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Wide ranging mandate for Easter Probe Committee

The six-member Committee appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to study the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into Easter Sunday attacks has been entrusted with a wide ranging mandate, the President's Office stated yesterday.

Identifying the overall process including the measures that need to be

taken by various agencies and authorities such as the Parliament, Judiciary, Attorney General's Department, Security Forces, State Intelligence services and implementing recommendations as stipulated by the PCoI to avert the recurrence of a national catastrophe of such magnitude is the prime responsibility of this Committee. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

D R Wijewardene 135th Birth Anniversary

The 135th birth anniversary of Lake House founder D.R. Wijewardene falls today.

Wijewardene, born on February 23, 1886, was a towering figure in the local Independence Movement who campaigned against colonialism through his newspapers published in all three languages. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



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GRAND WELCOME TO PAKISTANI PM

TWO-DAY STATE VISIT BEGINS TODAY

BILATERAL TALKS WITH PRESIDENT, PM

BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT FORUM A HIGHLIGHT

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

All arrangements are in place to welcome Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) today (23). Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga observed the rehearsals held yesterday at the BIA.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan will be in Sri Lanka on a two-day official visit on the invitation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa today and tomorrow (23, 24). This will be his first visit to Sri Lanka after assuming office, although he has visited Sri Lanka many times as a member and later Captain of the Pakistan cricket team.

The Pakistani Prime Minister's programme includes meetings with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.



The Prime Minister will also lead the delegation-level talks, covering all areas of cooperation between the two countries including trade and investment, health and education, agriculture, science and technology, defence and security and culture, aviation and tourism. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



The road leading to the BIA from Colombo decorated with National Flags of Sri Lanka and Pakistan to welcome visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Picture by Wimal Karunatilake

Scouts to plant 100,000 trees



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa launches the National Scouts Movement's project to plant 100,000 trees, at the President's House premises in Colombo yesterday. Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scout Association Major Gen. Milinda Peiris was also present. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

The project by the National Scouts Movement to plant 100,000 trees was inaugurated yesterday under the patron-

age of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the President's House in Colombo. The project has been implemented to mark the

164th Birth Anniversary of Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the Scouts Movement. Chief Commissioner of

Sri Lanka Scout Association Maj. Gen. Milinda Peiris welcomed President Rajapaksa by adorning him with the scout's scarf. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

Pakistani PM's visit to bolster economic cooperation

- SAARC Chamber President

President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Monday said the maiden official visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Sri Lanka will further cement bilateral ties with a special focus on gearing up trade and strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



No need to panic about COVID-19 variants - SLMA

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) says that there is no need to panic about the new variants of the COVID-19 virus circulating at present since the AstraZeneca COVISHIELD vaccine used in Sri Lanka, adequately covers the new variants.

Issuing a media release yesterday, SLMA Chairman Dr. Padma Gunaratne said that vaccination is the only weapon currently available to bring the pandemic including infection with new variants under control. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



'Tamil National Assembly' to be formed

RASULA DILHARA, North Special Corr.

An organization called the "Tamil National Assembly" consisting of Tamil political parties, religious leaders and intellectuals is to be formed on Friday (26) with the aim of promoting and protecting the rights of the Tamil people. EPRLF leader Suresh Premachandran told the media yesterday that the new organization will be formed in Vavuniya on Friday and it will bring all Tamil political parties working for the Tamil people under one roof in addition to religious leaders and intellectuals. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



Police seize gloves with religious images

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

The Police have seized over 300 gloves with the images of Buddha, Jesus Christ and Mother Mary on

Sunday. The Poojapitiya Police has arrested three suspects in connection with the gloves which were to be sold in the retail market. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

New Police Unit to safeguard environment

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

A special new unit with powers to initiate immediate action on information received from the public on specific acts of environmental destruction, including deforestation has been added to the Police Environmental Unit on the instructions of the President.

Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera has been appointed to oversee its operations. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

Writ petition filed calling to protect Myan Kumara

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

A writ petition has been filed in the Court of Appeal seeking an order directing the authorities to release the elephant named "Myan Kumara" to the Udawalawe Elephant Transfer Home from the Bellanwila Temple, until he is released back to the wild.

The petitioner stated that the baby elephant Myan Kumara (Myan

Prince) was donated to the Bellanwila Temple by the Myanmar Government in 2013.

This petition had been filed by Attorney-at-law Nagananda Kodituwakku naming Director General of Wildlife Conservation Department, the IGP and the Chief Incumbent of the Bellanwila Temple as respondents. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

Cardinal-Catholic MPs meeting postponed

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith said that he will not accept the committee appointed to study the report of the Presidential Commission on the Easter Attacks and that he is waiting for a copy of the report issued by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



GCE O/Level results in June

The results of the GCE Ordinary Level Examination scheduled to be held from March 1 to 10 will be released in June, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said yesterday.

Addressing the media in Colombo, the minister said two special centres have been established in each district for COVID -19 infected candidates. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

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The author of *Miracles of Our Lady* Catholic magazine, Antony Fernando presented the first copy of this Catholic magazine to the Archbishop of Colombo His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith at Archbishop's House in Colombo 8 recently.



Cuban Ambassador Juana Elena Ramos Rodriguez called on Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena at the Foreign Ministry on Thursday. The two parties discussed at length on maintaining the friendly relations and the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Economy strong despite global COVID-19 fallout - State Minister



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has been able to alleviate the living conditions of the people in this country without passing on the burden of the global economic recession following the COVID-19 epidemic, said State Minister of Mahaweli Zone Canals and

Settlement Infrastructure Development Siripala Gamalath.

The State Minister points out that the country has been faced many obstacles in obtaining foreign exchange following the Easter Sunday bomb attacks and the COVID-19 epidemic. In spite of such circumstances, the Government has taken measures to continue the country's development and infrastructure development.

State Minister Gamalath was addressing the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Medirigiriya Electoral Committee meeting held at the Diyasenpura Weekly Fairground recently.

All the party branch office bearers and party activists participated in the Electoral Committee that was held under the patronage of State Minister Gamalath. Addressing the Committee Meeting, the State Minister said that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Government have been working to make the people's aspirations a reality. He also said the benefits of such a programme will be passed on to the people in the near future.

"Even though, the global economy has suffered a severe setback following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the President and the Government have handled the situation in an admirable manner to lessen the economic burden on the people.

"In addition, measures have been taken to uplift the living conditions of the people by managing the country's economy. The Government's commitment to develop the village should be admired. The President has been taking action to find immediate solutions to the peoples' problems through his 'Dialogue with the Village' (Gama Samaga Pilisandara) programme," he said.

Gamalath said that certain factions are attempting to block the Government's development plans in the country by disseminating false information and requested the people not to fall prey to these gimmicks.

The State Minister said that a number of programmes will be implemented in 53 Grama Seva Divisions in the Medirigiriya and Lankapura Divisional Secretariat Divisions. Several roads in the Polonnaruwa district will also be rehabilitated under the 100,000 kilometre road rehabilitation programme.

The Chief Incumbents of temples in the area, Trincomalee District MP Kapila Athukorala, Medirigiriya Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Shantha Kumara Wickramarachchi, Elehara Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Janaka Nalin Kumara, Pradeshiya Sabha and SLPP members of the Medirigiriya Electorate participated.

25 Police Sergeants file FR petition

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Twenty five Police Sergeant drivers who discharged duties at different Police Stations around the country have filed a Fundamental Rights petition in Supreme Court directing the National Police Commission to promote the Petitioners to the rank of Sub Inspector of Police Transport.

This petition had been filed through counsel Darshana Kuruppu naming IGP, Defence Ministry Secretary, National Police Commission Chairman and its members as respondents.

The petitioners are also seeking a declaration that inaction on the part of the respondents in failing to grant a promotion have resulted in the infringement of the petitioners fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 12(1) of the Constitution.

The petitioners state that Police Security Assistant Officers who were of a rank below the petitioners have absorbed to the rank of Police Constable in 2018 and now are also a part of the Police Regular Service.

The petitioners state that said absorption over the years will result in the petitioners being overlooked in granting of promotions, even if they belong to the Police Regular Service from inception.

The Petitioners further state that their promotional avenues are limited to the post of Chief Inspector of Police. They further said that in contrast the Police Security Assistant Officers, who were subsequently absorbed to the rank of Police Constable, were also awarded with the ability to rise among the ranks even up to the rank of IGP since they became entitled to all the promotions of a Police Constable. The Petitioners state that these acts of discouragement have frustrated the petitioners leading to severe job dissatisfaction as they also have a legitimate expectation to obtain timely promotions during their tenure of service.

Two Boossa prison guards suspended

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Corr.

Two prison guards who worked as store keepers at the Boossa Prison have been suspended by the Prisons Department, sources revealed.

The two guards have been suspended on charges of embezzling Government funds in liaison with a former Prisons Superintendent. Further investigations are being conducted by the Prisons Department.



