-a-side teams in 1995 and 2000 seasons. He also captained the under-24 club team in 1992.

He made his debut with the Sri Lanka team representing the under-24 team in a 15-a-side game against Hong Kong in 1991 in two test match-

es. He also played at the Rugby Asiad in South Korea in 1992. He also donned the National jersey in several sevens tournaments including the Fiji International Sevens, the Hong Kong Sevens (1994 to 2000), in the Al Ain Abu Dhabi Sevens, in the Malaysia Tri Nations-15-a-side tournament, Japan and Malaysia sevens in 2000 respectively.

In the domestic club season he represented the Havelocks and CH and FC at several sevens and XV-a-side tournaments. After he called it a day as a player, he contributed to the game

as a coach and followed several coaching programmes. These include coaching level-2 in New Zealand, IRB level-2 conducted by Gerard Gallahar, Practical programme in coaching in UK conducted by Russell Earnshaw, Training schedule for the Singer Sri Lanka Sevens with Robbie Yule and Training schedule for 7s and 15-a-side with Keith Roberts. He served as Assistant National coach in 2006 at the Singer Sevens, toured with the National team for the Asian Games as Assistant coach in Qatar, at the Singer Sri Lanka Sevens and the Rugby

Asiad in 2007. He was appointed as National coach of the Sri Lanka Sevens team for the World Cup Asian qualifier and several other tournaments in 2008.

He also coached his club Havelocks in 2008, Police Sports Club in 2009, CH and FC in 2011 respectively. He served as Chairman of selection committee of Havelocks Sports Club from 2016 to 2018 while being a member of the National Selection Committee from 2018 to 2021. He likes to extend his sincere gratitude to his friend Kevin White and the coaches namely Sujith Priyankara, Saman Pushpakumara, Michael Jayasekera, retired senior DIG Nimal Lewke, Lal Silva, Gamin Fernando, S.W. Chang, Y. C. Chang, Tony Amit, Ana Saranapala and Jeff Matheson (NZ) who were instrumental in his success.

Some of his teammates were Chaminda Rupasinghe, Graham Raux, Azar Samsudeen, Leonard de Silva, Thusitha Peiris, Sudath Sampath, Thushara Jayalath, Kevin Rasquinho, Ruwan Suranga and Roshan Opatha.

His wife is Indira Kalubowilage and two daughters are Nithini and Nishika while son is Nathan Kalubowilage

Yasodha a judo star in the making

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Corr.

R.M. Yasodha Pankajani Bibile is a Grade 13 Student of Pushpadana Balika Vidyalaya, Kandy and one of the finest Judo-ka in the Central Province. She got admitted to the present School after getting through the Grade.5 Scholarship examination in 2011 and she started Judo at Pushpadana Balika.

She received a White Belt in the year 2013 and a Green Belt in 2015 and a Brown Belt in 2018 and she is expecting the Black Belt in Judo in the near future. Yasodha won the third place at the first Provincial Judo Championship held at Gampola competing in the 48 Kg Weight class and in the same year in the All island Novices Meet too she secured the third place contesting in the 48 Kg. Weight class. In 2016 at the Provincial Judo Tournament which was held at Gampola again she showed her capabilities by winning the first place in Judo competing in the 57 Kg. Weight Class and in the same year she won the second place in the 57 Kg. weight class at the National Sports Festival held at Jayathillake Hall,



Yasodha Pankajani Bibile, a talented Judo-ka. (Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr)

Nawalapitiya. She secured the first place at the 57 Kg. weight class at the National Novices Judo Championship held at Gampola. In 2017 Yasodha secured the third place at the National Sports Festival held at DM Jayaratne Hall at Gampola contesting in the 70 Kg. weight class and in the same year she won the third place at the 20th Sri Lanka Schools Judo Championship and at the all Island Games in the 57 Kg. weight class.

In 2018 she secured the third place at the provincial Meet and at the

21st Judo Championship held in the same place in 57 Kg. weight class. In 2019 she secured the third place in the 57 Kg. weight class at the Sri Lanka Schools Judo Championship. In 2020 too she won the second place in 70 Kg. weight class at the National Sports Festival. She has participated in three different Judo championships held abroad in Expo International Sports Olympiad for WORC Unity held in October 2015 and in 2018 at the Five Continents Judo Championship held in France and she was selected for the Best Performers Category.

