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## Get ready to embark on a new journey in tourism sector - President

In the face of prevailing COVID - 19 pandemic the Government has taken every possible measure to provide all required facilities notwithstanding the health related restrictions imposed to ensure safety of the public. As the tourism sector is a vital component of the national economy of this country, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa called on the entrepreneurs in the field to get ready to embark on a new journey by overcoming challenges. **TO PAGE 02**



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# GOVT TO OWN TRINCO OIL TANK FARM

## INDO-LANKA TALKS ON ENERGY SECURITY

## TANK FARM HAS MASSIVE FOREX POTENTIAL

The Oil Tank Farm in Trincomalee would be owned by the Sri Lankan Government soon, said Energy Minister and Co-Cabinet Spokesman Udaya Gammanpila yesterday.

He said that the Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay has agreed to grant them back to Sri Lanka during a discussion held on Sunday and it ended successfully, having addressed all the related issues.

He added that the Indian High Commissioner was very much flexible to agree with the proposals, leaving aside the clauses in the agreement that was inked in 2017 during the Good Governance Government tenure.

He made these observations at a ceremony where

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa granted houses to 112 families who were the unauthorised dwellers on the pipelines connecting the Colombo Port to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) Kolonnawa storage terminal yesterday.

He also said that the oil tank farm that was not used since the Second World War would be owned by the country in the near future. He added that as most of the ships passing off Trincomalee are Indian owned, it was better to win their confidence to attract its market. Hence he said that the oil tank farms which were not utilized for 80 years would be used to earn massive amounts of foreign exchange along with the IOC company. **TO PAGE 02**



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa makes a symbolic presentation of a key to one of the 112 recipients of houses who were residing near the pipelines connecting the Colombo Port with the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) Kolonnawa Storage Terminal yesterday. The recipients who had been living there for over 35 years, were granted houses under the Rs.500 million project. *Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division*

## Waste to Energy power plant opened

**SANDASEN MARASINGHE** Sri Lanka's first Waste-to-Energy Power Plant which is a sustainable solution for both the garbage issue in the City as well as the energy issue was launched by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Keralawalapitiya yesterday morning (17). **TO PAGE 02**

## No suppression of media - Mass Media Minister

**DILSHAN THARAKA** The inauguration of the National Development Media Centre which was established to convey accurate information on Government policies and development efforts to the people was yesterday held at the Government Information Department under the patronage of Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella. **TO PAGE 02**



## No need to fear the vaccine - Dr. Fernandopulle



Minister of Primary Health Services, Pandemics and COVID Prevention Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle yesterday said that there is no need to hit the panic button over false reports claiming adverse reactions to the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine. **TO PAGE 02**

## People's aspirations being realised - Johnston



Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said the system change desired by the people during the previous Presidential election is now being carried out successfully by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He is one of the most successful administrators in Sri Lanka. **TO PAGE 02**

## SPMC earns record Rs.1.1 billion in 2020

**ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA** The State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) has generated Rs 1.1 billion in revenue in 2020 and this is the highest revenue ever recorded by the Corporation, Acting Minister of Health and State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals Prof. Channa Jayasumana said. **TO PAGE 02**

## UK travel restrictions lifted - Foreign Ministry

The temporary travel restrictions introduced by the Government on travel originating from the United Kingdom to Sri Lanka on account of the new COVID -19 Variant in the UK has been lifted with immediate effect. **TO PAGE 02**

## Shani seeks bail from Appeal Court

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA** Former CID Director Shani Abeyssekara and Sub Inspector Sugath Mendis remanded for allegedly fabricating evidence in the murder of businessman Mohammed Shiyam have filed revision applications in the Court of Appeal seeking an order to release them on bail. **TO PAGE 02**

## Loan scheme for private bus operators

**IRANGIKA RANGE** A loan scheme has been launched as an incentive and encouragement to private bus operators who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge said. **TO PAGE 02**

## Six arrested in Rs. 1 Trillion ransom case

**RASURA DILHARA GAMAGE** Six suspects who kidnapped a person and demanded a ransom of Rs. 1 trillion were arrested by the Poovarasana Kulam Police in Vavuniya on Tuesday evening. The Poovarasana Kulam Police handed over the suspects to the Vavuniya Police for further investigation. **TO PAGE 02**

## Measures to increase forest cover to 30 percent - Herath

The Government has already taken measures to increase the forest cover to 30 percent by 2025 in order to preserve the ecological balance as envisaged in the National Policy Framework, "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour", said Company Estate Reforms, Tea Estate Related Crops, Tea Fac-



Tea Export Promotion State Minister Kanaka Herath. **TO PAGE 02**

## Female lawyer files FR challenging Police inaction

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA** Attorney-at-Law Achala Seneviratne has filed a Fundamental Rights petition in Supreme Court challenging the failure on the part of police to conduct a fair investigation into several complaints she made over interfering with her professional duties. The petitioner is seeking an order directing the Attorney

General and Inspector General of Police to expedite the investigations pertaining to her complaints and prosecute the suspects in appropriate Courts. **TO PAGE 02**

## UNP queries delay over acting Ministerial appt.

**SHIROMI ABEYASINGHE** The United National Party (UNP) has urged the Government to explain to the public why there was a delay in appointing an acting Minister of Health during the COVID-19 crisis. **TO PAGE 02**

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**Get ready to embark...** From page 01

The President made these remarks during a discussion with the representatives of the tourism sector held at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (17). Heads of line institutes in the tourist industry and leading entrepreneurs were present.

Attention was paid to give priority to the personnel such as hotel employees, tour guides and drivers under the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination programme. It was stated that there is no requirement to quarantine service providers when the tourists are not tested positive.

A decision was taken to shuttle the infected tourists to the hospital in Koggala managed by Lanka Hospital (Pvt) Limited and Sri Lanka Army. President instructed officials to pay due attention to direct the tourists as per the approved tourism plan.

The President advised the relevant officials to take necessary measures to improve facilities for tourists and to take into account the comments made by them when they depart for their respective countries.

The entrepreneurs stated that

they will take all steps possible to achieve future goals under proper strategies as the government has already provided necessary reliefs.

During the discussion it was revealed that according to the figures, the percentage of COVID-19 infected tourists, who arrived in the country during the outbreak, is less than 1%.

Head of the Presidential Task Force for Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation Basil Rajapaksa said that the advantage of Sri Lanka ranking at the 10th place in the COVID-19 Perfor-

mance Index for its successful handling of the coronavirus pandemic can be utilized for the promotion of tourism industry. He further stressed that the individuals, who are engaged in tourism should take necessary measures to uplift the industry by adhering to the health guidelines, during this challenging period.

Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga, Acting Health Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana, State Ministers Dr. Sudarshani Fernando, D.V. Chanaka, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera,



Ministry Secretaries, Heads of State Institutions related to the tourism industry, members of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 Prevention and other officials participated in the discussion.

**SPMC earns record...** From page 01

The Minister made this observation at the launching ceremony of the fourth drug locally produced under the "New Drugs for a New Country" programme of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Accordingly, locally-produced Nimodipine 300 mg was released to the local market on Monday.

According to the Minister, Nimodipine is used to decrease problems caused by a certain type of bleeding in the brain (subarachnoid hemorrhage-SAH). Nimodipine is called a calcium channel blocker. The body naturally responds to bleeding by narrowing the blood vessel to slow the blood flow.

"Nearly 1.5 million Nimodipine 300 pills are required a year for use in the country and the drug was imported for Rs. 132 a pill in 2019. However, the SPC is able to manufacture the drug for Rs. 57 per pill, resulting in saving of Rs. 5 million for the Medical Supplies Division of the Ministry of Health," he said.

Prof. Jayasumana further said that this is the fourth drug produced under this programme. Gabapentin 300 mg, Clopidogrel 75 mg and Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate 200 mg have been previously released to the market.

SPMC Chairman Dr Uthpala Indrawansa also participated in this occasion.

**Govt to own Trinco...** From page 01

The Spokesperson of the Indian High Commission said that India and Sri Lanka have identified the energy partnership as one of the priority dimensions of cooperation. India is committed to working together with Sri Lanka for the island's energy security.

In this context, consultation and discussions have been undertaken to promote mutually beneficial cooperation for development and operation of the Upper Oil Tank Farms in Trincomalee. India is looking forward in continuing the productive engagement with Sri Lanka in this regard.



**UK travel restrictions...** From page 01

At a meeting presided by President Mahinda Rajapaksa, it was decided to relax the restrictions on travel from UK subject to 14 days of quarantine and PCR tests determined by the Health Authorities.

Tourist arrivals from the UK too will resume under the guidelines introduced by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

**Shani seeks bail...** From page 01

Filing revision applications through their lawyers, the petitioners requested the Court of Appeal to revise and set aside Gampaha High Court's order to refuse bail and sought an order to grant bail to the petitioners on any condition that the Court shall seem fit.

These revision applications are to be taken up for consideration in the Court of Appeal on February 23. Shani Abeysekera was arrested by CCD for allegedly fabricating evidence in the murder of businessman Mohammed Shiyam in 2013 in which then DIG Vass Gunawardena and several others were sentenced to death for committing and conspiring to commit murder.

**Six arrested in...** From page 01

The suspects from Colombo had come to Vavuniya on information that a sum of Rs 1 trillion had been remitted from a foreign country into the account of a person at Nellikulama in Vavuniya.

They had come to Colombo with the intention of kidnapping the person and getting the money as ransom. However, the Police on a tip off arrested the suspects after they kidnapped the person into whose account Rs. 1 trillion has been remitted. Investigations are continuing on the instructions of Vavuniya Police OIC Chief Inspector Alagiyawanna.

**People's aspirations...** From page 01

It is visible from his actions and reactions. Under the "Gama Samaga Pilisandarak" programme, the President directly goes to villages, listens to the grievances of the people and provides solutions for them during the programme itself. That is what the people of this country expected and the President is governing the country in accordance with the wishes of the people," he added.

He was speaking at a ceremony held to inaugurate the construction work on the Mahakittula and Mahakirula reservoirs of the North Western Province Maha Ela project at Kongaha junction, Irudeniya, Yapahuwa. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa unveiled a plaque marking the commencement of the construction of this massive irrigation project which will supply water to the Wayamba Province on Tuesday.

The Minister further said that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who recently visited Irudeniya village promised the villagers that the Wayamba Ela project would be commenced with immediate effect to solve the water problem of the people. Now it has become a reality. That is why the people of this country have placed their confidence in the Rajapaksa family. The Rajapaksa family never deceived the people and always fulfilled pledges given to the people," he added.

The Opposition is spreading various rumours to scuttle the Government's development programme. Now the Opposition members are acting in a deranged manner as they have totally failed in attacking the Government," he added.

**No need to fear...** From page 01

The State Minister urged the people to get the vaccine without any fear in order to support the country's drive to combat COVID-19.

Dr. Fernando further stated that over 200,000 people have already got the vaccine and no adverse effects had been reported so far.

The Minister said that the vaccination of the public against COVID-19 commenced in Colombo. The persons vaccinated will include those who interact closely with the public in the Western Province.

Speaking to the media, Acting Minister of Health Prof. Channa Jayasumana stated that 27,018 vaccinations will be carried out in the Colombo District, while 17,622 in the Gampaha District and 11,710 in the Kalutara District.

**Loan scheme for...** From page 01

The Government has taken this decision in view of the huge losses suffered by the private bus sector as a result of the Coronavirus lockdown that hampered their operations.

"Following a request made by private bus owners, the Government has decided to issue loans for private bus owners under concessionary interest rates," Minister Lokuge said.

Accordingly, private bus owners will be issued a loan of Rs.300,000 on an interest of 4 percent and another sum of Rs.50,000 to purchase ticket machines. The relevant cheques in this regard were issued to 27 private bus owners initially by the Transport Minister at a ceremony held recently.

Minister Lokuge said the Government is well aware of the difficulties faced by private bus operators due to the pandemic. The Ministry also praised the Bank of Ceylon and People's Bank which came forward to implement this loan scheme.

The Minister added that the Government will take all possible measures to help maintain the private bus industry. "It is our target to provide passengers a comfortable and punctual bus service," the Minister said.

**UNP queries delay...** From page 01

Former Member of Parliament for the UNP, Sandith Samarasinghe, addressing the media at Sirikotha, charged the Government of failing in their duties to ensure the health and safety of the public. On the 23rd of January 2021, the Minister of Health was diagnosed with COVID-19 and on the 28th of January she was admitted to the IDH and was subsequently transferred to the Intensive Care Unit.

Her hospitalization left her incapable of carrying out her duties. However, the Government delayed the appointment of an Acting Minister of Health for 19 days. It was only on February 16 that the State Minister of Pharmaceutical Production was appointed as the Acting Minister of Health.

Samarasinghe highlighted the fact that

during the ensuing 19 days of the country having no Minister of Health, 98 people died from the COVID-19 virus. This figure amounts to nearly a quarter of the total death toll that has resulted from the pandemic.

Despite the rising number of infections and growing death toll, the Government's failure to appoint an acting Minister of Health demonstrated their indifference to the pandemic. With the absence of a head of the medical authorities, the UNP urges the Government to explain who was making the necessary decisions on the administration of the health sector. Without a Minister of Health, who has ensured that the medical authorities in the country were kept in line with the Government's policies?

Furthermore, during this period the Government has been in the process of obtaining the necessary COVID-19 vaccines for the country. Without a Minister of Health in office, who was responsible for ensuring that the President and the Cabinet of Ministers were kept abreast of developments regarding this vital procurement?

Samarasinghe also drew attention to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry investigating the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks. During the hearings allegations were levelled against former President Maithripala Sirisena that he failed in his duties by not appointing an acting Minister of Defence in his absence. The former M.P. questioned whether or not the current President had also failed in his duties in this regard.

**Waste to Energy...** From page 01

The waste-to-energy plant will incinerate the waste supplied by the Colombo Municipal Council (around 600 - 800 tons daily) and the generated electricity would be supplied to the National Grid. This project falls within the Western Region Megapolis Plan.

The Non-conventional Renewable Energy produced by the project is compatible with the NCRE targets put in place by the Ministry of Power and Energy. Additionally, the power plant has been completely aligned with global benchmarks for social, environmental governance, and sustainability during its construction and is set to exceed these standards during operation.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, in a message stated the solid waste management process in the city of Colombo has been going on for a long

time, facing various challenges. The Kerawalapitiya Waste-to-Energy Project which was launched as a result of continuous efforts to solve that problem is unique. It is a milestone in the solid waste management process not only in the city of Colombo, but in the entire country.

Power Minister Dulas Alahapperuma, in a message stated that it is the Ministry of Power's intention, to find a sustainable solution to the waste management problem which is a complex and long-running issue. By generating cost-effective, renewable energy from something that would otherwise cause stench and disgust, we have provided an elegant solution to an age-old problem.

Waste disposal has become a severe problem, especially in the Western Province, where over 3, 500 metric tons of

household waste is produced daily. In the absence of a waste-to-energy plant, municipal solid waste will collect in landfills, polluting both the ground water and the environment.

As the Power Minister Alahapperuma appreciated the Ceylon Electricity Board, the Colombo Municipal Council, Aitken Spence PLC, and all those who provided strength, power, and courage to make the Kerawalapitiya solid waste power plant a reality.

The residue ash (bottom ash) leftover from the incineration of waste is reused to produce cinder blocks for the construction industry, while the flue gas undergoes special catalytic treatment to remove all harmful particles before being released via a 60m tall smokestack. These stack emissions will be tested regularly to ensure com-

pliance with the stipulations of the Central Environmental Authority. The power plant will also be monitored along a stringent social and environmental management system in its operations. Aitken Spence has made an investment of approx. Rs. 15 Billion through the Western Power Company (WPC) in the project initiated with the Ceylon Electricity Board and with the mediation of the Colombo Municipal Council.

Ministers C B Rathnayake, Mahinda Amaraweera, State Ministers Duminda Dissanayake, Nakala Godahewa, Nimal Lanza, Seetha Arambepola, Western Province Governor Marshal of the Air Force Roshan Gunathilake, Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake and Chairman of Aitken Spence PLC Deshamanya D.H.S. Jayawardena participated in the event.

**No suppression of...** From page 01

The Media center was launched to publicize the development facts and progress of the National Policy Framework "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour". It is being implemented under the guidance of Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella and will operate under the Ministry of Mass Media.

Speaking at the event Minister Rambukwella said that

"The development of the country should be tied not to the Government. The development of the country is for the citizens. We must stop dividing that into parties or colours. Therefore, if there is a development issue of any kind, it is hoped that it will be answered promptly through this centre."

Minister Rambukwella says that Government will not

impose any restrictions on the media. There will be no media repression. He said that during the development process of the country, the people should be provided with the necessary information as well as answers to their problems.

"It is necessary to raise awareness nationally and internationally about the problems, as well as the positive situation, in the face of these challenges.



Today, various controversies are being spread regarding the distribution of vaccines. Eighteen million doses have already been ordered for the country. By May, the programme will be somewhat successful," he added.

Secretary to the Mass Media Ministry Jagath P Wijeweera, National Development Media Centre Director Milinda Rajapaksa and a large number of journalists from media institutions were present.

**Female lawyer files...** From page 01

The petitioner had appeared for the family members of eleven persons who disappeared in 2009. She also appeared for a youth who was abducted in the Meethotamulla area in 2012.

The petitioner further said she appeared for the aggrieved parties in the case against Major Ajith Prasanna, a retired military officer and lawyer, and four other accused in respect of obstruction of justice by insulting witnesses, judges and officials and influencing victims.

The petitioner stated that she received a threatening phone call on 15.09.2017 and lodged a complaint in this regard at Keselwatta police station.

The Petitioner further states that on 30th April 2019, she made a complaint to the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) over a Facebook Post shared against her.

The Petitioner States that despite a number of

complaints made in person and through various agencies, police have failed to take appropriate action regarding these threats, harassment and intimidation.

The petitioner has cited CID Director, OIC Keselwatta Police Station, Inspector General of Police, Chairman of National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses, Director of the Victims of Crime and Witness Assistance Division, Defence Secretary and several others as respondents.

The Petitioner further said her right to engage in the legal practice has been adversely affected and curtailed due to the failure on the part of the respondents.

**Obituaries**

**DE FONSEKA - SHANTHI KUMARA of 578/2, Uyankale, Panadura** (former SLBC, Rupavahini, Arthur C Clarke Centre and E FM), beloved husband of Savithri, beloved father of Shanake (UK), and Umeshi (AIA Insurance), loved father-in-law of Anushka and Liandra, loving grandfather of Shashmeera, Joshua and Tashia. Remains lie at **A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour**. Cortege leaves the parlour at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 18th February for cremation at the General Cemetery (New Crematorium) Borella at 4.30 p.m. 012923

**SCHARENGUIVEL - IRA AINSLEY CLAUDE of 417/2E, Elapahala Road, Pelanwatte, Pannipitiya**, retired Commissioned Officer of the Sri Lanka Air Force, passed away peacefully on 16th February 2021. Loving Husband of Dawn (nee Ferdinands), darling father of Valetta (AUS), Rozanna, Jacqueline, Ainsley Junior (Dubai) and Maria (USA). Father-in-law of Chester (Bangladesh), Lawrance, Rohan, Sherwin (USA) and Philomena (Dubai). Son of Mr. and Mrs. I.B.T. Scharenguivel (deceased). Darling brother of Brian, Dawn (AUS), Dreen, Marge (AUS) and Rienze (Deceased) Brother-in-law of Mary (deceased), Trevor (deceased), Rex (deceased), Esme (AUS), Maurice (AUS), Heather, Veronica and Ralph, Raymond (deceased) and Jessie. Loving grandfather of Warwick and Clifton (AUS) and Brandon (deceased), Ryan and Lianne, Brooke, Allanson and Britney, Joshua (Dubai), Jonathan, Abigail and Brandon (USA). Great-grandfather of Liam, Calianna and Saheli. Cortege leaves **A.F. Raymond Funeral Parlour, Borella** on 18th February 2021 at 4:00 p.m., for burial at General Cemetery, Borella (Anglican Section). 012879

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The other contents remain unchanged.

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# Govt. Analyst's Department able to meet targets - Justice Minister

On an invitation extended by the Minister of Irrigation and State Minister of National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management Chamal Rajapaksa, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC went on an inspection tour of the Courts Complexes in the Hambantota District to determine their standards and requirements. Accordingly, he visited the Tissamaharamaya, Hambantota and Tangalle Courts Complexes.

During the visit the Minister of Justice noted that the Government Analyst's Department had increased its capacity and increased the number of employees by



Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC who went on an inspection tour of the Tissamaharamaya, Hambantota and Tangalle Courts Complexes discuss a point with National Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Minister of Chamal Rajapaksa and officials.

January 2021, showing a progress of 104% during the month.

"In January this year it was planned to conduct 4,828 tests for the Government Analyst's Department, but, 5,060 tests had been completed," Minister Sabry

said, adding that the department will be brought to a standard where reports would be completed within at least one month.

On the directives of the Justice Minister, the Government Analysts Department had been able to meet

its targets as the employees had agreed to work after hours until 7 p.m. free of charge and an additional shift was deployed on some days up to 10 p.m. As a result the department was able to reach its targeted goal.

# Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships awarded to 150 students across Sri Lanka

The prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships were awarded to 150 Advanced Level students from all 25 districts across Sri Lanka by Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris, and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay, at a special ceremony held at the Ministry of Education on February 11.

Minister Peiris in his speech lauded the values of Mahatma Gandhi who lived what he preached and how he fought against the powerful British in the last century using non-violence as a weapon. Sharing his experience of a recent visit to Jaffna and Kilinochchi in the Northern Province where he had seen how the different communities live together without differences, he advised the students to follow this principle

when they grow up. He thanked the Government of India for the help it extends in different fields to Sri Lanka.

Congratulating students for their achievement, High Commissioner Gopal Baglay assured Sri Lankans in general and young students, in particular, that the Indian people, the Indian Government and the High Commission of India would always stand with them.

Drawing parallel between The Buddha and Mahatma, he stated that the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi still hold good in the fast changing world. Reminding that India and Sri Lanka have close cultural links, he advised the young students to utilize the opportunities available in India, which is a large



Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay being welcomed by a student at a ceremony to award Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships to 150 Advanced Level students across Sri Lanka.

country in terms of Education as well as career. He expressed confidence that the young students of Sri Lanka would be a great source of strength for both India and Sri Lanka in future.

Apart from Mahatma Gandhi scholarships, the High Commission of India offers around 750 scholar-

ships annually in various fields including Engineering, Technology, Arts, Science, Para-medical courses, Indigenous medicine etc. to Sri Lankan students. Thousands of seats are also on offer for Sri Lankan students in many highly regarded institutions of India under "Study in India" programme.

# Strengthening economy, Govt.'s main aim - Lanza

Poor economic management by the Yahapalana Good Governance Government and the impact of COVID-19 severely impacted the country's economy, said State Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure Nimal Lanza.

He was speaking while inaugurating the Weliveriya Road Development project recently.

"When President Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed the office, the economy was in dire straits due to the policies of the Good Governance Government. At the same time, we have been facing the COVID-19 effect for almost a year now. As a result, earnings from the country's main sources of income have fallen sharply," State Minister Lanza said.

"The tourism industry which is one of our main sources of income has been devastated as a result of the pandemic. Nearly three million people who are directly and indirectly dependent on the tourism industry have been affected. A large number of Sri Lankans have lost their jobs and the country's foreign remittances have seen a drastic decline. The COVID-19 pandemic has also been dealt a severe blow to export earnings, Lanza said.

"We must seek more investment. The simplest form of investment is business. All Sri Lankan businessmen have a good understanding and must maintain and further expand their business opportunities. However, certain forces with vested interests are resorting to treasonous acts by trying to prevent investment from flowing into the country.

State Minister Lanza said that our aim is to strengthen the country and the people economically.

Former Western Provincial Council Chairman Sunil Wijeratne, Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Ranjith Gunawardena, Pradeshiya Sabha member Udara Perera and Road Development Authority officials were present.

# No country can interfere in our internal affairs - Prasanna

IRANGIKA RANGE

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said yesterday that no country has the right to interfere in Sri Lanka's internal affairs. The Government will not allow any infringement into the country's sovereignty or territorial integrity.



The Minister was responding to the question raised by a group of journalists on the statement made by Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb that India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is allegedly planning to set up a political unit in Sri Lanka.

Ranatunga alleged that it is a well known fact that the former Yahapalana Government came to power with the help of certain foreign forces. "Therefore, the former Government had to act according to the dictates of these forces. However, some people have a wrong notion to think that the present Government is also like that. But, they are sadly mistaken," the Minister said.

"The country is still subject to influences from various forces locally and internationally. But we are a very strong Government and we have the strength and foresight to face any challenge from any force," he added.

He further said that Sri Lanka's electoral law does not permit overseas political parties to work here.

# Army Signal Corp Assn. meeting

Army Signal Corp Regimental Association meeting that is to be held on February 28, has been limited to 50 participants on the instructions of the District Medical Officer of Health (MOH). The Secretary to the Army Signal Corp Regimental Association requests the members who could provide private transport only to take part in the event.

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# SLAF AGRO UNIT: From blue skies to green pastures

The Command Agro Unit also engages in animal husbandry. A large number of cows and buffaloes yield fresh milk which is collected to make yoghurt and curd. The airmen have also adapted to poultry farming. Chicken and eggs are sold at their welfare shops. SLAF teams have now engaged in coconut and cashew cultivation. Two of their new innovative projects are rearing bees for honey and freshwater fish breeding. The airmen also produce fresh tomato sauce and chilli paste

DISHAN JOSEPH

Today much emphasis is given on protecting the biodiversity of our island and engaging in sustainability. One of the significant contributors to this noble national responsibility is the Command Agro Unit of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). Operating from the Air Force Headquarters in Colombo it is headed by Air Commodore O.A.N.S. Fernando.

According to the SLAF, there has been small-scale cultivations and farms since the 1980s. However, in 1994, the Command Agro Unit was established by absorbing qualified officers in the relevant fields. The first Commanding Officer of the unit was Air Commodore Dassanayake who served for many years. The unit covers a broad spectrum of operations which includes replanting of forests, cultivation of fruits and vege-

tables, animal husbandry and dairy production. The major cultivations and farms are located at SLAF Bases in Katunayake and Morawewa. One hundred and twenty acres of paddy are cultivated at Morawewa.

According to Air Commodore Fernando, one of the new projects of the SLAF was to use their air assets to increase the nation's forest cover. This process is done through 'seed bombing' - when pilots soar to sow. He explained, "We use our MI-17 helicopters for this task. The helicopter flies at a low level between 200-300 feet, and the crew carefully drops the seeds, which are made into balls weighing about 50-90 grammes. In this method, we can cover a vast area of land and also access some areas which are difficult to access by foot. We do the seed bombing operations right after it rains, as the soil is very conducive for planting."

Once the planting by air is over field teams will visit the area every month to monitor the progress. It is expected that by 2030 Sri Lanka will increase its forest cover to 32 percent. In the past, our forest cover had been neglected in a pernicious

manner. The first seed bombing project was conducted in December 2018 at Ranowewa (on the Nochchiyagama Road) targeting five acres of land. In 2019, working alongside

the Forest Department and the Peradeniya University, the SLAF crews began to cover other areas. In October 2019, the team dropped 60,000 seeds in an area of 60 acres followed by another mission in December 2020 covering 25 acres.

During 2019, SLAF crews did extensive seed bombing projects in Udawalawe, Moneragala, Batticaloa and Silawathura areas recreating 12.5 acres of forest cover in each sector.

On January 14 this year, the Command Agri Unit dropped 70,000 seeds to coincide with the 70th anniversary



Seeds are marked for observation purposes



One of the SLAF operations to drop seed bombs (Pictures courtesy: Air Force Media)



The forest cover of Sri Lanka is expected to increase to 32 percent in 2030

of the Sri Lanka Air Force. In addition, following the guidelines of Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana, a project has been initiated to plant 70,000 saplings at all SLAF bases. The project has already begun at SLAF Base Katunayake. Air Commodore Fernando further added, "We have also worked with the Police Special Task Force to locate, enter and destroy illegal cannabis plantations. During these combined airborne raids we covered large areas, operating safely."

The fruit and vegetable cultivations yield an assortment of fruits including pineapple, bananas, papaya and dragon fruit. The bountiful vegetable gardens are further supplemented by innovative spice gardens and a separate section for indigenous herbs. In doing this the SLAF can take pride in providing fruits and vegetables to meet their requirements and also share these products with Air Force families living on

base. The SLAF operates a number of welfare shops.

The Command Agro Unit also engages in animal husbandry. A large number of cows and buffaloes yield fresh milk which is collected to make yoghurt and curd. It was a delight to sample these products at the Air Force farm. The drinking yoghurt is another new hit in their product range.

The airmen have also adapted to poultry farming. Chicken and eggs are sold at their welfare shops. All SLAF land is put to gainful use as the teams have now engaged in coconut and cashew cultivation. Two of their new innovative projects are rearing bees for honey and freshwater fish breeding. Taking their vision further, the airmen also produce their own fresh tomato sauce and chilli paste. The SLAF Command Agro Unit has grown over the years and reached a new domain of productivity and sustainability.

## The STC chapel: A radiant gem of spiritual blessings

DISHAN JOSEPH

The Anglican Church in Sri Lanka (Church of Ceylon) has made an immense contribution to education. The great school by the sea has educated thousands of young men, imparting in them core values of Christianity. When we read the Bible we find that Jesus was taken to the synagogue by his parents and continued to learn the scriptures, which shows the importance of a holistic education. To all who have been associated with S. Thomas' College (STC), the magnificent College chapel has influenced their lives, touching them in significant ways. It is the vibrant heart of STC. This beautiful chapel and more importantly the good work done through it enriches the student mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

In the Old Testament, there is a story of young King Solomon, aspiring to build a sanctuary for the people of Israel, that they might ascribe glory to almighty God. Perhaps, it was this same divine passion that strongly inspired Warden Stone and Warden Mc Pherson, as they envisaged to build a house for God's children at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. When the school was originally built in Mutwal in 1851, the Christ Church Cathedral was the seat of the presiding Bishop of Colombo. In 1921, when Warden Stone left for England on holiday, Rev. G.M. Withers went to work organising a campaign to raise funds for the building of the College chapel at Mount Lavinia. He is said to have faithfully gone around many parts of Ceylon on his old motorcycle travelling through the cities and villages promoting this idea.

The project architect was P.A. Adams, who designed the chapel, 130 feet long and 39 feet high at the top of the walls, large enough to accommodate 500 boys. In 1923, the foundation stone was laid by Rt. Rev. Earnest Arthur Copleston, Bishop of Colombo. It took great effort to build this simple yet imposing chapel.

A fund created by Warden Mc Pherson and Rev. R.S. de Saram saw the boys giving 25 cents each week. On February 12, 1927,



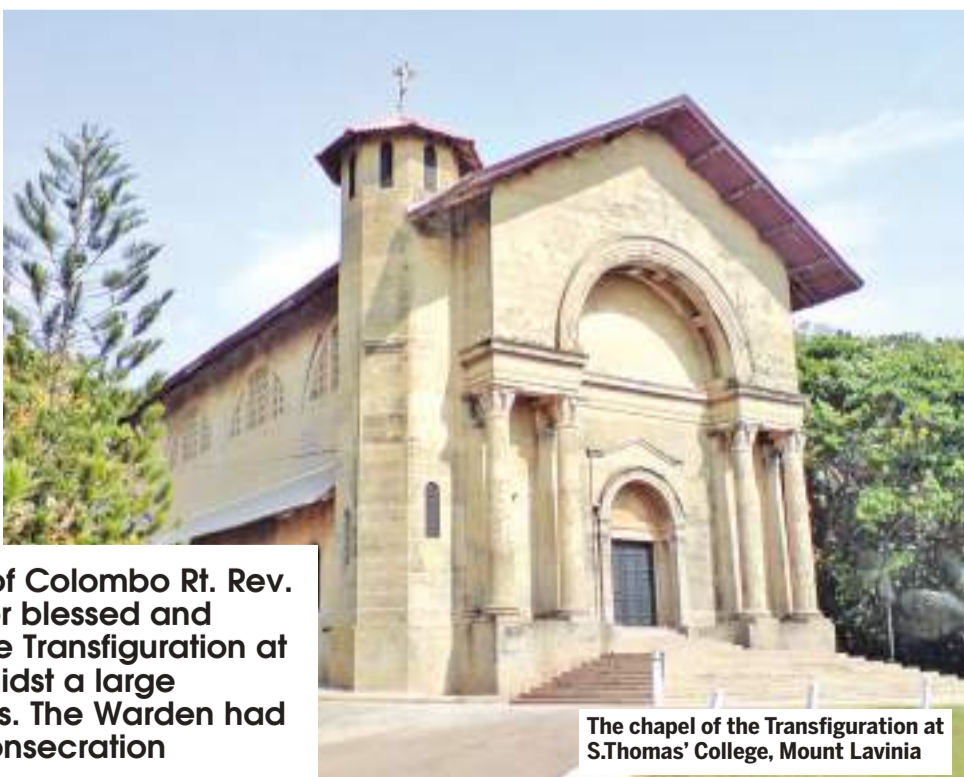
S. Thomas' College Warden Rev. Marc Billimoria

Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Mark Carpentier - Garnier blessed and consecrated the Chapel of the Transfiguration at S. Thomas' College amidst a large gathering of jubilant Anglicans. The Warden had read the Petition of Consecration.

The College accentuates the influence of

the church in her crest - the black cross unites all Thomians and the yellow Bishops Mitre endorses the administration of the Anglican Church and the guidance of the blessed Holy Spirit. This glorious edifice has become the most iconic landmark of the entire school and one of the classic buildings in Mount Lavinia. Its bold Byzantine style exterior of solid stone resonates as a symbol of faith, which is a step-by-step process of the spiritual building leading to perfection that is often talked about in the Bible. The letters AMDG - Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (Latin meaning - For the greater glory of God) are carved on the wall over the west door. The stone columns have intricate white designs at the top where they connect to the walls.

Behind the altar of Italian marble, one can witness the inspiring painting of the Transfiguration, painted in 1968 by David Paynter (the mural celebrated 50 years in 2018). It is believed that the prudent Warden at that time Rev. John Selvaratnam had proposed this idea to the artist who brought it to life with great enthusiasm and patience. The beautiful manifestation of Jesus Christ with Elijah and Moses is stunning. It reminds us that from the 'mountain top' experience, we have to go back to the



The chapel of the Transfiguration at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia

On February 12, 1927, Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Mark Carpentier - Garnier blessed and consecrated the Chapel of the Transfiguration at S. Thomas' College amidst a large gathering of jubilant Anglicans. The Warden had read the Petition of Consecration



The mural by David Paynter

valley to live with our fellow men, carrying within our soul the effective power of the transfiguration, which can impact and change other lives. The mural shows the mighty desert wind Ruah (from the Hebrew language) which also implies the invisible power of the Holy Spirit of God. On a personal note I must mention that the most unique feature of this amazing mural is that wherever you stand inside the chapel and gaze on the face of Christ, it seems that his caring eyes are looking at you with loving concern.

The baptismal font was secured from Pershore Abbey in England. The belfry is 60 feet high and the bell has the name J.S. Doyle engraved on it. It was obtained from St. Colombans College, Dublin.

The founder, Bishop James Chapman said in 1849, "May it be our care to provide, under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit, that all that is taught here may rest upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." A chapel is not complete without voices singing to venerate and glorify Almighty God: this is where the Thomian Choir had displayed its harmonious prowess for a century. The Thomian Choir sang for the first time on September 21, 1854 at the dedication of the Christ Church Cathedral in Mutwal.

Since 1927 from the time of Organist and

Choirmaster Rev. Gilbert, the choral tradition was firmly established and sustained. The boys were trained and mentored by Rev. Roy Yin, Lucien Nethasinghe, Rev. Lucien Fernando and Russell Bartholomeusz. In 1938, the chapel was bestowed with a Hammond organ by the Sir Stewart Schneider Trust. We solemnly remember the late Vinodh Senadheera, the Choir Master of STC. He dedicated his life to this chapel and the choir.