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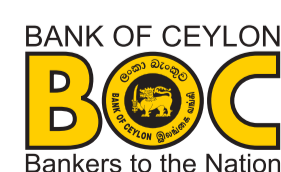
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Pothuarawa residents protest alternative route for Rajagiriya – Athurugiriya Highway

‘Plan would force resettlement of 1,010 families’



SUDATH KEERTHI and MAHANAMA VITHANAGE

A group of residents from Pothuarawa in Malabe staged a silent protest in front of the Central Environment Authority yesterday, urging them to construct the elevated highway from Rajagiriya to Athurugiriya through the proposed route instead of making last-minute changes.

Pothuarawa residents said they had received information suggesting that a group of influential people were trying to force the authorities to change the proposed route and seek an alternative route over Pothuarawa, which could

displace a large number of families who have lived here for decades.

Letters were handed over to the Secretary of the Road Development Authority, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, and the Project Director of the Elevated Highway Project, requesting not to change the proposed route, which goes over the Akuregoda paddy fields.

“We are not against the construction of the highway as we know the importance of the minimisation of traffic flow. However, the authorities must concentrate on minimising its social impact as well.

People who would be affected by the alternative route have been living here for ages; where are we supposed to go if we lose our lands?” Kamal Nanayakkara, a Pothuarawa resident and Chairman of the ‘Surakimu Pothuarawa Sanvidanaya’ said.

The four-lane elevated highway, which would be 17.3 km in length and would stretch from Orugodawatte to Athurugiriya, was proposed in

2015 and is to be constructed under two phases. Phase One was planned from Orugodawatte to Rajagiriya, while Phase Two was planned from Rajagiriya to Athurugiriya.

Phase Two, which covers 10.4km, if constructed via the alternative route, would require the resettlement of 1,010 families and the demolishing of around 34 shops, 42 shop-houses, and 42 self-employed businesses. The

government would have to acquire 750 land lots to build the elevated highway, and this would leave 106 structures partially affected and 634 fully affected.

Meanwhile, the authorities stated that construction of the elevated highway over the initially proposed route (the Akuregoda paddy fields) would not cause any adverse environmental impact or property damage.



Protesters opposite the Central Environment Authority building. Pictures by Roshan Pitipana and A.S.M. Irshad, Colombo Corr.

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Don't jump the vaccine queue – Health DDG

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE

Deputy Director-General of Health Services Dr. Hemantha Herath said yesterday that there was information suggesting that certain people were trying to get the COVID-19 vaccine by coercing health officials.

He said that everyone should be patient until they get their chance, adding that there was a situation where certain individuals had applied for the vaccine using various identities and posts outside the plan.

Dr. Herath said that people with chronic illnesses must inform officials about their conditions before receiving the vaccine. If there is a problem, there is an opportunity to meet the provincial health officer and take further action, he said.

The Deputy Director-General urged the people to take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 even after getting the vaccine.

Nearly 130 anti-narcotics raids conducted yesterday

DILSHAN THARAKA

Nearly 130 anti-narcotics raids were carried out yesterday, Police Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said.

During the raids, a 32-year-old man was arrested with 200 grams of heroin in the Waduwa area. The suspect is a resident of Pinwatta.

Meanwhile, three more suspects were arrested with 10.5grams of heroin and 2kg of cannabis from the Modara and Mattakkuliya areas.

A special operation launched in Minuwangoda yesterday saw the arrests of 15 persons. Charges included the possession of illegal liquor, narcotics, and firearms.

Majority of rural residents have no access to potable drinking water: Vasudeva

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,

Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

The majority of rural residents have no access to potable drinking water and often fall prey to kidney disease, Water Supply Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara said. He was speaking at a recent public meeting following the opening of five Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Horowpothana, Galenbindunuwewa, and Kebithigollewa.

The minister said that around 20,000 persons were currently suffering from kidney ailments in the North-Central Province alone. He added that the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWDSB) recently launched a project to address the issue.

Minister Nanayakkara said that at present, there are around 2,500 cases of chronic kidney disease in the Horowpothana, Galenbindunuwewa, and Kebithigollewa divisional secretariat divisions.

He added that the RO plants, which have been set up at a cost of Rs.10 million, would provide drinking water to 1,250 low-income families in those areas.

Around 300 villages in the North-Central Province lack proper drinking water, Nanayakkara said, adding that the NWDSB has plans to set up another 340 RO plants in those villages at a cost of Rs.680 million. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) would fund the projects, he said.

Launch of ‘Foundation to Combined Mathematics’ book

The launch of the book ‘Foundation to Combined Mathematics’ for G.C.E. Advanced Level students, written by a veteran Mathematics teacher Ravindra Withanage, will be held today at the National Library and Documentation Services Board Auditorium on Nidahas Mawatha, Colombo 07.

Veteran scholar Dr. W.A. Abeysinghe will be the chief guest on the occasion and veteran Mathematics teacher G.C. Dayaratne will deliver the keynote speech.

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REQUIEM MASS FOR THE SOUL OF LATE. MAURICE DE SILVA



A Memorial service will be held to pray for the repose of the soul of Maurice de Silva - Died 28th January 2021

At St. Mary's Church, (Lauries Road), Bambalapitiya,

ON THURSDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2021 at 6.00 p.m.

70A, Lauries Road, Colombo 00400.

Grand welcome to... From page 01

Besides bilateral matters, views will be exchanged on key regional and international issues.

Several other high-level engagements are also planned, including a Business and Investment Forum, as well as a sports diplomacy initiative. Both Sri Lanka and Pakistan Prime Ministers will together preside over an event to sign several mutually beneficial bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) following their official talks at Temple Trees.

Prime Minister Imran Khan

during his maiden official visit this year outside the country will be accompanied by a high-powered business and investment delegation that will comprise business leaders in Pakistan, mainly from the sectors of textile and apparel, pharmaceuticals, agro-food commodities, sports goods, gems and jewellery, auto parts, ICT, construction material and surgical equipment.

Prime Minister Imran Khan will be accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi,

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, Secretary Foreign Affairs Sohail Mehmood and senior officials of the Pakistan Government.

During the visit, the reconstitution of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association will also be announced to further promote Parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

Pakistan and Sri Lanka have maintained close, cordial and mutually supportive relations since 1948. The two countries

share a commonality of views on a wide range of international and regional issues. Both sides also work closely at the international and regional fora including the United Nations and SAARC.

The Pakistani Prime Minister's visit would help further strengthen the Pakistan-Sri Lanka relationship and enhance mutual cooperation in diverse fields. He is the first Head of State to visit Sri Lanka in 2021. All health precautions have been taken in view of the visit.

New Police Unit... From page 01

Minister Weerasekara said that while accepting the task entrusted to him by the President, he would ensure great progress in the protection of the environment.

He urged the public to be part of protecting the environment and requested them to provide information regarding any acts of environmental destruction to the

new hotline. He said those who provide valuable information would also be rewarded in the future.

The new unit has been given special vehicles and with the Special Task Force a special team has been formed which will conduct raids as soon as information is received regarding destruction to the environment.

The Minister said that a special hotline 1997 has been set up to receive information from the public pertaining to environmental

issues. He said the laws had been strengthened to punish those who destroy the environment. "Destroying the environment means destroying the country and depriving our future generations. Therefore, the President has handed this task over to me after much consideration and has advised me. As Public Security Minister I will carry out the responsibility entrusted to me to the letter and I anticipate public assistance in this endeavour."

Scouts to plant... From page 01

The official inauguration took place with the planting of a Red Sandalwood sapling by President Rajapaksa. Later the plant was registered via mobile phone.

More than 70,000 scouts across the

country are expected to participate and achieve the 100,000 target by planting two plants each in their home garden. Every tree thus planted will have to be registered in the 'Thuru' Mobile application under Sri

Lanka Scout Association. Continuous assessment will be done to ensure that plants are well looked after.

Members of the Sri Lanka Scout Association participated on this occasion.

Wide ranging mandate... From page 01

These recommendations cannot be successfully implemented by any entity single handedly.

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday attacks was appointed in 2019 by the previous Government.

The Government in power is of the view that the Easter Sunday attacks had a devastating impact on the national security and stability, the economy, religious harmony and the social fabric of the country. The background to these events also opens the door to external interference that is detrimental to the country's sovereignty and stability. In order to ensure peace and security as well as economic prosperity within the territory of the State of Sri Lanka, all avenues leading to recurrence of such extremist violence must entirely be

closed. This requires a complete cessation of religious extremism and associated terrorist violence, hate speech aiming different ethnic communities and foreign funding for such groups.

The PCoI has identified what each state institution and authority should do and the level of priority to be given to each task to achieve these broad objectives. If the existing administrative machinery is not adequate to follow the recommended course of action, necessary amendments need to be made in the administrative mechanism. The responsibility entrusted with the Parliamentary Committee appointed by the President is to study in depth the content of the Report of the PCoI on Easter Sunday attacks and to report on how action should be taken to prevent

such a tragedy from happening again and to ensure the long lasting peace, security and stability in Sri Lanka.