In November, 2019 she participated at the Open Judo Championship held in Indonesia and she won Zonal colours in Judo in 2018 and 2019. She received the President's Guide Award in 2019 and became the School Games Captain and she is also a Member of the School English Medium Unit and a Member of the School Science Society. Her ambition is to continue Judo and to enter the Kotalawala Education Institute to do higher studies.

Karateka Sethum Semitha does Kuliypitiya Central proud

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Corr.

Karate Brown Belt holder Sethum Semitha Gunawardene brought honour and fame to his school Kuliypitiya Central College and ISKU Karate Academy. His first school was Aswadduma Subarathie Vidyalaya and the Principal was Gamin Ratnayake and his first class teacher was Mrs. Nimali. Sethum was admitted to Aswadduma Subarathie Vidyalaya in 2012 and when he was in Grade four in 2015 he took part at the Inter House Athletics Meet in 4x100 metres relay event under seven and his team came first and after passing the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination he was drafted to Kuliypitiya Central College.

When he was five years old his parents Muditha Gunawardene and Mangala Ambogama decided to hand over their son to the school Karate Coach Peter Perera. Later to enhance his skills they admitted their



son to a private Karate Academy under Sugath Kumara. His first meet was in 2017 and in the fifth Puttalam District Karate Championship he gave a fine start by claiming Golds for Kumite and Kata. His next outing was International under 9 Gojuru Kumite Karate Shotokan Meet under 9 age group and he won a Gold for Kata and Bronze in Kumite. In the same year at the G. A. T. Livera Foundation Meet he got Golds for Kumite and Kata and at the 2017 Open Karate Champion-



All Island Karate Championship 2020. The Champion ISKU Academy Players posed for a photograph after their victory. Sethum Semitha Gunawardene is standing in the front row first from right. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

ship he won Golds for Kata and Kumite and at the Puttalam District under 10 event he won Gold for Kata and Silver for Kumite.

In 2018 at the North Western Province 27th Karate Championship under 10 he won a Gold for Kata and a Gold for Kumite and in the All Island Meet he won a Bronze for Kumite and came among the Best Eight in Kata At the G. A. L. Livera Meet he won Golds for Kata and Kumite and in the

Open Karate World-Do Championship Meet he won Golds for Kata and Kumite and finally 2018 at the Gojuru Karate and Japan Shotokan Meet he won Golds for Kumite and Kata.

Then in 2019 at the 7th Puttalam District Meet in the under 11 age group he got a Gold for Kata and a Silver for Kumite and in the North Western Province Meet he won Bronzes for Kata and Kumite. In the Sri Lanka All Island Karate Tournament he came to

the Best Eight and in the 23rd Open Karate Championship Kesho Karate International Tournament he won a Bronze for Kumite and in the Open Karate Championship GAETANO - ESANO Meet he won a Gold for Kumite. In 2020 at the Online Kata Championship he won a Silver organized by International Shotokan. For his fine performances he has been already selected for the Karate Kumite Squad in 2019.

In addition he did Swimming for the under 13 age group and he came first in 50 metre Freestyle Event and selected to represent the Divisional Meet. But due to Coronavirus the Meet was postponed. His Karate Coach Rohitha Tissera and Principal D. C. S. Wijesinghe were very supportive of him. During the span of four years Sethum has won 23 Medals for various tournaments which includes 17 Golds two Silvers and four Bronzes.

Sri Lanka Women's Chess Grand Prix begins today

The second Sri Lanka Women's Chess Grand Prix 2021 conducted by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka (CFSL) will commence today (13) and the final will be held on February 21 at the (CFSL) Head quarters, Nugegoda. This is one of the leading Womens Chess Events in Sri Lanka where only top women players participate on a Round Robin basis in 11 rounds. The

event will be played on the time controls of 90 minutes with 30 second interval. The event will be live web-casted using DGT Electronic Boards. A live streaming of the final will be arranged at the CFSL youtube Channel.