The main event for the choir is the annual carol service styled after King's College, London, which continues to draw thousands of people. The Chapel of the Transfiguration has played a crucial role in the life of the College and in the lives of all Thomians. The style of worship which is liturgical and sacramental within the Anglo-Catholic tradition of Anglicanism places much emphasis on ritual and ceremony, surely enriching our worship. The Thomians believe that their worship is an offering of something beautiful and fragrant to God, who alone must be the focus of worship. The STC chapel has produced many Anglican clergymen including the present Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo and incumbent Warden Rev. Marc Billimoria. The beautiful Chapel of the Transfiguration will continue to impart faith, diligence and spiritual guidance to thousands in the future.



Marking Ash Wednesday Holy Mass at Kochchikade

Archbishop calls on all communities to join hands to establish peace

'Foreign forces should not intervene in internal affairs'

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE and CHANDIMA KARUNARATNE

Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, in a Lenten message, appealed to all Catholics in the country to create an environment that is safe for people of all faiths and nationalities. He was addressing the public during yesterday's Ash Wednesday Holy

Mass held at the Kochchikade St. Anthony's Shrine.

The Archbishop said that the Sri Lankan Catholic community showed the world its integrity in the aftermath of the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks, following the footsteps of Jesus Christ in forgiveness. However, he said that he was displeased with the proceedings of the

investigations launched into the attacks that claimed the lives of 269 people.

Cardinal Ranjith said the culprits behind the incident should be brought to book immediately, adding that such persons and or groups should not be allowed to emerge in the future. He said that the authorities must take the responsibility

of preventing such incidents from happening again.

Furthermore, certain countries and external forces must not be allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of the country, the Cardinal said. He added that they were only looking to disrupt the unity between the country's communities.

The Archbishop called on

the Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher, and other communities in the country to join hands in establishing peace and harmony.

He added that the people in Sri Lanka should work together to solve the issues they face without allowing international parties to intervene.



Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith conducting Holy Mass. Pictures by Roshan Pitipana.



The Congregation at the church.

Mock drone land survey assessment conducted in Kandy

AJITH GANGODA, Ududumbara Group Corr.

A survey team led by Kandy Chief Surveyor S.N. Edirisinghe conducted a mock land survey assessment using drones recently

under the direction of Central Province Chief Land Commissioner Jagath Adikari.

The assessment is aimed at resolving land disputes in the province speedily,

the Chief Land Commissioner said. He added that it would also help surveyors measure lands faster, and with better accuracy.

Adikari said that no funds have been obtained

for drone survey projects yet as procedures are still in the experimental stages. However, it could be implemented throughout the island if the results are promising, he added.

Brown planthoppers destroy crops in Polpithigama

HIRIYALA GROUP CORR.

Farmers in the Rambe, Moragollagama, and Madahapola villages of Polpithigama told the Daily News recently that their crops were being

destroyed by brown planthoppers. They added that the pests have so far destroyed crops in 100 acres of land.

Subasinthagama, Siyambalawewa,

Thalakolawewa, Andagalayaya, and Moragolla are also among the affected areas, farmers said. They urged the authorities to take immediate action to address the issue.



IN THE SUPREME COURT

LIST OF CASES, FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

SISIRA J. DE ABREW J. YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C. J. M.A. SAMAYAWARDHANA J. COURT NO. 501 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Application FR 261/19 2. SC. HC.CA. LA 523/19 - HCCA 74/17 3. SC. Application FR 148/20, FR 263/20 - 265/20 4. SC. HC.CA. LA 233/20 - HCCA 66/18

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. (CHC) Appeal No. 28/11 with 53/08 - HC (Civil) 188/04, 184/08 2. SC. Appeal 114/14 - CA 97/10 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. (Spl.) LA 11/19 - CA 378/13 2. SC. (Spl.) LA 122/19 - CA (PHC) 146/13 3. SC.HC.CALA 192/19 - HCCA 02/18 4. SC. (Spl.) LA 120/20 - CA 81/18 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal 116/16 - HCCA 98/09 PRIYANTHA JAYAWARDANE (P.C.)

(J) L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J. MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C.J. COURT NO. 502 AT 09.45 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. SC. (Spl.) LA 183/16 - CA 105/16 PRIYANTHA JAYAWARDANE (P.C.)

(J) L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J. S. THURAIRAJA P.C. J. COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) FOR INQUIRY 1. SC. Rule No. 03/17 PRIYANTHA JAYAWARDANE (P.C.)

(J) L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J. S. THURAIRAJA P.C. J. COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED 1. SC.HC.CALA 325/18 WITH 326/18 - HC 38/14 2. SC. (Spl.) LA 341/19 - CA 204/17 3. SC. (Spl.) LA 178/20 - CA 03/19 4. SC.HC.CA. LA 337/20 - HCCA 49/15 5. SC.HC.CALA 07/21 - HCCA 127/17 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE 1. SC. HC. LA. 22/18 - HC. ARB No. 122/16 WITH 173/13 (Top of the list) 1. SC.HC.CA. LA 50/20 - HCCA 59/18 with 51/20 - HCCA 58/18

2. SC. HC. LA 85/20 - HC. (Civil) 175/13 3. SC. (Spl.) LA 96/20 - CA 256/13 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal 124/14 - HCCA 65/03 2. SC. Application FR 127/16 VIJITH K. MALALGODA P.C. J. K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE J. JANAK DE SILVA J. COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. Writ No. 02/11 2. SC. HC.CA. LA. 222/20 - HCCA 05/19 3. SC. Application FR 257/20 4. SC. HC.CA. LA. 197/20 - HCCA 80/16 5. SC. HC.CA. LA. 321/20 - HCCA 02/11

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. (CHC) Appeal 18/18 - HC. (Civil) No. 44/14 (Top of the list) 2. SC. Application FR 383/09 COURT NO. 403 contd... (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC. (Spl.) LA 27/15 - CA 209/12 2. SC. HC.CA. LA 211/18 - HCCA 17/17 3. SC. HC.CA. LA 359/19 - HCCA 83/13 4. SC. HC.CA. LA 391/19 - HCCA 112/16 5. SC. HC.CA. LA 404/20 - HCCA 66/18 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal No. 54/15 - HC. (Civil) 290/12 2. SC. Appeal No. 114/20 - HC. 1164/17 MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C.J. P. PADMAN SURASENA J. A.H.M.D. NAWAZ J. COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED

1. SC. (Spl.) LA 100/16 - CA 464/08 2. SC.HC.CA. LA 228/20 - HCCA 125/17 3. SC. Application FR 357/20

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Appeal 133/13 - HCCA 380/07 2. SC. (CHC) Appeal No. 14/14 - HC 409/11 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)

FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE

1. SC.HC.CA. LA 80/20 - HCCA 37/19 2. SC.HC.CA. LA 241/20 - HCCA 11/17

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Writ No. 22/18 - with 23/18 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. SC. Application FR 152/19 IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J. (P/CA) MAYADUNNE COREA J. COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 286/13 Writ of Cert 2. 155/18 Writ of Cert 3. 242/19 Writ of Cert 4. 243/19 Writ of Cert 5. 244/19 Writ of Cert 6. 245/19 Writ of Cert 7. 246/19 Writ of Cert 8. 247/19 Writ of Cert 9. 248/19 Writ of Cert 10. 249/19 Writ of Cert 11. 250/19 Writ of Cert 12. 273/19 Writ of Cert 13. 334/20 Writ of Cert 14. 11/21 Writ of Cert 15. 30/21 Writ of Cert 16. 86/21 Writ of Cert 17. 23/18 TAX with TAX 19/17 18. 328/15 HC 19. 154/17 HC

FOR SUPPORT

1. 323/19 Writ of Cert 2. 33/20 Writ of Cert 3. 118/20 Writ of Cert WITH 117/20 4. 276/20 Writ of Cert 5. 277/20 Writ of Cert 6. 416/20 Writ of Cert 7. 448/20 Writ of Cert 8. 22/21 Writ of Cert 9. 39/21 Writ of Cert 10. 51/21 Writ of Cert 11. 58/21 Writ of Cert 12. 61/21 Writ of Cert

COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M. CONTD..

FOR INQUIRY

1. 06/17 COC ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE J. (P/CA) MAYADUNNE COREA J. COURT NO. 301 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED 1. 10/20 Writ of Cert 2. 162/20 Writ of Cert 3. 03/20 Injunction

FOR SUPPORT

1. 373/20 Writ of Cert 2. 397/20 Writ of Cert 3. 411/20 Writ of Cert FOR INQUIRY 1. 357/14 COC TO BE RESUMED 1. 90/20 Writ of Cert K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J) SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J. COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 114/19 HC 2. 152/19 HC 3. 209/19 HC

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 02/19 HC 2. 86/19 HC 3. 147/19 HC 4. 200/19 HC K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J) SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J. COURT NO. 107 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED 1. 123 - 124/19 HC 2. 179/19 HC MENAKA WIJESUNDERA J. NEIL IDDAWALA J. COURT NO. 204 AT 09.30 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 170/16 PHC 2. 127/20 PA 3. 36/20 BA 4. 38/20 BA 5. 39/20 BA 6. 40/20 BA

FOR SUPPORT

1. 132/20 PHC 2. 15/21 PA FOR INQUIRY 1. 17/20 BA REV 01/20 (TO BE MENTIONED) FOR ARGUMENT 1. 154/17 PA MENAKA WIJESUNDERA J. NEIL IDDAWALA J. COURT NO. 204

OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED

1. 80/20 PA 2. 95/20 PA 3. 31/20 BA

FOR SUPPORT

1. 96/20 PA

FOR INQUIRY

1. 19/20 BA N. BANDULA KARUNARATNE (J) R. GURUSINGHE J. COURT NO. 205

AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED

1. 85/16 HC 2. 229/18 HC

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 467/17 HC 2. 69/18 HC N. BANDULA KARUNARATNE (J) R. GURUSINGHE J. COURT NO. 205

OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED

1. 153/15 HC 2. 307 - 309/17 HC 3. 175/18 HC 4. 193/18 HC 5. 415/18 HC

DEVIKA ABEYRATNE J. P. KUMARARATNAM J. COURT NO. 110 AT 10.00 A.M.

FOR JUDGMENT

1. 104/17 HC (Justice Devika Abeyratne)

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 188/18 HC DEVIKA ABEYRATNE J. P. KUMARARATNAM J. COURT NO. 110 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED 1. 02/08 HC 2. 140/10 HC 3. 244/16 HC 4. 422/17 HC 5. 68/18 HC 6. 224/18 HC 7. 276/18 HC 8. 282/18 HC 9. 376 - 379/18 HC M. T. MOHAMMED LAFFAR J. K. K. A. V. SWARNADHIPATHI J. COURT NO. 206 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 197/18 Writ of Cert M. T. MOHAMMED LAFFAR J. K. K. A. V. SWARNADHIPATHI J. COURT NO. 206 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED 1. 1095/99 (F) DC 2. 436/14 Writ of Cert 3. 350/17 Writ of Cert

FOR SUPPORT

1. 03/19 LTA

FOR ARGUMENT

1. 287/12 Writ of Cert 2. 270/17 Writ of Cert 3. 280/17 Writ of Cert 4. 264/18 Writ of Cert DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J) M. SAMPATH K. B. WIJERATNE J. COURT NO. 302 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 02/18 TAX SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. DHAMMIKA GANEPOLA J. COURT NO. 303 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 224/19 Writ of Cert 2. 459/20 Writ of Cert TO BE RESUMED 1. 98/19 Writ of Cert SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. DHAMMIKA GANEPOLA J. COURT NO. 303 OTHERS FOR SUPPORT 1. 377/19 Writ of Cert 2. 522/19 Writ of Cert COURT NO. 303 OTHERS CONTD... FOR ARGUMENT

1. 01/19 Writ of Cert 2. 511/19 Writ of Cert D. N. SAMARAKOON J. PRADEEP KIRTISINGHE J. COURT NO. 108 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 18/14 TAX PRASANTHA DE SILVA J. S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE J. COURT NO. 109 AT 12.30 P.M. TO BE MENTIONED 1. 130/18 PHC PRASANTHA DE SILVA J. S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE J. COURT NO. 109 OTHERS TO BE MENTIONED 1. 105/19 PA

CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROVINCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

A.A.C.J. RAJARATHNA (H.C.J.) R.P. HETTIARACHCHI (H.C.J.) (AT 10.00 A.M.)

TO BE MENTIONED

23/18 RA HCCA/Colombo 84/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo 236/17 (F) HCCA/Colombo

FOR SUPPORT

LA 108/20 HCCA/Colombo LA 41/20 HCCA/Colombo FOR ARGUMENT 128/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo 192/17 (F) HCCA/Colombo 361/15 (F) HCCA/Colombo 182/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo 120/18 (F) HCCA/Colombo

ADA KOTIPATHI Lottery advertisement for Thursday, Feb 18, 2021. Draw No. 1198, Colour: Dark Blue. Today's Jackpot: Rs. 109,150,855/-.

Super Jackpot has been won Rs. 5,274,350.60. Winning Numbers: 21, 22, 39, 52. Gemini. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 16,159,170.60.

TUESDAY Date: 18.02.2021 Draw No.: 1198 Colour: LIGHT BLUE. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 6,008,580/-. Winning Numbers: 36, 40, 68, 71. English Letter: T.

TUESDAY Date: 16.02.2021 Draw No.: 3526 Colour: LIGHT BLUE. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 4,634,160/-. Winning Numbers: 03, 29, 67, 68. English Letter: M.

TUESDAY Date: 16.02.2021 Draw No.: 3526 Colour: LIGHT BLUE. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 4,634,160/-. Winning Numbers: 03, 29, 67, 68. English Letter: M.

English Letter & Winning Numbers: L 19 31 51 76. Total Value of Prizes: Rs. 2,750,920/-. Next Super Jackpot: Rs. 75,381,585/-.



# Daily News



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Thursday, February 18, 2021

## The vaccine priority list

Nineteen MPs have received the COVID-19 vaccine, while three MPs from the Opposition plus a Government Minister refrained from receiving the jab. Those who opted out claimed they could not avail themselves of the vaccine on a privileged basis when there was a priority list that is yet to be exhausted. The foursome who came on television to offer their reasons for foregoing the vaccine strove to make out that their decision was driven by altruistic motives viz. the public who were in the vulnerable category should receive first preference. Others who received the vaccine claimed that, as politicians, they had to move closely with the people and hence fell into the vulnerable category and therefore eliminating the risk was justified. Both categories were only attempting to dupe the public. Few would buy into the claim by those MPs who received the vaccine that they were moving closely with the people. The common complaint is that MPs, after getting elected, hardly ever sight the electorate after entering Parliament, neglecting those who voted for them as well as letting their electorates run to seed. Angry villagers are seen raving and ranting at their representatives for abandoning them, with some even threatening these worthies not come to them begging for their votes again. In any event free circulation with the people in the electorates is not an option today with a pandemic raging.

What about those who claimed they opted out in order to give first preference to the people? Was this because their hearts were truly bleeding for the people? Has any one of them contributed even a fraction of their salaries and considerable allowances received as MPs towards alleviating the distress of the victims of the pandemic? Did the Opposition MP who claimed that it was wrong to get the vaccine free of charge ever harbour such a guilty feeling when he and his ilk were in fact doing just that enjoying luxury meals subsidized by the very people his heart was bleeding for or cashing in on the duty free vehicles at public expense?

Did the MP concerned spare a thought for the people who will be paying for his pension after 'serving' only five years as an MP while a poor public servant has to work for 25 years to be entitled for a pension? What about the public money being squandered by chronic absenteeism of MPs from the House? Was only receiving a vaccine free of charge pricking the conscience of our MPs?

Besides, are our erstwhile people's representatives really worthy of being placed on the priority list for the vaccine after demonstrating a blatant disregard for the prevailing restrictions and health guidelines? It was only the other day that, when the Coronavirus was wreaking havoc, we had a senior MP celebrating his birthday party in Parliament with a host of guests in attendance, and feeding around the first cut of the birthday cake to the invitees. This when one would have thought that Parliamentarians would lead the way by example in following the health guidelines. There was also an MP taking part in a protest march mingling among thousands of protestors. One should also not forget that there were also close to a dozen MPs who were detected with the virus and placed under quarantine. Politicians of all hues also violated all restrictions during last year's General Election campaign mixing with crowds indiscriminately. Two months later the country was swept by the second wave of the pandemic. If at all, MPs ought to have been placed last in line in the eligible list for the vaccine.

Meanwhile, it is now reported that there had been a revision in the priority list for the COVID-19 vaccine in favour of according preference to those in the 30 to 60 age category whereas, earlier, priority was given to the over 60 group considering them to be more susceptible to contracting the virus. This is a wise move on account of the fact we need to protect our workforce (who are in the 30-60 age group) to keep the economy ticking. Not to be uncharitable, the over 60s are normally considered as a spent force with their productive years behind them and rationale is to protect those whose lives are before them and what is more able to contribute to the economy. Hopefully, the vaccine programme that is now in full swing would bring in the desired results where the pandemic would soon be a passing nightmare.

Care though should be taken against lowering the guard as advised by health experts even if signs are evident that the pandemic is on the wane. New Zealand which thought that it had almost eliminated the virus is once again on the red list with the emergence of a raft of cases. This, in a country which had all the precautionary measures in place well in advance only to now go into emergency mode perhaps supporting the World Health Organisation (WHO) forecast that the pandemic's longevity may extend to three years.

# GENEVA RESOLUTION: A diplomatic challenge



President **Gotabaya Rajapaksa**



Prime Minister **Mahinda Rajapaksa**



High Commissioner for Human Rights  
**Michelle Bachelet**



Foreign Minister **Dinesh Gunewardena**



Sri Lanka will face its next major diplomatic hurdle in the coming weeks when it confronts a resolution against it at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions in Geneva, a practise which has now become almost an annual ritual for successive governments in Colombo.

These resolutions arose in the aftermath of the conclusion of the Eelam war in May 2009. Following the end of the conflict, there were allegations that human rights were violated by both Sri Lankan troops and members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorist group.

In the ensuing years, when Mahinda Rajapaksa was President, Sri Lanka vigorously contested the resolutions moved in the Geneva sessions that were hostile to the country. Colombo has steadfastly maintained that Sri Lankan troops did not intentionally harm civilians in the final stages of the war.

### LLRC

This was also in the context of then President Mahinda Rajapaksa appointing the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) in May 2010. The findings of the LLRC, submitted to President Rajapaksa in November 2011 and made public a month later, vindicated Colombo's stance.

The LLRC concluded that "the military strategy of the Sri Lanka Armed Forces during the last Eelam war was satisfactory" and that "it gave the highest priority to the protection of the civilian population". It also noted the government did its utmost to get food and medical supplies to civilians.

The LLRC also found that the LTTE engaged in grave violations human rights by using civilians as human shields, placing and using military equipment in civilian centres, shooting at civilians trying to escape into safe areas and conscripting young children to engage in combat during the conflict.

There was however an about turn in the Sri Lankan government's policy with the election of President Maithripala Sirisena in January 2015 and the United National Front (UNF) assuming power. The new political leadership opted for a more reconciliatory and appeasing relationship with the UNHRC.

As a result, in 2015, the government of Sri Lanka co-sponsored UNHRC resolution 30/1 on 'promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka'. The focus of this resolution was on investigating alleged human rights violations that were said to have occurred during the war.

Taking the lead for Sri Lanka at the time was the newly appointed Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera who believed in engaging with the UNHRC with a consensual, rather than confrontational, approach. Spearheading the resolution at the Council was the United States.

tional, approach. Spearheading the resolution at the Council was the United States.

### Human rights

This resolution committed Sri Lanka to 'establish a judicial mechanism with a special counsel to investigate allegations of violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law'. More importantly, it also called for international judges to be part of this process.

Specifically, it noted that a "credible justice process" should include "independent judicial and prosecutorial institutions led by individuals known for their integrity and impartiality" and mentioned "Commonwealth and other foreign judges" as possible participants in this process.

At the time, the then United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussain also called for the establishment of a hybrid special court saying "a purely domestic procedure has no chance of overcoming suspicions fuelled by decades of violations, malpractice and broken promises."

The then government, having co-sponsored this resolution in 2015, found it challenging to make headway in implementing it. As a result, in 2017, Sri Lanka received a further two-year extension to implement its own commitments but domestic opposition to an international probe remained.

With the UNF-led government itself becoming unstable in late 2018 due to the constitutional crisis triggered by then President Maithripala Sirisena sacking then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, it was in no position to fully implement the UNHRC resolution by the March 2019 deadline.

Thereafter, the UNF-led government took up a different stance in March 2019. Then Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana told the UNHRC session that there would be legal impediments in appointing foreigners as judges in a Sri Lankan-led judicial process making it virtually impossible to do so.

"If non-citizen judges are to be appointed in such a process, it will not be possible without an amendment to the Constitution by two-thirds of members of the Parliament voting in favour and also the approval of the people at a Referendum," Minister Marapana told the UNHRC sessions.

Notwithstanding these submissions, at its fortieth session, the UNHRC adopted a new resolution in March 2019, again co-sponsored by the government of Sri Lanka, giving it a further two years to implement outstanding commitments in full. It is this two-year deadline that looms next month.

With President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa returning to power in late 2019, the new government is keen to assert itself. It has clearly signalled its intentions

UNHRC resolutions have singularly targeted alleged shortcomings and actions attributed to the Sri Lankan government, almost completely ignoring the gross atrocities committed by the LTTE during its nearly thirty-year reign of terror in Sri Lanka that cost thousands of lives.

that it will no longer be subscribing to a position of acquiescing to an inquiry with international participation.

In the lead up to the upcoming sessions however, the current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet has released a report which was highly critical of Sri Lanka, called for international interventions and also suggested sanctions as a means of compelling compliance.

"Given the demonstrated inability and unwillingness of Sri Lanka to advance accountability at the national level, it is time for international action to ensure justice for international crimes," Bachelet said and suggested "targeted sanctions, such as asset freezes and travel bans" as possible measures.

### High Commissioner's report

Colombo has been swift to reject these observations. In its response, it has categorically dismissed the High Commissioner's report and recommendations. Colombo has also denounced the High Commissioner's report as being "nothing less than a political agenda against a sovereign nation".

It has to be noted that while the Sri Lankan government and its troops who fought the final Eelam war have been severely censured in the report and have been called upon to be accountable for their purported actions, the atrocities committed by the LTTE have hardly been mentioned.

It is acknowledged the world over that the LTTE was one of the most ruthless terrorist organisations in the world and was listed as such. It can be argued that even if the LTTE was held accountable for its acts, its leadership has been eliminated and therefore this would be of little practical consequence.

Nevertheless, UNHRC resolutions have singularly targeted alleged shortcomings and actions attributed to the Sri Lankan government, almost completely ignoring the gross atrocities

committed by the LTTE during its nearly thirty-year reign of terror in Sri Lanka that cost thousands of lives.

Colombo has also pointed out that the High Commissioner's conclusions and recommendations have been "erroneously arrived at, as they are based on incorrect or unsubstantiated and extraneous sources and material and contravenes the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity".

Despite this diplomatic war of words between the government and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the government has been having discussions with the Colombo based envoys of the countries who are listed to sponsor the resolution against Sri Lanka.

Although the initial resolution regarding Sri Lanka was sponsored by the United States, the US withdrew from the UNHRC under former President Donald Trump. The resolution is now being led by the United Kingdom. It is also sponsored by Canada, Germany, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

As the last two countries are not diplomatically represented in Sri Lanka, the government has been having discussions with the envoys of Britain, Canada and Germany. They have recently met President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunewardena and other key officials.

During these discussions, there was evidence of an impasse. The envoys reported to Colombo that their governments were supportive of the report released by the OHCHR and would endorse its recommendations at the UNHRC. Colombo had maintained its stance of rejecting these observations.

The government has pointed out that President Rajapaksa has appointed a Commission of Inquiry to investigate into alleged human rights violations headed by Supreme Court Justice A. H. M. D. Nawaz recently. It has also noted the legal difficulties involved in invoking international jurisdiction.

There has been some exploration of the possibility of a consensual resolution which would have Sri Lanka's support but with the main proponents of the resolution- Britain, Germany and Canada- indicating that they would abide by the OHCHR report, this prospect looks increasingly unlikely.

Officials in Colombo have noted that were Sri Lanka to agree to a consensual resolution, that would amount to virtually confirming the allegations made in the report of the OHCHR. This is not a tenable position for Sri Lanka to adopt now, having strongly rejected the report in its response, officials say.

Sri Lanka is also therefore lobbying other nations to support it at the UNHRC. This is to contend with the possibility that the resolution could be put to a vote by the Council. It is understood that the support of countries such as India, China and Russia was being actively solicited by the government.

The battlelines between Colombo and Geneva are again being drawn in what is now a diplomatic tussle. The coming weeks will determine not only the outcome of this resolution but also, the direction in which the Sri Lankan government hopes to progress on the key issue of human rights.



UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Vaccines save millions of lives and people ought to be getting vaccinated. - **Robert Kennedy, Jr.**



# Constitutional Protection of Environment: The cherished Role of Our Judiciary

Part I

## Guest Column

Professor SARATH MATHILAL DE SILVA



As proclaimed in Vienna Declaration on Human Rights in 1993, democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are inter-dependent requiring attending to developmental and environmental needs of the present and future generations. Today society's interaction with nature is so extensive so that environmental issues have assumed proportions affecting all humanity. With the industrial and technological development, mankind have not only improved economic conditions but also altered the natural ecological balance.

Sri Lanka's environmental law is a curious mixture of civil law and common law principles derived from Roman Dutch law and English law, statute law, juristic writings and judge made law. As a result, there is a multiplicity of jurisdictions and institutions in the environmental arena. The judiciary has shown a keen interest in the development of environmental law. Natural resources are managed through the law. Laws provide the tools and the framework for its management. The numerous tasks of management including policy making, enforcement, application of management techniques and tools and the

making of specific decisions have to be performed within that framework.

The 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka contains several provisions relating to environment. For an example, Article 27(14) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka states that it is the duty of the State 'to protect, preserve, and improve the environment for the benefit of the community'. In addition, Article 28 (f) of the Constitution makes it 'fundamental duty' of every person to protect nature and conserve its riches'. These provisions however, are not set out in the Chapter on Fundamental Rights (FR): they are to be found in the Chapter entitled 'Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties' and are not enforceable in a Court of Law in terms of Article 29 of the Constitution.

Although Constitution contains an expanded FR chapter, it does not contain an express right to healthy environment nor an express right to life. Nevertheless, disputes involving environment have reached the Supreme Court on the basis that, they have involved the violation of other Fundamental rights, such as right to equality, right to carry on lawful occupation. Therefore the right to healthy environment / right to sustainable devel-

opment is considered to be the need of the hour.

The 13th Amendment to the Constitution has introduced a new level of institutions between the Central Government and the Local Government. Accordingly, in terms of item 37 of the Provincial Council List of the 9th Schedule to the Constitution, the Provincial Council can take action on the protection of environment within the Province to the extent permitted by or under the law made by Parliament.

Moreover, the protection of environment is an item found in item 33 of the Concurrent List (List III) of the 9th Schedule to the 13th Amendment. Under this Provision, both National Government and Provincial Councils can take legislative and executive action on this subject having complied with the Provisions made thereon. Further Appendix II of the Provincial Council List provides for National Land Commission to be set up by the Government of Sri Lanka. This National Land Commission would be responsible for the formulation of national policy with regard to the use of State land. The provision for National Land Commission further stipulates in item 3.4 that in the exercise of the powers devolved on Provincial Councils, the power shall be exercised by the Provincial Councils having regard to the national policy formulated by the National Land Commission. The essence of the above provisions found in the 13th Amendment is that Provincial Council may take legislative and executive action within the Province to the extent permitted by or under the law made by Parliament.

The key environmental law at the statutory level in Sri Lanka is the National Environmental Act No.47 of 1980 as amended which has introduced both EIA and EPL procedures. Apart from this Act, there are many other sectoral statutes that deal with specific areas of resources or development activity.

### Doctrine of Trusteeship

The Doctrine of Public Trust is an important legal principle which has its roots relating to environment and public law. The Public Trust Doctrine which acknowledges that the State holds natural resources of the country in trust for its citizens gives rise to responsibility which is imposed on the State to conserve and protect such resources. The State do enjoy sovereignty over natural resources as rec-

ognized by Principle 21 of the Stockholm Declaration, Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration, Article 3 of the Convention on Bio Diversity, Article 194(2) of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, Article 1(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Article 1(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). It is sometimes seen that the States use their sovereignty as a shield.

When States participate in Natural Resources exploitation, sometimes accompanied by Human Rights violations, they sometimes disregard the complaints due to sovereignty. The Paris Agreement (2015) brought the change in this attitude. Through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) system, countries are now held accountable for their emissions. According to the UN General Assembly Resolution (1803) (XVII), December 14th 1962, UN General Assembly Resolution 2692 (XXV), 11th December 1970, one of the first duties the States have is that they should exercise their sovereignty over natural resources in consideration with the promotion of the well-being of their people. Furthermore, Article 47 of the ICCPR states that, "Nothing in the present Covenant shall be interpreted as impairing the inherent rights of all peoples to enjoy and utilize fully their natural wealth and resources. The same is repeated within the ICESCR. Article 1 and 25 and Sri Lanka is a party to both these Covenants and is bound by these provisions.

**Danube River case**  
The duty cast on the State to protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of the people is not a new concept that was introduced with the enactment of the 1978 Constitution. In the *Danube River case*, then Vice President of the International Court of Justice C.G. Weeramantry J, referred to the conversation of King Devanampiyatissa (247 -207 BC) and Arahata Mahinda dating back to the 3rd century BC. The excerpts from the said conversation is given below:

*'Or great king, the birds of the air and the beasts have as equal rights to live and move about in any part of the land as thou. The lands belong to the people and all living beings; thou art only the guardian of it .....'* (Mahawansa; Chapter XIV).

Dr. A. R. B. Amarasinghe J. in *Bulankulama and Others v Secretary of Industrial Development and others* (2000), refers to the fact that the king



Sinharaja forest reserve

was *Bhupathi* or *Bhupala* meaning 'lord of the earth or protector of the earth'. The Doctrine of Public Trust which was developed through the concept of trusteeship of the kings and rulers is now a well developed legal principle in many parts of the world. In *Bulankulama case* the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka observed that the organs of State are guardians to whom the people have committed the care and preservation of the resources of the people.

In *Wattegedara Wijebanda v Conservator General of Forest and Eight Others* (2007), (per Shiranee Tilakawardane, J), the Supreme Court held: *Courts in Sri Lanka have long since recognized that the organs of the State are guardians to whom the people have committed the care and preservation of the resources of the people. This recognition of the Doctrine of the Public Trust, accords a great responsibility upon the Government to preserve and protect the environment and its resources.*

**Bulankulama Case**  
The Intergenerational Equity concept was explored in detail by the Supreme Court in the *Eppawala Case* which related to the handing over of the mining activities in the Eppawala phosphate mine to the company named Freeport MacMoran. The Court in this case recognized that the Concept of Sustainable Development encompassed three elements: first, the conservation of natural resources for the benefit of future generations- which is known as the Principle of Intergenerational Equity; second, the

exploration of natural resources in a manner which is 'sustainable' or 'prudent'- which is known as the Principle of 'Sustainable Use'; third, the integration of environmental considerations into economic and other development plans, programmes and projects - which is known as the principle of Integration of Environment and development needs.

The Court went on to highlight the international instruments which have clearly recognized the principle of Intergenerational Equity. Citing Principle 1 and 2 of the Stockholm Declaration, the Court held that it has been stated that humankind bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations, and that the natural resources of the earth including the air, water, land, flora and fauna must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Court also made mention of the Principle 3 of the Rio De Janeiro Declaration, and stipulated that the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations. It was the Court's view that the Inter-Generational principle is to be regarded as 'axiomatic' in the decision making process in relating to matters concerning the natural resources and the environment of Sri Lanka in general. Thus, the Eppawala judgement set the precedent of this principle being applied in subsequent determinations pertaining to the environment.

To be continued



# Matrubhasha to Mitrabhasha

DAYA DISSANAYAKE

*E*kushphebruyari, as they say in Bengali, and *pebharavari visieka*, as we say in Sinhala, is the International Day of Mother Languages: *antarjatika matr?bha?a dibasa* in Bengali; and *antarjatika matrubhasha davasa* in Sinhala.

Today, on the cusp of the second decade in the 21st century, when we de-Anglicize the International Mother Language Day, it is clear that the theme of 2021, "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society," is relevant achievable; and, we can hope for a *vishvabhasha* in a *vishvagrama*.

We owe the International Mother Language Day to the *Bhasa sahida dibasa*, Language Martyr's Day. In 1952 the Bengali people sacrificed their lives to save their mother language, a unique struggle in the entire history of mankind. *The Shaheed Minar*, next to the Dhaka Medical College, is in memory of a 'rebel with a cause'. We need to take this victory of a people, beyond one language towards a Mother Language of all the children of Mother Earth.

Bengal had her own great poet around 9th - 12th centuries, *Khana*, who gave the country *Khana Bachana*. There is a legend that *Khana* ('*Ksana*' - moment) was the daughter of a Sinhala king who married Mihira, son of astrologer Varaha. (<http://en.banglapedia.org/index.php/Khana>). We continue to remember Ishwar Chandra Bandyopadhyay as *Vidyasagar*, who made a significant contribution, by developing the new Bangla language, and his book *Barna Parichay* (an introduction to the Bengali alphabet). It is the new and simpler Bangla language that would have made it so popular. Popular enough to have 98% of the people of Bangladesh to having *Bangla* as their mother tongue. I believe, it paved the way for the great Bangla literature and its writers to flourish, including the great names Jibananda Das, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Mahasveta Devi, Satyajit Ray and the modern writers like Selina Hossain, Syed Shamsul Haq, Shamsu Rahman, Nirmalendu Goon, Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas and many other bilingual writers like K Anis Ahmed, Nuru Huda and Kaiser Haq.

We created the Tower of Babel, which has become overcrowded with over 6,000 languages. Yet, the South Asian Tower of Babel is not as complicated as the global Babel. We have managed to communicate with each other to some extent, within our Babel, because most of our languages have grown



from the same origins; and we share so much in common.

This gives us the opportunity to communicate with each other across borders in languages which can be understood by many. Thus, the initiative taken by the High Commission of Bangladesh in Sri Lanka, to celebrate the International Mother Language Day in the recent years, to foster multilingualism through education and culture can easily be developed further to bring all the countries within South Asia together, as one family.

Multilingualism, as Nicholas Ostler wrote in 'Empires of the World', "As well as being the banners and ensigns of human groups, languages guard our memories too. Even when they are unwritten, languages are the most powerful tools we have to conserve our past knowledge, transmitting it, ever and anon, to the next generation. Any human language binds together a human community, by giving it a network of communication; but it also dramatizes it, providing the means to tell, and to remember, its stories."

It is our mother language that will help us embrace multilingualism. Mother Language is dear to our hearts, here in South Asia. To

us, Motherhood is sacred. We consider Motherhood as a higher state than the masculine and the feminine. A Mother rises beyond the mere female or the male. She becomes one with the universe. Her love is pure and unselfish, like the love of a true god. She can feel love, empathy, kindness through sharpened senses. When we respect our mother language, we can respect all mother languages, as we respect all mothers in our society.

When we respect and honour our mother language, we accept the use of well-spoken words, *subha vachana*, which would help us not just tolerate, but also accept and respect others, whatever their beliefs, or traditions. It is always the evil words, abusing the wonderful gift received by mankind to communicate with each other, that cause suspicion, hatred, violence and destruction.