Prosecution and trial of the accused as per the recommendations of the PCoI on Easter Sunday attacks will take place in accordance with the standard judicial procedures. The Parliamentary Committee is not expected to intervene in this process. Adding recommendations to the Commission of Inquiry Report is also not within the scope of the Committee. However, certain groups with vested interests are trying to socialize misconceptions about the role of the Parliamentary Committee.

The six-member Committee was selected considering factors such as their political maturity, experience and high level of knowledge in various fields, the President's office said.

Pakistani PM's visit... From page 01

In a press statement, Malik said it was a good omen for the private sectors of both countries that PM Imran Khan will also participate in a joint 'Trade and Investment Conference' aimed at promoting trade and investment between the two countries followed by a number of MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation. Itikhar Ali Malik who remained actively associated with SAARC Chamber for the last three decades having deep insight said the visit was poised to help further strengthen the relationship and enhance mutual cooperation in diverse fields. He said that the current trade between both countries was not entirely encouraging, but both countries have markets for each other's primary products.

SAARC Chamber Chief observed that Pakistan was an important market for tea products, which also happens to be a top Sri Lankan export item, and Pakistan is also a significant importer of copra and rubber. Both items are important Sri Lankan exports.

Similarly, Sri Lanka was an important market for textile products, machinery, and pharmaceuticals along with other products that Pakistan records significant exports.

He said there is a huge trade potential between both countries if the FTA is utilised properly. Itikhar said that Pak companies have invested significantly in agriculture, information technology and construction sectors of Sri Lanka while its construction industry was growing rapidly creating huge demand for Pakistani cement. The Pak private sector can also capture the sugar export market in Sri Lanka which imports its 90% sugar requirements. He said what both countries needed was to diversify their products through research, innovation and value addition adjusting according to the demands of each other's markets. Itikhar reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to SAARC and expressed the hope that the process of regional coordination would be allowed to move forward. (APP)

D R Wijewardene

135th Birth... From page 01

Before his death in June 1950, he had established an array of daily and weekly newspapers in all three languages, including the Dinamina and the Daily News, both of which are now more than 100 years old. In 1929, he moved all newspaper operations to the present Lake House building, now recognised as a historic and architectural landmark in Colombo on the banks of the Beira Lake.

Wijewardene hired the best editors, journalists and photographers of the day to boldly tell the truth to readers and also invested in the latest machinery at the time to print high quality newspapers. His life was dedicated to uplift of Lake House, which he moulded into becoming the country's biggest publishing group. He was the undisputed doyen of the newspaper industry in Sri Lanka, whose legacy is still alive in the ANCL and beyond.

'Tamil National... From page 01

He was speaking after a preliminary discussion in Jaffna to establish the organization.

Representatives of 10 Tamil political parties were present at the discussion but representatives of the Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) led by Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam did not attend.

Former Member of Parliament Suresh Premachandran said that the organisation aims to protect and promote the rights of the Tamil people and that the first meeting of the new organisation will be held in Jaffna on the February 28 after the establishment of the organization on February 26.

GCE O/Level... From page 01

He said in the Colombo District authorities are considering having more than two centres for COVID-19 positive candidates.

The Minister said Principals and Public Health Officers in consultation with MOH officials have launched a comprehensive programme to ensure that the health requirements of these children are met.

The total number of candidates sitting for the exam is 622,305. There are 4,513 Examination Centres and 542 Coordinating Centres.

Minister Prof. Peiris said examination admission papers have been posted and private applicants who have not received their admissions can download it from the web.

He said for the first time, provision for correcting details related to the name, subject or examination medium through the web has been allowed.

The Minister said education authorities hope to commence A/L classes in July.

Writ petition filed... From page 01

The petitioner said the elephant calf is chained tightly to a tree and a video has recently surfaced of him being beaten by his mahout in a cruel manner.

The petitioner said that the second respondent IGP has failed to perform his duties over a complaint urging to take necessary legal action under Sections 2 and 3 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance.

The petitioner stated that in or around January, 2020, the Government of Myanmar had appealed to Sri Lanka to notify those concerned to stop the abuse of this elephant.

The Myanmar Embassy in Colombo also asked the Sri Lanka authorities to punish those who harm the elephant as seen in videos uploaded in the social media, the petitioner further added. This petition is to be taken up for support on March 8.

Police seize... From page 01

According to the Police the suspects were arrested on the basis that they were engaged in an act which could hurt the sentiments of religious communities.

The suspects are to be produced before the Galagedara Magistrate's Court. Poojapitiya Police are investigating.

Cardinal-Catholic MPs... From page 01

The Cardinal has also refused to meet any Government or Opposition MP(s) until he receives a copy of the Presidential Commission report.

The Cardinal announced that he was not willing to meet any of the MPs after he was notified that Government and Opposition Catholic MPs were planning to meet Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith on March 2.

Accordingly, the Archbishop's Secretariat said the meeting between the Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith and the Catholic Members of Parliament scheduled to be held on March 2 had to be postponed.

Fr. Jude Chrysantha Fernando, Archdiocesan Director for Social Communications confirmed that the Archbishop is yet to receive any official communication from the Government regarding the report,

despite a written request to see it at the beginning of February.

However, he said that the Cardinal is still hopeful that the Government will not let them down and he would resort to seeking international intervention only as a last resort. He said that the Cardinal has no desire to let down the country or the Government and he is still hopeful that the Government will deliver on its promises.

Speaking to the Daily News Minister Nimal Lanza who was also planning on meeting the Cardinal along with other MPs said that he supports the Cardinal's stand, adding that the people affected have waited long enough for justice to be served.

He also welcomed Minister Chamal Rajapaksa's move to table the report in Parliament, adding that thereafter the report could be made public.

No need to panic... From page 01

She further said that the mode of spread of new variants is similar to the virus strain already prevalent in Sri Lanka and new variants may have the ability to be more infectious and therefore will spread more quickly among the community.

When more people are infected, more patients will develop symptoms and complications.

"The same public health measures currently recommended, namely, wearing face masks correctly and consistently, social distancing (more than 1 metre), avoiding crowded places and taking adequate sanitary measures (frequent hand washing) are equally effective in the prevention or transmission of new variants and should be practiced at all times. The alarming increase recently in the number of new cases is most probably due to ignoring these precautions," Dr. Gunaratne said.

Even the South African strain, not isolated in Sri Lanka so far, is known to be covered to a great extent by the vaccine. Therefore, when the vaccine is offered, it is best that all those eligible take the vaccine as it reduces the severity of the illness and prevents deaths. They may even reduce the transmission of the infection.

COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2, a newly identified virus.

Scientists are learning more about it each day. Although most people have mild symptoms, it can also cause severe illness and even death. Some groups, including the elderly and people who have certain underlying medical conditions are at increased risk of severe illness. As such, it is essential to take all possible public health measures to prevent transmission of this infection.

Natural mutations which change the properties of the virus are known to occur with all viruses, and these are described as variants. To date several new variants of the original virus have been identified in some countries, which have now spread to many countries. We must understand that there may be many more new variants appearing with time either within the country or brought in from outside. Some variants identified so far have originated in the UK, USA, Brazil and South Africa.

Since the first local COVID-19 case was identified in Sri Lanka in early March 2020, most of the virus types isolated in the country are from the old, previously identified type. In the recent past, a few viruses belonging to the UK variant have been identified from a few individuals around the country.

Heartfelt Condolences



Mr. A L M MOUJOOD

The Corporate Management and all Staff members of Bank of Ceylon express their deepest condolences

Upon the sudden demise of

Mr. A L M Moujood

at No. 5, Kovil Road, Nintavur

A beloved team member of Bank of Ceylon, (Olivil Branch)

Funeral was held on

Monday 22nd February 2021

at Nintavur Cemetery, Nintavur

May He Attain Jannatul Firdaus!



බැංකු සේවකයාගේ මරණයට ඉහත සේවකයාගේ

Misappropriation of public funds

Case against Manoranjan postponed for June 2

SUBHASHINI SENANAYAKE AND SHAVINI MADHARA

Colombo Fort Magistrate Priyantha Liyanage yesterday postponed for June 2 the inquiry into a case filed against former Industry and

Commerce Ministry Accountant Alagaratnam Manoranjan. Apart from Alagaratnam Manoranjan, Samsudeen Mohamed Yasim and former minister Rishad Bathiudeen were also arrested and remanded over the incident.

The suspects are currently out on bail. Bathiudeen, Samsudeen, and Manoranjan are accused of violating the Presidential Elections Act by misappropriating public funds to the tune of Rs.9.5 million.

They have been accused of misusing 222 SLTB buses for transporting Internally-Displaced Persons from Puttalam to polling stations in Silawathurai, Mannar, during the 2019 Presidential Election.