The CFSL is offering cash awards of RS. 70,000, medals and trophies for the winners. The event will be held according to the strict health guidelines

provided by the Ministry of Health and the Medical Unit of Ministry of Sports (D.R)

The list of participants: WCM, Tharushi T H D Niklesha Visakha Vidyalaya, Sandeepani M Tharushi Devi

Balika Vidyalaya, WFM Mendis Dasuni Hansika Visakha Vidyalaya N.T Abeywardana University of Colombo, WCM, Pallie Esha Mishela

Visakha Vidyalaya, WCM, Wijesuriya G P Y Visakha Vidyalaya, WCM, Sandulka K M Dahandi Musaeus College, Abeyasinghe H M H Janandani NSBM Green University, Gunawardhana Devindya Oshini Ferguson High School, Gaveshi Wickramaratne Castle Siege Chess Club, Gimashi Weerathunga Anula Vidyalaya, Jayandi Bimansa Super Fighter Chess Club.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

Alexander Obeyesekere won many hearts at 1948 London Games

Alexander Indrajit Obeyesekere was born on March 9, 1918 to a boxing family. His father, Donald Obeyesekere who followed boxing at the Cambridge University in 1898, pioneered the introduction of boxing to Sri Lanka and is known as the 'father of boxing' in this country.

In addition, Alexander's brother, Danton Obeyesekere won several National Boxing Championships and also served as a judge at the London Olympic Games in 1948.

Alexander took to boxing at the age of 10 under the guidance of his father and brother and displayed his talent at several Inter-Schools Boxing Meets.

He also played a major role in helping Royal College to clinch the Stubbs Shield Boxing Championships on several occasions.

Alexander won the heavyweight 'B' class at the Stubbs Shield in 1935 and



Alexander Obeyesekere

took the heavyweight 'A' class title in the following year.

Alexander first participated in the National Boxing Meet in 1939 and won the amateur and the intermediate bouts. As a strong puncher, he defeated the more fancied Sally of the CLI to win the lightweight class.

In 1941, he won the welterweight class and received his colours for boxing while winning his bout at the Layton Cup and Clifford Cup Meets. He also went on to clinch the Clifford Cup in 1942 after a close contest.

Exhibition Boxing Meets were very popular in Ceylon during this era and Alexander had the opportunity of defeating the champion of the British Army in the welterweight class during a similar contest. In 1946, he won the Layton Cup in the welterweight class

and the National Championships in the welterweight and middleweight classes.

He also defeated Corporal Alfred of the Army in the welterweight class and won the Clifford Cup in 1947. He then had the better of D. M. D. V. Perera of the Railway Department to win the National Championship.

Alexander won some very close fights against Chris de Saram during the Selection Trials before qualifying to participate at the 1948 London Olympic Games.

At the Olympics, Alexander cleared his first hurdle successfully while overcoming his opponent G. P. Turkey of Pakistan quite convincingly.

However, his hopes were shattered when he was knocked-out by Z. Kula of Poland during the second-round competition. Despite that setback, Alexander kept his momentum in the local boxing scene and defeated young Vincent Perera in the second-round of the

1949 National Boxing Championships. Thereafter, he was selected to represent the county at the 1950 Empire Games in Auckland, New Zealand mainly because of his unbeaten record in the local boxing scene.

He certainly lived upto expectations and won a Bronze Medal for Sri Lanka while coming in third in the welterweight class category.

He later joined the CR and FC and represented the club in several local and international encounters. Alexander was also known as the 'Black Wolf' in the field of boxing and earned a great amount of respect from the Englishmen for his unique style which had the capacity to draw and retain the attention of the onlookers during a fight.

He was also involved as a planter and was a proud father of one daughter and one son. He passed away on April 28, 2002 in Colombo at the age of 84. (C.D)

Kalmunai Warriors Team win Sun Fried Premier League

(Text and Picture by: I.L.RIZAN, Addalachenai Central Correspondent)

Warriors Team, Kalmunai beat Hard Hitters Team, Kalmunai in the final to emerge champions of the Premier League limited over cricket tournament conducted by Sun Fried Sports Club, Kalmunai at the Kalmunai Santhankey United Public Play grounds recently.

Altogether three teams namely Kalmunai

Warriors Team, Hard Hitters and 11 Spartans Team took part in the tournament.

Warriors Team beat Hard Hitters Team in the final.

Hard Hitters Team bat first, scored 50 runs loss of five wickets in their allocated

seven overs. In reply Warriors Team, scored 53 runs in the seven overs losing four wickets.

Man of the match award went to M.Ashfaq of Kalmunai Warriors Team Winners were awarded trophies at the awards ceremony.