We, in Sri Lanka, have so much in common with Bengal, Bangla language and Sinhala. One such link is through *Buddha Dhamma* and perhaps king Ashoka, based on the 3rd century BCE Mahasthan inscription discovered in Bogra district northern Bangladesh. In the editorial of the 'Buddhist Heritage of Bangladesh' (2015) Bulbul Ahmed, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, wrote -

*'Buddhism emerged in Bangladesh as the dominant religion of the masses and exercised a profound influence on the social, cultural and intellectual lives of the people. Bangla language owes its origin to the works of Buddhist bhikkhus mainly poetry in lyrical verses in a language spoken by the common folk known as Baudidha Gan O Doha. A number of Buddhist scholars of Bangladesh including Silabhadra, Chandragomin, Santaraksita, Kamalasila and Atisa Dipankara Srijnana exercised their influence far beyond the frontiers of Bangladesh.'*

In the same publication, we find that *Pali* and *Prakrit* were the languages used by the *Pala* kings (950 - 1200 CE) who were Buddhists. *Charyapada* or *Charyagiti* written in *Prakrit* or vernacular Bangla, and interestingly also links with *Apabhramsa, Oriya, and Assamese*. A manuscript of *Charayapada* was found in the library of the royal court of Nepal, reminding us that poetry can always cross barriers.

Through poetry, drama and folk traditions, we can also find the evolution of our South Asian languages from a Mother Language, making us all one family, with close cultural relations. In our Sinhala folk songs, we have *'Olinda tibenne Bangali dese'*, and again reference to 'Bangali valalu'.

Language is for friendship, trust and unity. Every language is just like a mighty river, sacred to each one of us, and when they all flow into the mightier ocean, they all become one. Time is opportune for accepting all *Matrubhasha* as *Mitrabhasha*.

*Mahakabi* Rabindranath has always been, and still is, a highly admired *sahitya* and *sanskerti* ambassador for Bengal, specially to Sri Lanka. He needs no introduction. About the Bangla poems of Jibananda Das, Rabindranath had used the term *Chitraroopmoy* 'images through words'. We can see the *Chitraroopmoy*, and appreciate how close his Bangla poems are for us in Sri Lanka, even if we do not read the English translations. In his most famous poem, *Banalata Sen*, Jibananda takes us from the *Sinhal samudra* in *nishith-er andhokare* to *Malay shagore* to the times of *Bimbishar Ashoker*, and to *Vidarbha* and *Bidishar nagare*, a *nabik sailing atidur samudrer* feeling *klanta*, at last meeting *Banalata Sen*, *mukho mukhi*.

As evident from the Bengali and Sinhala words in the poem *Banalata Sen* and the first paragraph of this article, of the similarities between Bengali *bachana* and Sinhala *vachana*, we can enjoy Bengali literature even though we do not know the language. The way forward is to search for similarities between our communities instead of the divergences.

Since we also believe that we are the only animal beings on earth who can use speech, who can use language for communication, we should be able to use such communication skills to form more sensitive and responsible relations with all other human beings on earth. If man is so intelligent, ingenious and can reach out to the stars, then his failure to develop a universal language, could just be due to his chauvinistic arrogance. We must be able to use our tongue, instead of our hands and weapons, to settle any conflict or dispute that may arise among us, anywhere.

For man to achieve true independence in communication, he has to develop a Universal Language, a language common to all human beings worldwide. A means of communication not limited to symbols, but one that

transcends boundaries and narrow literal interpretations. It is not just a distant dream, but a vision we can accomplish in reality in the near future, by making use of all the digital technology that is now increasingly accessible. It could be a computer-generated language, a digital Esperanto, that can be read and understood by people all over the world and someday, around the universe.

It is a concept beyond 'literacy'. Surely, by this time, man would be in his tertiary orality, where he would not, and need not be able to read and write to communicate, ideate.

This is the message we have to take across the world, that language is for friendship, trust and unity. Every language is just like a mighty river, sacred to each one of us, and when they all flow into the mightier ocean, they all become one. Time is opportune for accepting all *Matrubhasha* as *Mitrabhasha*.

ঐ	ঐা	ঐ়	ঐ়	ঐ	ঐ
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ঠ	ঠা	ঠ়	ঠ়	ঠ	ঠ
ড	ডা	ড়	ড়	ড	ড
ণ	ণা	ণ়	ণ়	ণ	ণ
ত	তা	ত়	ত়	ত	ত
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দ	দা	দ়	দ়	দ	দ
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ন	না	ন়	ন়	ন	ন
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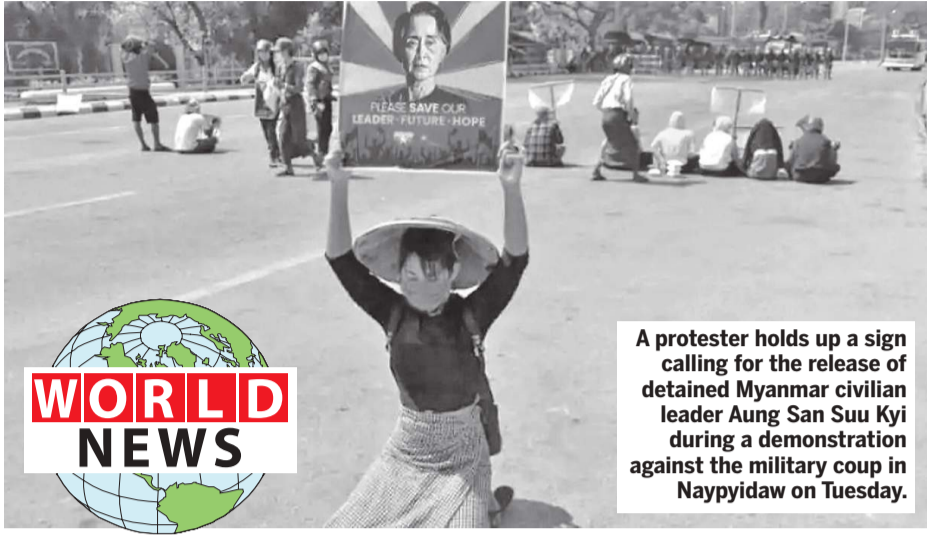


# SUU KYI HIT WITH NEW CHARGE

**MYANMAR:** Myanmar's military on Wednesday drew fresh international criticism by slapping a new charge on deposed civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, as the generals cut off the internet for a third straight night in a bid to grind down an anti-coup uprising.

In the two weeks since the military ousted Suu Kyi and put her under house arrest in the administrative capital Naypyidaw, big cities and isolated village communities alike have been in open revolt.

After her detention in a dawn raid on February 1 – the day of the coup – she was charged under an obscure import and export law, over walkie talkies that were found in her home during a search. The Nobel laureate's lawyer told AFP Tuesday she had been hit with a second charge, of violating the country's disaster management law.



**A protester holds up a sign calling for the release of detained Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a demonstration against the military coup in Naypyidaw on Tuesday.**

"She was charged under Section 8 of the Export and Import law and section 25 of the Natural Disaster Management law as well," Khin Maung Zaw told AFP.

While it was unclear how the disaster law applied in Suu Kyi's case, it has been used against deposed president Win Myint – also

arrested on February 1 – relating to a campaign event that the junta alleges broke coronavirus-related restrictions.

Khin Maung Zaw added that Suu Kyi and Win Myint, both of whom he has yet to have any contact with, were expected to appear via video conference during a

March 1 trial. More than 420 people have been arrested since the coup, according to a list of confirmed detentions from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners monitoring group.

Military spokesman Zaw Min Tun said Tuesday that both Suu Kyi and Win

Myint were in a "safer place" and "in good health". "It's not like they were arrested – they are staying at their houses," the General, who became the country's Vice-Minister of Information after the coup, told a press conference.

Security Forces have used increasingly heavy measures to quell huge nationwide street protests and a disobedience campaign encouraging civil servants to strike. Troops have fanned out around the country in recent days. Rubber bullets, tear gas and even sling shots have been used against protesters, and one demonstration in Mandalay on Monday saw police beating journalists hours before authorities again cut internet access. A large crowd blocked railway tracks outside Mawlamyine to prevent a Yangon-bound train from leaving the port city.

- AFP

## Long lockdown bites Malaysian's durian trade

**MALAYSIA:** Durians falling from trees are collected in nets on a farm in Malaysia, where a long lockdown has slowed domestic demand and left traders more reliant on China's appetite for the world's smelliest fruit.



**The 'king of fruits' is loved by fans for its bittersweet flavour and creamy texture, though critics say it smells like rotting garbage**

Grown across tropical Southeast Asia, fans love the "king of fruits" for its bittersweet flavours and creamy texture although critics compare its odour to rotting garbage, and it is banned from many hotels and on public transport.

A first lockdown in Malaysia did not do too much damage to demand but a serious Covid-19 resurgence has prompted authorities to re-impose curbs for a longer period, hitting the economy again and hammering the durian industry.

With the roadside stalls where people usually eat the fruits largely empty of customers,

sales have plummeted. "Compared to last year, the local sales are not as good," Eric Chan, a trader and managing director of Dulai Fruits Enterprise, told AFP.

On the farm in Raub, outside Kuala Lumpur, some of the precious fruits are caught in nets stretched out under trees to ensure they don't suffer any damage.

Many are destined for China, where the virus emerged but which has largely tamed its outbreak and is once again recording economic growth.

The trade in durians has exploded over the past decade, largely driven by China's growing appetite, with prices of the once cheap fruit selling for 60 ringgit (\$14) or more a kilo. The fruit was once exported to China only as pulp and paste but in 2019 officials there allowed the shipment of frozen whole fruits, in a further boost to the industry.

Durians can be found in Malaysia at all times of the year, though the fruit has bumper harvests at certain times.

- AFP

## Europe's tallest active volcano erupts again

**ITALY:** Mount Etna, one of the world's most active volcanoes, belched smoke and ashes in a new eruption on Tuesday, but Italian authorities said it posed no danger to the surrounding villages.

At 3,324 metres (nearly 11,000 feet), Etna is the tallest active volcano in Europe and has erupted frequently in the past 500,000 years.

The head of the INGV National Institute for Geophysics and Vulcanology in the nearby city of Catania, Stefano Branco, told Italian news agency AGI that the eruption from Etna's south-eastern crater began late Tuesday afternoon, but insisted that the latest

burst of activity was "not at all worrying".

Nevertheless, with small stones and ashes raining down, authorities decided to close Catania's international airport.

The emergency authorities said on their Twitter account that they were monitoring the situation closely in the three villages at the foot of the volcano – Linguaglossa, Fornazzo and Milo.

Images showed a spectacular rose-coloured plume of ashes above the snow-capped summit, but the cloud had largely dissipated by nightfall, while lava flows continued to glow.

- AFP



**Streams of red hot lava flow as Mount Etna as seen from Giarre, Italy, February 16, 2021.**

## Addressing first Town Hall as President

# Biden seeks support for economic rescue package

## Vaccines available for all Americans by July end

**US:** US President Joe Biden sidestepped a divided Congress and went straight to the nation Tuesday with a primetime televised Town Hall in Wisconsin seeking support for his \$1.9 trillion economic rescue package.

"Now is the time we should spend. Now is the time to go big," Biden told the live CNN audience in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

With lawmakers reeling from the aftermath of Donald Trump's impeachment acquittal, Biden used his first official trip away from Washington as President to address ordinary voters.

His stimulus package would more than double the previous measure passed by Congress, after intense debate, in December.

The administration says massive injections of money, including \$1,400 cheques sent to many Americans, are vital to preventing a sluggish economic recovery from stalling altogether.

Another major goal of the spending spree is to boost the COVID-19 vaccine rollout – a logistical, medical and financial challenge upon which Biden's entire first term may hang.

President Biden also said that all Americans will have access to COVID-19 vaccines before August.

Asked when all Americans would be vaccinated, Biden told a CNN



**US President Joe Biden talks with CNN anchor Anderson Cooper as he participates in a CNN Town Hall at the Pabst Theatre in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Tuesday.** - AFP

town hall meeting with members of the public: "By the end of July this year."

"By the end of July we'll have 600 million doses, enough to vaccinate every American," he said.

Biden's choice of Wisconsin for the town hall was no coincidence: he won the battleground state by just 20,000 votes against Trump in November and it will feature prominently again in the 2022 midterms

and 2024 Presidential race. In Wisconsin, he insisted that only the "fringes" are keeping the country apart, where in reality "it's not nearly as divided as we make it out to be."

His efforts seem to be paying off – among voters at least, if not yet with congressional Republicans.

A Quinnipiac poll this month showed nearly 70 percent of Americans support the stimulus package,

while a CNBC poll reported 64 percent believe the price tag is sufficient or not even enough. Only 36 percent said it was too much.

Biden himself is on a solid footing with nearly 55 percent average approval ratings. Trump may still hold a powerful grip over the Republican voter base but his final average approval rating on leaving office was a measly 38.6 percent.

- AFP

## ARCTIC COLD SNAP GRIPS U.S.

● 20 dead, over 3 million people without power

**US:** Arctic weather that already killed 20 people and left millions without power in the United States after dumping deep snow and bringing perilous conditions across swathes of the country.

More than 20 storm-related deaths have been registered so far, including in traffic accidents in Texas, Kentucky and Missouri, according to local media.

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned of an "unprecedented and expansive area of hazardous winter weather" from coast to coast, with more than 150 million Americans under winter weather advisories.

"Hundreds of daily low maximum and minimum temperatures have been/will be broken during this prolonged 'polar plunge,' with some February and even all-time low temperature records in jeopardy," it said.

The grim conditions particularly afflicted regions unaccustomed to snow and sleet. PowerOutage.US reported more than 3 million people were without power in Texas, where temperatures in the major metropolis of Houston dipped to 16 degrees Fahrenheit (-9 degrees Celsius), well below average February lows of 34.

In hardest-hit Texas – where freezing conditions prompted utility companies to implement rotating blackouts – a woman and girl died from carbon monoxide poisoning after using a car to generate heat, according to NBC News.

A man in Louisiana died when he



**Bicycles are covered in snow in Chicago, Illinois on Tuesday as a result of the cold sweeping in the US.** - AFP

hit his head after slipping on ice, and a 10-year-old Tennessee boy died after he and his six-year-old sister fell through the ice into a pond Sunday.

President Joe Biden on Tuesday vowed to provide additional emergency resources for those affected by the "historic storm."

He also thanked "road workers, highway patrol officers, and first responders who are taking swift action in horrific conditions to save lives," according to a White House statement.

The winter storm spawned at least

four tornadoes, according to Atlanta-based weather.com, including one in coastal North Carolina late Monday that killed at least three people and injured 10 more.

Photos and video broadcast by US media showed downed trees, flattened homes and smashed cars.

In the state capital Austin, the temperature dropped to 10 degrees Fahrenheit (-12 degrees Celsius) – well below February's average low of 45F. By contrast, thermometers in Anchorage, Alaska read 20F.

- AFP

## Trump sued for Capitol attack under 'Ku Klux Klan Act'

**US:** A senior Democratic Congressman sued former President Donald Trump Tuesday, accusing him of violating the 19th century "Ku Klux Klan Act" by supporting the January 6 attack on the US Capitol.

Bennie Thompson accused Trump, his lawyer Rudy Giuliani, and extremist groups the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers of violating the 1871 act by supporting efforts to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden as the new US president.

Thompson, who is Black and the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, cited a law originally created to protect the rights of African Americans after the Civil War and the end of slavery.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in Washington three days after Trump was acquitted of supporting insurrection in an impeachment trial in the Senate.

While a majority of the Senate, 57 of the 100 members, voted for conviction, it fell short of the two-thirds majority required.

The 1871 law was designed to give the US president powers to oppose violently racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan which sprung up in the wake of the 1861-65 Civil War to oppose equal rights for Black Americans.

One seldom-invoked clause of the act forbids conspiracy to obstruct federal officeholders from performing their jobs.



**Donald Trump supporters running riot at the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021.**

Thompson alleged that Trump, Giuliani and the two groups conspired "by force, intimidation and threats" to prevent him from discharging his official duty to carry out the certification of Biden's election win.

The attack on the Capitol temporarily halted the certification of Biden, left five people dead and scores injured.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a leading civil rights group, is representing Thompson in the suit.

Thompson, a native of Mississippi where he grew up under the pervasive threat of Ku Klux Klan violence, is seeking unspecified damages for "emotional distress" and punitive damages to punish Trump and the other defendants for "unlawful conduct."

Trump spokesman Jason Miller rejected the allegations in the suit.

"President Trump did not plan, produce or organize the Jan. 6 rally... President Trump did not incite or conspire to incite any violence at the Capitol on Jan. 6," Miller told AFP in a statement. - AFP





## SOBA CHALANA SITHUWAM

Short Films Competition and

## SOBA SEYA

Environmental Photographic Competition

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**For the "Soba Chalana Sithuwam" Short Films Competition**

- Theme** - Creations can be submitted on any theme on the Environment
- Conditions of the Competition**
- Duration** - Maximum 05 minutes
- Competition Section** - Fiction, Documentary and Animation
- Medium** - Creations can be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil or English (Sinhala and Tamil creations should be submitted with English subtitles)

<b>Prizes</b>	- 1st Place	- Rs. 50,000.00
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	- 3rd Place	- Rs. 30,000.00
	- 05 Merit Awards	- Rs. 10,000.00 each

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Closing Date for acceptance of the Creations will be - **30.04.2021**

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- Tel. No. - 011-2034172

A free one-day Workshop will be held on short film production with the participation of the resource persons in the field. Please contact Tel. 011-2034175 to confirm your participation on or before 25.02.2021.

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- Theme** : The Nature with an artistic eye
- For conditions of the Competition and further details :**
- Website - [www.env.gov.lk](http://www.env.gov.lk)
- Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/env.gov.lk/>
- Email - [sobaseya2021moe@gmail.com](mailto:sobaseya2021moe@gmail.com)
- Tel. No. - 011-2034175 and 011-2034172

<b>Prizes</b>	- 1st Place	- Rs. 30,000.00
	- 2nd Place	- Rs. 25,000.00
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	- 05 Merit Awards	- Rs. 5,000.00 each

All the participants will be awarded with a valuable Certificate.

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# 38 National Conference on Architecture

18 February 2021



**Social Responsibility of the Architect: The conference theme for Architect 2021**  
"With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility."

While gaining popularity through a Super-hero character from Marvel Comics, the above slogan may describe how moral obligations instigate the Architect to serve the greater society in a selfless crusade. Armed and equipped with a unique set of skills and expertise, the Architect also inherits a wide array of Social Responsibilities which are confronted at: Professional, Communal, National and Global scales.

An elite Professional who orchestrates multiple professional disciplines, the Architect assumes the legal responsibility of realizing the aspirations of a primary client while ensuring the safety, health and well being of many direct and indirect users that include: occupants, maintenance workers, visitors as well as passive commuters who may only engage the architectural manifestation visually.

As a respected member of the communities touched by architectural endeavors, the Architect assumes the "Communal Responsibility" of providing intellectual intervention in aspects such as: ensuring adequate communal participation in macro habitat development plans, mediating the conflicting needs between Developers and their neighboring communities, as well as exercising the "moral responsibility of care" in responding to emerging social needs such as disaster management measures and settlement related ethnic integration etc. This "Communal responsibility" leads the Architect to create vibrant neighbourhoods where physical environments ensure rich human interaction where the Architect engages in "social Engineering". The Architect defend such communities by ensuring a "secure" public realm and habitations that are protected against: Subversive violence, Crime and Social disruption etc.


As a prominent member of the Intellectual Community, the Architect is also charged with the "Socio-Cultural Responsibility" of preserving "tangible and intangible" elements of "Heritage" related to the built fabric and conserving cultural identities. Further, in a broader scale, the Architect also performs the "Socio-Political Responsibility" of fostering Public Spaces to accommodate mass congregation and meaningful expression while ensuring social participation in the macro changes of urbanity.

As an esteemed citizen of the nation-state, the Architect assumes the "Socio-Economic Responsibilities" by leading broader spatial structuring endeavors for "National Development" and "Economic growth" while ensuring "Social Equity" in such macro-scale developments which involve geo-spatial expertise. The Architect also deals with broader Legal Responsibilities towards the State and Statutory authorities by upholding development guidelines that ensure the well being of the nation's Built Environment.

As a leading "global Citizen" who makes crucial value judgements, the Architect assumes "Environmental Responsibilities" of planetary scale in dealing with issues of sustainability such as: the prevention of Environmental Pollution and Resource Depletion. The Architect would Champion these ideals through strategies that ensure energy efficiency in building design and urban development plans while mitigating material wastage in construction practices.

An "Architect" is defined by such broader responsibilities as much as the unique talents, knowledge, and expertise that this professional is gifted with. These Social Responsibilities are part of an inevitable duty towards the greater good which entail the capabilities possessed by the Architect. It is the "Sacred Duty" of a professional who is entrusted with much "social faith" to serve humanity. The conference may explore how such multifaceted "Responsibilities" redefine themselves in today's context of evolving social needs.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**



The responsibility of an architect towards the community in particular, and the society at large in general, is the subject under consideration in this year's National Conference of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. Our role in contributing to the resolution of built-environmental issues at local or even global levels may, in a sense be the ultimate justification for us to exist as a respected group of professionals; in the absence of such lofty objectives, we would be just a group of fashionable people.

The challenges before us are enormous indeed; issues emanating from climate change, problems of our aging population, and sustain ability concerns require the attention of architects. They can no longer confine themselves to design of individual buildings - but need to consider the wider picture as well.

At the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects our members are fully conscious of the responsibility cast upon them and are, in this instance taking a look at ourselves to understand and redefine our place in this scenario. The National Conference of 2021 is in that sense a significant self-evaluation.

**Archt. Veranjan Kurukulasuriya,**  
FIA (SL) B.Sc. (Built Environment); M.Sc. (Architecture), FITP (SL)

**MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**



Architecture as an inclusive profession which has strong links with people; their living environment; private and public domain with their interactive behaviour becomes more important during this socio health problematic built environment under new normal conditions since we all may have to live with this Pandemic for another year.

Until such time, as a society we have to improve our self-health attitude, and extending our helping hands to each other becomes more important. As an institute, the SLIA has already conducted many CSR work as our primary responsibility towards society and the needy. Through this Conference, we will create a platform how Architects can assist people and their immediate built environment to cope with social distancing and other health and safety precautions through architecture. Perhaps, we all have to agree upon a new set of building regulations to create a robust built environment.

Making resilient built environment and people will be the solution which we will explore through this Conference and its deliberations, with the true spirit of Sri Lankan essence of hospitality and self-help attitude; and it will be deeply rooted in local traditions, culture, technology, and people and how to keep the essence of local wisdom in its highest and truest spirit.

We are inviting all of you to connect with SLIA online and on Facebook live streaming, since this year positively our Conference is a public and online platform where everyone can listen to experts and their opinions on the topic.

**Archt. Russell Dandeniya,**  
FIA (SL), RIBA, Int. Assn. AIA

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2021**



**With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility:**  
The Architect is gifted with a unique spectrum of expertise which entail an inevitable responsibility to serve humanity, both in terms of "Legal Responsibilities" and "Moral responsibilities". The theme of this conference would explore the Architect's "Professional Responsibility" and touch our focus to broader ramifications of all complex manifestations of Architectural endeavours that stretch the lives of communities as well as Society at large.

The "Contractual Responsibilities" of an Architect defines the legal / professional obligations towards the immediate client. This extends to ensuring the safety, health, and wellbeing of all direct and indirect users of architectural creations. A framework of broader Legal Responsibilities towards the State includes statutory development guidelines that regulate a nation's Built Environment.

Architect's "social responsibility" integrates "Communal responsibility" to create vibrant neighbourhoods with Public Spaces that accommodate congregation, interaction, and meaningful expression. This "Responsible Professional" also ensures social participation in changing the urban landscape while preserving elements of "Heritage" related to the built fabric and conserving cultural identities. At National scale, the Architect engages in macro-Development schemes through geo-spatial synchronisation of land-use patterns to achieve "Economic growth" while ensuring "Social Equity" and "spatial justice" to all social groups.

As a "global Citizen" the Architect responds to "Environmental Responsibilities" of planetary scale, by addressing issues of sustain ability such as: preventing Environmental Pollution and Resource Depletion. The Architect Champions these ideals through "Green approaches" related to energy efficient building design, the advocacy of "Green Urbanism" and mitigating material wastage in construction. The theme articulates how broader social responsibilities are inherited as an integral part of exceptional capabilities possessed by the Architect.

**Archt. Dr. Senaka Dharmathilleke**  
BSc (BE), MSc (Arch), PhD (NUS), PG Dip IA (BCIS), AIA (SL)  
Chairman of National Conference committee, 2021

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# EU launches 'second generation' COVID-19 vaccine programme

## South Africa offers AstraZeneca jabs to AU

**BELGIUM:** The European Union (EU) will launch a programme to study COVID-19 variants and produce "second generation" vaccines against future strains, the bloc's president has said.

The "HERA incubator" programme, which began yesterday brings together the pharmaceutical industry, laboratories, health authorities and researchers, Ursula von der Leyen told French daily Les Echos on Tuesday.

"The virus has evolved and will continue to evolve," said

a spokesperson for the bloc - which has been criticised for its slow rollout of vaccines so far.

"It is important we prepare for mutations." Member states will also be asked to contribute additional funds so the EU can adapt and modify contracts already signed with vaccine providers and secure doses against future variants, Bloomberg reported.

With delays to deliveries of three already-authorized vaccines by AstraZeneca, Pfizer/

BioNTech and Moderna, the EU's medicines regulator is under pressure from European capitals to speed more into service.

Meanwhile, South Africa said it would offer its doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to the African Union (AU) after scrapping their use due to efficacy concerns.

The country suspended its vaccine rollout - meant to begin with the AstraZeneca shots earlier this month - after a study found the jab

failed to prevent mild and moderate illness caused by a variant found in South Africa.

"The doses we purchased have been offered to the African Union to distribute to those countries who have already expressed interest in acquiring the stock," Health Minister Zweli Mkhize told Parliament.

The African Union (AU), through its African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, has secured some 270 million doses of anti-COVID vaccines for the continent and last



week said it would not "walk away" from the AstraZeneca formula.

South Africa has now settled for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, securing nine

million doses, including 80,000 delivered late on Tuesday.

Those vaccines will be supplemented by 20 million doses of the Pfizer formula as

South Africa embarks on an ambitious aim to inoculate around 40 million people - 67 percent of the population - by the end of the year.

- AFP

## Trump urges Republicans to dump McConnell

**US:** Donald Trump urged Republican senators Tuesday to dump Mitch McConnell as their leader in the Senate following his withering criticism of the former US president after his impeachment trial.

"The Republican Party can never again be respected or strong with political 'leaders' like Sen. Mitch McConnell at its helm," Trump said in a statement.

"Mitch is a dour, sullen, and unsmiling political hack, and if Republican Senators are going to stay with him, they will not win again."

The attack came after McConnell said on Saturday that even though he had voted to acquit Trump at his impeachment trial, the former president was nevertheless "practically and morally responsible" for the January 6 storming of the US Capitol.

In his lengthiest comment yet on politics since exiting the

White House on January 20, Trump blamed McConnell for the Republicans' loss of control of the Senate, while taking credit for himself for the party's gains in the House of Representatives.

He also took credit for McConnell winning another six-year term representing Kentucky in the Senate, where the 78-year-old has served since 1984, and wielded hefty power as majority leader over the past six years.

"My only regret is that McConnell 'begged' for my strong support and endorsement before the great people of Kentucky in the 2020 election, and I gave it to him," Trump said.

"Without my endorsement, McConnell would have lost, and lost badly."

Trump threatened to use his continuing popularity among the Republican base to support any Republican candidates - the next



Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell (L) and his Chinese-American wife Elaine Chao who was Transportation Secretary in Donald Trump's Cabinet.

national election is in November 2022 - who support his agenda.

"Where necessary and appropriate, I will back primary rivals

who espouse Making America Great Again and our policy of America First.

- AFP



## Bus plunges into canal; 39 dead

**INDIA:** Thirty-nine people were killed Tuesday when a bus plunged into a deep canal in the central Indian State of Madhya Pradesh, officials said, with seven others managing to swim to safety.

The accident happened when the bus, which was carrying more than 50 passengers, veered off a bridge and crashed into the 30-foot (9.1-metre) deep canal in Sidhi district early on Tuesday morning.

Local media reported the bus was completely submerged, and images showed officials in orange life jackets using rescue boats to look for survivors.

Officials said the driver and six others swam to safety. Several other people remain missing.

The Times of India newspaper quoted sources saying it took three hours to lift the vehicle out. Images showed bodies



Onlookers stand along a canal as rescue teams search for survivors after a bus plunged into a canal killing at least 39 passengers in the Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh State on Tuesday. - AFP

lined up on the banks of the canal as distraught relatives hugged each other and cried.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office tweeted that the families of those killed in the "horrific" accident would receive 200,000 rupees (\$2,750) in compensation.

"The entire state is standing with those affected," Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj

Singh Chouhan said in a video message.

In 2019 more than 150,000 people died - 410 every day or 17 an hour - in almost half a million accidents, according to the Government.

The United States sees nearly five times more accidents than India every year but the number of deaths in India is four times higher, according to the Times of India. - AFP

## New Zealand-Australia row erupts over 'terrorist' dual national

**NEW ZEALAND:** New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern angrily accused Australia Tuesday of shirking its responsibility for a dual national arrested in Turkey with alleged links to the Islamic State militant group.

Ardern said the woman had been a dual Australian-New Zealand citizen until authorities in Canberra cancelled her passport, leaving her situation to Wellington to deal with.

In an unusually blunt message to her counterpart Scott Morrison, Ardern said Canberra was "wrong" to expect New Zealand to accept the woman, who she said had strong ties to Australia.

"Any fair-minded person would consider this person an Australian and that is my view too," Ardern said in a statement. "We believe Aus-



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (R) 26-year-old 'ISIS bride', named locally as Suhayra Aden and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison (Inset).

tralia has abdicated its responsibilities."

The 26-year-old woman was arrested with her two children near the Syrian border this week by Turkish authorities, and identified as a member of the Islamic State Group.

Ardern said the woman

had not lived in New Zealand since she was six, and so it was "wrong that New Zealand should shoulder the responsibility" for her.

"(The woman) has resided in Australia since that time, has her family in Australia and left for Syria from Australia on her Australian pass-

port," she added. Morrison defended his Government's decision as in "Australia's national security interests".

"We do not want to see terrorists who fought with terrorism organisations enjoying privileges of citizenship, which I think they forfeit the second they engage as an enemy of our country," he said during a press conference in Canberra.

But Morrison added that he would speak with Ardern further, saying: "There is still a lot more unknown about this case and where it sits and where it may go to next."

Since 2014, around 3,000 New Zealanders in Australia have had their visas cancelled "on character grounds" - which does not always require a criminal conviction.

- AFP

## Peru appoints 6th Foreign Minister in under a year

**PERU:** Peru on Monday appointed its sixth Foreign Minister in less than a year following a fresh resignation over a growing coronavirus vaccinations scandal.

Veteran diplomat Allan Wagner, 79, was sworn in less than 24 hours after Elizabeth Astete became the second top official to step down over the scandal.

Peru has been gripped in recent days by the news that government officials received the COVID-19 vaccination weeks or even months before the South American country launched its immunization programme.

Peru only began its immunization drive, starting with health-care workers, in early February after receiving 300,000 doses of vaccine.

The scandal comes with Peru suffering from Latin America's



Peruvian Foreign Minister Elizabeth Astete became the second top official to step down over the scandal.

second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, and in the midst of an election campaign for April polls.

The country of 33 million has recorded more than 1.2 million cases and more than 43,700 deaths from COVID-19.

While leaders and government

ministers in some other countries made a public display of getting vaccinated to encourage nervous citizens about safety concerns, the secrecy surrounding Peru's top officials getting the shots early has sparked criticism among ordinary folk. - AFP

## Comet from edge of solar system killed dinosaurs: Study



An artist's depiction of the moment the Chicxulub asteroid struck present-day Mexico 66 million years ago.

**US:** Sixty-six million years ago, a huge celestial object struck off the coast of what is now Mexico, triggering a catastrophic "impact winter" that eventually wiped out three-quarters of life on Earth, including the dinosaurs.

A pair of astronomers at Harvard say they have now resolved long standing mysteries surrounding the nature and origin of the "Chicxulub impactor."

Their analysis suggests it was a comet that originated in a region

of icy debris on the edge of the solar system, that Jupiter was responsible for it crashing into our planet, and that we can expect similar impacts every 250 million to 750 million years.

The duo's paper, published in the journal Scientific Reports this week, pushes back against an older theory that claims the object was a fragment of an asteroid that came from our solar system's Main Belt.

Evidence suggests the Chicxulub crater and other similar cra-

ters, such as the Vredefort crater in South Africa that was struck about two billion years ago, and the million-year-old Zhamanshin crater in Kazakhstan, all had carbonaceous chondrite.

Loeb added he was excited by the prospect of the Vera Rubin Observatory in Chile becoming operational next year.

The telescope might be able to see tidal disruption of long-period comets "and will be extremely important in making forecasts for

definitely the next 100 years, to know if anything bad could happen to us."

Though Siraj and Loeb calculated Chicxulub-like impactors would occur once every few hundreds of millions of years, "it's a statistical thing, you say, 'on average, it's every so often' but you never know when the next one will come," said Loeb.

"The best way to find out is to search the sky," he concluded.

- AFP



# 42nd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year

## School cricketers eager to commence U-19 season



Secretary of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA) **J.A.K.S. Indrajith**

**DINESH WEERAWANSA**

Though the school cricket governing body has earlier got the approval from the Education Ministry to begin the new 2020-2021 Under-19 cricket season from March 15, it is still unclear whether they could go ahead as planned as Covid-19 pandemic situation is not good.

It will also be the date for the Western Province schools reopening after the postponed G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination.

The secretary of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA) J.A.K.S. Indrajith earlier said they have got the green light from the Education Ministry as well as the local health authorities. He said a team will play five qualifying round matches each and that those matches will be played under closed doors. But they will now have to set yet another clearance from health authorities if the situation worsens.

Asked whether the final round matches too would not entertain spectators, Indrajith said it will be too early to make a decision. "It is too early to talk about that. If we get approval from the health authorities then we could. But as it is, we play behind closed doors to ensure the health of all parties," he said.

He said prior to the preliminary round matches, the host team will inform public health inspectors of the area. All preliminary round league matches will be played at venues convenient to the two teams while final round matches from quarter final stage will be played at neutral venues.

The makeshift 2020-2021 inter school Under-19 inter-school cricket season will begin mid next month, giving some hopes after exactly one complete year's play was lost due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

After the tail end of the last first XI season was stopped by the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic in March last year, the next season will begin exactly a



year's time in 2021 mid-March. Indrajith said they will follow all guidelines set by the Education Ministry and health authorities strictly when conducting the tournament.

"We will strictly follow all guidelines set by the Education and Health Ministry officials because we don't want the school children to fall into trouble against Covid-19. At the same time, we want to offer maximum opportunity to school children to indulge in sports activities," the SLCSA secretary said.

Royal, Trinity, DS Senanayake, De Mazenod, Wesley and Gurukula MV have been drawn in Division One Group 'A' section 'X' in the Inter-school Under-19 limited over tournament to be played from later next month.

The Division One Group 'A' section 'Y' will comprise St. Benedict's, St. Joseph's, Mahanama, St. Thomas', Mata-ra, St. Sebastian's and St. Anne's, Kurunegala while section 'Z' of the same group will have Nalanda, S. Thomas', St. Anthony's Katugastota, Prince of Wales, Richmond and Maliyadeva.

"Unfortunately, there will be no two-day tournament this year due to limited time left after the Covid-19 pandemic took away almost the entire first term. Hence, the official 2020-2021 Under-19 tournament will only be confined to a limited-overs tournament," the SLCSA secretary added. He said the Division One Group 'B' section 'X' will have St. Peter's, Thurstan, Mahinda, Dharmara-ja, St. Aloysius' and Moratu MV while section 'Y' will comprise Ananda, Isipathana, Zahira, St. Joseph Vaz, Dharmapala and Maris Stella.

Section 'Z' of Division One Group will

comprise St. Sylvester's, Dharmasoka, St. Servatius', Devapathiraja, Lumbini and St. Anthony's, Wattala.

He said another 36 school teams will battle in the Division One tier 'B' tournament drawn under three groups A, B and C.