Ambassador Ravinatha Ariyasinha had a virtual discussion with US Department of Justice Chief of Staff and International Affairs Counselor Dan Stigall last Wednesday to follow up on the charges filed by the Los Angeles District Court against three Sri Lankan nationals for 'Conspiring to Provide Material Support to ISIS' in the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks. The three accused are currently in the custody of local law enforcement. The Ambassador called for closer monitoring of pro-LTTE organisations operating in the US as well.

Special unit to collar illegal tree-fellers

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Public Security Minister (Rtd.) Admiral Sarath Weerasekara has arranged for a new Special Task Force (STF) unit to arrest illegal tree-fellers. He urged the public to provide information on such illegal acts to the unit through the hotline 1997.

Colombo University Leo Club launches drinking water project

The Colombo University Leo Club recently launched their annual drinking water project titled 'One Drop 3.0' for the third consecutive year. The project aims to provide purified drinking water to the masses. They are currently in the

process of obtaining water for the Puttalam Vijayaraja Junior School and also plan to set up a water purification plant at a cost of Rs.80,000. Those who wish to donate to this cause can contact club member M.A.M. Gunatilleke on 0752464488.

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COVID-19 recoveries climb to 75,110

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
Sri Lanka's COVID-19 recovery numbers rose to 75,110, the Health Ministry Epidemiology Unit stated yesterday. The total number of coronavirus cases in the country has

climbed to 79,999 and 4,444 of them are still under medical care. Meanwhile, the country confirmed 10 more COVID-19 fatalities last Sunday, raising the death toll to 445.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Tuesday
Draw No: 1203 Colour: Light Blue
Date: 23.02.2021
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 110,799,965/-
Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 770
Result Hotline: 0112 333 770
Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

ලග්නා වාසනාව Lagna Wathura
Date: 21-02-2021
Draw Number: 3082
Colour: Purple
Super Jackpot
Rs. 2,000,000/-
The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.
Winning Numbers: 10, 12, 22, 54
Leo
TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 9,480,660/-
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 770
Result Hotline: 0112 333 770
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 925 825

ADA KOTIPATHI
Date: 21.02.2021
Draw No.: 1201
Colour: Green
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,038,260/-
Winning Numbers: 34, 35, 55, 71
English Letter: G
Winning tickets are valid only for six months
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 770
Result Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.99999.1.07.99999.55 & send to 9999
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

SUPER BALL
Draw Number: 1375 Colour: Red
Draw Date: 21.02.2021 Date: Sunday
Winning English Letter and Numbers
I 06 25 30 47
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,461,360/-
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 770
Result Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.99999.1.07.99999.55 & send to 9999
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

ශනිදා Shanida
Date: 21.02.2021 Draw No.: 3531
Colour: Pink
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,680,120/-
Winning Numbers: 20, 29, 49, 60
English Letter: D
Winning tickets are valid only for six months
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 770
Result Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.99999.1.07.99999.55 & send to 9999
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 825 825

English Letter & Winning Numbers
H 27 64 67 78
Draw No: 693 Colour: Yellow
Date: 21.02.2021 Sunday
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,265,500/-
Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 75,766,440/-
Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 0112 333 770
Result Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: 06.8.99999.1.07.99999.55 & send to 9999
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Gold articles kept as security for loans obtained from Singer Finance (Lanka) PLC and defaulted in payment as agreed, will be auctioned at Following dates at 10.00 am

Dates	Venue
16 th of March 2021	No 28 & 30, 2nd Cross street, Vauniya. No 63c 1/1, Colombo Road, Negombo. Victory Building, Chilaw Road, Wrennapuwa. No 179/1/1, Hettipola Road, Kuliyaipitiya. No 103, Negombo Rd, Giriulla. No 86, KKS Road, Jaffna. No 140B, Colombo Road, Kurunagala. No 311J, Ranwala junction, Kegalle.
17 th of March 2021	No 579, Galle Road, Wellawatte. No 14, Mangala Rd, Gampaha. No 348, Galle Road, Panadura. No 837 E, New Kandy Rd, Thalagama North, Malabe. No 173, Rathnapura Road, Horana. No 188, Piliyandala Rd, Maharagama. No. 546, Galle Road, Kaluthara South, Kaluthara. No. 498, R.A.De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03. No. 64, Makola Road, Kiribathgoda.
18 th of March 2021	No 01, Angarika Dharmapala Mw, Matara. No 131, Nuwaraeliya Road, Gampaha. No 115, /1, New town road, Embilipitiya. Muthukumarana building, low road, Tissamaharama. No 46/1/1, Colombo Road, Kaluwella, Galle. No. 80, Kandy Road, Nuwara Eliya. No.05, Maithripala Senanayaka Mw, Anuradhapura. No.328, Rejina Junction, Thambuttegama.

Singer Finance (Lanka) PLC reserves the right to revoke or postpone this auction without a prior notice

Senior Gold Loan Manager

SINGER FINANCE (LANKA) PLC

No: 498, R A De Mel Mawatha, Colombo 03.



INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS FOR DISPOSAL OF SCRAP ITEMS SLC/PRO/SER/2021/007

SriLankan Catering Limited hereby invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Disposal of below stated Scrap item categories.

1. Used machineries
2. Steel, Stainless steel scrap
3. Used printers and IT equipment's

Prospective bidders could obtain the bidding document from 24th February 2021 onwards by paying a non-refundable deposit of LKR 2,000 to SLC cashier. Bidders could inspect the items during the working days from 24th February 2021 to 03rd March 2021 from 09.00 am to 04.00 pm at SriLankan Catering Ltd. Bidders should Contact the below Stated contact person for inspection of items.

Sealed bids should be delivered to Chief Executive Officer, SriLankan Catering Limited on or before 11.00 a.m. on 04th March 2021

All the participants Should adhere to the precautionary measures and the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health related to COVID - 19

Prospective bidders could obtain further details from, Thilina Siriwardana- E-mail: thilina.siriwardana@sriLankancatering.com or + (94)19 733 4241 with reference to the bidding document.

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news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Welcome PM Imran Khan

Sri Lanka will today roll the Red Carpet for visiting Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, which will unfold another chapter in the strong bonds and friendship forged between the two countries over the decades. Pakistan had always been a great friend of this country in both fair and foul weather.

This was proved to the hilt during the separatist war where Pakistan was only one of the few countries which came to our assistance in both financial and military terms which went a long way in contributing to the ultimate military victory over the LTTE.

Of course the assistance came with no strings attached whether it was a civilian or military Government that ruled Pakistan, for which Sri Lanka owes a deep debt of gratitude. Pakistani military academies were also made readily available for military training of our Forces personnel with the latest techniques in warfare that made our men that much skilled and competent. Premier Khan of course would be very familiar with the ground situation having toured this country as Pakistan's cricket captain in 1986 when the war was at its zenith (prior to that he was a member of Pakistan teams to Sri Lanka in 1976 and 1979). Perhaps more than any other visiting leader, Imran Khan would be readily welcomed by cricket mad Sri Lankans for the lasting impression he made during his visits here as a fast bowler even though our own batsmen were at the receiving end of his thunderbolts, coupled with his flamboyant movie star appearance that left an indelible mark on Sri Lankans. Who among us can forget Pakistan's generous gesture in sending a group of its top cricketers here, who in combination with some of India's leading players featured in an exhibition game with Arjuna's boys when Australia and West Indies snubbed this country by boycotting their World Cup fixtures in Sri Lanka citing the war as an excuse. This stand in solidarity has been symbolic of Pakistan's relations with this country right throughout, which will be cemented by the visit of the Pakistani Premier.

Serious and important business is on the agenda for PM Khan's two-day visit. He is accompanied by a high-powered Pakistani business delegation, along with a ministerial entourage. Promotion of trade and investment is billed to receive top priority. He will hold talks with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with several high-level engagements also planned including a Business and Investment Forum. Both Prime Ministers will also preside over an event to sign several mutually beneficial bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) following official talks.

Discussions are also bound touch on the cultural ties between the two countries taking into account that Pakistan was also home to a rich Buddhist civilization centuries back, traces of which are still evident. PM Khan's visit assumes additional significance at a time when Sri Lanka is once again in the crosshairs of the United Nation's Human Rights Council (UNHRC) which is in the midst of its ritual targeting of this country for alleged human rights violations during the war. Pakistan has always voted against the past resolutions in this respect and there is no doubt it will do so again. Prime Minister Khan's visit at this stage will most likely influence Middle East countries to throw their weight behind Sri Lanka.

The Coronavirus pandemic too will come up for discussion. Pakistan is among the very few countries (Sri Lanka included) which had successfully managed the contagion while the virus continues to rage elsewhere, the ready availability of the vaccine notwithstanding. The prevailing health emergency though regrettably has prevented Premier Khan from addressing Sri Lanka's Parliament. He would have been only the second Pakistani Head of State to have done so after Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1975.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Sri Lanka also comes at a time when the geopolitical picture in the region is taking on a murky shade. Regional powers India and Pakistan had already fought three wars and almost resumed hostilities recently over a border spat. The Kashmir issue too is sticking out like a sore thumb between the two sides. Although Pakistan is a key player in the region it has so far, at least on the surface, not been drawn into the web of geopolitical intrigue, nor shown itself to be proxy player in the region though it has a healthy relationship with China. It is not clear if geopolitical matters would feature in the discussions during Khan's visit although the subject is bound to come up at some point in the natural course of things.