The champion Warriors Team, Kalmunai is seen here



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Trinity field an experienced side this season

With the greenlight given for the under 19 inter school cricket, Trinity College are in Division I Tier "A" with teams like Royal College, D.S. Senanayake College, De Mazenod College, Gurukula College and Wesley College, so this time it is going to be a one day game and expected to start, after the completion of the postponed GCE Ordinary Level examination. Their first game will be against

Royal College. They are sure to play their traditional games too.

Last season they played in Group D, and played six tournament games, and had four outright wins, one first innings win and a loss and led the table with 109.07 points with an average of 18.179 points.. They also played some of their traditional games and the big match against St. Anthony's College which was the 104th Kandy Battle of the Blues, but the 40th one day had to be called off due to corona

virus. This time they are hoping to play the big match.

Trinity College will be fielding a talented and experienced side. Packed with no less than eight experienced players, the Trinitians look forward for a successful season. It should be said that Trinity College is one of the oldest cricket playing schools in the country. Before the second World War, Trinity not only produced several top class cricketers but also produced several invincible teams.

Trinity is a school in Kandy which provides all the facilities for the sport. They have a superb indoor net, bowling machine, and an international stadium.

This season too, in their allocated five games and in the traditional games they are all-out to provide high quality cricket under the coaching of Kavinda Jayasuriya, who will be the head coach for the sixth year He is a level (I) Sri Lanka and level (II) Australian qualified coach. He is

backed by the new Principal who is a cricket lover and an old boy. Araliya Jayasundara OSB. and the Cricket Wing of the Trinitians. The side looks extremely balanced in all the departments with seasoned campaigners. As far as bowling is concerned, Trinity looks like a well-oiled unit with good pace bowlers.

Here's the complete squad that has the services of some top players of last year and also new faces. Abhishek Anandakumar

last years vice captain a Lion, who is one of the most senior players of the side, who did a good job with the bat in the few games played last year. He is a fine right hand bat and an off spinner who is sure to do well. There is Shane Gunatillake a coloursman who is an excellent left-hand bat who gave a good batting display last season, Umari Raizan is also a coloursman, The others in the squad are Matheesha Pathirana, Deemanttha Bandara. Akram Muthalib,

Ranuda Somaratne, Thevin Amarasinghe, Pasan Kularatne, Pasan Ganegoda, Pawan Pathiraja, Theeraka Ranatunga, Kalendra Abeyasinghe, Shenuka Ilukkumbura, Lasith Dias, Dineka Ehelapola, Kaveesha Silva, Manula Kularatne, Vibhavith Ehelapola, Rahal Amarasinghe, Vihan Mudunkotuwa, Kavinda Jayasuriya (Head Coach), Naveen Ekanayake and Lahiru Sandakelum (Assistant Coaches), Tharaka Kalpa (Trainer), Lasantha Bandara (Physio).

WORLD OF SPORTS

Today (Saturday) FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

Pakistan vs South Africa (2nd T20) at Lahore
PARA ATHLETICS
World Grand Prix Meet in Dubai (4th day)

FOOTBALL

(Premier League)

Leicester City vs Liverpool
Crystal Palace vs Burnley
Manchester City vs Tottenham
Hotspur
Brighton and Hove vs Aston Villa

RUGBY

(Guinness Six Nations)

England vs Italy at London
Scotland vs Wales at Edinburgh

(Today and tomorrow) (LOCAL EVENTS) TENNIS

Colombo Open Tournament at Green Path

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET (World Test Championship)

Bangladesh vs West Indies (2nd Test) at Dhaka (3rd and 4th days)
India vs England (2nd Test) at Chennai (1st and 2nd days)

TENNIS

Australian Open at Melbourne

GOLF

Pebble Beach Pro-Am at Pebble Beach Golf Links, California

(Tomorrow) FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

Pakistan vs South Africa (3rd T20) at Lahore

ATHLETICS

World Indoor Tour (3rd leg) at New York

FOOTBALL

(Premier League)

Southampton vs Wolverhampton Wanderers
West Bromwich Albion vs Manchester United
Arsenal vs Leeds United
Everton vs Fulham

RUGBY (Guinness Six Nations)

Ireland vs France at Dublin

Camillus Abeygunewardena's funeral today



Former President of the NCC and former President of St. Peter's College Old Boys' Union, Retired Senior DIG Camillus Abeygunewardena passed away after a prolonged illness on Thursday.