"All in all, there will be 72 teams competing in the Under-19 Division One and Two tournaments," Indrajith said.

The SLCSA will conduct the Under-19 tournament from March 15 to May 2 and each team is drawn to play five qualifying round league matches.

There will be 32 teams competing in Division One - 16 in tier 'A' and another 16 in tier 'B'. Similarly, there will be another 32 teams in the Division two.

There again in division two 16 teams will be in tier 'A' and another 16 in tier 'B'.

The teams will get about 47 days to complete their matches including the finals by May 2. In-between, there will be a few days break after the first round for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

After the qualifying league round, eight teams each will be selected to play in the final rounds from the quarter final onwards. The maximum number of tournament matches a team has to honour is eight, including the five qualifying round games.

Schools may play their traditional two-day matches such as big matches, provided they get clearance from the health authorities due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic threat.

For instance, the world's only uninterrupted big match - the Battle of the Blues between Royal and S.Thomas' is likely to be played in Hambantota at the

Mahinda Rajapaksa Cricket Stadium. Though it was earlier planned from April 8 to 10 behind closed doors, the joint organizers now plan to put it off by a month.

There will be live television coverage of the three-day affair, similar to the recently conducted Lanka Premier League (LPL). The idea is mooted to maintain the 142-year-old traditions since 1879.

If it takes place as planned, the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium will become the first venue outside Colombo and the ninth venue overall to host the prestigious Royal-Thomian cricket encounter.

When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Sri Lanka badly in mid-March, last year's Battle of the Blues had just been concluded. Most of the First XI matches of the 2019/20 season were completed by then.

With the commencement of the new First XI under-19 cricket season from March 15, the 43rd Observer-Mobitel School Cricketer of the Year will also be launched with the most popular contest.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year contest has been held annually for 41 successive years since 1979, except for last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But the postponed awards ceremony for 2020 will be held next month.

The Observer-Mobitel School Cricketers of the Year is conducted by Sri Lanka's number one English newspaper, the Sunday Observer and sponsored by Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel.

Thanks to the longstanding association of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association (SLCSA), the Sri Lanka Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), head-

ed by Shammi Silva, the Observer-Mobitel Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year contest has gone from strength to strength.

With Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel coming forward to add more power and energy to the Observer School Cricketer of the Year show 13 years ago, the quality of the event has been drastically improved.

In addition to giving away rich cash awards to the schoolboy and schoolgirl cricketers, the coaches and masters in charge who put a lot of effort behind the scene have been rewarded.

The Mega Show's expansion to have a separate segment for outstation schoolboy cricketers went a long way in inspiring the talented players in far flung areas.

Chairman of Sri Lanka Telecom and SLT Mobitel, Rohan Fernando has given every possible assistance to the Mega Show which will march forward with more power and strength.

The SLT Mobitel is sponsoring the show for the 14th successive year, at a time when the company is heading towards new horizons under the dynamic leadership of Fernando, the former Thomian ace rower.

It has been enjoyable working with Fernando who has a tremendous sporting record, including being the president of the Sri Lanka Sailing Association and ex-Vice President of National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka.

The management of Lake House has strongly backed the Mega Show. Its current Chairman, W. Dayaratne and the team of Board of Directors - Dharmasri Kariyawasam (Editorial), Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana (Legal and Administration), Janaka Ranatunga (Finance) and Canishka Witharana (Operations) have always been a tower of strength to take

### E.M. Dissanayake, top cyclist and motor racing enthusiast



**HAFIZ MARIKAR**

Among the all time top cyclists from Kandy, E.M. Dissanayake, who was born in 1944, had his education at Polgolla Primary school and from heir he was transferred to St. Joseph's College Gampola and ended his secondary education at Sri Rahula College Katugastota.

He started his cycling in 1960 and his first race was the Kandurata Cycle

Race held in Kandy in which he was placed 12th. He has participated in over one hundred events, and the main one was in 1960 the "Tour de Ceylon" a two-day race.

Then he took part in the 1961, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68 races. In 1963 he was placed ninth and the winner of that race was Maurice Coomaravel. Dissanayake was fortunate to secure places in the first fifteen winners at Tour de Ceylon during 1960 to 1970.

He has won races like the Kandurata Race, the first Tour de Dumbara Race and in the famous New Year Race of Nuwara Eliya, Hatton, Kurunagala, Kegalle, Avissawella, Matale, Polonnaruwa. In some of these races he was placed second and third.

In 1980 he gave up in racing events and at present does cycling for his health and fitness. He covers over 30 to 40 KM per day. Later he took up Motor Racing and went on until 2000. Dissanayake took part in Katukurunda, Nuwara Eliya, Galle, Talduwa Rallycross, Kandy Road Race, Mihintale Road Race and Hill

climbs at Radella, Mahagastota, Kandy Wales Park, Karndupena, Ambanpitiya, Kotmale and up to date he is a committee member of the Senkadagala Motor Sports Club.

Then he was in the cycling administration committee in 2007, 2013 as a vice president of the Cycling Federation of Sri Lanka and one time president of the Kandy District Cycling Association. Still he is an active cycling enthusiast and helps to organize many national level events in Kandy like Kandurata Cycle Race, which was started in 1957.

He has been the team manger in 2006 and participated at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010 as cycling team manager. He is a National Commissioner - judge for cycling and has helped to conduct top level races as Chief Commissioner of the Air Force Races, Diyatalawa Presidential Races, Youth Races and Tour de Hiru de Neth FM Races.

The 77-year-old cyclist is always willing to share his knowledge and experiences with young cyclists and ready for them to give a helping hand.

## FIND YOUR WAY OUT

A puzzling path lies between justice and a victim survivor of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. How can you make sure that those that are there to help are not causing the roadblocks on this path?

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IS NOT A GAME.**

If you or anyone you know has been subjected to any form sexual or gender-based violence, take the first step and reach out.

**Women In Need Hotline: 0775 676 555**  
**#InsideJusticeLK #WhatNow #ChangeCouldStartWithYou**

The Asia Foundation | European Union | WOMEN

**16.02.2021- TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 749,706**

**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 47,244,224.00**

**Super Prize Rs. 17,427,824.00** **Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES** **Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES** **Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES** **29**

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA**

DATE: 16-02-2021

Winnings: 7 8 7 6 9 7

Prize structure - from right to left:

Super Prize	7 8 7 6 9 7	Rs. 17,427,824.00	01
1st Prize	7 8 7 6 9 7	Rs. 2,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	8 7 6 9 7	Rs. 100,000.00	13
3rd Prize	7 6 9 7	Rs. 10,000.00	130
4th Prize	6 9 7	Rs. 1,000.00	1,309
5th Prize	9 7	Rs. 100.00	13,116
6th Prize	7	Rs. 20.00	139,229

Prize structure - from left to right:

7th Prize	7 8 7 6 9	Rs. 10,000.00	53
8th Prize	7 8 7 6	Rs. 1,000.00	158
9th Prize	7 8 7	Rs. 100.00	1,293
10th Prize	7 8	Rs. 50.00	13,643
11th Prize	G	Rs. 20.00	82,038

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 29,323,084.00

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

**Govisetha**

DRAW NUMBER: 2695 | DRAW DATE: 16/02/2021

Winnings: F 14 17 20 70

Prize structure:

1st Prize	If all 4 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	01
2nd Prize	If 3 numbers correct	Rs. 100,000.00	08
3rd Prize	If any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 2,000.00	103
4th Prize	If 2 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000.00	397
5th Prize	If any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 500.00	10,223
6th Prize	If 1 number correct	Rs. 40.00	6,715
7th Prize	If any number correct	Rs. 20.00	387,797
8th Prize	If only the letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	30,587

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW: **215,907**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 7,821,420.00**

SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 63,973,953.20**

**Mega Power**

DRAW NUMBER: 707 | DATE: 16.02.2021

Winnings: S 11 20 46 58 80

Prize structure:

1st Prize	If all 5 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize	If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	05
3rd Prize	If any 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	104
4th Prize	If any 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	214
5th Prize	If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 500.00	5,162
6th Prize	If any 1 number is correct	Rs. 40.00	3,337
7th Prize	Only 1 Number are correct	Rs. 20.00	85,571
8th Prize	Only English Letter are correct	Rs. 20.00	15,471

Next Mega Super Prize: **Rs. 116,699,813.20**

Next Grand Super Prize: **Rs. 32,869,777.60**

Total Prizes Won in This Draw: **Rs. 3,380,520.00**

**DHANA NIDHANAYA**

Official Results | Date - 16/02/2021 | Draw Number - 437

Winnings: S 08 28 32 80

Prize structure:

1st Prize	If all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize	If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	03
3rd Prize	If any 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	98
4th Prize	If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	226
5th Prize	If any 1 number is correct	Rs. 60.00	3,767
6th Prize	If any English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	52,400
7th Prize	If any English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	17,312

Total prize money won in this draw: **Rs. 3,795,020.00**

Number of Prize Winners in this draw: **119,356**

Next Draw Super Prize: **82,453,074.40**

**OFFICIAL RESULTS**

DATE: 16/02/2021 | DRAW NUMBER: 1575

Winnings: S 03 28 32 44

Prize structure:

1st Prize	All 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 500,000.00	-
2nd Prize	Super Number & 03 numbers are correct	Rs. 20,000.00	12
3rd Prize	03 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	125
4th Prize	Super Number & 02 numbers are correct	Rs. 200.00	392
5th Prize	02 numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	5,448
6th Prize	Super Number & 01 number is correct	Rs. 80.00	4,761
7th Prize	01 number is correct	Rs. 20.00	66,590
8th Prize	Only the Super Number is correct	Rs. 20.00	15,981

TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW: **Rs. 2,924,180.00**

Winnings 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.

SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW: **Rs. 2,915,743.60**



WORLD OF SPORTS

FEBRUARY 18 (LOCAL EVENTS) TENNIS

Colombo Open Tournament at Green Path  
FOOTBALL  
Pre-League Tournament at Sugathadasa Stadium  
BADMINTON  
Senior Nationals at SLBA, MBA, Otter AC Indoor Stadium

(FOREIGN EVENTS)

CRICKET (Sheffield Shield)  
New South Wales vs Victoria at Sydney  
Tasmania vs Queensland at Hobart

FOOTBALL (Women's International Friendly)  
Belgium vs Netherlands

TENNIS  
Australian Open at Melbourne

# Sri Lanka-WI series to attract lots of attention - Johnny Grave

**INDIKA WELAGEDARA and DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**  
Cricket West Indies (CWI) yesterday welcomed Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC's) decision to send their National Team to the Caribbean for a full series involving all formats of the game starting from March 3.  
"We are delighted to be able to re-start international cricket in the West Indies, with the announcement of the tour by Sri Lanka," CWI Chief Executive Officer, Johnny Grave told reporters.  
"We have a full schedule featuring all three formats, which is sure to attract lots of attention from our fans, especially following on from the terrific Test

series win in Bangladesh," he emphasized.  
"A lot of detailed planning has gone into the hosting of this tour and we are confident it will be a success," added Grave.  
Meanwhile, SLC CEO Ashley de Silva said: "We were supposed to go to the West Indies on February 18 but we have requested CWI to push the itinerary back by about 4-5 days."  
"The two cricket board agreed and now it's confirmed with covering all formats to success this tour," he explained.  
"There are not many changes to the number of matches but the only change is in the order of matches."  
"It was three One Day Inter-

nationals, three T20's and two Tests earlier but we have now decided to play the three T20's first and then the three ODI's and the two Tests."  
"We have also planned to send the white-ball playing cricketers first and then the Test players and all this will happen under a bio-secure environment," de Silva added.  
Meanwhile, SLC Vice-President Jayantha Dharmadasa said the National players are well prepared for the tour after going through a series of fitness tests.  
"The last time we didn't have the needed match practices before we played the interna-



The Coolidge Cricket Ground will host an international game by the West Indies Men's Team for the first time

tional matches. But now the team is in good shape with fitness, with all these big fitness tests coming in."  
"We have also arranged a practice match so that the play-

The schedule

- February 23: team departure
- March 3: 1st T20I at CCG, Antigua
- March 5: 2nd T20I at CCG, Antigua
- March 7: 3rd T20I CCG, Antigua
- March 10: 1st ODI at SVRS, Antigua
- March 12: 2nd ODI at SVRS, Antigua
- March 14: 3rd ODI (D/N) at SVRS, Antigua
- March 17 and 18: 2-day warm-up game at CCG, Antigua
- March 21-25 1st Test at SVRS, Antigua
- March 29-April 2: 2nd Test at SVRS, Antigua

ers could get the much needed preparations ahead of the important Test series," added Dharmadasa. The ODIs will be part of the ICC Super League, while the Test series will be part of the ICC World Test Championship.



Action from the match

## Blue Star edge out Red Star 2-0

Blue Star SC edged-out Red Star SC 2-0 in the Pre-League Football Tournament opening fixture played at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.  
The winners dominated the game and sealed the contest in their favour while scoring a goal during each half.  
Blue Star SC opened scoring in the 15th minute following a superb effort from striker M. N. Fazal who responded well after a move initiated by M. N. Fahir.  
The winners then sealed the game in the 12th minute of the second half with M. Risan scoring a beautiful goal with the support of T. Kajakapan.

Referee: Jafran Athambawa. (A.N)

## All favourites cruise into quarters

Varangana Jayawardena, Komathu Kumarapperuma, Dinadi Malliyawadu and Hiruni Dias recorded easy victories to enter the Girls' Under-15 pre quarter-finals in the 68th National Badminton Championships which commenced at the SLBA Indoor Stadium yesterday.  
Over 800 shuttlers are taking part in this five-day event conducted according to health guidelines imposed by the Ministry of Health.  
Meanwhile, Sri Lanka Badminton have made arrangements to broadcast the matches live on Youtube and Facebook via SLB's official channels: <https://www.facebook.com/atch/?v=722053628679835> and <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=722053628679835>

**The results**  
**Girls' Under-15 Singles (second-round):** Thinudi Fernando beat Senushi Pabasara 21-10, 21-14. Varangana Jayawardena beat Dilmi Amasha 21-7, 21-11. Komathu Kumarapperuma beat D. P. D. Sanjani 21-4, 21-6. Dinadi Malliyawadu beat Lathiduni Hettiarachchi 21-17, 21-6. Hiruni Dias beat Maria Peiris 21-10, 21-7. Neily Tennakoon beat Christine Anjali 21-10, 21-9. (D.R)

## Defenders-Renown clash should be a thriller

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Two important matches of the Pre-League Football Tournament conducted by Football Sri Lanka (FSL) will be worked off at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo today, commencing at 5.00 p.m.  
Defenders SC will take on Renown SC in the first match while Blue Eagles SC will take on Colombo FC in the second match at 8.00 p.m.

Defenders SC will be led by Suraj Bernard and they will have the services of three top National players who have crossed over from other clubs.  
Mohamed Rifkan, who earlier represented Police SC, Nuwan Gimhana (former Saunders SC) and Nissanka Dilhara (former Ratnam SC) are the three new players.  
Defenders SC Coach, Bandara



Warakagoda said that his players began training last month and they are shaping up well in preparation for this tournament.  
Meanwhile, Dilip Suraj Peiris will lead Renown SC, which have been strengthened with the inclusion of three foreign players from Ghana and Nigeria.  
They may be lacking in proper match practices but with a young and skillful outfit they are capable of turning tables on their opponents.  
Colombo FC, after their recent triumph in the President's Cup Tournament, will be brimming with confidence when they take on Blue Eagles SC in the second match of the day.  
Colombo FC Coach Hassan Roomy said that they intend to experiment with the players in an attempt to build up the side

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Suraj Bernard, Captain, Defenders FC



Dilip Suraj, Renown SC Captain



Niran Kanishka, Captain, Colombo FC



K. Duminda, Captain Blue Eagles SC

## Akesha and Movindi claim Under-14 Doubles

Akesha Silva and Movindi Fernando clinched the Girls' Under-14 Doubles title at the Colombo Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.  
The favourites rallied around well and went on to beat the combination of

Nimasha Silva and Brinda Fernando 6-1, 6-1 in the final encounter.

**The results**  
**Boys' Under-12 Singles (semi-finals):** Lithum Jayabandu beat Ganuka Fernando 5-7, 6-4, 10-7. Methuka Wickramasinghe beat Gehash Tissera 6-1, 5-7, 10-8.

**Boys' Under-16 Singles (semi-finals):** Kiran Vairavanathan beat Vichinthya Nilaweera 6-3, 7-5, 10-2. Zaidh Zihair beat Rayan Bentarage 6-0, 6-2.

**Girls' Under-14 Doubles (final)** Akesha Silva and Movindi Fernando beat Nimasha Silva and Brinda Fernando 6-1, 6-1. (A.N)



Akesha Silva and Movindi Fernando celebrate their win

## 'Football Friday' begins in Colombo tomorrow



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa stressing a point to the media

The 'Football Friday' programme a new concept initiated by the Ministry of Sports, will be held tomorrow (19) from 6.00 p.m. until midnight at the Racecourse Grounds in Reid Avenue.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ceylon Professional Sport Management (CPSM) and the Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL) will jointly organise this programme with the aim of popularising the sport.

"Football Friday" is for the public to maintain a healthy lifestyle, a relaxed mindset and to have a joyful family evening on a Friday night while adhering to stipulated health guidelines," Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa told reporters during a media conference held at the Sports Ministry Auditorium yesterday.

"The objective is to create a safe and controlled environment for the general public to engage in sports despite the existing pandemic."

"Football Friday aims to promote the sport on a weekly concept and this event is aimed for the whole family while it will primarily revolve around football."

"The format for the sport will be a knock-out championship which will have guest appearances and participation from various popular sporting personalities."

"The game will be played in a social, non-contactable, as mini football of six-a-side in a mini football field," added Minister Rajapaksa. (A.N)



## Air Force Men's and Women's Cycle Race on March 7

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

The 22nd Air Force Cycle Race will be flagged off at Air Force Headquarters in Colombo on March 7 to mark the 70th Anniversary of Sri Lanka Air Force in association with Cycling Federation of Sri Lanka (CFSL).

Over 150 cyclists are expected to compete in the Men's race while the Women's race will also be held on March 7. The Men's cycle race was previously held for three days but this time it has been limited to one-day due to the COVID-19 threat.

The Men's race will start in front of the Air Force Headquarters, at 8.30 a.m. and it will proceed along Wattala, Ja-Ela, Minuwangoda, Divulapitiya, Giriulla, Narammala, Kuliypitiya, Madampe, Wennappuwa, Kochchikade, Negombo and finish at the 20th Mile Post in Katunayake covering a distance of 179km.

The Women's race will be flagged off at 8.00 a.m. from the Air Force Base, Ekala and will proceed along Katunayake via Minuwangoda, Divulapitiya, Giriulla, Pannala, Dankotuwa, Kochchikade and Negombo, covering a distance of 76km.



Nalin D. Gamage (Head of Project Management Office, SLT-Mobile) handing over the sponsorship cheque to Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana. Pic by Samantha Weerasiri

## South Africa's Faf du Plessis retires from Test cricket



**JOHANNESBURG, WEDNESDAY:** Faf du Plessis, the last survivor of South African cricket's golden age in Test cricket, announced on Wednesday that he had retired from Test matches with immediate effect.

Du Plessis, 36, said in a statement on his Instagram account that he would continue to be available for one-day and Twenty20 internationals.  
"The next two years are ICC T20 World Cup years. Because of this, my focus is shifting to this format and I want to play as much of it as possible around the world so that I can be the best player I can possibly be," he said.  
"I strongly believe that I have a lot to offer to the Proteas in this format."  
Du Plessis said he would be having discussions about his future with Cricket South Africa in the next few months.  
"My heart is clear and the time is right to walk

into a new chapter," he said.

"It has been an honour to play for my country in all the formats of the game, but the time has come for me to retire from Test cricket."

He captained South Africa in 36 of his 69 Test matches, winning 18 and losing 15.

South Africa were already ranked as the number one team in Test cricket when Du Plessis made his debut in the second Test against Australia in Adelaide in 2012.

He was playing alongside some of South Africa's great-

est players, including Graeme Smith, Hashim Amla, Jacques Kallis, AB de Villiers, Dale Steyn and Morne Morkel.

But it was his man of the match performance that set up a second successive series win in Australia for the Proteas.

After making 78 in the first innings, Du Plessis batted for more than seven-and-a-half hours and faced 376 balls in the second innings, scoring 110 not out and enabling South Africa to escape with a draw.

He made another half-century as South Africa

won the next Test in Perth to clinch the series. Du Plessis went on to score 4,163 runs in Test matches at an average of 40.02.

He hit ten centuries and made his highest score of 199 against Sri Lanka on his home ground at Centurion Park last December.

He succeeded AB de Villiers as Test captain in 2016, initially on a temporary basis, and enjoyed significant early success, leading South Africa to victory in seven of his first eight series in charge, including away and home series against Australia. AFP



# Daily News Business

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

## Rated Lankan Corps less exposed to Sovereign than Banks - Fitch

Fitch Ratings views most rated Sri Lankan corporates as less vulnerable than local financial institutions to the sovereign's financial distress.

This is because most rated corporates have a combination of strong business profiles, low leverage, sound liquidity, and limited exposure to government.

On the other hand, local financial

institutions' ratings are usually constrained by the sovereign rating due to the strong correlation with the sovereign's credit profile, as reflected in high exposure to government securities, the wider domestic economy, and local financial markets.

National ratings of most corporates are now grouped at the upper end of the Sri Lanka national rating

scale following the scale's recalibration, which followed the downgrade of the sovereign rating to 'CCC' from 'B-' in November 2020.

In a stressed environment that follows a sovereign default in particular, we believe stronger corporates (that are not linked to the sovereign) with sufficient on-balance sheet liquidity can weather some period of financial-

market stress, although accessibility to external capital may be limited and may come at a high cost.

Most Fitch-rated corporates at 'AA(lka)' or above benefit from strong business profiles, and we therefore expect they will continue to be able to access local bank funding in a hypothetical stress scenario that follows a sovereign default. Further-

more, corporates rated 'AA+(lka)' and 'AAA(lka)' have low leverage and solid liquidity which act as buffers against a prolonged deterioration in operating cash flows in the event revenues fall. Some issuers benefit from a degree of support from stronger shareholders based overseas, which is not affected by challenges in the domestic economic environment.



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KUWAIT AIRWAYS RETURNS...



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Minister of Power, Dullas Alahapperuma and Chairman of Aitken Spence D.H.S. Jayawardena open the Waste-to-Energy plant.



The Waste-to-Energy Power Plant

## Aitken Spence's Western Power Company launches

### Lanka's first Waste-to-Energy Power Plant

Sri Lanka's first Waste-to-Energy Plant was launched in Kerawalapitiya, by Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa, Minister of Power, Dullas Alahapperuma, Mayor of Colombo, Rosy Senanayake and other invitees.

The growing problem of waste disposal was addressed by the Colombo Municipal Council who invited bids for the implementation of an environmentally acceptable and sustainable mechanism for the disposal of municipal solid waste. The Western Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd, (WPC) a subsidiary of Aitken Spence PLC, was selected through this competitive bidding process and was the only company to complete the project among few others. Aitken Spence has since invested around Rs. 15 billion for the project.

Furthermore, WPC entered into a Waste Supply Agreement (WSA) with the CMC and a Standardized

Power Purchase Agreement (SPPA) with the Ceylon Electricity Board, for a tenure of 20 years in 2017.

WPC also entered into a contract with a leading Chinese engineering company to design, build, and transfer a modern waste incineration plant. Renowned engineering consultancy firm, Ramboll AG, headquartered in Denmark was appointed as the Owner's Engineer.

Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa said "The solid waste management process in the city of Colombo has been going on for a long time, facing various challenges. The Kerawalapitiya Waste-to-Energy Project, which was launched as a result of continuous efforts to solve that problem, is unique. It is a milestone in the solid waste management process not only in the city of Colombo, but in entire Sri Lanka."

Chairman of Aitken Spence PLC, Harry Jayawardena commented,

"As a diversified conglomerate we have always taken a progressive approach to investment. This venture is guided by the principles of sustainability, responsible corporate stewardship, and progress through innovation and development. It gives me great pleasure to see years of meticulous planning and hard-work finally come to fruition. This power-plant will give Sri Lankans access to clean, reliable energy, help with beautification of the city and hopefully set a trend for clean, renewable sources of energy."

Minister of Power, Dullas Alahapperuma stated, "It is the Ministry of Power's intention, to find a sustainable solution to the waste management problem which is a complex and long-running issue. By generating cost-effective, renewable energy from something that would otherwise cause stench and disgust, we have provided an elegant solution to an age-old problem.

## Galle harbour to be modified as revenue generator

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The Galle harbour was closed shouldered for many centuries and plans are now underway to develop it and convert it to a major revenue generator for Sri Lanka, Minister of Plantations Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said.

He said that plans are underway to convert Galle Harbour to a Tourist harbour anticipating future development of tourism and a Yacht Marina will be built with foreign collaboration for which ROP will be called. "We have already allocated the Police barracks area for this development."

These plans were spelt out 15 years ago but they never happened and this time these proposals will take off and would be a reality. He said that the South-

ern highway brought tremendous economic benefits to Galle and the proposed harbor development will be the key to ignite the true economic potential of Galle. Recalling history he said that centuries ago Galle was the financial capital with Galle Harbour being the center point of economic activity of then Ceylon. "However British changed this and built the Colombo harbour doing a great injustice to the South."

He also said that his father Richard Pathirana who was the Minister of Education had a 'swap' agreement with former Minister of Shipping, Ports and Rehabilitation, the late M. H. M. Ashraff for my father to build the Eastern University in the Eastern Province and in return Min-

ister Ashraff to build Galle harbour to international standards. "My father kept his promise but the latter did not happen."

State Minister of Money & Capital Market and State Enterprise Reform, Ajith Nivard Cabraal making the key note address said that the government and the Central Bank took several meaningful steps such as offering moratoria and bringing down the interest rates to lessen the pressure of the C-19 pandemic to enterprises offering host of concessions and these steps have helped the economy going. "Even during the war

despite many requests we never kept Sri Lanka on a war footing which helped to achieve around 6% economic growth."

"During that time when President Mahinda Rajapaksa was the President six finance companies were in near collapse but we bailed them out. The central bank where I as the Governor had a restructuring 'plan' not allowing them to fall. We had a finance company consolidating process which saw 58 finance companies merging to 20, but this process was completely done away with by the previous government," he said.

## LCB Finance to list in CSE

Lanka Credit and Business Finance Ltd. (LCB Finance) will list its shares in the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) in March.

LCB Finance CEO, Executive Director K. G. Leelananda said that this is being done to broad base LCB Finance. "Through the listing of LCB Finance's shares on the market stakeholders could also see better returns. We also want to give out a message that listing of the shares is the way forward."

He was speaking at a ceremony held at Lighthouse Hotel Galle last Saturday with prospective investors. Leelananda said that they hope to increase their asset base from Rs. 3.4 billion to Rs. 4 billion soon, despite the uncertain economic condition caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also said that LCB Finance was making profits and posted a net profit after tax of Rs. 71 million in the last 9

months period. "The current total loan portfolio as at January 31, 2021 was Rs. 2.3 billion, Risk-weighted Capital Adequacy ratio 35.8% and Core Capital Rs. 1.8 billion. LCB Finance was formed in the Southern Region in 2016 and we also want to give out a message that listing of shares is the way forward. During the year 2020, we invested over Rs. 100 million to adopt new software to enable e-finance and this year we hope to move into ATM sharing."

He also spelt out plans for 'smart phone accesses to their customers to LCB Finance.



Ministers Ramesh Pathirana, Ajith Nivard Cabraal, State Minister Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Mayor Galle Municipal Council Priyantha G. Sahabandu and Head of Corporate Advisory at NDB Investment Bank (NDBIB) Nilendra Weerasinghe, LCB Finance CEO/Executive Director K. G. Leelananda and Senior Management of LCB Finance launching the LCB web

## Sri Lanka Insurance, market leader of General Insurance sector

Sri Lanka Insurance emerged as the market leader of the general insurance sector at the end of year 2020 reaffirming the supremacy of the state insurance giant.

Sri Lanka Insurance commands a market share of 20.3%, leading the General Insurance market and recorded a total GWP (Gross Written Premium) of Rs. 20,163 million as at December 31, 2020.

The company recorded 6% growth in the General Insurance sector despite the 1.5% negative growth rate of the overall General Insurance industry. The non-motor insurance segment of SLIC recorded a phenomenal growth of 38% achieving Rs.8,357 million GWP while motor insurance segment achieved Rs. 11,806 million GWP leading the motor insurance segment.

The premier motor insurance brand 'Sri Lanka Insurance Motor Plus' is among the many pillars

behind this triumph. The leading motor insurance brand redefined the motor insurance experience by introducing multiple innovative motor insurance products cater to unique needs of customer segments in the motor insurance market.

Further, the 'Suraksha' insurance scheme which was initiated as a collaboration of the Ministry of Education and SLIC in 2017 was once again awarded to SLIC to facilitate 4.3 million schoolchildren by providing financial assistance to ensure uninterrupted education.

Despite the volatility created by the Covid 19 pandemic Sri Lanka Insurance General Sector has achieved commendable results confronting the challenges through innovative insurance solutions and process streamlining to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service to customers.

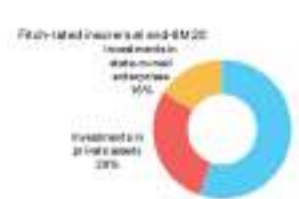


## Investment risks rise for Sri Lankan insurers

### Limited impact on regulatory capital

Asset risk at Sri Lankan insurers has increased due to the sovereign's weaker credit profile and the consequent lowering of national ratings of some state-owned and private-sector institutions, says Fitch Ratings in a report published today. The increased asset risk, however, will not greatly affect the regulatory capital ratios of most Fitch-rated Sri Lankan insurers due to the limited rise in risk charges according to local risk-based capital (RBC) rules.

The local regulatory RBC rules exempt debt securities issued or guaranteed by the government from charges on credit and concentration risk in the calculation of the regulatory capital ratio. In addition, some of the recent



negative national rating actions were within the same national rating category and therefore not subject to additional credit risk charges according to these rules.

"We estimate that as at end-June 2020 Fitch-rated insurers had invested around 55% of their fixed-income portfolios in direct government securities, such as treasury bills, bonds, Sri Lanka

development bonds, repos and unit-trust assets backed by government securities, and around 16% in deposits and debt securities issued by state-owned enterprises, including banks, non-banking financial institutions and corporations."

Fitch recalibrated the national rating scale following the sovereign downgrade, resulting in the downward revision or downgrade of the national ratings of some state-owned and private-sector institutions.

We estimate that around 12% of the fixed-income investment portfolios of Fitch-rated insurers, or around 28% of deposits and debt instrument portfolios, were invested in these entities.

## China overtakes US as EU's biggest trading partner

China is now the EU's biggest trading partner, overtaking the US in 2020. China bucked a wider trend, as trade with most of Europe's major partners dipped due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Trade between China and the EU was worth \$709bn (€586bn, £511bn) last year, compared with \$671bn worth of imports and exports from the US.

Although China's economy cratered in the first quarter due to the pandemic, its economic recovery later in the year fuelled demand for EU goods.

China was the only major global economy to see growth in 2020, stoking demand for European cars and luxury goods.

Meanwhile, China's exports to

Europe benefited from strong demand for medical equipment and electronics.

"In the year 2020, China was the main partner for the EU. This result was due to an increase of imports (+5.6%) and exports (+2.2%)," according to Eurostat, the EU's statistical office. (BBC)



The flight at BIA

## Gulf Air resumes direct flights to Colombo

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, resumed its direct operations to and from Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) with two

weekly flights starting from February 15, 2021.

This is on its new Airbus A320neo aircraft. Gulf Air has been operating direct flights

between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Sri Lanka since 1981 and it is one of the airline's main destinations in the Indian Sub-continent region.

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SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 17.02.2021

Table with columns: Security, Volume, \*\*V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, \*\*V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Lists various stocks like A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD, ABANS, ACCESS ENG SL, etc.

Table with columns: Security, Volume, \*\*V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, \*\*V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Lists various stocks like LANKA REALTY, LOLC DEV FINANCE, LOLC FINANCE, etc.

MARKET STATISTICS. EQUITY DETAILS: TODAY 3,311,369,702.55, PRV.DAY 4,277,338,090.15. GOVT. SECURITIES: TODAY -, PRV.DAY -. CORPORATE DEBT: TODAY 16,433,550.40, PRV.DAY 5,075.00.

TOTAL RETURN INDICES. TRI ON ALL SHARES (ASTRI) 10,170.92, TRI ON S&P SL 20 INDEX (S&P SL20 (TR)) 4,974.68.

COCONUTS

Coconut Products - Prices on 17.02.2021

Table with columns: Product Name, Price, Unit. Lists items like FRESH COCONUT, COCONUT OIL, COCONUT SHELL, etc.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns: CURRENCY, BUYING RATE, SELLING RATE. Lists rates for Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Euro, etc.

FINANCIAL NEWS

DATE:17-Feb-21. GIVEN BELOW ARE INDICATIVE RATES. Table with columns: BID, ASK, BID, ASK. Lists rates for GBP/USD, USD/CHF, etc.

Aitken Spence's Western Power Company... From page 13

Mayor of Colombo, Rosy Senanayake, in her message, stated "By implementing this waste-to-energy project, Colombo Municipal Council has been able to obtain a sustainable and environmentally friendly long-term solution for the solid waste collected in the city of Colombo."

The waste-to-energy plant will incinerate this waste, supplied by the Colombo Municipal Council. 600 - 800 tons of waste will be processed every day and the power supplied to the national grid.

The waste-to-energy plant will provide 10MW of electricity to the National Grid and this falls within the Western Region Megalopolis Plan. The Non-conventional Renewable Energy produced by the project is compatible with the NCRE targets put in place by the Ministry of Power and Energy.

The Non-conventional Renewable Energy produced by the project is compatible with the NCRE targets put in place by the Ministry of Power and Energy. Additionally, the power plant has been completely aligned with global benchmarks for social, environmental governance, and sustainability during its construction and is set to exceed these standards during operation.

CNCI holds Webinar on Stock Exchange, Investment opportunities in share market

The Ceylon National Chamber of Industries CNCI, the Voice of Industry in the country has scheduled a Webinar on "Stock Exchange and Investment Opportunities in the Share Market" focusing both the private sector as well as public sector employees to be conducted on February 23 from 9.30 am to 11.00 am.



TRAVEL/AVIATION

# GLX, Sri Lanka Tourism Alliance partnership announces top 10 winners

## For grants for Tourism Resilience Programme

Good Life X recently announced its partnership with the Sri Lanka Tourism Alliance, initiating the 'Grants for Tourism Resilience' programme for SMEs in the tourism industry.

The selected winners will receive grants totalling to €50,000 to be utilized in implementing their innovative sustainable ideas. This will help enable their businesses to become more resilient and create a lasting impact on the environment, local communities

and/or local culture. The programme also intends to provide the business with the opportunity to innovate and expand attraction from global markets.

The winners of the 'Grants for Tourism Resilience' programme are: Plantation Villa (Pvt.) Ltd, The Rascals Kite Resort, Saraii (Pvt.) Ltd, Leopard Trails (Pvt.) Ltd, Surfing Wombats (Pvt.) Ltd, Ahangama Coliving (Pvt.) Ltd, Nefelbata Travels (Pvt.) Ltd, Handun Villas & Restaurants, Captain

Fernando (Pvt.) Ltd and H.S.H Ayurvedic Care (Pvt.) Ltd.

An initiative supported by GIZ - SME Sector Development Programme Sri Lanka in cooperation with the Noah Foundation in Berlin, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support SMEs navigate the challenging economic environment brought on by the current global crisis.

An online session was held in collaboration with the two

parties to announce the grant opportunity to potential SMEs and to outline the selection criteria.

The criteria ensured that the SME applications taken into consideration were registered Sri Lankan based businesses in tourism with sustainability at the heart of its business, and having been in operation for a minimum of 2 years.