It is incumbent on the Government to derive all benefits and advantages it could out of this visit of the Pakistani Head of State covering all areas of trade, investment and other vital areas of the economy. After all Imran Khan is the first Head of State to arrive in the country following the election of the present Government and also the first foreign leader to come here in 2021, as Sri Lanka strives to recover from the pandemic.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

What I seek above all is justice for the people of Pakistan. - Imran Khan

Constitutional Protection of Environment:

The cherished Role of Our Judiciary

Part 3

Guest Column

Professor SARATH MATHILAL DE SILVA



Public officers are held to a standard of accountability whereby they are answerable and held accountable for their decisions and actions in the exercise of their powers. This principle of accountability is enshrined in legal documents with varying degrees of force in various part of the world, mostly in relation to the prevention of corruption in the public sector. The United Nations Convention Against Corruption 2003 is one such example. This principle however is also given prominent at regional and national levels.

The principle of accountability is often discussed relation to the related principles of integrity and transparency: these principles indicate the standard we need to hold our public officers to a public accountability rest on four fundamental foundations. (a) Appropriate representation (b) citizen participation (c) legitimate conduct (d) liability enforcement. In ensuring that the participation of the citizenry is effective in holding public officials accountable, the public trust doctrine is avidly instructive.

Accordingly the Public Trust Doctrine is based on the notion that powers held by the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary are powers that originate with the people that are entrusted to such organs for the purpose of exercising government and with the sole objective of exercising such powers in good faith for the benefit of the people.

At this stage - three well established aspects of constitutional law which relates to environmental and public law perspectives stated by Sarath N. Silva C.J., in *Vasudeva Nanayakkara v Choksy and Others* (SC FR No.209 / 2007) may be pertinent.

They are
1. That the Rule of Law is the basis of our Constitution as affirmatively laid down in the decision of this Court in *Visvalingam v Liyanage* (1983) 1 Sri LR 236 and *Premachandra v Jayawickrama* (1994) 2 Sri LR 9 and consistently followed in several subsequent decisions. The rule of law postulates the absolute supremacy or predominance of regular law as opposed to the influence of arbitrary power. It excludes the existence of arbitrariness of prerogative or wide discretionary authority on the part of the government. (vide. Law of the Constitution, A.V. Dicey, p 202).

2. That as firmly laid down in the Determination of the Divisional Bench of Seven Judges of the Supreme Court in regard to the constitutionality of the proposed 19th Amendment to the Constitution (2002) 3 Sri LR 85, the principle enunciated in Articles 3 and 4 of our Constitution is that the respective organs of government, the Legisla-

ture, the Executive and the Judiciary are reposed power as custodian for the time being to be exercised for the people. In *Bulankulama and Others v Secretary Ministry of Industrial Development* (2000) Sri LR 243, this Court observed that the resources of the State are the 'resources of the people' and the organs of the State are the 'the guardians to whom the public have committed the care and preservation of these resources' (at 253 p) and that there is a confident expectation (trust) that the executive will act in accordance with the law and accountably in the best interests of the people of Sri Lanka.' at 258p.

3. That there is a positive component in the right to equality guaranteed by Article 12(1) of the Constitution as decided in *Senerath v Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga* SC FR 503/ 2005 of 03.05.2007 and where the Executive being the custodian of the people's power acts *ultra vires* and in derogation of the law and procedures that are intended to safeguard the resources of the people, it is in the public interest to implead such action before Court'.

Remedies in Public Law

A citizen who is aggrieved by a decision of a public body or inaction of a public body has a variety of remedies available under public law. The administrative action and/ or inaction on the part of a judge of any court, tribunal of first instance or other institutions or any person having legal authority to determine questions affecting the rights of subjects having the duty to act judicially may be challenged by way of judicial review. (*R v Electricity Commissioner Ex p. London Electricity Joint Committee*) The jurisdiction of the Court for an application for judicial review is invoked by way of a writ application in terms of Articles 140 or in terms of Article 154P of the 1978 Constitution. In general most of such applications are made by public spirited individuals or bodies as the inaction or illegal action of State institutions affect sometimes large number of citizens or group of citizens living in a particular locality who may not have the means or the awareness to institute action. The English law principles applicable to writ applications in judicial review always permitted citizen action or *actiopopularis* which is based on the premise that the main aim of public law is to keep bodies within their powers. The presumption is that citizens generally should be enabled to vindicate the public interest without showing individual harm over and above that of the general community.

The principle governing class action in involving the jurisdiction of Court of Appeal is based on the principle *locus standi*. The public law remedies are different and distinct from ordinary litigation between two parties, whether one party is the State, where one party is seeking to establish a claim or a right against the other. Judicial review is an action whereby the Constitution grants the public the right to challenge a decision of a Court, tribunal or a public officer with a view to protect the statutory or constitutional rights of the public in the interest of good governance. Lord Donaldson M.R. observed in *R v Civil Service Board* that

..... Public law bodies and the State should be regarded as being in partnership in a common endeavour to maintain the highest standards in public administration, including, I would add, the administration of justice.....

In Sri Lanka, apart from an application for writ the executive or administrative action that is in violation of a fundamental right contained in Chapter III of the Constitution could be challenged in terms of Articles 17 read with Article 126 of the Constitution. Due to the excessive time taken to reach finality in a writ application, in average three to four years, in appropriate cases, there is a tendency to evoke the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court by way of a Fundamental Rights Application. Further in a fundamental rights application, the bases of challenge is infringement or imminent violation of a fundamental right recognized under Chapter III of the Constitution by executive or administrative action. Article 12 has been widely interpreted to include any arbitrary or irrational action by the executive would constitute a violation of Article 12 of the Constitution provided the petitioner is entitled to make an application in terms of Article 126(2) of the Constitution.

Article 12(1) of the Constitution, as per several decisions of the Supreme Court attracts almost all principles applicable to judicial review. (*Joseph Perera v Attorney General, M.A.K. Jayawardena v Dharamani Wijayathilake; Hemasiri Fernando v Mangala Samaraweera and Others; Gunaratne v Sri Lanka Telecom and Others*). Compared to the writ jurisdiction, this remedy is relatively new and was effectively introduced by the 1978 Constitution.

Several decades ago, public international law was not much concerned with environmental protection. Later, the Stockholm Declaration of 1972 and subsequent international instruments have enriched the international community on the subject. The term 'Sustainable Development' which includes inter-generational equity was brought into common use by the Brundtland Commission Report in 1987. The Rio Declaration of 1992 which refers to the right to sustainable development seeks to bridge the gap between environmental protection and economic development. Recently, the Paris Agreement of 2015 which deals with global climate change also stipulates that the human right to development is not unlimited and must be pursued within the framework of sustainable development.

Our Supreme Court in *Heather Therese Mundy v Central Environmental Authority and Others* has stated that 'the Courts have to balance the right to development and the right to environmental protection. While development activity is necessary and inevitable for the sustainable development of a nation, unfortunately, it impacts the rights of the private individuals but such is the inevitable sad sacrifice that has to be made for the progress of a nation. The Court can only minimize as much as possible the effects to such rights. When balancing the competing interests between public rights and private rights, the conclusion necessarily has to be made in favour of the larger interests of the community who would benefit immensely by such developments'.

Our 1978 Constitution by Fundamental Rights Chapter III even by its later amendments does not surprisingly contain human right to environment or sustainable development despite extensive literature and dialogue on it. Therefore fundamental rights, both procedural and substantive found in our Chapter III of the Constitution are at times applied indirectly to the tribute to the Judiciary, facing legal difficulties as remedies for environmental issues.

A need has therefore arisen and developments taking place towards the emergence of a separate human right - fundamental right to sustainable development - to strongly address environmental issues. This study advocates a right to sustainable development as a fundamental human right for Sri Lanka under the proposed Constitution.

(The writer is a retired Professor in Law in the University of Sri Jayawardenepura. He is an Attorney-at-Law and practiced in Courts with PhD in law)

Concluded

The principle of accountability is often discussed relation to the related principles of integrity and transparency; these principles indicate the standard we need to hold our public officers to a public accountability rest on four fundamental foundations. (a) Appropriate representation (b) citizen participation (c) legitimate conduct (d) liability enforcement.



Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations: An exercise in world class diplomacy

TALAT MASOOD

Sri Lanka is one of the few countries in South Asia with which Pakistan has endeavoured to develop a broad-based relationship covering trade, commerce, culture and defence matters. Successive Governments in Pakistan, whether they were democratic or military dictatorships, have valued this relationship and made efforts to further widen and deepen it.