He was also the former Chairman Disciplinary Committee and Executive Committee Member of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC).

He was a keen sports follower and his two sons Sanjeewa (1995) and Dilan (2001) Captained the St. Peter's College Under-19 Rugby Teams.

Dilan went on to play for the CR and FC and also represented Sri Lanka at the Dubai Rugby Sevens in 2003.

The funeral of late Camillus Abeygunewardena will take place today (13) at the Mount Lavinia Cemetery at 10.00 a.m. - (D.R.)

Kyrgios, fans exit after thriller as Australian Open shuts doors

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY: A departing Nick Kyrgios thrilled the crowd one last time as the Australian Open kicked out fans late on Friday before a state-wide snap coronavirus lockdown goes into force.

Thousands of fans, mostly unmasked, watched the flamboyant Australian flame out over five sets against US Open champion Dominic Thiem, who clawed his way back from two sets down.

Public announcements warned fans to be home by midnight, when six million people across Victoria state go into a five-day lockdown to curb an outbreak of the highly contagious UK strain. In the evening's final match, defending champion Novak Djokovic was leading America's Taylor Fritz by

two sets to one when play was suspended at 11:30 pm (1230 GMT) to allow fans to leave Rod Laver Arena.

The Australian Open, which has encountered severe coronavirus problems and started three weeks late, was the first tennis Grand Slam to welcome fans in large numbers since the pandemic.

But it will continue behind closed doors and with players in a biosecure "bubble" during the five-day lockdown, after the cluster of 13 cases centred on an airport hotel.

"It's rough. It's going to be a rough few days for everyone," said America's Serena Williams, who learned of the lockdown when she came off court.

"It's not ideal - it's been

really fun now with the crowd back. But at the end of the day we have to do what's best."

With 22,299 spectators on Friday, the best attendance so far, Williams and Naomi Osaka safely reached the last 16 along with fellow major-winner Simona Halep.

Kyrgios, the main attraction for Australian fans, threatened a titanic upset against third-ranked Thiem before going down 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

"Tonight was epic and a good last match before lockdown, it's sad to say," said Austria's Thiem, who next plays Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov.

Earlier Williams survived an error-strewn performance to beat Russia's Ana-

stasia Potapova 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 and set up an encounter with powerful Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka.

The 39-year-old American, tracking a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title, dished up 31 unforced errors - but was given a big helping hand by Potapova, 19, who hit five double faults when trying to serve out the first set.

Osaka was troubled by a butterfly that landed on her nose during an otherwise routine 6-3, 6-2 victory over Tunisian 27th seed Ons Jabeur.

Osaka's next opponent is two-time Grand Slam winner Garbine Muguruza, who continued her formidable form with a one-sided 6-1, 6-1 win over Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas. - AFP



Austria's Dominic Thiem (R) and Australia's Nick Kyrgios greet each other after their men's singles match on day five of the Australian Open. - AFP

SLC conducts 2km-run fitness test for National players

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) conducted the 2km run fitness test for the National players to ascertain their fitness levels at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Accordingly, 32 players out of the 36-member provisional squad training for the Tour of the West Indies participated in the test.

According to the new test, players were given a target of running the 2km distance within a time frame of eight minutes and 35 seconds.

However, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Avishka Fernando, and Lahiru Thirimanne did not take part in the fitness test owing to different reasons. "Going forward, we will adjust the scores as we get better and become world-class. The bowlers, batsmen, wicketkeepers will be given different time targets," said Grant Luden, Physical Performance Manager of SLC.

"If a player fails, he can do another test within 40 days; our idea is to



Players were given a target of running the 2km distance in eight minutes and 35 seconds.

achieve the minimum fitness standards before the T20 World Cup, which will be played later this year," added Luden. The results of the fitness test will be notified to the Cricket Selection Committee.

Ekanayake qualifies for Tokyo Paralympics

Sri Lanka Para Athlete Gamani Ekanayake won a Silver Medal on the penultimate day of the World Para Athletic Grand Prix Meet continued in Dubai, UAE, yesterday.

Ekanayake produced a fine performance to secure second place with an effort of 58.55m while competing in the Men's Javelin Throw event.