This initiative received an overwhelming response from the industry with more than 300

applications from tourism SMEs ranging from accommodation providers, to destination management companies and health & wellness focused businesses in the sector.

The shortlisted applicants were then interviewed by a panel after which the top ten winners were chosen based on the sustainability and level of innovation shown and potential to bounce back in the business proposals submitted for the grant appraisal.

## KUWAIT AIRWAYS RETURNS TO SRI LANKA

Kuwait Airways, National carrier of Kuwait and recently rated as a major Five Star Airline for the year 2021 resumed operations to Colombo from January 28.

"The Airline whose history in Sri Lanka extends back over four decades resumed scheduled operations to Sri Lanka with the Airport reopening," Country Manager Kuwait Airways, for Sri Lanka and Maldives Sudesh Rupasinghe, said.

"Despite the numerous setbacks faced globally by the COVID 19 pandemic, Kuwait Airways decided to resume



Sudesh Rupasinghe

services to Sri Lanka providing passengers all our full complement services".

They will be flying to Colombo in accordance with the guidelines and notably all Passengers must have a printed medical certificate

with a negative PCR result taken at most 96 hours prior to departure.

Regrettably though, passengers who have been in or transited through the United Kingdom in the past 14 days will not be permitted to enter or transit Sri Lanka due to the detection of a new variant of the COVID 19 virus.

Further, passengers will be treated to an Enhanced baggage allowance and free membership in Kuwait Airway's Oasis Club Frequent Flyer program on resumption of operations as an added benefit.

## Open University of Sri Lanka offers diploma in Ecotourism and Natural Resources Management

Lack of knowledge about natural resources and ecotourism practices will adversely affect the development of Ecotourism and Natural Resources. Therefore, developing the theoretical and practical base course is essential. To fulfill this void since 2016 the Diploma in Ecotourism and Natural Resources Management has been offered by the Department of Zoology, of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

The main aim of the programme is to create an awareness of the importance of Natural Resources and how Ecotourism Management Contributes to conserve our natural resources in Sri Lanka and other parts of the world. The programme focuses on the origin & organization of

life, characteristics of life, classification, adaptation, defense mechanisms and morphological features of living organisms and then about the Natural Resources, use of biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity in Sri Lanka and Wildlife Conservation and Management.

This programme has been specially designed for those who are already in the business; but don't understand the concepts but very much interested in the field of Ecotourism, and for those who are keen to develop their knowledge based on ecotourism and natural resources management in Sri Lanka.

Ecotourism focuses on socially responsible travel,

personal growth, and environmental sustainability. Ecotourism typically involves travel to destinations where flora, fauna, and cultural heritage are the primary attractions. The Ecotourism industry is growing and changing at a fast pace to be an increasingly important source of income and employment in many countries. According to the World Tourism Organization, ecotourism is recorded as the highest growing market in the tourism industry with an annual growth rate of 5% worldwide and representing 6% of the world's GDP and 11.4% of all consumers spending. Sri Lanka has tremendous ecotourism resources with great potential for further development in Southern Asia.

## Jetwing Yala welcomes first sea turtles for 2021

Jetwing Yala welcomed its first batch of turtle nests for the season early last week. Keeping with the long-standing conservation efforts at the hotel, two nests at Jetwing Yala's beachfront were protected in-situ to prevent disturbance by feral animals. A third nest, partially disturbed, was discovered further along the beach and was relocated to a fenced turtle nest conservation area maintained at the hotel in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife.

Last year, over 11 such nests were conserved by the associates at Jetwing Yala, providing over a thousand hatchlings with much-needed protection during their vulnerable first hours of life. The safety afforded at Jetwing

nesting continues along the beaches of Yala, as turtles are known to return to their beach of hatching year after year. The efforts of the hotel were recognized by the Department of Wildlife which, in 2019, decided to construct a turtle egg conservatory adjoining the hotel premises where eggs can be protected from unscrupulous poachers and feral animals.

Turtles are ancient reptiles, their ancestors appearing in the fossil record 250 million years ago and outlasting the age of the dinosaurs. The beaches of Sri Lanka are home to five of the seven extant species of sea turtles, including the largest living turtle on Earth – the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). All seven species are considered threatened globally,



their populations plummeting as a result of poaching for both eggs and meat, disturbance of nesting beaches, being caught as bycatch in commercial fisheries, and changes to global climatic conditions which affect their nesting habits. Family owned and in the tourism industry for the past 47 years, Jetwing Hotels has surpassed expectation at every aspect.



## Park Street Mews celebrates 12th anniversary

MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

The Park Street Mews restaurant completed 12 years in the food and entertainment industry.

Over years the restaurant has offered a wide range of fusion cuisine, its own range of delicious home-made Ice cream and beverages.

Park Street Mews Managing Director Harpo Gooneratne said that the journey of 12 years has been long and fulfilling.

"12 years ago the street here was empty and to make it active we created a trendy setting for locals and tourists, introducing several diversified entertainment and dining venues. Over the years several other restaurants too moved in to make it a 'happening street'. The concept is still one of its kind".

Fondly known as The Mews, as part of Harpo's restaurant and cafes group, Park Street Mews restaurant has enjoyed an exciting 12-year journey with food being certainly front and centre, along with beverages and special events are still remembered by many who have frequented the place over the years.

He added, the last two years the



journey hasn't been great due to the recent events in the country and how it has stifled the growth of the economy in all sectors. "We see light and the end of the tunnel and the great vibes of the park street will pick up and recover as we progressed."

"We are happy the airport is opening and must take this in a positive stride. At least we are starting somewhere, it won't be the same as before, but it's something to begin with. The airport opening will send a positive



message to the world and say we are ready to host."

"We at the Mews are following all health ministry guidelines and have taken precautionary measures to serve our guests".

## Emirates Skywards offers members more flexibility and assurance until 2022

The award-winning loyalty programme is one of the first in the region, and first in the world, to offer its members an extension on all tier status reviews scheduled for 2021 by an additional 12 months.

Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, has rolled out new measures to offer its members more support, flexibility, and choice – allowing members to retain elite tier status until 2022.

The loyalty programme is one of the first in the world, and first in the region, to offer its members a generous extension on all tier status reviews scheduled for 2021, by an additional 12 months. With travel restrictions still in place due to COVID-19, Emirates Sky-



wards continues to pioneer new ways to offer its members greater reassurance during this time.

Emirates Skywards Silver and Gold members with a tier review date prior to 31 December 2021, will have their current tier status extended by an additional 12 months.

their new tier review date will be extended to 31 March 2022.

The loyalty programme has also further extended the validity of any Skywards Miles due to expire since April 2020 until 30 June 2021. Skywards Miles can be redeemed up to 11 months in advance for an extensive range of rewards, including flight tickets on Emirates, flight upgrades, and many more privileges.

Members can fly Emirates with full confidence as the airline has revised its booking policies to offer customers generous re-booking terms and options. Customers who purchase a ticket for travel on or before 30 June 2021, can change their travel dates or extend the ticket validity for 2 years.

## Wave Bolgoda launches water sports and entertainment hub



Malaka Rubasinghe



MENAKA INDRAKUMAR

Wave Bolgoda by SINGHE launched a water sports and entertainment hub for adventure-seeking traveller and sports enthusiasts offering an Aqua Sports Hub, a Marina, an Adventure Boutique Hotel and a Restaurant.

Managing Director of WAVE & the SINGHE Group of Companies, Malaka Rubasinghe said, "As a sports enthusiast, this is something different

the company had ventured into besides the other business and the concept is new to Sri Lanka. The concept was planned out four years ago, while construction was completed in nine months."

"WAVE is one of the very few places in the country that provides a comprehensive experience to all water sports enthusiasts starting from Jet Skiing, Speed Boat rides, Kayaking, Tube rides, and

Wake boarding. The hub is one of the few centers that provide flyboarding in Sri Lanka and Rs 35 million was invested on the development of the venture."

He said that they also introduced a concept for aiming to provide a hassle free setup for all Personal WaterCraft (PWC) owners where they could dock their PWC's at the WAVE Marina and WAVE staff taking care of its maintenance. "Whenever the owner requires we will

have them launched into the water."

Wave Bolgoda provides multiple water sports adventures and also offers the latest watercraft. "All our water sporting events have been commissioned by Sri Lanka Tourism for all its tourism promotional activities."

"We go beyond by providing charter Jet skiing

with interesting package deals, to attract locals and tourists to experience the adventure that Sri Lanka provides".

The property on a seven perch land offers an upper deck restaurant for lake-front dining. All signature dishes at WAVE are infused with the essence of the "Moratuwa" sub-urban locality and most of the

sea-food is sourced from the lake and the ocean from Moratuwa.

Accommodation is currently limited to two luxury rooms – Deluxe and Superior (with a Jacuzzi) as the focus of WAVE to provide a boutique hotel experience where privacy is priority. "A new online game targeting the watersports fanatics will be launched soon allowing participants to collect points that enable them to get vouchers to Wave Bolgoda.

This is a form of digitalizing the sport."Rubasinghe said that he is also the authorized dealer for Yamaha jet skis and Wave Bolgoda is the experience centre for AMW watercrafts.

Minister of Sports Namal Rajapaksa recently identified leisure sports as a major income-generating venture for the economy and we at Wave Bolgoda endorse this."

## Singapore Airlines, Scoot and SilkAir operate first flights with vaccinated pilots, cabin crew

All three passenger airlines within the SIA Group - Singapore Airlines (SIA), SilkAir and Scoot - will be among the first carriers in the world to operate flights with a full complement of vaccinated pilots and cabin crew.

The first services with a full set of vaccinated crew are SIA flight SQ956, which departed Singapore for Jakarta, Indonesia on 11 February 2021 at 0930hrs local time (GMT+8). Scoot's TR606 which departed for Bangkok, Thailand at 0930hrs, and SilkAir MI608 which will depart for Phnom Penh, Cambodia at 1630hrs.

The Singapore government has prioritised the aviation sector in the country's vaccination exercise. This reflects the sector's

importance, as well as the SIA Group's crucial role in Singapore's economic recovery and the fight against Covid-19.

Operating crew within the SIA Group have responded very positively to the exercise, with more than 90% of cabin crew and pilots signing up for the vaccine to date.

Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said, "Vaccinations will be key to the reopening of borders and to enhancing travel confidence, in tandem with robust testing regimes and the wide-ranging safe management measures that are in place on the ground and in the air. They offer greater protection for our people and provide an added layer of assurance to our customers."



# CA Sri Lanka holds public seminar on personal tax obligations

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka (CA Sri Lanka) has been at the forefront in enhancing the knowledge and competence of finance and non-finance professionals.

In fulfilling this important objective, CA Sri Lanka recently organised a public seminar on tax which received a massive response.

The online public seminar titled 'Awareness on Personal Tax Obligations' attracted over 725 participants who joined the free seminar conducted early this month.

The seminar was organised amidst increasing concerns expressed by the public in relation to opening income tax files and file returns. The Government announced and implemented significant tax changes from January 1, where the Advance Personal Income Tax (APIT) was introduced in lieu of Pay-As-You-Earn tax (PAYE Tax).

In the past, tax payers who

only had employment income were not required to file income tax returns, as PAYE tax was deducted from their income by the employer and remitted to the Inland Revenue Department. However, from January 2020, everyone who is in the tax liable range, are required to register with the Inland Revenue Department and comply with the respective tax obligations.

During the seminar, Sarah Afker, Partner - Tax Services of BDO Partners made a detailed presentation which covered important aspects in relation to the personal tax obligation components including sources of income, qualifying payments and reliefs, available exemptions, personal tax rates, concessionary rates and how to compute taxable income, and tax payable.

The seminar was further boosted with an expert panel discussion featuring Hiranthi Ratnayake, Former Chairperson of the Tax Committee

of CA Sri Lanka, Denzil Rodrigo, Alternate Chairman of the CA Sri Lanka Faculty of Taxation, N.R. Gajendran, Partner of Gajma & Co., V. Sivagurunathan, Principal Consultant of Consultants Consortium and Athula Ranaweera, Managing Partner and Director of Assent Advisory Partners. Sulaiman Nishtar, Chairman of the CA Sri Lanka Faculty of Taxation moderated the session.

The Tax Faculty was established in 1995 to assist Chartered Accountants and non-accounting professionals to further their knowledge in taxation. The faculty conducts various courses and programmes including seminars and workshops targeting professionals and practitioners to further their knowledge in the subject. The Tax Faculty also organises events hosted by eminent speakers to share knowledge on subjects related to local and international tax matters.



Sarah Afker



Hiranthi Ratnayake



Sulaiman Nishtar

# Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka shines at Great Place to Work Awards

Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka, presently the single franchisee for Pizza Hut and Taco Bell in Sri Lanka, set the stage alight picking up multiple prestigious awards at the 'Great Places to Work 2020' awards ceremony held recently at The Hilton Colombo.

The company was presented with the recognition of the 13th Best Workplace of 'Asia's Top 25 Great Places to Work' in the Larger Organization Category - the first time the organization was awarded at Asian level, and one of the 'Best 40 Great Places to Work in Sri Lanka' for the sixth consecutive year.

The company also walked away with the Silver Award for 'Best in Large Sized Enterprises' and was honoured with the prestigious Great Place to Work Cube Award for the 'Best Workplace for Gen Z in Sri Lanka', re-emphasizing that the organization fosters genuine human connections

and enables employees to bring their unique selves to work.

Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka Kaushal Mendis, Director Human Resources said, "We take immense pride in carrying the accolades that our people have consistently endorsed enabling Gamma to be recognized as a Great Place to Work in Sri Lanka. Taking a step ahead and elevating us to be ranked amongst the top 25 Great Places to Work in Asia, our people have enabled us to move in to the Global Arena. We are committed towards harnessing our core values which revolve around our people and which bond our Gamma Family together. We cherish every bit of our accomplishment as one family and we are committed towards placing our People on the Front Page".

Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka Yasa Nadaraja, CEO added, "We are honoured and delighted that our efforts

have been recognized not only locally, but by the highest in Asia. We are extremely proud of our teams at Pizza Hut and Taco Bell and look to further sustain the bonds which we enjoy as one family".

Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka treats teamwork as a vital ingredient of their success formula. Accordingly, their strategy revolves around implementing systems for teams as opposed to individuals. That however, does not mean an employee's needs as an individual are not catered for. With development programmes available for all employees, it is encouraged by the organization that each and every staff member does their level best in a happy and safe working environment.

This gives employees a true feeling of empowerment thus emboldening them to keep climbing the corporate ladder and create better versions of themselves in time to come.



Officials with the award

# Kelani Cables conferred with two awards at SLIM Brand Excellence

Kelani Cables PLC, one of Sri Lanka's number one brand in secure electrical and communication cables was conferred with two prestigious awards at the 19th 'SLIM-Brand Excellence 2020' annual awards ceremony held at the Sirimavo Bandaranaike memorial Hall.

While the first award was bestowed to recognize the company in the B2B brand of the year category, the second one 'Restart Sri Lanka Resilient Award' being an exclusive award in the 2020 awards ceremony was presented to recognize the company for demonstrating endurance in the Covid-19 pandemic era.

The award bestowed was in the FMCG category. The B2B award was received by the company also in earlier SLIM awards ceremonies.

SLIM-Brand Excellence is conducted annually by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) to recognize championing brands in the Sri Lankan marketplace.

Mahinda Saranapala, Director and CEO, Kelani Cables, said SLIM bestowing the company with two prestigious awards once again is a proud moment for Kelani



Officials with the award

Cables PLC while the recognition endorses the credibility of the company and its innovative products.

"This is a proud moment for the company. Especially the 'Restart Sri Lanka Resilient Award' that was bestowed for the company's endurance within Easter attack period and in the Covid 19 era is significant. Our team worked tirelessly towards achieving this recognition. Kelani Cables PLC work in harmony with other socially responsible companies in the country and it was recognized once again with the SLIM B2B brand of the year award. We see this as a recognition for our coexistence in the business world

and our dedication towards consumer satisfaction.

Dr. Anil Munasinghe, General Manager Marketing, Kelani Cables PLC said, "Kelani Cables PLC is very concerned about the standards of its products. Many local companies dedicated to provide customer satisfaction rely on the products of Kelani Cables PLC.

Superior quality of our main product, Kelani cables wire and other products in the product portfolio have made many companies successful and houses, industries and buildings secure".

Channa Jayasinghe, Brand Development Manager, Kelani Cables, said Kelani Cables is the most preferred

brand in secure electrical and communication cables among the construction sphere in the country.

"Kelani Cables is a top-of-the-mind brand because of the superior quality, innovations, product development strategies and diversifications towards customer satisfaction thus this recognition at the SLIM Brand Excellence 2020.

We will be more motivated now to add value to the Sri Lankan marketplace", he said.

Kelani Cables PLC is a one hundred percent Sri Lankan company serving the nation for 50 years manufacturing electrical and communication cables.

# Singer launches Sony's innovative entertainment solutions



At the virtual launch event of Sony's new entertainment systems including 4K UHD Android Television series, new range of Audio systems, Active Noise Cancellation powered Headphones and new Sound Bars.

Singer Sri Lanka PLC, the country's premier consumer durables retailer in a pioneering virtual launch recently unveiled an all new entertainment product portfolio from Sony including 4K UHD Android Television series, new range of Sony Audio systems, Active Noise Cancellation powered Headphones and range of Sony Sound Bars.

The launch event was the first of its kind organised by Singer featuring a massive audience and it was streamed live via several platforms including Social media channels of Singer, Sony, Chanux Bro and many other community and celebrity pages, providing access for the general public to get to know of the new products while being entertained at the same time.

Aiming to offer a new experience for the viewers, the event was hosted by Sri Lanka's most popular tech YouTuber, Chanux Bro who has over 1Mn subscriber base in YouTube. With hands-on experience in tech reviews, Chanux Bro treated the viewers with a wealth of knowledge on the new Sony products, their advantages and why they are best suited for modern living.

The launch event was illuminated by the participation of the music sensations, Bathiya Jayakody and Santhush Weeraman (BnS) who are also the Brand Ambassadors for Sony. BnS entertained the audience to a thrilling music filled evening.

Singer Sri Lanka's Marketing Director, Shanil Perera who attended the virtual event shared, "This virtual event is not just a product launch, we wanted to enter-

tain our viewers tonight and bring happiness to them who are sort of distracted by the COVID situation without being able to attend to any kind of entertainment events."

"Sony brand is closer to the hearts of many Sri Lankans. Singer has given us enormous support in taking Sony's entertainment solutions to a wider audience in Sri Lanka. This virtual event was a truly remarkable experience for all of us and I am certain that our customers have warmly embraced the whole event. We convey our gratitude to Singer for making a wonderful arrangement in launching the new products," stated Sony Sri Lanka Representative Office Branch Head, Justin Wong.

The newly launched 4K UHD X75H Android TV series features Sony's signature tri-luminous display bringing vivid colours and fine details while the Bass Reflex speaker delivers impressive low-end sound which is ideal for watching movies.

Made with an attractive design, the new all-in-one audio systems from Sony are MHC-V13D, MHC-V43D and MHC-V83D. The major attractions of these highly powerful audio systems powered by Bluetooth technology are omnidirectional party sound, omnidirectional party light and speaker light, corner protectors and castors for easy transportation.

The newly launched Sony 1000XM4 Active Noise Cancellation headphones are considered to be the best in the Active Noise Cancellation category.

# SLID/SLASSCOM Webinar on Leveraging Technology for Post-Covid Business Transformation

The Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) together with the Sri Lanka Association of Software and Services Companies (SLASSCOM) organized a webinar, moderated by Dilshan Rodrigo-Chief Operating Officer of Hatton National Bank Plc., to discuss, explore and share insights on "Leveraging Technology to Transform Business in the Post-Covid Era".

The keynote address was delivered by Uber's Global Head of Support Operations and Co-Chair for Women of Uber - Lisa Stoner. The panel comprised of two eminent technology and business leaders Madu Ratnayake-Executive Vice President, Global CIO and General Manager of Virtusa Sri Lanka Operations/Independent Director of HNB and Director of ICTA, and Asanka Ratnayake-Group Director of Hayleys Advantis Limited.

"Covid brought unprecedented times to Uber and to everyone else. From connecting 16 million trips per



day in March 2020, we went on to very publicly urging our riders to stay at home. During this time Uber fundamentally redefined its mission for the year and went from 'setting the world in motion' to 'moving only what matters'.

We closed all our offices and moved tens of thousands of workers home although Uber did not have a work from home environment. During this time, under the leadership of the CEO and of the Board one of the key principles we followed was that we

would do the right thing and empowered business leaders in every market to make decisions around doing the right thing. Every positive matter we were able to do was absolutely enabled by our people and technical innovation," said Lisa Stoner.

"We started a campaign to get local restaurants on the Uber platform which meant we had to onboard them as quickly as possible. To achieve this, we made some internal technology changes and most importantly we leveraged a lot of small startup

technology tools available for menu creation etc," she said.

She highlighted that technology automation, diversity and inclusion, relentless elevation of standards, and changing the definition of success as the things that helped Uber to come out of Covid stronger than before. On the automation front, Uber used machine learning and predictions to predict most likely issues helping customers to reach out to Uber more easily while fully automating the customer self-help process devoid of agent involvement resulting in a high level of efficiency and positive customer experience.

"Data should be your best friend to help guide the decision-making process and not HIPPO (Highest Paid Person's Opinion). Ideas of a hierarchy combined with technology are probably the two most powerful tools that you can have to advance your business" she further added.

# Chinafort gems brave Corona to reach overseas markets

# 'With Govt tax concessions industry could reach US\$ 5 bn export target'

B.M MUKHTAR Beruwala Spl.corr

During this Corona Pandemic Chinafort Pathe Gem Market merchants in Beruwala have been able to continue Gem exports overseas. Chinafort Pathe Gem Market acts as the heart of the gem industry in Sri Lanka and for decades, almost the entire neighborhood is involved in the gem trade.

During this Corona Pandemic, 55% of the gem exports of Sri Lanka are from Chinafort

Pathe Gem Market. "We appeal to the Government of Sri Lanka to render their assistance to

our young gem traders with the education and training centre and export

facility from Chinafort Pathe Gem Market," Ahzar Zawahir, CEO of Ceylon Beauty Gems and Treasurer of the Chinafort Gem and Jewellery Traders Association (CGJTA)," said.

"Due to COVID 19, the gem industry has dropped by 75% today and it is likely to develop in the future. We encourage gem traders and tourists to visit Sri Lanka to improve the gem trade. Beauty Gems is one of the pioneer gem traders in Sri Lanka and with the Sri Lanka National Gem & Jewellery Authority we continue to improve the gem export and to boost the industry.

Gem trade of Chinafort is not only important to Sri Lanka but also to assist

the development of many other countries to establish trade links. Sri Lanka is one of the most important countries in the world when it comes to gems, despite its small size and crucial to the creation of jewellery

masterpieces which sell for millions of dollars to the delight of international investors and collectors," Ahzar Zawahir said.

Ahzar Zawahir said rough stones from Africa especially Madagascar, Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, Ethiopia & Nigeria now constitute for about 60% and the gems are cut and polished in Chinafort and then re-exported to buyers around the world.

The CEO of Beauty Gems said that Chinafort Pathe Gem Market is a platform to start off business for the younger generation. Beauty Gems has established links with the Chinese gem traders.

"We export gems worth US\$50,000 to 150 000 to China regularly. The China gem market is a huge market. Young billionaires in China are interested in purchasing Sri Lankan gems. Wedding couples are much interested in purchasing Blue Sapphire rings from Sri Lanka. Beauty Gems is one of the main gem exporters to China. They export gems to Hong Kong to assist the jewellery manufacturing.

The Chinese involvement in gem trade will definitely help Sri Lanka's young traders to improve the industry, Zawahir added. Beauty Gems export gems to over 15 countries - USA, China, Hong Kong, India, UK, Singapore, Indonesia, Germany, Italy, France, Australia, Canada, Spain, etc. In 1971, the Gem Corporation was formed to improve Gem export.

The Previous Government of Sri Lanka introduced a tax to the gem industry and it affected the entire gem trade. As part of the team, Chinafort Gem and Jewellery Traders Association wishes to thank President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda



Ahzar Zawahir

Rajapaksa for cancelling the taxation on gem trade. I am confident that within three years we will be able to export over US\$ 5 billion worth of gemstones all over the world and bring foreign currency to our country to help the National Economy Zawahir added.



# Life at the White House, 'A gilded cage' - Biden



**US:** US President Joe Biden offered a frank description of what it's like to live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue during his CNN town hall on Tuesday night, referencing past Presidents who have spoken of the building as "a little like a gilded cage."

Four weeks into his Presidency, Joe Biden says he's still getting used to the trappings of the office.

"I get up in the morning and look at Jill and say, 'Where the hell are we?'" Biden joked, adding that he wasn't used to household staff waiting on him.

"I find myself extremely self-conscious," Biden added, saying he was unaccustomed to someone "handing me my suitcoat."

Biden's working-class upbringing in Scranton, Pennsylvania, has long been a central part of his political brand. He most recently lived in a large house in the Wilmington, Delaware, suburbs.

The White House features a spacious lawn that has an unimpeded view of



US President Joe Biden walks with his dogs Major and Champ in the Rose Garden of the White House on January 26.

the Washington and Lincoln Monuments, but is otherwise surrounded by high fencing and a small army of guards.

Biden said it's "totally different" from the Vice

President's residence, set on 80 acres and offering ample room to swim, explore and exercise in greater privacy.

The former Vice President said he'd been in

the Oval Office 100 times or more over the years, but had never been to the residential areas of the White House.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Israel's election sprint resembles US Presidential brawl

**ISRAEL:** In Israel, the sprint to the March 23 election is striking a notable resemblance to the American presidential brawl in 2020.

Candidates are holding virtual events or limited in-person gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Some have signed up star US advisers who faced off against each other during the contest between Republican incumbent Donald Trump and the Democrat who defeated him, President Joe Biden.

As in the United States, the Israeli race is a referendum on the divisive personality at the top and his stewardship of a nation brutalized by COVID-19.

Many Americans saw the choice as Trump — or almost anyone else. In Israel, the field is divided between those who are for or against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Where Trump had, "Make America Great Again," Netanyahu implores people to, "Come back to life."

The question of moral authority, too, is a common theme. As president, Trump stood accused of a multitude of wrongdoing, including sexual misconduct against more than a dozen women (he denies all of them), questions about his taxes and serial problems telling the truth. Netanyahu last week pleaded not guilty to charges of breach of trust, fraud and accepting bribes.

Both men have cast themselves as



Is it pandemic politicking for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

victims. "It's almost verbatim," said Alon Pinkas, Israel's former consul general in New York. "They're both victims of a 'witch hunt,' both running an entire campaign about how 'They're out to get me. And if they're out to get me, they're out to get you.'"

But there is a key difference. While Trump suffered a solid defeat in November, Netanyahu remains Israel's most popular politician and has a strong chance of continuing his 12-year reign.

That stems in part from the two countries' vastly different populations and government systems. The US is home to nearly 330 million people; Israel has just over 9 million. America is a democratic republic, where voters choose both the

president and members of Congress on Election Day. Israel holds national elections where an array of political parties compete for proportionally awarded seats in the 120-member parliament, or Knesset.

Since no individual party has ever won a 61-seat majority on its own, that generates relentless coalition-building to form a Government.

Netanyahu's Likud party is projected in all opinion polls to emerge as the largest party in the March election. But his hopes of cobbling together a government have been complicated by his legal woes, with a growing number of parties refusing to serve under a prime minister accused of serious crimes.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

# UN peacekeeping missions not tools for pushing political interests, says India

**UN:** The UN peacekeeping missions should not operate in perpetuity and there is urgent need for time-bound exit strategies to ensure they do not become instruments for "furthering political interests", India, one of the largest troop-contributing countries, has said.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti said the current peacekeeping operations are multi-dimensional and are called upon to not only maintain peace and security but also to facilitate the political processes, protect civilians, disarm combatants, support elections, protect and promote human rights and restore the rule of

law. "Peacekeeping missions are meant to be transitional measures and not operate in perpetuity. There is an urgent need for time-bound exit strategies to ensure that peacekeeping missions do not become instruments for furthering political interests," he said at the General Debate on Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on Monday.

Highlighting India's perspective on priority issues in UN peacekeeping, he said performance of peacekeeping operations should be measured in relation to political and operational realities, priorities set for implementing mandate, and adequacy and appropriateness of resources.



India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti.

Tirumurti said India has always voiced its support for the adoption of "No National Caveats Policy" at UN peace-

keeping deployments. "India believes that a caveat, whether declared or undeclared, places additional burden on those who do not have any caveats besides having an impact on performance of peacekeepers in fulfilling their mandate and safety and security," he said.

India has always called for matching mandates with adequate resources, Tirumurti said, underlining that "an under-resourced, under-equipped mission, will not only result in underperformance in mandate implementation, but will impact the credibility of UN peacekeeping as a whole".

President of the UN General Assembly Volkan Bozkir said

the COVID-19 pandemic has put additional challenges to the already complex peacekeeping operations. Peace operations are also supporting government-led efforts to both prevent and prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks at the country level.

India stressed that honest assessment and feedback for peacekeeping performance was essential to have an effective accountability system.

According to a UN statement, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix said the current session sends a powerful message in support of peacekeeping personnel facing complex challenges in the field amid the

pandemic. Tirumurti asserted that India will push for the presence of more women in peacekeeping.

With more than one million men and women having served under the UN flag in more than 70 peacekeeping operations over the past seven decades, Tirumurti recalled the "pioneering" efforts of India, especially the first all-women UN police peacekeeping contingent in Liberia — in the backdrop of "our own history of forming the first all-women Rani of Jhansi regiment of the Indian National Army of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during India's fight for independence."

- THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# North Korean hackers targeted vaccine technology - South Korea spy agency

**SOUTH KOREA:** North Korean hackers attempted to steal information about coronavirus vaccines and treatments, South Korea's intelligence service said Tuesday, but it denied a lawmaker's claim that vaccine maker Pfizer Inc. was targeted.

Earlier Tuesday, Ha Tae-keung, a member of parliament's intelligence committee, told reporters that the National Intelligence Service told him and other lawmakers during a closed-door briefing that North Korea hacked Pfizer to obtain COVID-19 vaccine technology.

After Ha's comments made headlines, the NIS said it didn't mention any pharmaceutical company by name when it told lawmakers that North Korean hackers were

going after coronavirus vaccine information. In an unusual rebuke, the NIS public affairs office called Ha's comments "wrong."

Ha stood by his claim when contacted by The Associated Press, saying the NIS documents he was shown said that "North Korea stole Pfizer (vaccine information) and attempted to steal (technology) from South Korean vaccine and pharmaceutical firms." He said the lawmakers were required to return the documents at the end of the briefing. Ha said the wording about Pfizer "was so clear that I didn't even ask about that verbally" during the briefing.

The NIS, which has a mixed record on confirming developments in North Korea, rarely

comments on North Korea-related information it provides to lawmakers at private briefings. Ha suggested the NIS was likely trying not to anger North Korea too much.

Kwon Bo-young, a public relations manager at Pfizer's South Korean office, said in text message that it was checking Ha's claim with its global headquarters. Ha is one of the two executive secretaries of the intelligence committees whose responsibilities include relaying the content of private NIS briefings at parliament to journalists.

The office of Kim Byung-ke, the other executive secretary at the intelligence committee, didn't immediately respond to a request to verify Ha's comments.



While North Korea has denied involvement, it has been linked to a slew of

prominent cyberattacks in recent years, including a 2013 campaign that para-

lyzed the servers of South Korean financial institutions, the 2014 hacking of

Sony Pictures, and the WannaCry malware attack of 2017.

Acquiring coronavirus vaccines is crucial for North Korea, whose public health care system is in shambles. Many outside experts are highly skeptical about North Korea's claims to have had no coronavirus cases but say the country likely has avoided a widespread outbreak thanks to more than a year of stringent lockdowns.

An international health group established to promote global access to coronavirus vaccines said earlier this month that North Korea could potentially receive 1.9 million doses of vaccines manufactured in India during the first half of the year.

- THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Suu Kyi's lawyer 'hoping for best, preparing for worst'



Attorney Khin Maung Zaw (C) is representing Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was detained during a military coup on February 1.

**THAILAND:** The lawyer representing Myanmar democracy hero Aung San Suu Kyi said on Wednesday he is preparing for the worst in a trial he fears could take six months.

Attorney Khin Maung Zaw is defending the ousted civilian leader, who was detained during the February 1 coup on an obscure charge under the country's import and export law for having walkie-talkies at her home.

On Wednesday the military regime hit Suu Kyi with a second criminal charge, accusing her of holding an election campaign event last year which the junta claims breached coronavirus restrictions under natural disaster management laws.

"We hope for the best but are prepared for the worst," Khin Maung Zaw told AFP by phone, adding he is hoping for a fair trial.

The veteran human rights lawyer said he applied on Wednesday for permission to speak to his client and receive instructions ahead of the next court hearing on March 1.

"When will this be granted? I don't know," he said.

Khin Maung Zaw said he has not been allowed to meet with Suu Kyi in person and is worried about the confidentiality of their discussions over video or phone calls.

"It's more appropriate to meet with her in person without being interfered by anyone," he said.

At the next hearing the judge, prosecutor and defence lawyer will discuss the complexity of case and work out a time frame for proceedings and schedule for witnesses.

Khin Maung Zaw says if the case is classed as simple it could be wrapped up in six months, but if deemed more complex it could drag out for a year or more.

"In this country anything can happen," when asked if there was a danger of long delays.

At Tuesday's hearing Khin Maung Zaw's junior colleague was barred from being inside the room with the judge and prosecutor who could see Suu Kyi by video link.

"He couldn't see her because we weren't allowed to participate in the video conference because we aren't

duly appointed at the time," he said, adding his colleague could hear the voices of the judge and defendant.

A United Nations special envoy has hit out at the "secretive trial" of Suu Kyi and President Win Myint, who also faces the same charge under natural disaster management laws.

The pair are in a "safer place" and "in good health", according to military spokesman Zaw Min Tun who addressed the media in Naypyidaw Tuesday.

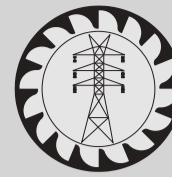
"It's not like they were arrested — they are staying at their houses," the general, who became the country's vice-minister of information after the coup.

The United States and Britain condemned the new charge against Suu Kyi, and renewed demands for her release.