This is despite the fact that Sri Lanka's interest in strengthening these relations has varied with the political party or group that has been in power. It would be a fair assumption to say that in South Asia, Sri Lanka and Nepal are the two countries with which Pakistan has sustained relatively the most balanced and cooperative relationship over the past few decades.

Sri Lankan politics and foreign relations, like those of most developing countries, are very much influenced by personalities and family orientations. During previous Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's term, Pakistan tried to promote goodwill and expand relations despite his known leaning towards India. The Sri Lankan Government supported India's Kashmir policy and generally took a cue from what India desired in this regard. This was also apparent when Sri Lanka decided to stay away from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meetings.

Despite differences, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have maintained a mutually cooperative relationship. The recent election of Gotabaya Rajapaksa as the Sri Lankan President is expected to give a boost to relations - the optimism based on his family history, whereby those who ruled Sri Lanka were favourably disposed towards Pakistan.

Besides, for President Rajapaksa Pakistan has been a familiar country. As a young military officer, he has



attended a number of professional courses in Pakistan's training institutions.

In 1971, during the civil war in erstwhile East Pakistan, when India imposed a ban on over-flight rights to Pakistan, it was Sri Lanka that granted re-fuelling rights to Pakistan Airlines. Nearly 200 flights took place between the two wings of Pakistan through Colombo that helped to maintain logistics supplies to the former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Military support

Pakistan's association with Sri Lankan Defence Forces was strengthened in 2009 when it was engaged in the civil war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Pakistan supported the Sri Lankan military by supplying them with advanced defence equipment and intelligence support when most other countries had imposed embargoes.

Pakistani pilots are also believed to have assisted in training the Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF) and enhancing their capability. This cre-

The relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is based on well-recognized principles of international diplomacy. Both countries value this broad-based relationship due to its mutual benefit and hopefully, it will continue to strengthen in the coming years.

ated considerable goodwill and mutual confidence between the two Armed Forces.

Sri Lankan military officers attend courses at Pakistani military training establishments including the prestigious Command and Staff College in Quetta. The two Navies also make friendly port calls, sharing profes-



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan

sional experiences and building goodwill. Sri Lankan retired and serving military officers are participants at defence seminars and exhibitions in Pakistan.

Last year, the Chief of Defence Staff of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan to further fortify relations between the two Defence Forces. In 2018, the Sri Lankan President was the Chief Guest at the Pakistan Republic Day Parade. In the past too, Presidents and Prime Ministers from Sri Lanka have been dignitaries at the Parade.

Sri Lanka's geographic location is its greatest asset. Maintaining good relations with Pakistan and China gives Sri Lanka extra leverage by retaining reasonable autonomy in foreign policy and widening economic opportunities. China has supplied military equipment and facilitated infrastructure development in Sri Lanka, although certain aspects of it have generated controversy.

In the field of sports, Sri Lanka and Pakistan have a cooperative relationship. The terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in 2009 was a major setback for the promotion of cricket in Pakistan, but to the credit of successive Sri Lankan Governments, relations remained unscathed. Reviving cricketing ties, the Sri Lankan cricket team toured Pakistan in 2019.

Sri Lanka's strong relations with China are viewed critically by the United States and India as it reduces their space in the region. In the recent past, China has extended generous loans to Sri Lanka for infrastructure projects. Some of these were inefficiently implemented, resulting in price over-runs that came under criticism. Most of them were later rescheduled and duly completed.

The strategic port of Hambantota located in the Southern tip of Sri Lanka has been handed over to China for 100 years and will be a critical link of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China. These strong links with China have irked India. The deal also raises misgivings in the US - and was perceived as a part of the "String of Pearls" strategy whereby China is spreading its influence in the South China Sea.

Regional and global powers

Despite these developments, Sri Lanka highly values its relations with New Delhi and the US, and through astute handling, maintains a delicate balance in relations with major regional and global powers. Pakistan expects that linking Gwadar, Karachi with Colombo and Hambantota Ports will result in enhanced regional economic activity. To give practical shape to it would, however, require close cooperation spread over the coming years.

The relationship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is based on well-recognized principles of international diplomacy. Both countries value this broad-based relationship due to its mutual benefit and hopefully, it will continue to strengthen in the coming years.

(Talat Masood is a retired Lieutenant General from the Pakistan Army and an eminent scholar on national security and political issues)

- Menafn

Irresponsible actions lead to COVID spread

NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Two main factors were stressed by the Sri Lankan health authorities last week but it seems the Sri Lankan public is still totally ignoring those crucial facts connected to controlling COVID-19. The two crucial facts are not treating the vaccine as a permit or a license to ignore all or some health guidelines introduced by the Government and health authorities to control COVID-19 and extending the fullest cooperation by the public to all relevant authorities to control the pandemic.

Recently health authorities stressed that despite being vaccinated, the transmission of the COVID-19 virus would not halt and people should strictly practice all health guidelines. They stated that there is a possibility that a vaccinated person could contract the virus again but the vaccine would help develop the antibodies to fight the virus within.

Health guidelines

Therefore they urged people to strictly adhere to all the health guidelines even after being vaccinated and urged everyone to get vaccinated once the vaccines are available. Meanwhile some interested parties are purposely spreading fabricated scary information in connection with side effects of the vaccine and other information related by genuine people are being misinterpreted by some other parties. People do not know what to believe and what not to believe. Therefore they should be educated with accurate and adequate facts on side effects of the vaccine.

The public has other concerns such as obtaining the same vaccine for both doses (this is because some consultants stressed the importance of

obtaining the same vaccine in both doses and not from two different brands of vaccines) and the duration between the first dose and the second dose. Concerns were also raised over the duration of immunity that can be obtained after the second dose, the possibility of obtaining a preferred vaccine from the private sector etc.

Meanwhile speaking to the media recently Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardene expressed concern over the lack of public cooperation to bring the pandemic under control. It is left to the people to decide whether they would hold wedding receptions, parties, public functions and enjoy as in the past, or reduce merry making events to the barest minimum to pave way for the reopening of schools, universities and allow other closed institutions to reopen and function.

He had also stated to media that the clusters of patients had

originated from wedding receptions, parties and funerals where the participants were at the risk of contracting the disease. He requested the public to strictly adhere to the health guidelines without blaming the health authorities for the spread of the disease.

But still the public does not positively respond to any of those appeals made by the Health Services Director General or any other health officials. It is pathetic to see how the public behaves during this dangerous era. Consultants appeared on television and repeated the same thing again and again during the past 11 months but the public is making the same mistakes all the time since last March no matter how many times they were advised through media by consultants, experts, health authorities and the Government officials. The public turns a deaf ear and a blind eye to such advice.

It is very funny and pathetic at the same to see how weddings are organised by these days. Only 50 or the number of invitees permitted by the Public Health Inspectors / MOH should be allowed for any wedding these days according to the latest health guidelines and operational guidelines issued by the health authorities and the Government. What the organisers of wedding do these days in order to 'follow' the rule and invite as many as they want is organising three or four separate 'mini weddings' in addition to the main wedding. This funny and expensive practice was there even before COVID-19 but nowadays this

practice is very common as a tool to mislead relevant authorities and to ignore health guidelines indirectly.

Usually we can see that couples organise around three or more 'mini weddings'. One mini wedding in one province, another mini wedding in another province and the main wedding in Colombo or a suburb area. Altogether over 150 guests are being invited for the three weddings of the same couple. If the couple/bride or the groom had COVID-19, only God can help the invitees. Nothing can be done legally until the relevant authorities in relevant three areas coordinate with each other and track down all three mini weddings of the same couple. But in this busy era relevant authorities hardly have time to tackle cunning plans of irresponsible couples and their parents/relations. Tracking down contacts takes place only when a large cluster of COVID-19 is created as a result of a wedding or some affected invitees get angry and reveal the true details of the event(s).

The other pathetic situa-



Health authorities stressed that despite being vaccinated, the transmission of the COVID-19 virus would not halt and people should strictly practice all health guidelines. They stated that there is a possibility that a vaccinated person could contract the virus again but the vaccine would help develop the antibodies to fight the virus within.

extremely high prices such as Rs. 14,000 to come to the home of the individual (Colombo and suburbs), collect the samples and send the report via email. But anyone can see that this can be done at a cost of Rs. 12,000 or less.

The only way out is strictly following all health guidelines all the time no matter who says what. It is up to us to protect ourselves from COVID-19 and no one can save us from COVID-19 other than ourselves. You have to do a few simple things. First thing is being mindful all the time. Secondly you need to wear a standard face mask covering both your mouth and nose. The third step is keeping at least two metres of distance from another person all the time and the last step is washing hands with soap and water often. A quality hand sanitizer should be used whenever soap and water are not available.