With this performance, Ekanayake qualified to participate in the Paralympics in Tokyo, Japan.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka Para Athlete Kumudu Priyanka had to be satisfied with fourth place in the Women's 100m F/46/47 event.

This was Priyanka's personal best, but yet it was



Gamani Ekanayake



Kumudu Priyanka

not good enough for her to qualify for the Paralympics in Tokyo, Japan, according to Colonel Deepal Herath, Manager of the Sri Lanka Team.

Priyanka finished with a time of 13.30s to secure fourth place, while Czech Republic athlete Tereza Jakschova won the Gold Medal with a time of

12.95s, followed by Lanza Angenia of France (13.02s) and Pagirapom Gagun of Thailand (13.17s). Sampath Hettiarachchi and Gamani Ekanayake (Javelin Throw), Palitha Bandara (Shot Put), and Saman Subasinghe (400m) are the other competitors who are vying for Paralympics qualification.

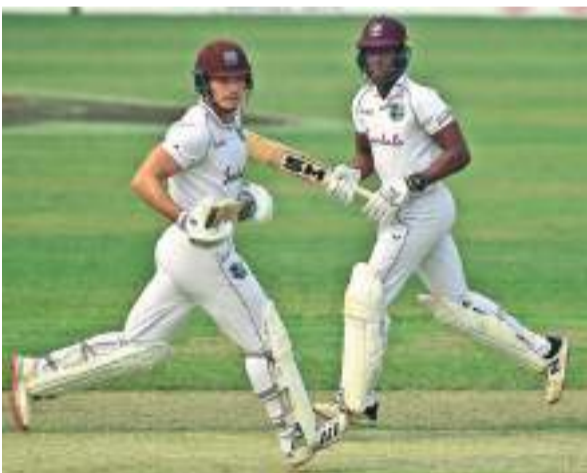
Windies put Bangladesh under pressure on day two

DHAKA, FRIDAY: Shannon Gabriel claimed two wickets and Alzarri Joseph complemented his brilliant batting with a prized scalp to put the West Indies firmly on top in the second Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Friday.

The West Indies reduced Bangladesh to 105-4 at stumps on the second day after posting 409 runs in their first innings on the back of half-centuries from Joshua Da Silva (92), Nkrumah Bonner (90) and Joseph (82).

Mushfiqur Rahim was batting on 27 alongside Mohammad Mithun at the close, helping Bangladesh prevent further embarrassment after the early damage.

The hosts still required 104 runs to avoid the fol-



West Indies' Joshua Da Silva (L) with teammate Nkrumah Bonner run between the wickets during the second day of the second Test match against Bangladesh. - AFP

low on. Gabriel dismissed opener Soumya Sarkar for a duck in the first over of the innings and then removed one-down Najmul Hossain for four in the next over. Tamim Iqbal and Momi-

nul Haque repaired the damage with 56-run for the third wicket before off-spinner Rakheem Cornwall struck.

Da Silva took the catch as Mominul fell for 21 runs.

Joseph dismissed Tamim in the next over for 44 runs to aggravate Bangladesh's problems.

Da Silva, Joseph and Nkrumah Bonner all came close to centuries earlier as the West Indies dominated Bangladesh to add 186 runs in two sessions they batted before being all out.

After resuming on 223-5, Da Silva and Joseph added 118 runs for the seventh wicket after Bonner missed out on converting his overnight half-century, falling for his career-best knock. Seamer Abu Jayed and

left-arm spinner Taijul Islam finished with 4-98 and 4-108 respectively helping Bangladesh dismiss the West Indies on the stroke of the tea break. Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan denied Bonner his maiden Test century, dismissing him for 90 off 209 balls after the right-hander resumed on 74.

Mithun took a good catch at leg slip as Bonner departed after hitting seven boundaries, securing his second fifty in as many innings.