More than 450 people have been arrested since the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners monitoring group. - AFP



# INVITATION FOR BIDS



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இலங்கை மின்சார சபை  
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

1	2	3	4	5	6
MATERIALS					
Division and Branch Province	Bid No. / Item Description & Quantity	Bid closing date & Time	Place of Purchase of Bidding Documents & Contact TP. Nos.	Price of the Bidding Document (Rs)	Type of Bid ICB/ NCB
Generation (Lakvijaya)	LV/T/2021/0044 Supply and delivery of Water Treatment Chemical - HCL acid (30%) to Lakvijaya Power Plant	10/03/2020 14.00 hrs.	Procurement Division, 4th Floor, Admin Building, Lakvijaya Power Plant, Ceylon Electricity Board, Narakkaliya, Norochcholai 61342. TP : 032 226 8972 Fax: 032 226 8975	3,500.00	NCB
Generation (Lakvijaya)	LV/T/2021/0045 Supply and delivery of Water Treatment Chemical - PAC & Citric Acid to Lakvijaya Power Plant	10/03/2020 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	8,000.00	NCB
Transmission (AM & CM)	TR(AM&CM)/ICB/2020/42/D Supply and Delivery of GI Nuts & Bolts for the Transmission System of	24/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM (Transmission Asset Management and Condition Monitoring), CEB, Kent Road, Colombo 09, Sri Lanka	2500.00	ICB
DD 01 (Colombo City)	DGM(CC)/EE(MM)/PPC/2021/003 Supply & Delivery of High Tension Tester (11kV) for Indoor Switchgears	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs	Office of Deputy General Manager (Colombo City), 4th Floor, Lakshmans Building, 340, R.A. De Mel Mw, Colombo 03 until 09.03.2021 011-2575930.	1000.00	NCB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2020/073/D Supply & Delivery of (DDLO) Switches 33kV	31/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	DGM (P&D-DD2), Ground Floor, Ceylon Electricity Board, No 205/3, Kandy Road, Pahala Biyanwila, Kadawatha. +94- 11- 2348470 / +94- 11- 24331177	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2020/080/D Supply & Delivery of Cables Cu. PVC Insulated – Single (19/2.14)-70sqmm	31/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2020/081/D Supply and Delivery of Aerial Bundle Conductors Alu. (ABC) 230/400v 3x70+54.6sqmm	31/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2020/088/D Supply & Delivery of Pin Insulators 33kV	31/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2020/073/D Supply & Delivery of Drop Down Lift off (DDLO) 33kV Switches - 5,000 Nos.	31/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/2021/53 Supply & Delivery of 200 Nos.8.3m/ 500kg Reinforced Concrete poles	03/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	DGM(WPN)'s Office, CEB, No.280, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda Tel.011-2911071/72	1000.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/16 Desktop Computers - 04 Nos.	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of DGM (WPS-1), 3rd Floor, Distribution Division 4 Head Quarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala. 011-2638852	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/19 Meter Enclosure Steel - Bulk Supply - Type C - 50 Nos.	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/20 Poles Concrete Pre Stressed 11m 500kg - 100 Nos.	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/21 Poles Concrete Pre Stressed 11m 850kg - 100 Nos.	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/22 Poles - Concrete Pre-Stressed 11m 1200kg - 50 Nos.	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/23 Bus Bar Chamber LV/60A - 500 Nos.	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (Southern)	SP/H/T/2021/02 Supply & Delivery of 327 Nos. of Safety Uniforms (Overalls) For The Field Employees Of Hambantota Area.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the Area Engineer (Hambantota), Ceylon Electricity Board, Siribopura, Hambantota. T.P. 047-2256288	1,000.00	NCB
CONSTRUCTION					
DD2 (EP)	DGM [E]/QPPC/20/235 Renovation and Extension of Trincomalee Circuit Bungalow	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM [East], Trincomalee, 026-2222666 / 026-2221030	5,000.00	NCB
SERVICES					
Generation (Thermal Complex)	SPS/CE/MNT/ 07-B/21/7560 Supply of Janitorial Services for Sapugaskanda Power Station for the year 2021-2022	03/03/2021 10:00 hrs	Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Ceylon Electricity Board, Generation Head Quarters, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa. TP- 011-2432897/ 2437426	1,000.00	NCB
Generation (Laxapana Complex)	LAX/C&I/2021/214 Procurement of Portable Multifunctional Calibrator to Laxapana Power Station, Ceylon Electricity Board, Laxapana, Sri Lanka	18/03/2021 14.00 hrs	Office of the Deputy General Manager, Laxapana Complex, CEB, Laxapana. Tel: 0512232083/5	1,000.00	NCB
Transmission (O&M -Southern)	CEB/TR/O&M/NCB/2021/002/D Leasing of house for the Tr. O&M Southern Unit	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Tr.O&M - Southern), Ceylon Electricity Board, Manawila, Walahanduwa, Galle. 091-2241681	N/A	NCB
Transmission (O&M -Southern)	TR/O&MS/NCB/2020/23/D Tender for the Prevention of Soil Erosion near Tower 359 of Balangoda – Galle 132kV Transmission Line	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (P& HM)	CE(P&HM)DD1/T/SV/2020/07 Hiring of a Car for Electrical Engineer (LC&M I) P&HM, DD1 for the period of Two years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (Projects & Heavy Maintenance) DD1, Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 288, Kandy Road, Kurunegala. 037-2229151	500.00	NCB
DD 01 (P& HM)	CE(P&HM)DD1/T/SV/2020/08 Hiring of a Car for Electrical Engineer (LC&M II) P&HM, DD1 for the period of Two years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 01 (P& HM)	CE(P&HM)DD1/T/SV/2020/06 Hiring of a Van for ES (LC&M –II) PH&M DD1 for the period of One year.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 01 (P& HM)	CE(P&HM)DD1/T/SV/2020/03 Hiring of a Van for Civil Engineer (PH&M II) DD1 for the period of Two years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 01 (P& HM)	CE(P&HM)DD1/T/SSE/2020/01 Providing of Private Security Service for DGM(P&HM)DD1 Office, Heiyanthuduwa Stores, Habarana Stores & All Other Site Offices for the period of One year	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/BD/T/2021/31 Rent or lease a building for the use of CEB ECSC Chavakachcheri for 2 years period, where, house is in or around Chavakachcheri town	18/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (NP) office, Ceylon Electricity Board, Old Park Road, Jaffna. T.P.No: 021 222 2496		NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/BD/T/2021/32 Rent or lease a building for the use of ES, Mankulam ECSC Quarters for 2 years.	18/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above		NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/BD/T/2021/33 Rent or lease a building for the use of Distribution Maintenance Engineer's office - Vavuniya for 2 Years Period.	18/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (NP) office, Ceylon Electricity Board, Old Park Road, Jaffna. T.P.No: 021 222 2496		NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/VH/T/2021/34 Hiring of A Crew Cab 2 Wheel Drive For Electrical Engineer (Distribution Maintenance) – Vavuniya On Wet Lease Basis	18/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/015 Rent/Lease Building for Use as ECSC Moronothota in Kegalle Area for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial)-CP2, CEB, Quarry Road, Eriyagama, Peradeniya. T.P 081-4949160	-	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/016 Rent/Lease Building for Use as Site Office Peradeniya to CE(Distribution Maintenance) Unit-CP2 for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	-	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/017 Rent/Lease Building for Use as Official Quarters of Area Electrical Engineer (Ginigathena) for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	-	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/018 Hiring of a Three Wheeler for Commercial Sub Unit in Mawanela Area for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial)-CP2, CEB, Quarry Road, Eriyagama, Peradeniya. T.P 081-4949160	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/024 Hiring of a Motor car for Accountant (Expenditure) Unit- CP1 for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial) , CEB, No. 04, Asgiriya Road, Kandy. T.P 081-2234324 / 081-4951048	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/025 Hiring of a Motor car for Area Office Kandy City for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial) , CEB, No. 04, Asgiriya Road, Kandy. T.P 081-2234324 / 081-2232091	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/026 Hiring of a 4WD Double Cab for Commercial Sub Unit in Kundasale Area for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial) , CEB, No. 04, Asgiriya Road, Kandy. T.P 081-2234324 / 081-2374283	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central)	CP1/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/027 Hiring of a Double Cab (4WD) for EE(Commercial) – CP1 for a Period of 02 Years.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial) , CEB, No. 04, Asgiriya Road, Kandy. T.P 081-2234324 / 081-4949148	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/DGM –V11/2021/72 Hiring of a Van for Chief Engineer (Energy Management)'s Unit	03/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	DGM(WPN)'s Office, CEB, No.280, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda Tel.011-2911071/72	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/DGM-V01/2021/73 Hiring of a Van for Chief Engineer (Commercial)'s Office	03/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	DGM(WPN)'s Office, CEB, No.280, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda Tel.011-2911071/72	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/CON- V168/2021/75 Hiring of a Van for Chief Engineer (Construction)'s Office	03/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	DGM(WPN)'s Office, CEB, No.280, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda Tel.011-2911071/72	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (PHM)	PHMDD2/CE (LC&M)/QD/2021/01 Leasing a House for the use of Cold Line Maintenance Gang (Projects & Heavy Maintenance) DD2	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (P&HM) DD2, Ceylon Electricity Board, P.O. Box. 18, Lamagaraya Road, Kandy. 081-2222286 / 081-2204298	500.00	NCB



DD2 (EP)	DGM [E]/QPPC/21/086 Hiring a van for the use of Electrical Superintendent (Mahaoya ECSC) –Ampara for a period of 02 years.	10-03-2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the ACEE(Ampara), 063222387 / 063-2222078 Or Office of the DGM [East], Trincomalee. 026-2222666 / 026-2221030	1000.00	NCB
DD2 (EP)	DGM [E]/QPPC/21/087 Hiring a van for the use of Electrical Superintendent (Pottuvil ECSC) –Ampara for a period of 02 years.	10-03-2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the ACEE(Ampara), 063222387 / 063-2222078 Or Office of the DGM [East], Trincomalee. 026-2222666 / 026-2221030	1000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sab)	SAB/EE(EH)/2021-2022/Cleaning Service Bid for the obtaining a Cleaning Service to Eheliyagoda Area Unit for one (01) year period.	04/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Electrical Engineers' Office (Eheliyagoda), Ceylon Electricity Board, P.O.Box. 03, Thalawitiya, Eheliyagoda. 036-2259978/80	500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sab)	SAB/CE(CON)/C1/Building/2021/T/02 BUILDING /- CON Nivitigala No. VII GANG. Renting a Building with a land as stores for 2 years near the Nivitigala or Rathnapura Town area.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Branch of Deputy General Manager (Sabagaramuwa) Chief Engineer (Construction) Unit C.E.B. No.09, New Town, Rathnapura. TP. No.045-2225891-95	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sab)	SAB/CE(COM)/Dis &Re/EM//2021/01 Execution of Disconnection & Reconnection Embilipitiya Area	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Branch of Deputy General Manager (Sabagaramuwa), Chief Engineer (Commercial) unit P.O.Box 09, New Town, Rathnapura. 045-222 5891-5	2,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sab)	SAB/DGM/CE(DM)/C1/Building/2021/T/02 Renting a building with a land as office & stores for 03 years in the area nearby Nivithigala town or Thirivanaketiya Junction or Thirivanaketiya – Nivithigala main road.	10/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the Chief Engineer – Distribution Maintenance (Sabagaramuwa), CEB, No. 502/3B, 02 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Colombo Road, Weralupa, Rathnapura. Tel : 045 222 1511 Fax : 045 222 1512	1,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/05 Janitorial Services for the Office of the Chief Engineer Construction & Panadura Construction Work Site Western Province South - I	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of DGM (WPS-1), 3rd Floor, Distribution Division 4 Head Quarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala. 011-2638852	500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/17 Obtain Janitorial Services for CSCs & Substations of the Dehiwala Area	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/18 Sales of Unserviceable Items in Western Province South – I - 2 Lots	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/V/2020/59 Hiring of a Van for office of the DGM, Western Province South – I	10/03/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
CS (CS&RA)	CEB/DGM(CS&RA)/CE(CS)/AR2020/01 Tender for Design , Digital Printing and Supply of Annual Report 2020	12/03/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (Corporate Strategy and Regulatory Affairs), Ceylon Electricity Board, Lady Lochore Loan Fund Building, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sir Chittampalam A.Gardiner Mw, Colombo 02. 011-2433 467 / 011-2433 767	500.00	NCB

Chairman of the above Procurement Committees, on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board, now invites sealed Bids from potential Suppliers for the above mentioned items on the basis of International /National competitive bidding. Bids should be submitted only on the bid documents purchased from the CEB.

Bidding Documents will be issued only to the prospective Bidders or their accredited Agents. Wherever necessary they should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987.

Bidding Documents could be purchased by any prospective bidder or their accredited Agents on submission of a written request to the respective Deputy General Manager/Chief Engineer of the CEB upon payment of the amount indicated in Column 6 of the above table for each set of Bid Document, between 0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. on any working day till the day prior to the bid closing date. Payment shall be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions / Trade Commissions may obtain information copies of the Bidding Documents, free of charge on submission of a written request. The Bidding Documents may be inspected by the prospective bidders or their Agents at the office of the respective DGM/CE free of charge.

Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time of the bidding in the presence of Bidders and their authorized representatives at the locations indicated in Column 9. Late Bids shall be rejected.

All clarifications shall be sought two weeks before the Bid closing date, from the respective DGM/CE of the CEB who issued the bidding Documents.

\* ICB – International Competitive Bidding, NCB – National Competitive Bidding.

General Manager

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The Information copy of the Bid document may be downloaded from the CEB Corporate website [www.ceb.lk](http://www.ceb.lk)

## INVITATION TO BID

### BOARD PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

Bid No: DD4/P&D/ICB/2020/023/B

#### Supply & Delivery of Aerial Bundled Conductor Alu. (ABC) 230/400 V 3x70+54.6sqmm (4 Core) – 250km

Chairman, Board Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board, invites sealed bids from the potential suppliers, for the contract mentioned above. Bidding method shall be International Competitive Bidding. **Bids should be submitted only on bidding Documents purchased from the CEB.**

The fee for a set of bidding documents - LKR 30,000.00

The fee for an information copy of a set of bidding documents - LKR 1,000.00

The value of bid security - LKR1,670,000.00

(Payment shall be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB)

Bidding Documents or the information copies of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by any prospective bidder or their accredited agents, on submission of a written request to Deputy General Manager (Planning & Development- Distribution Division 4), Office of the DGM (P&D) – DD4, C.E.B., 4th Floor, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala, upon payment of the fee indicated above, between **0900 h and 1500 h** on any working day till the **day prior to the bid closing date**. Please note that bidding documents will be issued only to the prospective bidders or their accredited Agents who are registered in terms of Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions/ Trade Commissions may obtain information copies of the Bidding Documents, free of charge on written request. Bidding Documents may be inspected by the prospective bidders or their Agents at the Office of the DGM (P&D) – DD4, C.E.B., 4th Floor, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala, free of charge.

Bids should be deposited in the box provided for this purpose at the Office of the DGM (P&D) – DD4, C.E.B., 4th Floor, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala, at or **before 10.00 hrs on 31.03.2021. Late Bids shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.**

Bids will be opened at the Office of the DGM (P&D) – DD4, C.E.B., 4th Floor, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala immediately after the closing time of the bidding, in the presence of Bidders and their authorised representatives.

All clarifications shall be sought in writing **two weeks** before the date of closing of bidding, from the Office of the DGM (P&D) – DD4, C.E.B., 4th Floor, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala.

Tel: +94 11 4204015

Fax: +94 112710688, 2726791

E-mail: [dgmpddd4@ceb.lk](mailto:dgmpddd4@ceb.lk)

Web: [www.ceb.lk](http://www.ceb.lk)

Chairman,  
Board Procurement Committee  
Ceylon Electricity Board



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இலங்கை மின்சார சபை  
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

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## CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

### CANTEEN FACILITY

2 full-size restaurants and one coffee shop for leasing

**DINING CAPACITY: 200**



#### Leasing terms

Long term renting options for cafeterias

#### Property features

2 full-size restaurants (600 sqft each) and one coffee shop (400 sqft)

Dining capacity: 200

Highly stylish postmodern architecture

Dedicated kitchen, store and dining areas

Outdoor area / Lift

Provision of 24h security

Ample Parking Space

#### Benefits

In addition to the accompanying Nanotechnology and Science Park, Ministry of Defence R&D center (200 employees), Mahinda Rajapaksa College (7,000 students), NSBM Green University Town (9,000 students, expected to be increased to 20,000 by 2025), State Measurements Dept. (300 employees), Morison PLC (500 employees) all within a distance of 500m.

The technology faculties of Colombo, Moratuwa and Sri Jayawardenapura (3,000+ students), will be shifted to the nearby Tech City.

Low overheads

Closing Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

All interested parties are advised to contact:

Eng. Sunanda Gunasekara

Head of Technical Services and Infrastructure Management

[sunandaG@slintec.lk](mailto:sunandaG@slintec.lk) | 0114650504, 0773572642



Nanotechnology and Science Park,  
Mahenwatte, Pitipana, Homagama,  
Sri Lanka  
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Matara - TEL : 041 22 35 412 FAX : 041 22 29 728 / Nugegoda - TEL : 011 2 828 114 FAX : 011 4 300 860 / Jaffna - TEL : 021 2225361 FAX : 021 22 25 361



## Attention To All

We would like to inform you / the general public that Arpico Finance PLC has closed the following pawning Centers from 22nd November 2013.

- Dematagoda - 91, Kolonnawa Road, Dematagoda.
- Ja Ela - 47/2, Main Street, Ja Ela.
- Negombo - 370, Main Street, Negombo.
- Wattala - 191, Negombo Road, Wattala.
- Mattakkuliya - 43F, Farm Road, Mattakkuliya .
- Godagama - 579A, Highlevel Road, Godagama.

Arpico Finance Company PLC,  
No.146, Havlock Road, Colombo 05.

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## Ceylon Electricity Board

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(CEB FUNDED PROJECT)

Ministry of Power

**Construction of Headquarters Building Complex for Ceylon Electricity Board at No:16/42, Dabare Mawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.**

Bid NO : DD4/C&C/NCB/2020/002

- The **Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC)** on behalf of the General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the "Construction of Headquarters Building Complex for Ceylon Electricity Board at No.16/42, Dabare Mawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 05" as described below.

Construction and Completion of 11 storied (G+10) Office Building Complex with building services and necessary infrastructure having total gross floor area of 33,818 m2 (approx.) including Office Area, Car Parking, Service Area, Auditorium etc.

Location at; No. 16/42, Ever Green Park Road, off Muhandiram E.D. Dabare Mawatha, Narahenpita, Colombo 5.

Time for Completion is 730 Calendar Days (2 years) from the date of commencement.

The Engineer of this project is Deputy General Manager (Consultancy), State Engineering Corporation(SEC) of Sri Lanka.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirement

- CIDA registration –  
Grade : Main Contractor, CS2  
Speciality : Building Construction  
AND

- All Bidders shall register under the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 and document for registration shall be submitted along with the bid

- Qualification requirements to qualify contract for contract award include:

- Average annual volume of construction work performed in last five years shall be at least not less than Rupees 3400 million. Audited Financial Statements of last 5 years (2015-2019) shall be submitted along with the bid document.
- Experience as a main contractor in the construction of at least 2nr of Building projects, each project having the contract price not less than Rs. 4500 million of a similar nature and complexity to the proposed works completed within last 5 years. Such similar experience shall include construction of a 10 storied or above mixed development/commercial/office building with similar specialized services (to comply with this requirement, works cited should be at least 70% completed)
- The minimum amount of liquid assets and / or credit facilities, net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the Contract, shall be not less than Rupees 575 Million.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Project Director, Project Management Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, 2nd Floor, GCSU Building, Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02** and inspect the bidding documents from **18th February 2021 to 31st March 2021, from 09.00hrs to 15.00 hrs.** Bid document may be inspected from the website [ceb.lk/tender-notice/en](http://ceb.lk/tender-notice/en).

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application with relevant CIDA registration to the, **Deputy General Manager (C&C), AGM (DD4) Office Complex, Ceylon Electricity Board, 4th Floor, No.25, Council Lane, Dehiwala (Tel: 011-4204014 Fax: 011-2710688) from 18th February 2021 to 31st March 2021, from 09.00hrs to 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (Rs. 250,000.00).** The method of payment will be in cash or by a Bank Draft in favour of General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board.

- Bids shall be deposited / delivered to the Tender Box in Office of the **Deputy General Manager (P & D), AGM (DD4) Office Complex, Ceylon Electricity Board, 4th Floor, No.25, Council Lane, Dehiwala** on or before **1030 hrs on 1st April 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing, in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

- All Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of Rupees **Sixty Million (Rs. 60,000,000.00).** Bid security shall be valid up to **217 Days** from the closing date of the bid.

- Pre-Bid meeting**  
Venue, time and date of the pre-bid meeting followed by an inspection of the site will be as follows.

**Venue:- Auditorium, AGM (DD4) Office Complex, Ceylon Electricity Board, 5th Floor, No.25, Council Lane, Dehiwala at 10.30 hrs. on 9th March, 2021.**

Bidders are advised to submit a written request for participation, at least one day prior to the date of Pre Bid meeting, including the details of representatives such as name, official address, NIC number and Telephone number.

**General Manager,  
Ceylon Electricity Board,  
3rd Floor, P.O. Box 540, No. 50,  
Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha,  
Colombo 02.**

18th February, 2021



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State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction & Building  
Materials Industries Promotion



STATE ENGINEERING CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka now invites **two separate sealed bids** from the bidders for the works as described below.

No.	Name & Identification No. of Bid	CIDA Registration	Construction Period	Location	Non-refundable Bid Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Experience
I.	Bid for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Maintenance of Passenger Lifts (04 Nos.) for Construction of Courts Complex, Galle - Phase II (C&P/C/2399/2020/084)	-	180 days	Premises of Courts Complex, Galle	4,000.00	130,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplier - 5 years</li> <li>• Manufacturer - 10 years (minimum 5 years in Sri Lanka)</li> </ul>
II.	Bid for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning & Maintenance of 400KwA Diesel Engine Driven Generator for Construction of Courts Complex at Galle - Phase II. (C&P/C/2399/2020/085)	EM3 (Generators) or above	60 days	Premises of Courts Complex, Galle	4,000.00	120,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplier - 10 years</li> <li>• Manufacturer - 15 years (minimum 10 years in Sri Lanka)</li> </ul>

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure & interested bidders may quote any or both bids separately.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be a reputed local company having experience in supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Generators & Lifts as per bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Chief Engineer (Contracts & Planning), Contracts & Planning Division, 5th Floor, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** and inspect the bidding documents at the same address on any working day from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** and contact numbers are **011-2451151, 011-2430061-5.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02 from **18.02.2021 until 09.03.2021** on any working day from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a tender fee (non-refundable) given as above to the **Cashier, Accounts Division at 7th Floor, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02.**
- Bids will be delivered to the address below at **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, Ground Floor, Head Office Building, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** at or before **1400 hrs on 10.03.2021.** Contract name should be marked at the top left-hand corner of the cover. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend.
- Both bids shall be accompanied by a separate Bid Security for the amount given above. Bid Security shall be in any form as per the bid document and should be valid up to **07.07.2021.**
- A pre bid meeting is scheduled to be held at **6th Floor, Head Office Building, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** on **25.02.2021** at **10.00 hrs & 11.00 hrs** for bid No. I & II respectively.

**Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka,  
130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha,  
Colombo 02.  
18.02.2021**

## Invitation for Bids (IFB-2021/1)

### PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NORTHERN PROVINCE

- The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee**, on behalf of the **Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province**, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction work described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Total Cost Estimate of this procurement is below Rs. 25Mn, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in **Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016(ii) & Public Finance Circular No. 03/2020 & 03/2020(i).**
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the **Schedule / Bidding data & Contract Data (Section 5).**
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **School Works Branch, Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province, Chemmany Road, Nallur (T.No :- 021-224 2806/021-222 2219 Fax:- 021-224 1383/021-222 2219)** and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working days from 9.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to **School Works Branch, Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province, Chemmany Road, Nallur from 18.02.2021 until 04.03.2021 from 9.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M upon payment of non-refundable fees mentioned in the table below.** The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Provincial Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province, Chemmany Road, Nallur** at or before **10.30 A.M on 05.03.2021.** Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **Provincial Director's Office, Provincial Department of Education, Northern Province, Chemmany Road, Nallur commencing at 10.30A.M on 25.02.2021.**
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.

Bid No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost Rs in millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Non Refundable Fees	Required Bid Security	
						Security Amount	Valid Period
NP/PDE/PSDG/2021/01	Completion of Classroom building 90x25x2 - Upper Floor (Incompleted - PSDG 2012) at J/Kulamankal RCTMS	10.42	120 Days	C5, C6, (Buildings)	5,000.00	105,000.00	Till 18.06.2021
NP/PDE/PSDG/2021/02	Completion of Classroom Building 90x25x3 - Upper Floor (Incompleted - PSDG 2016) at J/Inuvil Central College	12.50	120 Days	C5, C6, (Buildings)	5,000.00	125,000.00	Till 18.06.2021
NP/PDE/PSDG/2021/03	Completion of Classroom 110x25x2 - Upper Floor (PSDG 2016) at V/Thirugnanasampanthar Vidyalayam	11.67	120 Days	C5, C6, (Buildings)	5,000.00	117,000.00	Till 18.06.2021
NP/PDE/PSDG/2021/04	Completion of Classroom 110x25x2 - Upper Floor (PSDG 2016) at V/Church of Ceylon Tamil Mixed School	11.11	120 Days	C5, C6, (Buildings)	5,000.00	112,000.00	Till 18.06.2021
NP/PDE/PSDG/2021/05	Completion of Classroom 110x25x2 - Upper Floor (PSDG - 2016) at V/ Muthaliyarkulam RCTMS	11.37	120 Days	C5, C6, (Buildings)	5,000.00	114,000.00	Till 18.06.2021

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# TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk



Gehan Cooray

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TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY



**RUWINI JAYAWARDANA**

**D**uring a phase when the whole world has practically come to a standstill and daily life is disrupted as people scramble to follow 'new normal' rules, Gehan Cooray's achievement enters like a breath of fresh air. The Los Angeles-based actor and independent filmmaker of Sri Lankan lineage recently announced that his new romantic comedy, 'The Billionaire', has been officially submitted to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as well as to the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, after becoming eligible for both Oscar and Golden Globe Award nominations. This is a rare feat indeed and a much yearned for the silver lining in an industry which has been torn apart by the global pandemic.

# One in a billion!

"It is practically unheard of for an independent filmmaker like me to be able to submit their first feature film to the most esteemed entities in the film industry all on their own for awards consideration. Usually, it is a big studio or a major distribution company that submits films to the Oscars and Golden Globes, so the fact that I was able to do so single-handedly as 'Gehan Cooray' is an achievement I am very proud of," Cooray unfurled his thoughts about how the global spotlight fell on 'The Billionaire'.

Cooray's film was awarded the Best Comedy Feature Award at the Burbank International Film Festival (BIFF) and was also selected as a finalist for the Best Feature Film overall at the festival. Directed by Michael Philip, Cooray has penned the screenplay for the project based on George Bernard Shaw's play, 'The Millionairess'.

**RESPLENDENT AND MAJESTIC**

"I loved how formidable and indomitable the title character in 'The Millionairess' was, and felt like that was precisely the kind of character that I should portray in my very first feature film because I believed very firmly that I should represent us South Asians in the most empowered light possible. One of my mentors in Sri Lanka, Indu Dharmasena, made me realize at a very young age that Gender is a rather artificial and arbitrary social construct, and hence, I knew that I could easily flip the gender of a female character around, and convey the essence and spirit of the character as a male. This is what inspired me to transform Shaw's original millionairess into Gehan Cooray's billionaire," he elaborated.

"Shaw's language is second to no other playwright in the 20th century, and he has the most remarkable ability to make English sound resplendent and majestic even when it's spoken by the most disagreeable of characters. The character that I portray in the film is not a very agreeable person, to say the least - he is haughty, disdainful and at times very cold - and yet I wanted to make the viewers realize that the type of language a person uses, and their manner of expression, can make even the most spiteful of statements sound poetic. The art of conversation and the art of debate have been mostly lost in the 21st century, where children seldom seem to be taught how to speak in a cultured and sophisticated manner. I wanted to bring that back because that is how I was raised to speak myself. It doesn't matter how wealthy one is unless one can communicate properly, and I use the word 'proper' in a very literal sense," he said.

Patricia Danaher, an Irish member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association who happens to be a juror for the Golden Globes, reached out to Cooray while he was quarantining in Sri Lanka for a brief interview with him about 'The Billionaire' for the Golden Globes website. Since the production was based on Shaw's work, it has kindled Danaher's interest and she had enjoyed it immensely.

"I felt like I had started to 'arrive' in Hollywood, so to speak. Hearing how much she enjoyed and admired the film felt like an outstanding victory for me in its own right. This is a lady who has interviewed George Clooney and Barbra Streisand after all!" he enthused.

Cooray was recently notified that 'The Billionaire' will be going live under "Best Picture" in the Academy Screening Room, the members-only site where Oscar voters stream films submitted for nominations. He noted that whether or not he gets a nomination really isn't much of a concern to him as he is happy that in being allowed the opportunity to stream it as such, he can ensure that people will get to see it.

"The Oscar voting members are not allowed to reach out to filmmakers personally in the same manner, but to know that they are now able to watch my film on the Academy Screening Room - which is their own exclusive online streaming platform - under the 'Best Picture' category (and all accompanying categories) is enough to give me goosebumps because regardless of the final



## YOUNG ACHIEVERS

outcome, the fact that the very best people in the industry are able to get to know my work as an independent filmmaker is also worth its weight in gold to me. Especially because they can get to know me as a screenwriter, executive producer, lead actor, and operatic singer, all under one roof so to speak, with this one film," Cooray explained adding that the Oscar submissions team has been exceedingly kind and gracious to him every step of the way.

"When I told them that filling out all the requisite paperwork was far less daunting than I had thought it would be, they said I would be surprised at how seldom they hear that. I think what helped me is the fact that I always approach every single thing I do in life in a very logical and systematic manner, step by step. Also, I begin with the end in mind, as much as possible, so I knew right from the get go that I didn't just want to make a feature film, but the kind of feature film that would be eligible for the Academy Awards," he said.

There is no doubt that Cooray is exceptional at his craft. He is also a Classical Baritone singer, who is equally at ease performing Operatic repertoire as he is performing Broadway Musical Theatre repertoire. He has performed in a great many operas, operettas, and musicals, and staged many solo concerts in both Sri Lanka and America.

**PRACTICALLY UNPARALLELED**

"My greatest concert to date was at Carnegie Hall in New York, which is the premier location for any singer to perform, of course. This concert was attended by the Chief of Cabinet to the United Nations Secretary General, and by nearly 100 other U.N diplomats and ambassadors, as well as many music lovers in New York.

Carnegie Hall has 3 halls, and I performed at their second largest hall - I believe I am the only Sri Lankan singer to have done a solo concert there - and what I am proudest of is the fact that I did not need a microphone at any point in my 2-hour concert. Of course, the acoustics at a place like Carnegie Hall is practically unparalleled, although some singers still need to use a microphone because I suppose they haven't received the kind of training that I have," he revealed adding that his first album will be released later this year as well. It features Operatic Arias, Classical melodies, and Vintage songs, including a few numbers from very old Broadway musicals. It was recorded in Los Angeles with a Grammy Award-winning musician named Hussain Jiffrey.

Speaking about his project for which he is also the executive producer, Cooray says 'The Billionaire' depicts Chaste, Pure, Asexual relationships and marriages between members of the same sex.

"I am an Asexual individual myself, and what being Asexual means is that one has zero interest in sex. When an Asexual person is attracted to someone else, the attraction is purely romantic - there is nothing sexual about it. I might admire the other person aesthetically, and of course, feel a strong emotional or psychological attraction, but my mind never ventures into the realm of sexual intercourse. An Asexual mind like mine is simply not wired that way. I never ever "undress" anyone in my mind, however attractive they might be, unlike heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual men.

Performing at Carnegie Hall, New York



Kissing and Cuddling are the only extents to which my attraction towards anyone would ever escalate - and this is precisely what I wanted to portray in 'The Billionaire'," he expressed.

However, he points out that this is different from being Celibate or Abstinent by the way.

"An Asexual individual like me, or like the character I portray in my film, does not have to "sacrifice" or "give up" their sexual needs in order to remain Chaste and Pure. Rather, Chastity and Purity are the natural, comfortable, effortless states of being for us, because we are somehow exempt from the biological need for sex that most people are born with. In the same way, some people do not like certain types of food, an Asexual person like myself simply does not like sex or want sex. And yet, I could have a romantic relationship with someone that is very innocent and wholesome.

The reason I decided to make the story of my film a same-sex story rather than an opposite-sex story is to highlight the fact that an Asexual romance or marriage is essentially like a romanticized friendship. It is a deep friendship with only the pure elements of romance like kissing and cuddling involved; without any of the R-rated sexual elements. When most people see two members of the same sex kissing, they automatically assume that they must be having sex because their own minds are probably wired to be sexual - so what I wanted to portray here was that asexual people could fall in love with each other and for the thought of having sex to never even cross their mind. This has always been my reality, and I thought it was high time I highlight this in a feature film," he said.

**CHASTITY AND PURITY**

Since the relationships and marriages depicted in the film are Asexual, and not homosexual, Cooray doesn't see why there should be too much controversy surrounding his film. Even though he depicts the same gender people falling in love and getting married, it is made abundantly clear in the film that these people will never have sex - their Asexual minds are practically anti-sex.

"If anything, I think any backlash I might get is from people who feel like I am promoting a very puritanical agenda, one that is practically the polar opposite of a homosexual agenda. Some people are uncomfortable with the promotion of Chastity and Purity, especially when they are depicted as the natural state for an Asexual person because they feel like it is an indirect indictment of sex. However, my goal is simply to make people aware of the fact that not everyone needs sex. Some of us never even think about it, and yet so many people in countries like Sri Lanka especially are practically forced to have sex, because they are conditioned to think that it is compulsory in any relationship and especially in a marriage. I hope my film emboldens and empowers other Asexuals like me to make their voices heard as well," he stressed.

Cooray is working on adapting an operetta and another play to the big screen.

"I will also definitely continue doing my solo concerts, in both Sri Lanka and America, as soon as theatres are open again. I do have plans to stage some non-musical plays as well, in both countries - namely some of my favourite plays by Aeschylus, Oscar Wilde, and Shakespeare. I have a great affinity for the Classics, and see



myself as primarily a Classical Actor, on top of being a Classical Singer. I feel like I have a duty to all the great playwrights and composers to keep performing and promoting the Classical repertoire of music and drama," he said.

Queried how he would feel if his work managed to clinch a Golden Globe or Oscar award and Cooray adds that it would be a victory, not only for him personally but also for Sri Lanka as a whole.

"I made it a point to mention on the Oscars' streaming platform, where my film is currently featured, that I am a Sri Lankan American - so I feel like I am representing the land of my birth, as much as I am representing myself and my chosen art forms. In America, I would hope that such a historic acceptance and victory would also encourage more actors and singers to study the Classical Acting and Singing techniques that I have espoused in 'The Billionaire'. There are very few young actors and singers who practice and promote both consistently in the modern world, and I would be thrilled if my film could inspire more people to discover the richness of those traditions," he mused.

Though the film was going to hit theatres in February, cinemas remained closed due to the pandemic. The Laemmle Theatres - L.A.'s premiere independent cinema chain, founded by Universal Studios' progenitor Carl Laemmle - will release 'The Billionaire' on their Virtual Cinema platform on February 19.

In Sri Lanka, Ceylon Theatres will be distributing the film in several different cinemas, as soon as it becomes safer to attend movie theatres - probably no later than March.

"I can't describe how thrilling it is for me to be able to share 'The Billionaire' with my fellow Sri Lankans on the big screen, the way feature films were always meant to be seen, with the cinematic grandeur and splendour that no computer or TV screen could ever hope to come anywhere close to. I am also very proud of the fact that the-atreagoers will be able to see something of quality and intellectual substance, based on a George Bernard Shaw text, after such a lengthy closure of cinemas, rather than something crassly commercial, or frivolous, or profane, as so many modern films are," he concluded with a smile.





# Go peachy!

**T**he phrase 'peaches and cream' complexion may have been inspired by how gorgeous the pink, juicy fruit looks. However, there may be more value to the analogy than what meets the eye. The lush, delicious peach can also ensure that you look like a million bucks by just feasting on it regularly. For people looking for a tasty and convenient way to eat their way to beautiful, glowing skin - peaches are the answer. Here's a glimpse into the ways in which this fruit gives you that enviable flush you've always yearned for.

### BEAUTY BENEFITS

- For the skin**
- ◆ Peach is a rich source of moisture, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. It moisturizes dry skin and gets you rid of dry, rough or flaky skin patches.
  - ◆ This fruit is a perfect choice for dehydrated skin - it hydrates it and makes it plump and supple again.
  - ◆ You can also use peach skincare products if you have oily skin, since peach deep-hydrates the skin without making it oily.
  - ◆ Peach helps repair and regenerate skin tissue and protects the skin against external influences.
  - ◆ It is often a part of anti-aging cosmetics because of its ability to tighten the skin and reduce wrinkles and fine lines.
  - ◆ Peach also benefits your skin by fading dark spots, acne marks, blemishes and other skin imperfections.
  - ◆ It can help you recover and replenish your skin after sun exposure.

◆ Peach skincare products make your skin vibrant and glowing. They can help you improve your complexion and get that clear, youthful, dewy looking skin.