Healthcare services

On the other hand little bit more attention need to be paid for the people who seek medical treatment and healthcare services from the private sector. The very first issue is many private health institutions charge extremely high prices for their services especially certain services such as performing PCR Tests. Usually a PCR Test costs around Rs. 9,000 in the private sector but some private hospitals charge



GLOBAL COVID-19 death toll nears 2.5 million, US toll tops 500,000

US: The United States recorded over 500,000 COVID-related deaths since the start of the pandemic, while nations globally pressed on with vaccination rollouts, including with Australia giving its first shots.

As of Monday morning, the US death toll stood at 511,133. Globally, the figure was approaching 2.5 million.

The number of global COVID-19 cases at present stands at 111,957,494 while the number of deaths recorded is 2,477,839.

The catastrophic US toll comes as some signs of hope are emerging in the world's hardest-hit country, with millions of people now vaccinated and winter's massive spike in infections dropping.

But deaths are still coming, and Presi-

dent Joe Biden last month warned that "well over" 600,000 people in the US could die from the virus.

"It's terrible. It is historic. We haven't seen anything even close to this for well over a hundred years, since the 1918 pandemic of influenza," Biden's Chief Medical Advisor Anthony Fauci told NBC's "Meet The Press."

"It's something that is stunning when you look at the numbers, almost unbelievable, but it's true," Fauci added.

After America's first COVID-19 death was announced in February last year, it took about three months to pass the 100,000 mark, during a first wave that hit New York particularly hard.

According to the US Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 61 million people have received at least one shot of vaccine in the United States, with some 18 million getting the full two doses.

Biden has made it a priority to get 100 million people vaccinated within the first 100 days of his administration.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison got the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine at a medical center in Sydney, in what the government said was a bid to boost public confidence in the vaccinations that have been subject to some anti-vaccine protests.

More than 17 million people in Britain have now received at least a first vaccine dose - one third of the adult UK population. - AFP



Gravediggers wearing biosafety suits disinfect a rope used to bury a coffin containing a COVID-19 victim in Mexico. - AFP

Canada to provide COVID swab tests at US border

CANADA: Canada will provide mandatory swab tests at over a hundred land crossings on its border with the US from Monday, Ottawa said, as concerns over the spread of new coronavirus variants grow.

"Travellers entering Canada at land borders, unless exempt, will be required to take a test using a self-swab kit," a statement from Canada's Public Health Agency said Saturday.

"This test can be taken either at the traveller's quarantine location or at a border testing site." From Monday, air passengers arriving in Canada have to undergo a three-day hotel quarantine at their own expense while they wait for the results of a coronavirus test. - AFP

Trump to give first post White House speech in Florida

US: Former US President Donald Trump will give a speech later this month to a gathering of political conservatives in Orlando, Florida, a source familiar with the plans said Saturday, his first extended public address since leaving the White House on January 20.

The appearance is scheduled for Sunday, February 28 at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), one of the country's largest annual gatherings of political conservatives. Trump will be "talking

about the future of the Republican Party and the conservative movement," the source told AFP. He is also expected to challenge the "disastrous amnesty and border policies" of his successor, President Joe Biden, the source added. Three-quarters of Republicans want Trump to play a prominent role in the party, according to a poll from Quinnipiac University this week. Since departing the White House on January 20 Trump has largely kept to himself at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. - AFP

Malcolm X's family calls to reopen murder investigation

US: The daughters of prominent Black activist Malcolm X have called to reopen the investigation into his murder in light of new testimony implicating the New York police and the FBI. "Any evidence that provides greatest insight into the truth behind that terrible tragedy should be thoroughly investigated," said Ilyasah Shabazz, one of Malcolm X's six daughters, during a press conference on Saturday.

Considered alongside Martin Luther King Jr as one of the most influential African Americans in history, Malcolm X was an outspoken Muslim advocate of

Black rights, although critics said he preached racism and violence.

He was gunned down during a public speaking appearance in New York in February 1965.

When contacted Sunday by AFP, a spokesman for the Manhattan district attorney said the office's "review" of the case is "active and ongoing."

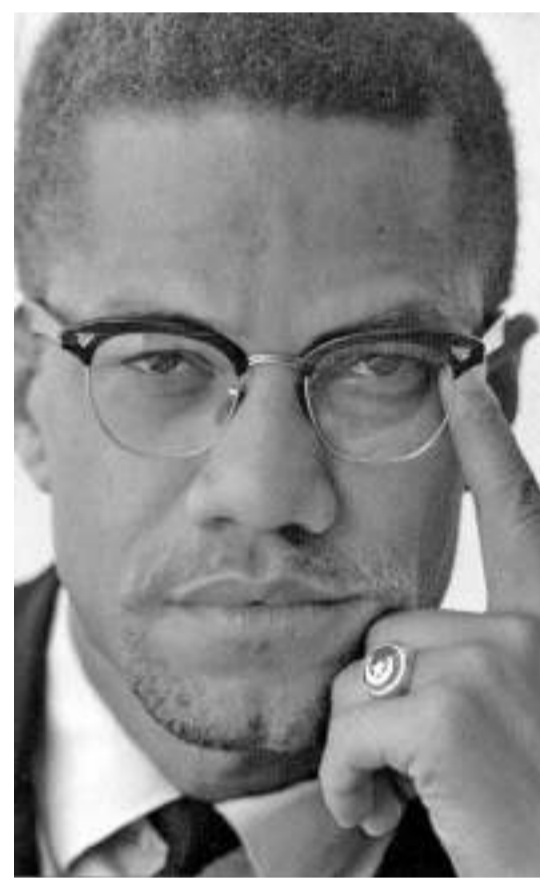
During the press conference, a letter written by former New York police officer Raymond Wood, now deceased, was read out, in which he accused the NYPD and FBI of being complicit in the killing.

According to his cousin, Wood, who was Black and worked as an undercover operative, claimed to have approached Malcolm X's entourage on orders from his higher-ups. Wood said he set up two of the activist's bodyguards, who were arrested only a few days before the murder.

On February 21, 1965 - 55 years ago to the day - El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X's Muslim name, was shot dead by three gunmen as he prepared to give a speech in the Audubon Ballroom, a theater in Harlem, in the north of Manhattan.

Wood, who did not want his testimony to become public until after his death, maintained that the New York police department and the FBI kept certain aspects of the case secret.

The NYPD "remains committed to assist with that review in any way," a spokesperson said. The FBI's New York office did not respond to AFP's request for comment. - AFP



Malcolm X

Texas restores power but still struggling with water

US: Texas authorities have restored power statewide bringing relief after days of unprecedentedly frigid temperatures, but millions were still struggling without safe, drinkable water.

"Due to lack of power, frozen pipes, high use at certain times, we've seen the number of systems go up that are reporting (water) issues," Toby Baker, executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality told reporters during a televised briefing.

Water problems, he said, were impacting about 14.3 million residents out of a total population of around 29 million, as officials distributed fresh water and food to thousands of people.

As the stark toll of the fierce storm grew clearer



People help fill jugs at a drive-through water distribution centre at a high school in Kyle, Texas on Sunday. - AFP

across the south-central region - approximately 70 deaths have been attributed to the cold wave - US President Joe Biden issued a major disaster declaration for 77 of the hardest-hit Texas counties.

That declaration authorizes the Homeland Security Department and the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) to coordinate disaster relief efforts and expedite assistance.

Democratic congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a frequent target of Republican criticism, was in Texas Saturday lending support after raising more than \$3.7 million in a few days to help Texas's recovery. - AFP

DRAW NUMBER : 4405 OFFICIAL RESULTS

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA

DATE: 21-02-2021

WINNING LETTER **S** WINNING NUMBERS **2 2 5 8 0 5**

Prize structure - from right to left

1st Prize	2 2 5 8 0 5	Rs. 2,000,000/-	01
2nd Prize	2 5 8 0 5	Rs. 100,000/-	11
3rd Prize	5 8 0 5	Rs. 10,000/-	100
4th Prize	8 0 5	Rs. 1,000/-	1,004
5th Prize	0 5	Rs. 100/-	10,004
6th Prize	5	Rs. 20/-	105,747

Prize structure - from left to right

7th Prize	2 2 5 8 0	Rs. 10,000/-	58
8th Prize	2 2 5 8	Rs. 1,000/-	106
9th Prize	2 2 5	Rs. 100/-	1,053
10th Prize	2 2	Rs. 50/-	16,748
11th Prize	S	Rs. 20/-	42,633

Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 10,184,600.00

The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 13,178,726.00**

NLB LIVE YOUR DREAMS

National Lotteries Board

21.02.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 600,487

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 24,086,240.00

Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 **Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES 01** **Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES 23**

Govisetha OFFICIAL RESULTS

DRAW NUMBER 2700 DRAW DATE 21/02/2021

ENGLISH LETTER **I** WINNING NUMBERS **37 39 63 71**

1 PRIZE	IF ALL 4 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2 PRIZE	IF LETTER & ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100,000.00	05
3 PRIZE	IF ANY 3 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 2,000.00	100
4 PRIZE	IF LETTER & ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 1,000.00	337
5 PRIZE	IF ANY 2 NUMBERS CORRECT	Rs. 100.00	8,389
6 PRIZE	IF LETTER & ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 40.00	5,594
7 PRIZE	IF ANY NUMBER CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	50,719
8 PRIZE	IF ONLY THE LETTER IS CORRECT	Rs. 20.00	29,155

TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW **178,359**

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 5,457,140.00**

SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 66,111,982.80**

Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes over Rs. 500,000/- are liable to government taxes. To obtain prizes, Presenting National Identity card is a must.