Da Silva brought up his 50 in 86 balls with a reverse sweep off Mehidy before being bowled by Taijul for 92. Joseph, who batted aggressively followed him soon afterwards, nicking Jayed to wicketkeeper Liton Das. He struck eight

SCORE CARD	
WEST INDIES FIRST INNINGS (overnight 223-5)	10-409 (Gabriel)
Kraigg Brathwaite c Najmul b Soumya 47	Bowling: Jayed 28-6-98-4, Mehidy 33-9-75-1, Nayeem 24-3-74-0, Taijul 46-2-8-108-4 (nb2), Soumya 11-1-48-1
John Campbell lbw b Taijul 36	BANGLADESH FIRST INNINGS
Shayne Moseley b Jayed 7	Tamim Iqbal c Moseley b Joseph 44
Nkrumah Bonner c Mithun b Mehidy 90	Soumya Sarkar b Gabriel 0
Kyle Mayers c Soumya 5	Najmul Hossain c Bonner b Gabriel 4
Jermaine Blackwood c and b Taijul 28	Mominul Haque c Da Silva b Cornwall 21
Joshua Da Silva b Taijul 92	Mushfiqur Rahim not out 27
Alzarri Joseph c Liton b Jayed 82	Mohammad Mithun not out 6
Rakheem Cornwall not out 4	Extras (nb 3) 3
Jomel Warrican c Liton b Jayed 2	Total (four wickets, 36 overs) 105
Shannon Gabriel c Mushfiqur b Taijul 8	To bat: Liton Das, Mehidy Hasan, Nayeem Hasan, Taijul Islam, Abu Jayed
Extras (b4, lb 2, nb2) 8	Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Soumya), 2-11 (Najmul), 3-69 (Mominul), 4-71 (Tamim)
Total (all out, 142.2) 409	Bowling (till date): Gabriel 8-2-31-2 (nb2), Cornwall 11-4-18-1, Joseph 8-1-34-1, Mayers 5-1-12-0, Warrican 4-1-10-0 (nb1)
Fall of wickets: 1-66 (Campbell), 2-87 (Moseley), 3-104 (Brathwaite), 4-116 (Mayers), 5-178 (Blackwood), 6-266 (Bonner), 7-384 (Da Silva), 8-396 (Joseph) 9-398 (Warrican),	fours and five sixes in his 108-ball innings. Jayed and Taijul soon wrapped up the West Indies innings by picking the wickets of Jomel Warrican (two) and Shannon Gabriel (eight). - AFP

Anika and Alana sail into Doubles final

Sisters Anika and Alana Seneviratne powered their way into the Women's Open Doubles final with a convincing win at the Colombo Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

The favourites rallied around magnificently and went on to beat the combination of Saajida Razick and Dinethya Dharmaratne in straight sets 6-3, 6-0 in the semi-final encounter.

The results:
Men's Open Doubles (semi-finals): Vibuda Wijebandara and Savith Weerasinghe beat Luca Knese and Dumindu Dilun 6-4, 6-2. Chaturya Nilaweera and Thehan Wijemanne beat Kavisha Rathnayake and Akila Vimukthi 6-3, 6-2.

Women's Open Doubles (semi-finals): Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya beat Neyara Weerawansa and Tuvini De Alvis 6-3, 6-2. Anika Seneviratne and Alana Seneviratne beat Saajida Razick and Dinethya Dharmaratne 6-3, 6-0. (A.M)



Anika and Alana Seneviratne in action

Nine Lankans in IPL Player Auction

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Nine Sri Lankan players have been shortlisted for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 Player Auction, which will be held on February 18 in Chennai.

A total of 31 Sri Lankan cricketers were registered for the IPL Player Auction and altogether, 292 cricketers are set to go under the hammer.

The 2021 IPL is scheduled to be held from April 11 to June 5.

The Sri Lankan players who will be auctioned: Kusal Janith Perera, Thisara Perera, Kevin Koththigoda, Maheesh Theekshana, Vijayakanth Vijayakanth, Dushmantha Chameera, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dasun Shanaka, and Isuru Udana.

Ireland's Sexton out of France Six Nations match

DUBLIN, FRIDAY: Ireland captain Johnny Sexton has been left out of Sunday's must-win game against Six Nations favourites France in Dublin after suffering a blow to the head against Wales last week.

Fly-half Sexton, 35, failed to pass the return-to-play protocols after the incident in the 21-16 defeat in Cardiff on the opening weekend of the tournament. The skipper's long-

standing half-back partner Conor Murray will also be absent with a hamstring injury he picked up in training this week. It will be the first time since 2011 that neither

player has been present for a Six Nations match. Ulster's Billy Burns will deputise in the number 10 jersey, while New Zealand-born Jamison Gibson-Park has replaced Murray at scrum-half. - AFP