### HEALTH BENEFITS

- Peaches are good for digestion
- One medium peach provides nearly 10 percent of the daily minimum fiber target. In addition to preventing constipation and supporting good digestive health
- They can boost your immune system

Peaches support immunity in three ways. One medium peach supplies over 15% of the daily goal for vitamin C. Several types of

immune cells need this nutrient for their production, function, and protection. The vitamin A in peaches

(one medium fruit provides 10 percent of your daily need) helps form the mucous membranes in your respiratory tract. Stronger membranes form better protective barriers to keep germs out of your bloodstream. Peaches also defend immunity by way of their natural antimicrobial properties.

### - They perk up your skin

In addition to their anti-inflammatory antioxidants, peaches have beta carotene and vitamin C to support healthy skin. Beta carotene, a precursor to vitamin A, helps protect skin from sun damage, warms skin tone, and helps create a natural glow. Vitamin C is needed to build collagen, improve skin elasticity, and fend off sagging

### - They are helpful for blood pressure control and de-bloating

The potassium in a peach (one medium fruit supplies eight percent of the daily recommended goal) helps regulate blood pressure by acting as a natural diuretic to sweep excess sodium and fluid out of the body. This relieves pressure on the heart and arteries, and helps with de-bloat.

### SELECTING PEACHES AS A PART OF A BEAUTY TREATMENT

While a fragrant peach is always a good sign, it's not the main indicator of whether or not it will be good-colour is. Peaches should have vibrant tones and colours.

### BEAUTY TREATMENTS THAT INCLUDE PEACHES

Mostly skin treatments but they can be used on the hair and body as well.

### SIDE EFFECTS

Peaches are generally safe on the skin as they are even used on sensitive skin. However, as I always say with any new product or treatment it is always best to carry out a skin patch test before hand.

### GROWING PEACHES FOR BEAUTY TREATMENTS

It is best to source them from an organic shop as peach trees need a colder climate to grow.  
Compiled by Ruwini Jayawardana

### NUTRITIONAL INGREDIENTS

One raw medium peach (147 grams) has 50 calories, 0.5 grams of fat, 0 grams of cholesterol and sodium, 15 grams of carbohydrate, 13 grams of sugar, 2 grams of fiber and 1 gram of protein. It provides 6 percent of your daily vitamin A needs and 15 percent of daily vitamin C needs.

### MAINTAINING YOUR BEAUTY

A great source of Vitamin C, peach helps to remove dark circles and blemishes. Its macronutrients also help in removing wrinkles and hence, peach is a common ingredient in anti-ageing face masks. It tightens the skin's pores and does wonders for a tired skin.



## GLAMOUR-WISE

WITH RAMANI FERNANDO

### PEACH HOME REMEDIES

#### For skin

- Yoghurt and peach face mask
- 1 tablespoon pureed peach
- 2 teaspoons thick yogurt

This peach and yogurt face mask provides your skin with everything it needs to be healthy, clear and glowing. While peach nourishes your skin, yogurt hydrates it and makes it plump and supple. It also exfoliates the dead, dull layer of skin cells and makes your skin youthful and beautiful.

Mix the peach puree and yogurt in a small bowl. Mix well until you get a face mask that is completely smooth. If you want, you can add some honey as well.

Wash your face and exfoliate it using a gentle face scrub. Apply this peach skincare mask in as thick a layer as you can. Leave it on for around 20 minutes. Rinse the mask off well and apply a face moisturizer right away.

#### - Peace face scrub

- 1 teaspoon pureed peach
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- A couple of drops olive oil

This scrub with brown sugar and peach benefits your skin in many ways, but most importantly - it helps it to heal and regenerate itself. Regular exfoliation is very important for your skin since it gets you rid of the dull looking skin and encourages the skin renewal process.

To make this peach skincare scrub, first mix the pureed peach and brown sugar. You should get a texture similar to wet sand. Then add the olive oil or any other natural oil that you like and mix everything well.

Wash your face. Apply a thin layer of the scrub and exfoliate your skin with it for around 5 minutes. Then apply a thicker layer of the scrub over the first one and leave it like that for another 15 to 20 minutes. Rinse off well.

#### For hair

Mash two ripe peaches into a paste and mix in a cup of plain yogurt and apply to dry skin areas. Let sit for 10-15 minutes and rinse off with warm water. Towel dry and follow up with normal moisture regimen.

#### To nourish dry scalp

You can use that same peach paste to treat an itchy or dry scalp, to, while aiding in cleansing and treating roots. You'll also see softer, shinier hair. Apply on hair, particularly, the roots and let sit with cap for 20 minutes. Rinse out well with warm water and follow up with your normal shampoo and conditioner regimen.



## Miss Pride of Sri Lanka launch on March 7

**M**iss Pride of Sri Lanka Founder and National Director of Miss Super Model Globe International, Gleny Harry will be holding an audition and launch of Miss Super Model Globe International Beauti Pageant on March 7 at Excel World.

The main Miss Super Model Globe International Beauti Pageant will be held in India this year.

The Chairman of Media Alent Holdings (PVT) LTD and Event Producer of Miss Pride of Sri Lanka, Kasun Sameera said that he will be planning to add more glamour and exposure to this event and the participants would get many opportunities in their career.

"Last year we won an International Title and Shashi Kaluarachchi brought glory to Sri Lanka when she represented Sri Lanka at an international pageant that was held in India. She has won the First Runner-up of Miss Super Model Globe International title. She also has won a title for the Best National Costume. She has won these titles out of twenty-five countries including Europe and Asia," he said.

"We have called applications for this event and we would like to invite young girls who are 18 to 27 years of age to participate for this audition," National Director, Gleny Harry said.

"We are planning to select the best female candidate or the top beauty queen to represent Sri Lanka and to win an international title. We are looking for a suitable candidate with good personality, intelligent and educated," he said.

"We have planned to bring a senior judge panel to this audition and launch, who are experienced in this field. We do train models and our models are in demand, for commercials, branding and catwalk shows," he said.



Shashi Kaluarachchi, last year First Runner-up of Miss Super Model Globe International



Event Producer Kasun Sameera

# Home remedies for glowing skin

**Y**our kitchen has a lot of ingredients that can restore your skin's beauty and can offer radiant looking skin. Even though these home remedies are not scientifically proven, they are being used by people for a very long time to achieve glowing skin.

### A. Raw Milk

Mix raw milk with rose water and apply it evenly on the face. Wash off with lukewarm water after 15 minutes.

### B. Besan

Mix besan (gram flour), turmeric, lemon and curd to form a thick paste. Apply it on the face and wash off after 20 minutes.

### C. Lemon

Lemon can be used in combination with honey, sugar or coffee powder to help in exfoliating the skin.

### D. Potato

Blend potato juice with honey and apply it on your face. Wash it off after 15 minutes.

### E. Aloe vera

You can use aloe vera gel alone or in combination with honey or lemon to get glowing skin instantly.



### Stay Hydrated

You've heard it a million times. But we would like to repeat the importance of drinking water. Water forms the crux of your skin's natural barrier. When there is water loss from this barrier, your skin is prone to damage.

Drink 2-3 liters of water every day and see what wonders it can do to your skin. Your skin not only glows but is also soft and supple as it is hydrated.

### Sound Sleep

Adequate sleep assists in cell turnover and exfoliation. Remember to get 7-8 hours of sound sleep for glowing skin. Lack of sleep can result in puffy eyes and dark circles.

Collagen is a skin protein that gives skin its strength. When you get enough sleep, collagen production is stimulated. This makes your skin look younger and plump.

### Quit Smoking And Alcohol

Tobacco accelerates the natural aging process, making you look older. Alcohol destroys the supply of vitamin A to your bloodstream. Vitamin A is important in collagen stimulation, which is necessary for the skin's strength. In the absence of vitamin A, skin tends to age faster. Did you know that cigarette smoke contains 7000 chemicals and some of them are carcinogenic compounds (cancer-causing)? Smoking is also linked to psoriasis, a skin condition resulting in red, dry and patchy skin, uneven skin tone, discolored nails and staining.

-skinkraft.com





GARDENING

A hobby is a means of having a change in the normal work routine. It is a happy union of profit and pleasure. A hobby is also man's past time. There are a number of hobbies to choose from. My hobby is gardening.

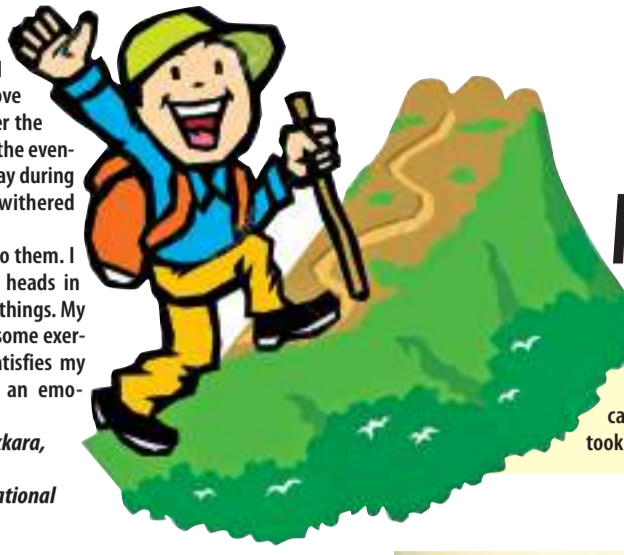
I spend my leisure hours in my garden. My garden is in front of my house. I have prepared the flower beds and planted varieties of flower-



ing plants. The plants give out a sweet scent in the evening. I love being in the garden and I love watching the butterflies. I water the plants and enjoy the pure air in the evening. I water the plants twice a day during the summer. I dig out the withered plants and plant new ones.

I talk to the plants and sing to them. I feel as if my plants nod their heads in agreement. All plants are living things. My hobby gives me happiness and some exercise for my body. My hobby satisfies my inner urge and gets an emotional response.

Venuri Nanayakkara,  
Grade 6,  
Lexicon International  
School,  
Kandy



My nature trail journey

My nature trail journey started at the border of the Central and Uva provinces. My family walked to the mountain trail. While we walked we heard the sweet chirps of the birds. As we walked without stopping we came across a sambhur and we took some pictures. We were not sup-

posed to bring our car inside the forest as the animals could die or get petrified when it gets polluted.

As we walked, the breeze gave a swift blow on my pale face which caused me to chuckle. We climbed up the highest mountain there. At the top, we saw the clouds beneath us.

As we looked down we saw the small cottages and the countryside. When we

walked back we smelled the sweet, unpolluted air. I loved the big fern trees and the innocent animals around there and I just realised that I was walking for five hours continuously! It was a very a congenial journey for me.

Kirtimayee Swain  
Grade 41,  
Colombo International School,  
Colombo

My parents

I think that my parents are very different from each other. They never agree on a point. They always have different opinions, even on very simple issues. They argue all the time and I think this is their secret formula for staying married for such a long time.

Arguing is a way of talking to each other and talking enables couples to know and understand each other. As a result, my parents are still together although they have more differences than similarities.

Their differences start with their appearances. My father is dark, very tall and of medium weight. On the other hand, my mother is not so tall; she is a little fat, and she has brown hair and a fair complexion.



They don't look similar at all. However, they look nice together.

In addition, their personalities are very different. My mother is open-minded; she doesn't stick to one idea. She listens to other people and changes her mind if it is necessary. My father, on the other hand, is very stubborn. If he has an opinion, he refuses to change it. I think they have only one personality trait in common: they are both very giving to my sister and me.

Their tastes in life are different too. My father likes football and basketball games, while mother likes TV serials and movies. My father likes listening to music loudly and this annoys my mother.

They are very different but they have my sister and me in common. They love each other and us after so many years together. Some people say 'opposites attract'. I think it is true.

Sharon de Visser,  
Grade 8,  
Ave Maria Convent,  
Negombo

My sister

I love my sister because she is sweet and nice. We do stuff together. We play, we colour and we paint. I love Jessy. She's the best sister ever. I wish she would live with me forever.

Natalie Roberts,  
Grade 4,  
Overseas School,  
Colombo



Little thoughts

THE SEA



Do you like the sea? I think you do like the sea very much. Our Sri Lanka is an island which is surrounded by the Indian Ocean. There are nice beaches in our country.

At the beach we can play beach games, build sand-castles and have picnics. In the sea we can swim, surf, dive and wade. The sea-bed has lots of corals and beautiful fish. There are other sea

creatures like crabs, oysters, rays, turtles and starfish. The sun is bright and beautiful on the beach at the horizon. We can see fishermen going in boats and big ships. I think the beach is a lovely place and I like it very much.

Erandika Fernando,  
Grade 8,  
Royal International School,  
Kurunegala

Playtime is my favourite time

Playtime is my favourite time. My parents let me play for two hours every day. We have a small garden in front of our home. Most of the kids in my neighbourhood play in this garden.

We have slides and swings in one corner of the park. We also enjoy playing see saw there. This park has a meadow to run and ride bicycles as well.

My friends and I playing in the park with a ball. Sometimes we sit on the lawn and share stories and play with marbles. Playing time in the park is very special for me because it's my time with my friends.

My favourite hobby is playing football in my spare time. After completing my home work at



home, I generally spend a lot of my free time playing football. It's also the way I met a lot of good friends that I have now.

Janidu Deshan,  
Grade 6,  
Sri Rahula M.M.V.,  
Alawwa

Art Gallery

A flower vase



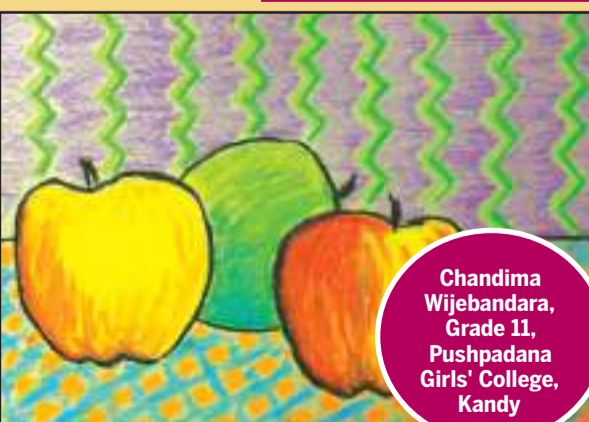
Geethma de Silva,  
Grade 9,  
Royal International  
School,  
Kurunegala

The solar system



Dharmendra Chamuganadan,  
Grade 6,  
Jaffna Central  
College,  
Jaffna

Apples



Chandima Wijebandara,  
Grade 11,  
Pushpadana  
Girls' College,  
Kandy

TOGETHER FOR LIFE!



Text and pictures by  
**B M MUKHTAR,**  
Beruwala Special Corr  
World Children Day was celebrated last year at Al-Amanath Islamic Nursery and Pre-school, Gorakaduwa, Maradana, Beruwala at school premises on a grand scale.

The event was held under the patronage of Fassiha Murcy, Principal of the school.

Dilshad Anver, member of the Urban Council, Beruwala, was the Chief Guest. Manel Wijeymanna, former teacher, Aluthgama Maha Vidyalaya, was the Special Guest.



GIFTS and GOODIES

Text and pictures by  
**M U M SANON,**  
Puttalam TKN Corr.

International Children's Day was celebrated by the kids of Puttalam IFM Pre-school last year. The event was held under the guidance of their pre-school teacher M S F Roosi. All the children were provided with valuable gift packs at the event.



The nature song

The flowers are pretty,  
The clouds are blue  
The trees are glooming  
The breeze is moving  
The sky is white.  
The grass is green  
And our country is beautiful  
And the birds are singing  
The butterflies are taking nectar too.

Priyanwada de Silva,  
Grade 7,  
Museaus College,  
Colombo





# Glutathione

## A magic drug for “Pigmentocracy”: Facts, myths, evidence and controversies



depigmenting properties. Preparations containing chemicals, such as hydroquinone, tretinoin, mequinol, glycolic acid, kojic acid, arbutin, ascorbic acid, soy extracts, and newer cosmeceuticals, have been in vogue as popular depigmenting agents either single or combination topicals. However, apart from the local adverse effects of many of these agents, an important limitation is the localization of their effect to the application site alone and the quest for a systemic skin whitening logically ensued. Oral antioxidants such as vitamin C, vitamin E, tranexamic acid, l-cysteine peptide, and various botanical extracts have been tried but none is proven to provide an overall skin lightening effect. The latest addition to this therapeutic armamentarium is that of glutathione and its derivatives. Hailed for generations as a “magical” skin whitening molecule in many countries, glutathione has seen a rapid spurt in its popularity and availability across the globe in a short duration of time. This has been the outcome of ardent

Glutathione belong to one of the most active antioxidant systems in human physiology. Biological activity: The glutathione redox cycle Glutathione exists in two interconvertible forms, reduced glutathione (GSH) and oxidized glutathione (GSSG). GSH is the predominant intracellular form, which acts as a strong antioxidant and defends against toxic compounds and xenobiotics. In this process, GSH is constantly oxidized to GSSG by the enzyme glutathione peroxidase. To maintain the intracellular redox balance, GSH is replenished through the reduction of GSSG by glutathione reductase enzyme.

### Skin colour stratification

The skin color has a significant impact on the social and cultural aspects since time immemorial. Getting a lighter skin tone always draws a lot of interest, as for centuries, fair or light skin color has been a symbol of prominence, superiority and higher social ranking. The term Colorism also known as skin color stratification, defined as the preference for lighter skin and the ranking of individual worth according to skin tone has dominated a broad range of societies and historical periods, specifically in Asia. The abundance of colorism is a result of the global prevalence of “pigmentocracy” a term to describe societies in which wealth and social status are determined by skin color. Throughout the numerous pigmentocracies across the world, the lightest-skinned peoples have the highest social status, followed by the brown and finally the black-skinned individuals.

Especially Asian women are obsessed with fair skin and they would go to the ends of the earth to lighten their skin color as in most cases their marriage prospects or career opportunities are dominated by the hue of their skin. It is quite common in this part of the world to associate “fairness” of skin with comparative wealth, desirability, prestige, and attractiveness and for women increased matrimonial prospects with lesser dowry. In fact, fairness is considered a favorable factor for engagement and it is quite common to come across newspaper matrimonial advertisements seeking fair-skinned brides and bridegrooms. Most of the matrimonial sites also make the skin color one of their key filter criteria, and it is most often used right after the height compatibility and horoscope match. This fairness obsession starts quite early even to the unborn baby in the mother’s womb as evident from the well-known practice among pregnant women to take various fruites and vegetables to beget a fair skin baby.

The desire for lighter skin must have originated from the structure of the ancient royal society, in which those belonging to higher castes typically had fairer complexions and are better placed in the political hierarchy. Furthermore, throughout its history, Sri Lanka has been invaded by lighter-skinned nations, such as Portuguese, Dutch and Great Britain, therefore fairness, strength, and supremacy have become interconnected. Thus, fairness is an issue that has cultural, sociological and anthropological roots. However, the underlying cause for the preference for fair skin could be probably attributed to the transnational correlation of whiteness with personal opportunity, success, and privilege and global influence of Western-dominated culture and media. Media and cosmetic industry are the major culprits in solidifying the place of fairness as a prerequisite for beauty.

This color complex among Asians initially among women and now even among men has been perpetuated by the media images and television advertisements, which portrays lighter skin men and women more attractive, confident, and successful. This fairness obsession has led to all sorts of treatments for achieving a desirable skin color or improving an undesirable one, and this has been exploited by cosmetic industries as evident from the recent surge of skin-whitening products and advertisements. Hence, skin whitening products are highly flourishing today capitalizing on the insecurity of these individuals and currently, skin lightening is one of the most common forms of potentially harmful body modification practices in the world.

### Can we change our color of skin?

prior to answer this question we should know about what gives skin its color.

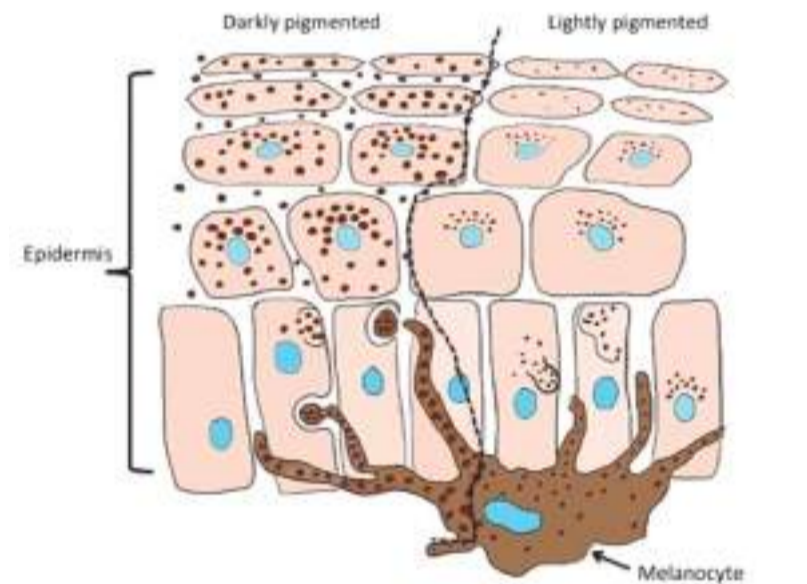
- There are two types of skin color:
1. **Constitutive skin color** - natural, genetically determined color of the epidermis, uninfluenced by ultraviolet (UV) light or hormone exposure. Typically, seen in areas of little or no sun exposure, such as the underside of the upper arm.
  2. **Facultative skin color** - results from exposure to UV light and other environmental factors Tanning

changes the composition of pigment in the skin by increasing the amount and size of it through pigment producing cells.

Constitutive skin color undergoes changes with time in every individual, irrespective of occupation, race or environment (geographic/climatic), and such changes result in the facultative



Difference between Constitutive and Facultative skin colour



Synthesis of melanin in melanocytes and transferred to keratinocytes by melanosomes

skin color. Facultative skin is darker than constitutive skin.

Melanin is the main substance responsible for the skin colour. Melanin is generated by the body through the process called melanogenesis. Two types of melanin can be distinguished based on its chemical composition and biological route of synthesis: the black and brown eumelanin and the red and yellow pheomelanin. The variation of skin color among individuals is mostly caused by variation of the content of melanin in the skin.

Melanin is synthesized in melanosomes which are organelles produced in melanocytes, cells dedicated to this function that are present in the skin, hair follicles, and other structures of the body. Melanogenesis and melanization, involves a chain of enzyme-catalyzed chemical reactions and non-enzyme-catalyzed reactions. The main precursor to melanin is L-tyrosine. The first step of melanogenesis is the conversion of L-tyrosine to L-DOPA; this is the first and rate-limiting step and is catalyzed by the enzyme tyrosinase. L-tyrosine is taken by the melanocytes from the intercellular medium, then transported to the melanosomes. L-tyrosine is also synthesized within the melanocytes from L-phenylalanine by the enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase.

Melanosomes are transferred to keratinocytes, the most abundant cell type in the skin and where most melanin of the skin is found. In addition, melanocytes interact with keratinocytes through chemical signaling.

Skin whitening agents work by reducing the presence of melanin in the skin. To accomplish this task, there are several possible mechanisms of actions.

- Inhibition of the activity of tyrosinase
- Inhibition of the expression or activation of tyrosinase
- Scavenging of the intermediate products of melanin synthesis
- Preventing the transfer of melanosomes to keratinocytes
- Directly destroying existing melanin
- Destroying melanocytes

### Glutathione – a magic drug

The obsession of people with skin of color to have a lighter skin tone or fairer complexion has resulted in development of various topical and oral agents with

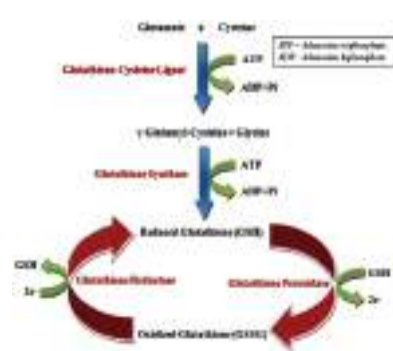


Raper – Menson pathway of melanogenesis

manufacturer-supported media campaign about the almost preposterous effects of this molecule as a wonder drug for not only disorders of hyperpigmentation such as melasma and other facial pigmentary disorders, but also for general “skin whitening.”

### Glutathione – molecular structure and functions

Glutathione (γ-glutamyl-cysteinylglycine) is a small, low molecular weight, water-soluble tripeptide consist of three amino acids (glutamate, cysteine and glycine) was first discovered by Hopkins in 1921 in yeast, and subsequently in other tissues. It is a ubiquitous compound with a biologically active sulfhydryl group contributed by the cysteine moiety that acts as the active part of the molecule. This particular sulfhydryl group allows for interaction with a variety of biochemical systems, hence the abbreviation “GSH” for its active form.



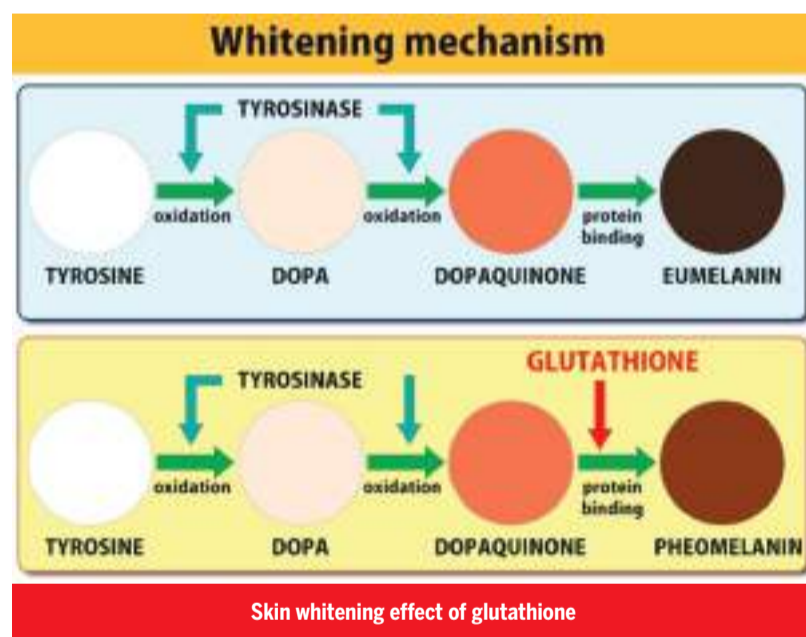
The glutathione redox cycle, demonstrating the inter-conversion of oxidized and reduced glutathione

### Glutathiones ability of skin whitening

Melanin in human skin is a polymer of various insoluble compounds synthesized from L-tyrosine by the Raper–Mason pathway of melanogenesis. The ratio of the two different types of melanin found in skin, black-brown colored eumelanin and yellow-red pheomelanin, determines the skin colour. An increased proportion of pheomelanin is associated with lighter skin colour. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation is the most important factor that causes undesirable hyperpigmentation. The crucial cellular event is enhanced tyrosinase activity. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation results in generation of excessive amounts of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species within the cells. Oral antioxidants partially reduce melanogenesis by suppressing these free radicals. One of the earliest pieces of evidence of the association between thiols and skin came from the effect of an extract of human skin that contained an active sulfhydryl-containing compound. It prevented melanin formation by tyrosinase inhibition. Hyperpigmentation was observed when this compound got oxidized and inactivated by factors such as heat, radiation and inflammation with consequent loss of the inhibitory effect on tyrosinase. Halprin and Ohkawara provided physical and biochemical evidence that this “sulfhydryl compound” was glutathione.

### Postulated effects of glutathione on pigmentation

The role of glutathione as a skin-lightening agent was an accidental discovery when skin lightening was noticed as a side effect of large doses of glutathione. Various mechanisms for the hypopigmentary effect of glutathione have been proposed, with inhibition of tyrosinase being the most important.



Skin whitening effect of glutathione

Glutathione can reduce tyrosinase activity in three different ways.

1. Tyrosinase is directly inhibited through chelation of the copper site by the thiol group.
2. Glutathione interferes with the cellular transfer of tyrosinase to premelanosomes, a prerequisite for melanin synthesis.
3. Tyrosinase inhibition is effected indirectly via its antioxidant effect.

### Current status of efficacy, safety, and evidence of GSH in skin tone lightning

1. Oral formulations (pills, solutions, sublingual tablets, syrups and sprays)
  2. Parenteral formulations (intravenous and intramuscular)
  3. Intranasal and intrabronchial
- The three major routes of administration used for skin lightening are topical (creams, face washes), oral (capsules and sublingual/buccal tablets) and intravenous injections.

### Topical Glutathione

#### Glutathione lotion

The singular randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial conducted by Watanabe and others

(2014), in 30 healthy Filipino women aged 30 to 50 years, given topical glutathione disulfide (GSSG) 2% lotion to apply twice daily for 10 weeks has provided some evidence of temporary skin whitening. The changes in the melanin index, moisture content of the stratum corneum, skin smoothness, skin elasticity and wrinkle formation were objectively assessed. The results of the split face protocol-based study revealed statistically significant reduction of skin melanin index with GSH compared to placebo, with no adverse drug effects. Glutathione treated areas had significant improvement in other parameters as well. No adverse drug effects were reported.

Recently, a glutathione based chemical peel has been introduced, but evidence of efficacy of this formulation is lacking though the manufacturers claim improvement of melasma, hyperpigmentation and skin ageing.

### Glutathione soap

There was a small pilot study conducted in 2015 including 15 patients of facial melasma treated with glutathione soap followed for 3 months and observed decrease in the hyperpigmentation in all most all the patients.

### Glutathione mesotherapy

Glutathione solution as mesotherapy, is widely practiced by dermatologists for the treatment of melasma and other facial melanoses. It is used as monotherapy, or in combination with other compound like ascorbic acid, vitamin E, tranexamic acid, etc. Although the results are claimed to be very good, use of glutathione as a mesotherapy needs more evidence to prove its efficacy.

### Oral glutathione

On review of literature, so far we could find only 3 studies that evaluated the efficacy of oral glutathione as a skin-lightening agent.

The study conducted in the Thai population (Arjinpathana and Asawanonda 2010) for the effect of orally administered glutathione on the skin in sixty healthy medical students. The subjects were randomized to receive glutathione capsules in a dose of 500 mg/day in two divided doses, or placebo for four weeks. In this study the primary end-point studied was the reduction of melanin indices at six different sites. At four weeks, the melanin indices decreased consistently at all six sites in the glutathione group. The tolerance to glutathione was excellent.

The limitations of this study include a short study period, lack of follow-up, lack of measurement of serum glutathione levels and the choice of cohort, which consisted of a young and healthy population. Despite these shortcomings, this study was the first to demonstrate the beneficial effects of oral glutathione in skin lightening.

Recently (2015), Handog and her team investigated the use of intraoral lozenge containing 500 mg of glutathione in an open-label study and demonstrated significant skin lightening after 8 weeks of administration. The sublingual or buccal route is likely to increase the bioavailability of glutathione better than oral tablets or capsules.

### The controversy surrounding absorption of oral glutathione and adverse effects of IV glutathione and statutory status

Glutathione-based oral dietary supplements have been accorded the status of “Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS)” consistently with Section 201(s) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of the United States Food and Drug Administration (US-FDA). There is no restriction on its use in the US, Philippines and Japan. Oral GSH is also easily available over-the-counter (OTC) in India, Thailand and many other Asian countries including Sri Lanka.

The dosage and duration of oral glutathione has not been standardized with different dosages having been “recommended” by different manufacturers. These manufacturer specific guidelines have no clear scientific basis.

### “Recommended” dosage of glutathione capsules/tablets for skin lightening effects

Dose: 20-40 mg/kg body weight per day (i.e. 1-2 grams GSH per day) divided into two doses, for skin lightening effects

Time duration required for the skin lightening effects: May become visible within four weeks; although a significant effect may need

- 1-3 months - medium brown skin
- 3-6 months - dark brown skin
- 6-12 months - very dark skin
- 2 years (or more) - black skin

Maintenance dose: After attaining the “desired” skin colour, a maintenance dose of 500mg/day for an indefinite duration has been suggested

Since oral GSH is known to have a low bioavailability in humans, manufacturers of IV injections of GSH “recommend” this route of administration to achieve desired therapeutic levels in the blood and skin rapidly to produce “instant” skin whitening results. However, as emphasized previously, the scientific literature evaluating the efficacy of IV GSH is still lacking. Furthermore, the duration of therapy and long-term efficacy is yet to be established. Despite the lack of evidence, manufacturers of IV GSH have been “recommend-ing” a dose of 600-1200 mg, to be injected weekly or twice a week, with no specified net duration of the therapy.

### Adverse effects reported with intravenous glutathione injections

1. Cutaneous-Ranging from skin rashes to serious and potentially fatal Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN)
2. Severe abdominal pain in patients receiving twice-weekly IV glutathione
3. Thyroid dysfunction
4. Kidney dysfunction with potential for development of renal failure
5. Liver dysfunction
6. Lethal complications-Air embolism, blood-borne infections and potentially fatal sepsis stemming from incorrect technique of injections by untrained staff, use of unsterile or used needles, and use of counterfeit intravenous glutathione

### Conclusion

At present, there is clear lack of convincing evidence in favor of GSH as a therapy for hyperpigmentation and there are many unresolved controversies that surround its use. The trials available to date that have evaluated the role of glutathione in skin lightening administered through different modes have numerous limitations.

Although the safety of topical and oral GSH seems to be good, their efficacy especially in long-term usage yet to be proved. Currently, IV GSH has minimal and poor quality evidence to support or discourage its use for forpigmentation. Adverse effect profile of IV GSH is another serious concern.

More evidence in the form of randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled trials with larger sample size, long-term follow-up, and well defined primary and secondary outcomes, targeted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of skin whitening effects of topical, oral as well as parenteral GSH is warranted before our patients are subjected to glutathione-based treatments. In addition, the role of glutathione in specific disorders of hyperpigmentation needs to be elucidated.



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 Diploma in American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine (A3M)  
 Diploma in American Academy of Anti - Aging & Regenerative Medicine (A4M)  
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Daily News

TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS



## STATE DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION



STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL ROADS AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

### SUB CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION FOR ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

Those who have CIDA registration for Road, Steel and Concrete bridges construction are invited for registration.

Please send your company profile with a copy of CIDA registration for the following address or E-mail to [sm.supplies@yahoo.com](mailto:sm.supplies@yahoo.com) on or before 04.03.2021. You have to mention District/Electorate of company registration address in your application.

A non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 5400.00 (including 8% VAT) has to be paid by cash or cheque at the Head Office at below mentioned address. The cheque should be drawn in favour of "State Development & Construction Corporation".

If you need any information please contact Supplies Manager on 077-3425672, 011-2607566 and E-mail: [sm.supplies@yahoo.com](mailto:sm.supplies@yahoo.com)

General Manager,  
State Development & Construction Corporation,  
No. 07, Borupana Road,  
Ratmalana.

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS



URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

Contract No.: PD/UDA/OAS/2021/002

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (Major) on behalf of the Urban Development Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the undermentioned Design & Installation contract as described below.

Table - 01

Bid No.	Project Name	Estimated cost of work excluding VAT (Rs)	Non Refundable Fee(Rs)	Amount of Bid Security (Rs)	Contract Period (Days)	Requirement	Bid Security valid up to
01	Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Online Application System for One Stop Unit for Development Approvals Process within UDA - (Phase - 1)	52,406,440/-	12,500/- plus VAT	525,000/-	120 Days	Business Registration. 10 years experience in the software development industry after business registration.	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the requirements given in the above table and other requirements given in the bidding document.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Head of Procurement, Urban Development Authority, 07<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya - Stage I, Battaramulla and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the **Head of Procurement's Office on working days from 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by any prospective Bidder or their accredited agent on submission of a written request to the Head of Procurement, Urban Development Authority, 07<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya - Stage I, Battaramulla from 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 on working days upon payment of a non-refundable fee as in the above table 01 to Shroff in Finance Division in Urban Development Authority.
- Bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of bank guarantee as per the specimen in the bidding documents and issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka and registered under the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The value of the bid securities is stated in Table 01 and shall be addressed to the **Chairman, Urban Development Authority.**
- Bids shall be hand delivered or sent by registered post with original and duplicate addressed to the **Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC), 07<sup>th</sup> Floor, Urban Development Authority, Sethsiripaya - Stage I, Battaramulla** to be received on or before 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 11.00 a. m. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- A pre - bid meeting will be held at 10.00 am on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 07<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sethsiripaya - Stage I, Battaramulla. All the bidders are strongly advised to attend this meeting.
- Bidder's previous performance and the liquidity position strictly evaluated in selection of bidders. Poorly performed bidders will not be considered for awarding of any bids.
- The Urban Development Authority has no any responsibility on cost related to preparation of any bids. The Department Procurement Committee (DPC) reserves the right to accept a suitable bid out of the bids received or reject all bids. The decision of the Department Procurement Committee is final.
- Please Note that prevailing present COVID-19 pandemic situation, before collecting the bidding document contact Dy. Director (Procurement), Urban Development on Tel. 0113049008, Fax. 011-2874546 for your facilitation.

Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee (Major), Urban Development Authority,  
07<sup>th</sup> Floor, "Sethsiripaya" Stage - 1  
Battaramulla.

## Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka

### G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) Examination - 2020 (March 2021)

It is hereby notified that the above examination will be commenced on 01st of March 2021 and will be continued until 10th of March.

Admission Cards and time tables of school candidates have been already posted to the principals of respective schools and the admission cards of private candidates have been sent to the addresses mentioned in their applications.

Principals who have not received admission cards by 24th February 2021 should immediately inform me through a letter/fax or visiting in person with the school number, school name, address and other relevant details and in the case of a private candidate who had submitted an application on or before the closing date via online ; a copy of the application, the application registration receipt and a photocopy of the receipt obtained after payment of examination fees or a letter confirming the payment of examination fee from the respective Postmaster must be posted to the address given below or submit visiting in person. It is hereby notified that the principals and the private candidates should draw their special attention in this regard.

Revisions related to the subject/s, medium and name of the candidate mentioned in the admission cards received by the principals and private candidates,

- > **Have to be amended online for the first time by logging into the official website <http://onlineexams.gov.lk/eic>**
- > **One candidate will receive only one attempt for revision**
- > **Only the name revisions confirmed upon a formal investigation will be updated in the database**
- > **Changing examination centers in this examination will not be done**

Impersonation, bringing books, notes or electronic devices (Eg : Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, etc.) to the examination hall or using such devices or obtaining assistance from or assisting another candidate and misbehaviour in and around the examination hall are punishable offences under the Public Examinations Act.  
**Using calculators and correction fluid in this examination are not allowed.**

#### Inquiries :

Telephone Numbers : 011-2784208, 2784537  
Fax Number : 011-2784422  
Postal Address : Commissioner General of Examinations,  
School Examinations Organization and Results Branch,  
P.O. Box 1503, Colombo.

**A Monitoring Unit is in operation within the 24 hours throughout the examination period**  
Telephone Numbers : 011-2785211, 011-2785212, 011-2784208, 011-2784537

Hotline : 1911

**B. Sanath Pujitha**  
Commissioner General of Examinations

6/4/O.L./2020

Department of Examinations, Sri Lanka,  
School Examination Organization and Results Branch  
Pelawatte, Battaramulla.

17.02.2021

## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Ministry of Irrigation

### IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT - MANNAR REGION

The Director of Irrigation, Mannar Region, on behalf of the Regional Procurement Committee (RPC) invites sealed bids for following works in Murunkan Irrigation Engineer's Division & Silawathurai Irrigation Engineer's Division from eligible and qualified bidders who have fulfilled the eligibility requirements mentioned below.

No.	Description of Work	Eligibility Requirement (CIDA Grade & Category)	Bid Security	Non Re-fundable Fee
01.	Rehabilitation of Kallikaddaikadu Feeder Tank under Adaikkalamodda Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/01	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 175,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
02.	Rehabilitation of Pappankulam Feeder Tank under Adaikkalamodda Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/02	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 200,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
03.	Rehabilitation of Muthalaikuththi Feeder Tank in Adaikkalamodda Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/03	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 100,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
04.	Rehabilitation of Valkaipettankandal Feeder Tank under 14 <sup>th</sup> Mile Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/04	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 150,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
05.	Rehabilitation of Kalimodda Puliyankulam Feeder Tank under 14 <sup>th</sup> Mile Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/05	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 175,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
06.	Rehabilitation of Pidarikulam Tank under 13 <sup>th</sup> Mile Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/06	C8 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 50,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
07.	Rehabilitation of Veppankulam Feeder Tank under Sinnaudaippu Main Canal in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/07	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 90,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
08.	Providing Rip-Rap for Giants Tank Bund from 1+650 to 2+950 in Giants Tank Scheme. DI/MN/MRK-NCB/2021/08	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 100,000/-	Rs. 1500/-
09.	Improvements to Viyadikulam Tank Bund from 2+360 to 2+510 in Viyadikulam Scheme DI/MN/SWT-NCB/2021/09	C7 & above Irrigation & Drainage Canals	Rs. 75,000/-	Rs. 1500/-

Only Bidders who have the required grade in the relevant field under the Construction Industry and Development Authority (CIDA) registration mentioned against the work will be considered. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.

Other qualification requirements to qualify for contract award:  
a. Experience especially in Irrigation & Land Drainage works.  
b. Required professionally qualified staff.

Prospective Bidders may purchase a complete set of bidding documents in English language by written request addressed to the "Director of Irrigation, Office of the Director of Irrigation, Mannar Road, Murunkan" from 16-02-2021 until 08-03-2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs on working days upon the payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned above.

Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 23-02-2021 at 11:00 hrs at the Divisional Irrigation Engineer's Office, Murunkan.

Sealed Bids in duplicate for each contract may be dispatched either by Registered post or by hand delivery into the tender box kept at the "Office of the Director of Irrigation, Irrigation Department, Mannar Road, Murunkan" on or before 09-03-2021 at 15:00 hrs.

Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.

For further clarifications and information, please contact the Office of the Director of Irrigation, Mannar Region (023-2050351), Divisional Irrigation Engineer's Office, Murunkan (023-2050352).

Eng. N.Yogarajah,  
Chairman,  
Regional Procurement Committee,  
Director of Irrigation,  
Mannar Region.  
16.02.2021

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**Revocation of Power of Attorney dated 08.07.2020**

I, **Hewa Yaddhegige Thilak Nanda Kumara of No. 60, Galle Road, Akuressa** do hereby give notice to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that the Power of Attorney No. 1502 dated 08th July 2020 attested by R.A.D. Nilanthi P. Siriwardhana, Notary Public of Negombo granted to Vishaka Shalini Premathilaka of No. 32/2C, Naththaranpotha, Galmaduwa Temple Road, Kandy is hereby revoked, annulled and cancelled and that I shall not be held myself responsible for any transaction entered in to by the said Vishaka Shalini Premathilaka on my behalf.

**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF A COMPANY**

In terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, we hereby give notice of Incorporation of the undernoted company.  
Name of the Company: **HELA SHORES (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
Reg. No. of the Company: **PV 00233794**  
Address of Registered Office: **No. 11/7, First Lane, Wijaya Mawatha, Minuwangoda.**  
SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY  
**K.K.D. Rosita Fredrick**

**NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF A COMPANY**

In terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, we hereby give notice of Incorporation of the undernoted company.  
Name of the Company: **S.L. EXPLORER (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
Reg. No. of the Company: **P V 00234608**  
Address of Registered Office: **No. 24, Sithuruwana, Molligoda, Wadduwa.**  
SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY  
**K.K.D. Rosita Fredrick**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 9(1) OF THE COMPANIES ACT NO. 07 OF 2007**

This is to inform the Public that the following Company was incorporated on 27.01.2021 under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.  
Name: **CEYLONIL AGRI AND ECO VENTURES (PVT) LTD**  
Number: **PV 00233757**  
Address of the Registered Office: **52/1, Jayanthi Mawatha, Maharagama.**  
SECRETARY



## INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

### MINISTRY OF ENERGY

## CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

**Construction of a Re-Gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG) Pipeline System from Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) located around 5 km off the Kerawalapitiya Coastal Belt to existing and future Kelanitissa and Kerawalapitiya Power Plants on Built Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis**

B/12/2021

- The Cabinet Appointed Negotiating Committee (CANC) on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) invites eligible Bidders to submit their proposals for the **Construction of a Re-Gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (R-LNG) Pipeline System from Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) located around 5 km off the Kerawalapitiya Coastal Belt to existing and future Kelanitissa and Kerawalapitiya Power Plants on Built Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis.**
- The Project is to construct RLNG onshore and offshore pipeline system inclusive of Pipe Line End Manifold (PLEM), offshore pipeline from PLEM to landfall Point, landfall Point, onshore pipeline from landfall Point to Onshore Receiving Facility (ORF), ORF, onshore pipeline network from ORF to Power Plants at Kerawalapitiya and Kelanitissa with associated instrumentation, metering, safety and other auxiliary systems on BOOT basis. The scope of the Bidder shall include :
  - Finance, Design, Procure, Construct, Test, Commission, Operate and Maintain the RLNG pipeline system and Transfer the system to CPC at the end of the Term of the Project,
  - Secure all Environmental Clearance, Approvals from relevant Government Authorities and Statutory Licenses and
  - Enter into Pipeline System Agreement (PS Agreement) with CPC and the Implementation Agreement (IA) with the Government of Sri Lanka for the Development of above Infrastructure.
- The Term of the Project is ten (10) years from the date of acceptance under the PS Agreement.
- The Request for Proposals can be obtained between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs on working days until two (02) weeks (i.e. 04.06.2021) before the deadline for submission of proposals at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09, on a written request and on submission of a payment receipt made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office) of a non-refundable fee amounting to Rs. 200,000.00 (i.e. Rs. 185,185.19 + 8% VAT).
  - If the prospective Bidders wish to receive the RFP documents by post/courier, they shall send a written request to the address given below and submit a payment receipt made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office) bearing the swift code No. **PSBKLKX** of a non-refundable fee amounting to LKR 250,000/= (for Domestic delivery) or US \$ 1,500 (for Overseas Delivery). The RFP documents will be sent through courier/Post and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation does not accept any liability for the loss or late delivery of the RFP documents.
- Invitation for Proposals and Instruction to Bidders will also be available for inspection at the link of CPC Website : <http://ceypetco.gov.lk/public-tenders/>
- To obtain technical clarification with respect to this development project, the prospective Bidders should contact ;  
Project Director (LNG),  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
No. 609, Dr Danister De Silva Mawatha,  
Colombo 09, Sri Lanka.  
Tel. No : +94 11 5455364 Fax No : +94 11 5455432  
Email address : [pdlng@ceypetco.gov.lk](mailto:pdlng@ceypetco.gov.lk)
- To obtain further information and inspect the Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents and to Purchase the RFP documents, prospective Bidders should contact :  
Manager (Procurement & Stores),  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
No. 609, Dr Danister De Silva Mawatha,  
Colombo 09,  
Sri Lanka.  
Tel. No. : +94 11 5455331 Fax No. : +94 11 5455424  
Email Address : [jayamanjula@ceypetco.gov.lk](mailto:jayamanjula@ceypetco.gov.lk)
- The proposals prepared in accordance with the RFP Documents, shall accompany a Proposal Security to the value of USD 400,000 in the format given in the RFP documents and shall be submitted to the following address ;  
Chairman, CANC, Ministry of Energy,  
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores)  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
No. 609, Dr Danister De Silva Mawatha,  
Colombo 09,  
Sri Lanka.  
on or before 18.06.2021 at 1100 hrs under sealed covers as per the Clause 4.19, Volume I of the RFP document. Submissions received later than the opening time will be rejected and returned to Bidder unopened. Proposals will be opened at the Auditorium, 1st Floor, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation immediately after the closing date & time of the submission of the proposals in the presence of the authorized representatives of the prospective Bidders.
- A virtual / physical Pre-Proposal Conference along with a site visit has been scheduled at 10.00 hrs on 23.03.2021 subjected to the COVID 19 prevention rules and regulations of the Government of Sri Lanka.

**Chairman, CANC, Ministry of Energy,  
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
No. 609, Dr Danister De Silva Mawatha,  
Colombo 09,  
Sri Lanka.**

**Tele : 011 5455331  
Fax : 011 5455424**

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

MINISTRY OF POWER

## CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF FLOATING STORAGE AND REGASIFICATION UNIT (FSRU) AT OFFSHORE KERAWALAPITIYA ON BUILD OWN OPERATE BASIS AND COMPATIBLE MOORING SYSTEM ON BUILD, OWN, OPERATE AND TRANSFER BASIS**

Bid No: CEB/PD(LNGP)/2021

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:  
JUNE 18, 2021 AT 11.00 HRS**

- Cabinet Appointed Negotiating Committee of Ministry of Power, on behalf of Ceylon Electricity Board Requests for Proposals from the prospective developers for the deployment of Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) with a regasification capacity of 380 MMSCFD and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage capacity of minimum 156,000 m<sup>3</sup> at 100% filling level, at offshore Kerawalapitiya on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis and compatible Mooring System on Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis. The FSRU shall supply regasified LNG for the power plants located in Kerawalapitiya and Colombo area.

The Pipe Line End Manifold (PLEM), subsea pipeline and onshore pipeline up to the boundaries of the power plants will be established by Ceylon Petroleum Corporation on BOOT basis.

- The project proponent(s) will be required to:

- Design, finance, procure, construct, deliver, commission, operate and maintain the FSRU.
- Design, finance, procure, construct, deliver, erect, commission, operate and maintain the Mooring System and transfer to CEB at the end of the term.
- Secure all environmental clearances, governmental approvals and statutory licenses.
- Enter into Floating Storage and Regasification Unit & Mooring (FSRU&M) Agreement with Ceylon Electricity Board and the Implementation Agreement with Government of Sri Lanka for the establishment of the above infrastructure. The term of the project is 10 years from the Acceptance under the FSRU&M Agreement.

- The prospective project proponents shall purchase the Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents at the office of the Project Director (LNG Projects) at the address indicated below between 9:00 Hrs and 15:00 Hrs on working days until two weeks before the proposal submission date and paying a non-refundable fee of LKR 200,000.00 by cash or in the form of bank draft drawn in favor of the General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- If the prospective project proponents wish to receive the RFP documents by post/courier, they shall send a written request to the address given below including a bank draft written in favor of General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board, to the amount of LKR. 200,000/= (for Domestic delivery) or USD 1,500 (for Overseas Delivery). The RFP documents will be sent through courier/Post and Ceylon Electricity Board does not accept any liability for the loss or late delivery of the RFP documents.

- RFP document will also be available for inspection at the link of CEB web site; <http://www.ceb.lk/tender-notice/en>

- To obtain further information and inspect the Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents, and to purchase the RFP documents, prospective project proponents should contact;

The Office of the Project Director (LNG Projects)  
No. 83/04  
Dharmapala Mawatha  
Colombo 07  
Sri Lanka  
Tel No.: +94 11 2440531 Fax No.: +94 11 2440532  
Email Address: [pmrlngpp.prj@ceb.lk](mailto:pmrlngpp.prj@ceb.lk)

- The proposals prepared in accordance with the RFP Document, shall accompany a Proposal security to the value of USD 2,500,000 in the format given in the RFP documents and shall be submitted to the following address;

Project Director (LNG Projects)  
C/O, Additional General Manager (Projects)  
Ceylon Electricity Board  
No. 385, 4th Floor Landmark Building  
Galle Road  
Colombo 03  
Sri Lanka.

on or before June 18, 2021 at 11.00 Hrs under sealed covers as per the Clause 4.19, Volume I of the RFP document. Submissions received later than the opening time will be rejected and returned to proponent unopened.

- Proposals will be opened at the office of the Additional General Manager (Projects), immediately after the closing date & time of the submission of the proposals in the presence of the authorised representatives of the Bidders.

**General Manager,  
Ceylon Electricity Board**

On behalf of The Chairman, Cabinet Appointed Negotiating Committee



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இலங்கை மின்சார சபை  
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

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### Inclusion of Name and Address to the Advertisement Published

It is kindly requested to include the name and address to the advertisement under the following heading which appeared in Sunday Observer on 14.02.2021 and Dinamina and Thinakaran on 15.02.2021.

**Heading :** Recruitment of Staff, Thalpitigala, Reservoir Project, Ministry of Irrigation Telephone : 055-2245626

**Address :** Thalpitigala Reservoir Project, Regional Irrigation Office, Kandaketiya.

**Eng. B.G.T. Lasantha Guruge,**  
Project Director,  
Thalpitigala Reservoir Project



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

## CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### SUPPLY OF SHOES FOR THE YEAR 2021

B/14/2021

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will receive sealed Bids from reputed Suppliers for the supply of following Shoes.

- |    |     |       |                              |
|----|-----|-------|------------------------------|
| 1. | 370 | Pairs | Work Boots - Black (Low Cut) |
| 2. | 315 | Pairs | Pump Shoes - Black           |
| 3. | 112 | Pairs | Safety Shoes                 |
| 4. | 26  | Pairs | Sandals                      |

Bidding documents can be obtained between **0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. up to 09.03.2021** from the office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09, on a written request and on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rs. 925.93+ VAT).

Bids will be closed at **1400 hrs. on 10.03.2021** and opened at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), immediately after closing time of Bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of Bids.

Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores) at the above address.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the undermentioned Telephone/Fax numbers.

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, bidders can download the bidding documents from CPC website, i.e - [www.ceypetco.gov.lk](http://www.ceypetco.gov.lk) and all payments can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office).*

**Chairman,**  
Departmental Procurement Committee,  
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
01st Floor,  
No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mwt.,  
Colombo 09.  
Tele : 5455330, 5666225  
Fax : 5455424



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

## CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### SUPPLY OF GUM BOOTS & SAFETY SHOES 2021

B/15/2021

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will receive sealed Bids from reputed Suppliers for the supply of following Shoes.

- |    |     |       |   |
|----|-----|-------|---|
| 1. | 162 | Pairs | Gum Boots (Wellington Boot) High cut (Yellow) |
| 2. | 162 | Pairs | Safety Shoes (Black)                          |

Bidding documents can be obtained between **0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. up to 09.03.2021** from the office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09, on a written request and on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rs. 925.93+ VAT).

Bids will be closed at **1400 hrs. on 10.03.2021** and opened at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), immediately after closing time of Bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of Bids.

Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores) at the above address.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the undermentioned Telephone/Fax numbers.

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, bidders can download the bidding documents from CPC website, i.e - [www.ceypetco.gov.lk](http://www.ceypetco.gov.lk) and all payments can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office).*

**Chairman,**  
Departmental Procurement Committee,  
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
01st Floor,  
No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mwt., Colombo 09.  
Tele 5455330  
Fax 5455424

My No. WGSWD&EIP/ACQ/KB/16

Land Min's Ref No : 4/3/10/2012/LRB/324  
Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage and Environment Improvement Project,  
No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.

### NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)

The inquiry for ownership and compensations under Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act regarding the lands described below which have been acquired by the Government is scheduled to be held on 23.02.2021. Please see the Gazette No. 2210/22 dated 13.01.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for more details.

#### Schedule

- |    |                      |   |  |
|----|----------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Province             | : | Western  |
| 2. | District             | : | Colombo  |
| 3. | D/S Division         | : | Kesbewa  |
| 4. | Location             | : | Within the Urban Council limits of Kesbewa   |
| 5. | Village              | : | Thumbowila   |
| 6. | Preliminary Plan No. | : | Sheet No. 04, Block No. 01 of 18 in the Cadastral Map No. 521203   |
| 7. | Names of the Lands   | : | Kottunne Owita, Gebalennawaththa Pawula Owita, Naigahakumbura, Godakumbura, Bakmeegahakumbura, Bamunu Kumbura, Kurundugaha Kumbura, Aswedduma Owita, Kurudupillewa Digane Owita, Godelle Owita, Ehelagahawaththa alias Nagahawaththa alias Delgahawaththa and Bakmeegaha Owita, Batagodaya Kumbura, Godella Owita, Kurundupillewa Godella Owita alias Kahatagaha Owita, Kahatagahaowita, Ehelagahawaththa, Gebalennawaththa Pawula Owita and Aswedduma Owita, Dolamitiyawa Kumbura, Gebalenna Kumbura, Gebalenna Owita, Thammunna Owita, Kottunne Owita, Gebalenna Owita alias Thammunna Owita, Mahawaththa Owita, Dolamitiyawa Kumbura, Mahawaththa Owita, Aswedduma Kumbura and Thunnama Owita, Gebelenna Kumbura and Mahawaththa. |
| 8. | Lot Numbers          | : | 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 392, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 400, 401, 403, 404, 405, 408, 409, 410, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 421, 422, 424, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437.  |

**C.W. Abeysuriya**  
Acquiring Officer,  
Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage & Environment Improvement Project,  
Divisional Secretary's Division - Kesbewa

**Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage & Environment Improvement Project, No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.**

08.02.2021



### Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA)

### Invitation for BIDS

### Data acquisition system with public display to National Renewable Energy Park of Hambantota

**Procurement Number: SEA/PD/RES/H/01-2021**

- The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) invites sealed bids for the above system to National Renewable Energy Park, near the Kurulu Uyana, 12 Senanakaya Road, Hambantota.
- This procurement will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Interested bidders can inspect Bidding document from official web site: [www.energy.gov.lk](http://www.energy.gov.lk) free of charge and complete set of bidding document in English language may be obtained by interested bidders from the above web site. Non-refundable tender fee of LKR 2,000/=, has to be made for tender document and payment shall be deposited to SLSEA general current A/c No. 0074944408 of Bank of Ceylon - Torrington Square branch (453). Cash Deposit Slip or e-receipt (for on-line transfer) of non-refundable tender fee should be submitted with the bid. The bids without the copy of the payment receipt will be rejected.
- Bids shall be valid up to 13th September 2021 and bid should be accompanied by a Bid Security of LKR 250,000/= valid till 27th September 2021 as mentioned in the bid document.
- The sealed bids marked **"DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM WITH PUBLIC DISPLAY"** on the top left-hand corner shall be sent to Procurement Division, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, Block-05, 01st Floor, BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 by registered post or hand delivery deposit to the tender box on the reception table of the SLSEA at or before 10.00 a.m on 15th March 2021. Late bids shall be rejected.
- Due to Covid 19 situation in the country, the bids will be opened and read out the prices through a "Google Meet" without physical participation of bidders and will be opened on 15th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m. Bidders, who wish to participate at this online bid opening shall mark an email address and telephone number in the outer side of the envelope (of the bid).**
- Further details may be obtained by calling on telephone numbers 0475675325 or 0762915930 during office hours.

**Chairman**  
Department Procurement Committee  
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority  
Block 5, First Floor, BMICH  
Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka.

**Tel: 94 (0) 112677445 Fax: 94 (0) 112682969**  
**Email: [solarparkslea@gmail.com](mailto:solarparkslea@gmail.com)**  
**Web: [www.energy.gov.lk](http://www.energy.gov.lk)**

18 February 2021

### PROCUREMENT NOTICE

### MAWANELLA PRADESHIYA SABHA

Quotations are invited for purchase of equipment for the Fire Brigade Unit of the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha.

1. Fireman Suits/Kits
2. Protective Helmets for Fire-Fighting
3. Protective Gloves for Fire-Fighting
4. Protective Boots for Fire Fighting
5. Protective Face Masks
6. Oxygen Sets

Your quotations for the above equipment should be sent to the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha by Registered Post or could be hand delivered to the Tender Box kept in the Sabha to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 11.03.2021. Tenders will be opened at 10.30 a.m. at the Office of the Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha.

Tender Forms with conditions for submitting quotations could be obtained by post or may be collected. Further details could be obtained by calling on the Telephone Numbers mentioned below.

0352246275, 0702112969

**Chairman**  
Pradeshiya Sabha  
Mawanella

### Land Redemption Notices

### THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)

### REVOCATION ORDER UNDER SECTION 39(1)

The land specified morefully in the order No. 193 of 2018 dated 20.06.2018 made under the proviso (a) Section 38 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2084/06 dated 14.08.2018 was vested in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. But possession of the land has not yet been taken for and on behalf of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, therefore, I, Samarakoon Mudiyansele Chandrasena, Minister of Lands and Land Development, by virtue of powers vested in me under Section 39(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, do hereby revoke the Order No. 193 of 2018 dated 20.06.2018 published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2084/06 dated 14.08.2018.

**S.M. Chandrasena**  
Minister of Lands and Land Development

**Mt Ref No.: 4-3/15/2017/VE/469**  
Divisional Secretary's No.: MUL/LND/2/ACQ/95

Ministry of Lands and Land Development  
"Mihikatha Medura"  
Rajamalwatta Road  
Battaramulla.  
12th March 2020

#### SCHEDULE

An allotment of land depicted in below extents and names, in the Advance Tracing No. MR/MLT/2017/626 dated 27.12.2017 prepared by the Surveyor General, situated in the village called Diddenipotha (F.V.P 130) of Kandabada Paththuwa Minor Division in Divisional Secretary's Division of Mulatiyana in Matara District of Southern Province and bounded as follows:

- 01. Lot 'A' - Etakehelwarawa - Extent: About 0.9309 Hectare**
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>North :</b> | Dried canal and Etakehelwarawa claimed by the Land Reform Commission            |
| <b>East :</b>  | Etakehelwarawa claimed by the Land Reform Commission, Dried canal and Road (PS) |
| <b>South :</b> | Dried canal Road (PS) and Etakehelwarawa claimed by the Land Reform Commission  |
| <b>West :</b>  | Etakehelwarawa claimed by the Land Reform Commission and dried canal            |



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

## CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

### SUPPLY OF SAFETY ITEMS FOR AVIATION FUNCTION KATUNAYAKE

B/16/2021

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will receive sealed Bids from reputed Suppliers for the supply of following safety items.

- |    |     |      |  |
|----|-----|------|--|
| 1. | 200 | Nos. | Nitrile Gloves (Five Fingers ELB length) |
| 2. | 500 | Nos. | Workshop Gloves                          |
| 3. | 400 | Nos. | Dotted Cotton Gloves                     |
| 4. | 25  | Nos. | Safety Goggles                           |
| 5. | 200 | Nos. | Reflective Vest                          |
| 6. | 25  | Nos. | Half Mask Respirators                    |
| 7. | 200 | Nos. | Activated Carbon Absorber Mask           |
| 8. | 200 | Nos. | Safety Protective Spectacles             |

Bidding documents can be obtained between **0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. up to 09.03.2021** from the office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09, on a written request and on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rs. 925.93+ VAT).

Bids will be closed at **1400 hrs. on 10.03.2021** and opened at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), immediately after closing time of Bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of Bids.

Bids may be sent by post under registered cover or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores) at the above address.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the undermentioned Telephone/Fax numbers.

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, bidders can download the bidding documents from CPC website, i.e - [www.ceypetco.gov.lk](http://www.ceypetco.gov.lk) and all the payment can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office). Please submit the original of the bank receipt along with the bid.*

**Chairman,**  
Departmental Procurement Committee,  
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,  
01st Floor,  
No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mwt., Colombo 09.  
Tele 5455330  
Fax 5455424

### For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please  
Contact

MANAGER  
FRONT OFFICE

Hotline  
1949





# Classifieds



**Automotive**  
107  
Toyota Cars  
For sale

**CP-CAX-6579, DAA-NKE165-Axio Car - 2017** - white for highest offer. CBC Finance Ltd. 187, Katugastota Rd. Kandy. TP - 0812-200272. 012561



**Business**  
201  
Business Opportunities

**Need Directors/** partners for business/company. Monthly payment is 10%-20%. You can get it daily/weekly/monthly. 0775590415. 012678



**Positions Vacant**  
Hotel & Bakery

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

**Urgent requirement** for the following categories of Hawaii Restaurant. Basic salary (per month). \* 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. 011861



**Real Estate**  
602  
Luxury Apartments/Houses/Condominiums  
To Let / Lease

**Renting apartment** - Colombo-6. Sea view/pool & gym. 3 bedroom A/C room, fully furnished complete kitchen items TV with cable connections, hot water, bathrooms, washing machine, fridge are included. Easy access to Marine Drive and Galle Road. Can provide minimum 3 months. Please call for a rent amount. Shiva Shegar 0771434343. WhatsApp/imo/botim available. 012536



**Philatelic & Coins**  
524

**Monthly stamp** and old coin and bank notes sales fair conducted by the Sri Lanka Independence Philatelic Association will be held on 19,20, 21 February at the Public Library premises Colombo 07. 0779785111 Jagath. 010741

**Repeat Your ad For Better Offers**

## Department of Local Government - Eastern Province

### Notice of summoning the meeting under the Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act No. 22 of 2012

By virtue of powers vested in me under Section 66 (G) of Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act as amended by Act No. 22 of 2012, I, Nagarasa Manivannan, the Commissioner of Local Government of Eastern Province do hereby summon the Meeting to be held in the following date to fill the vacancies for the post of Vice Chairman of Thambalagam Pradeshiya Sabha in the Trincomalee District and Chairman of Manmunai Pradeshiya Sabha of Batticaloa District in the Eastern Province. Furthermore, the notice for these scheduled meetings has been published in the Gazette notification (Extraordinary) No. 2215/11 of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 16.02.2021.

Name of the Local Authority	Date and Time of summoning the Meeting	Place of the Meeting
Thambalagam Pradeshiya Sabha	25.02.2021 at 10.00 a.m.	Council Hall, Thambalagam Pradeshiya Sabha
Manmunai Pradeshiya Sabha	01.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.	Council Hall, Manmunai Pradeshiya Sabha

**N. Manivannan**  
Commissioner of Local Government,  
Department of Local Government  
Eastern Province.

## Balangoda Plantations PLC Dolomite Project for Lease

A Dolomite mine with an area of 1.43 hectares, which is used to produce fertilizer, is available for lease. Machinery and packaging equipment will also be available as a part of the lease agreement. The mine is located in Marathna Balangoda and is currently operated by Balangoda Plantations PLC.

For more information or to arrange a meeting and inspection of the mine please contact - The Superintendent of Balangoda plantations PLC on 077 7 539 213 or 045 5 622 570.

Balangoda plantations PLC intendeds to lease the project for a minimum of 5 years and we are calling for proposals, along with an agreement and payment for a period of one year.

Please enclose all necessary documents with your name, address and contact details to the address given below.

**The General Manager – Finance and administration**  
**Balangoda Plantations PLC**  
**P.O. Box 06, Palm Garden,**  
**Ratnapura.**  
**Tele : 077 2 663 911**

# Employment Opportunities



## Institute of Indigenous Medicine University of Colombo

### VACANCIES

The Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo will entertain applications from suitably Sri Lankan qualified candidates for the following posts up to 15th March 2021.

- 1. Post of Technical Officer (ICT) Grade III (02 vacant posts)**  
**Qualifications**  
i. Should have passed in three (3) subjects at the G.C.E. (A/L) Examination in one sitting in any stream.  
**AND**  
ii. Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than the N.V.Q. Level 5 issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or recognized Institution in the field of Information Communication and Multimedia Technology/ Information and Communication Technology/Information Technology or Equivalent.  
*Preference will be given to those who have work experience in ICT*
- 2. Post of Technical Officer (Audio Visual) Grade III (01 vacant post)**  
**Qualifications**  
i. Should have passed 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 Electronic and Telecommunication / Electronics/ Multimedia or Audio Visual Techniques from an Institution recognized by the 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 the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission with one year experience in Audio Visual work in reputed Organization.  
**> Selection Method :** By Writing and /or Practical test and interview  
**> Salary Scale :** Rs. 31,625-7x300; 10x355-37,275 p.m. U-MT 1 (IIIA) as at 01.01.2020  
**> Age Limit :** Age should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years  
In addition to the above salary, cost of living allowance and other approved allowances will be paid.  
**Other benefits:**  
**> University Provident Fund:** Contribution by the employer an amount equivalent to 7% of the monthly basic salary to the Universities Provident Fund. Contribution by the employee an amount equivalent to 10% of the monthly basic salary to the Universities provident fund.  
**> University Pension Scheme:** Contribution by the employer an amount equivalent to 8% of the monthly basic salary to the Universities Pension Scheme.  
**> Employees Trust Fund:** Contribution by the employer an amount equivalent to 3% of the monthly basic salary to the Employees Trust Fund.  
**Important:**  
**> Applicants from Higher Educational Institutions/ Government Departments/ Corporations and Statutory Boards** should forward their applications through the Heads of the respective Institutions.  
**> Copies of relevant qualifications** should be attached with the application. Applications received after the closing date, applications not submitted in prescribed format and incomplete applications will be rejected without intimation.  
**> Applications can be downloaded** from the Institutional website, [www.iim.cmb.ac.lk](http://www.iim.cmb.ac.lk)  
**> Duly completed applications** should be forwarded to by registered post to the Assistant Registrar/ Establishments, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Rajagiriya and email ([recruit@iim.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:recruit@iim.cmb.ac.lk)) soft copy of the applications (PDF & WORD) to reach on or before 15.03.2021.  
**> The post should be indicated** on the top left- hand corner of the envelope.  
**Director**  
**Institute of Indigenous Medicine**  
**University of Colombo**  
**Rajagiriya**  
**15.02.2021**



## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL) will receive sealed Bids for the following subject work.

Description of Work	Non Refundable Bidding Document Fee (Per Set) Rs.	Eligibility CIDA Registration required (Specialty & Grade)	Estimate Rs. Million	Bidding Documents could be obtained	Bid Validity Period	Bid Opening Date & Time	Refundable Bid Security
Repairs to Platforms of Dolphin Tanker Berth at Colombo Port Bid No : KPR/09/2021	Rs. 2,000.00	Heavy Steel Fabrications EM 4 or above	5.2	0900 to 1400 hrs up to 03.03.2021	20.05.2021	On 04.03.2021 at 1400 hrs	Rs. 52,000.00 & valid up to 17.06.2021

Interested parties may refer the Bidding Document (*only for viewing purpose*) and obtain necessary information through the Website : [www.cpstl.lk](http://www.cpstl.lk)

The Bidders who are eligible to quote the tender, could obtain the original Bidding Documents (full set) on submission of a written request (*the request letter shall be on the company letterhead and signed by an authorized person*) via an email to [procure@cpstl.lk](mailto:procure@cpstl.lk) during working days as stated above. Considering Bidder's request Manager Procurement, CPSTL may issue the consent via email for depositing the non-refundable Bidding Document fee as stated above, if appropriate.

On receipt of non-refundable Bidding Document fee to CPSTL account, bidding documents (full set) will be issued by Procurement Function via email.

Bids shall be submitted on the Bidding Document obtainable from Procurement Function and duly filled Bidding Documents may be sent by post/courier under registered cover or sealed cover to reach the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Manager Procurement, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Procurement Function, 01st Floor, New Building, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya or could be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the main entrance of CPSTL, on or before as stated above.

In case, the Bidders are unable to submit the original Bids as above, they could submit the scanned copy of the duly filled Bidding Documents in PDF format via email to [tenders@cpstl.lk](mailto:tenders@cpstl.lk) to reach on or before as stated above, at their own discretion. However, the original Bid Document shall be securely kept to be submitted to the Manager Procurement when requested.

Bids will be closed as stated above and will be opened immediately thereafter at the Office of Manager (Procurement). Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, the authorized representatives of the Bidders may be allowed to participate / witness the tender opening procedure via video conferencing method.

All Bids shall be valid and accompanied by Bid Security as stated above.

Any of the party who wishes to submit a bid, shall register himself at the Department of Registrar of Companies [www.drc.gov.lk](http://www.drc.gov.lk) (e-ROC) as per the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every public contract value exceeding Sri Lankan Rupees **Five Million** (LKR 5,000,000.00).

Any clarification shall be sought from the Manager (Procurement) on Telephone Nos. 011-2572156 / 5663121.

**The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Minor),**  
**C/o Manager Procurement,**  
**Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited,**  
**Procurement Function, New Building,**  
**Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya.**

**Telephone :** + 94 11 2572156, + 94 11 5663121  
**Fax :** + 94 11 2572155  
**E-mail :** [procure@cpstl.lk](mailto:procure@cpstl.lk)

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