DHANA NIDHANAYA Official Results

Date - 21/02/2021

Draw Number - 442

English Letter **F** Winning Number **06 23 28 75**

1st Prize	IF all numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize	IF English Letter and 1 number are correct	Rs. 100,000.00	05
3rd Prize	IF any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 3,000.00	80
4th Prize	IF English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	182
5th Prize	IF any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 100.00	4,345
6th Prize	IF English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 60.00	3,061
7th Prize	IF 1 number is correct	Rs. 20.00	75,818
8th Prize	IF only English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	14,169

Total prize money won in this draw Rs. 3,135,900.00

Number of Prize Winners in this draw 97,458

Next Draw Super Prize **83,414,316.80**

Prizes of Over Rs. 5 lakhs are subject to the government tax regulations. Winners must produce National Identity Card to receive prizes. Winning tickets are valid from the draw for a period of 6 months only.

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English Letter **Y** Official Results

Draw No. 27

Date 2021.02.21

Winning Nos. **32 50 85 95**

01 Prize	Exactly four numbers are correct	500,000/-	-
02 Prize	IF Two Numbers and English Letter are correct	100,000/-	01
03 Prize	Exactly Three Numbers are correct	1,000/-	49
04 Prize	IF Two Numbers and English Letter are correct	200/-	181
05 Prize	Exactly Two Numbers are correct	100/-	3,415
06 Prize	From Number and English Letter are correct	40/-	2,655
07 Prize	Exactly One Number is correct	20/-	88,522
08 Prize	Exactly English Letter is correct	20/-	15,471

Total prize money won in this Draw **Rs. 2,308,760.00**

Next Super Prize **Rs. 7,164,861.20**

SEVANA

Official Results

Date 21/02/2021

Draw Number 316

English Letter **V** Winning Number **14 18 40 54**

1st Prize	IF all 4 numbers are correct	Rs. 14,000,000/-	-
2nd Prize	IF English Letter and 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000/-	03
3rd Prize	IF any 3 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000/-	68
4th Prize	IF English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 200/-	155
5th Prize	IF any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 100/-	3,548
6th Prize	IF English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 50/-	1,986
7th Prize	IF 1 number is correct	Rs. 20/-	49,754
8th Prize	IF only Super number is correct	Rs. 20/-	7,583

Total Prize Won in this Draw **Rs. 2,999,840/-**

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More rallies despite Myanmar junta's warning

MYANMAR: The Myanmar junta warned anti-coup protesters they could die but thousands of people took to the streets again on Monday, with tensions soaring over the deaths of four demonstrators.

Much of Myanmar has been in uproar over the generals ousting and detaining civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi three weeks ago.

Massive street demonstrations have taken place across the country, while a civil disobedience campaign has choked many government operations as well as businesses.

"Protesters are now inciting the people, especially emotional teenagers and youths, to a confrontation path where they will suffer the loss of life," said a statement on state-run broadcaster MRTV on Sunday.

The statement, read out in Burmese with text of the English version on the screen, cautioned protesters against inciting "riot and anarchy".

The warning followed the deadliest weekend since the coup - two people were killed when Security Forces fired at protesters in the city of Mandalay, and a third man was shot dead in Yangon.

A young woman Mya Thwe Thwe Khaing who was shot in the head just before her 20th birthday died on Friday, the first of at least three people to die in the protests. The woman spent almost a fortnight on life support.

On Sunday, thousands lined the streets to honour her, some making the three-fingered salutes used by demonstrators.

United Nations special rapporteur Tom Andrews said he was deeply concerned by the junta's new threat.

"Warning to the junta: Unlike 1988, actions by Security Forces are being recorded & you will be held accountable," he tweeted.

But protesters appeared undeterred Monday, with thousands gathering in two neighbour-

hoods of Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city and commercial hub.

"We came out today to join in the protest, to fight until we win," said Kyaw Kyaw, a 23-year-old university student.

"We are worried about the crackdown, but we will move forward. We are so angry."

In the Bahan township area, demonstrators sat on a stretch of road and created a sea of yellow and red banners in support of Suu Kyi.

Yangon residents woke up to a heavy security presence, including police and military trucks on the roads and an embassy district barricaded.

Markets and shops were expected to remain closed in solidarity with the protesters.

There were also demonstrations in the cities of Myitkyina and Dawei.

Protesters also took to streets of Naypidaw, the capital, on motorbikes.

Myanmar's generals have responded to the uprising by

ramping up gradually ratcheting up the use of force, and the number of political prisoners.

Troops and police have used rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannon and even live rounds on occasion.

Authorities have detained 640 people since the coup, according to the monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Myanmar's Foreign Ministry on Sunday accused the United Nations and other governments of "flagrant interference" in the country's internal affairs.

"Despite facing the unlawful demonstrations, incitements of unrest and violence, the authorities concerned are exercising utmost restraint through minimum use of force to address the disturbances," it said in a statement.

The United States, Canada and Britain have imposed sanctions on the Generals running Myanmar.

- AFP



A car carrying the body of protester Mya Thwate Thwate Khaing is pictured at the head of a convoy during her funeral service, after she died following being shot during a rally against the military coup, in Naypyidaw on Sunday. - AFP

FOUR EBOLA DEATHS IN DR CONGO

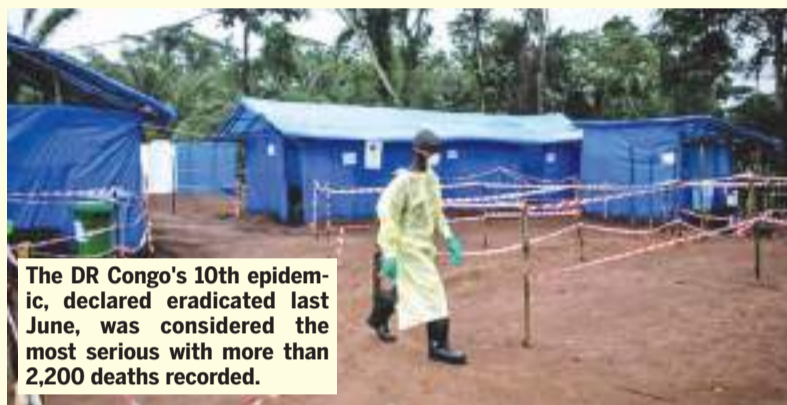
DR CONGO: Four people have died from Ebola during a new outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where people are resisting measures to contain the disease, officials said Sunday.

Since the epidemic's resurgence this month, "we have already registered six Ebola cases. We have lost four infected people," Doctor Eugene Syalita, the provincial health minister in North Kivu province in the DRC's northeast, told AFP.

Syalita said one person died Friday and another on Saturday, while the two others died at the beginning of the month.

Two patients are receiving care at an Ebola treatment centre in Katwa, he added.

Syalita complained that the region's residents were not taking the new outbreak seriously enough. "Some families categorically refuse to have their homes disin-



The DR Congo's 10th epidemic, declared eradicated last June, was considered the most serious with more than 2,200 deaths recorded.

fecting or to hold dignified and safe funerals," the doctor said.

The tenth epidemic, which was declared on August 1 2018, was only eradicated on June 25 last year because of unrest caused by armed groups and the population's resistance to anti-Ebola measures.

With more than 2,200 deaths recorded, it is considered the most

serious in the history of Ebola in the DRC since its appearance in 1976.

The Ebola virus is transmitted to people through infected animals. Human transmission is through bodily fluids with the main symptoms being fevers, vomiting, bleeding and diarrhoea. Ebola has also resurfaced in Guinea, where it has already killed five people. - AFP

Israelis clean beaches after massive tar pollution

ISRAEL: Israeli authorities on Sunday warned people to keep away from the country's Mediterranean shore to avoid massive tar pollution, as thousands of labourers and volunteers worked to clean contaminated beaches.

Powerful winds and unusually high waves pummelled Israel's entire Mediterranean coastline over Tuesday and Wednesday, with tonnes of tar staining 160 kilometres (96 miles) of beaches from Rosh Hanikra, just south of Lebanon, to Ashkelon just north of Gaza.

A joint statement from the ministries of interior, environmental protection

and health, called on the public to stay away from "the beaches for bathing, sport and leisure, until further notice".

"Exposure to tar can risk the public's health," the statement said.

The tar, which killed many marine creatures,

was apparently a result of "dozens to hundreds of tonnes" of oil being unloaded from a ship, according to estimates by the environmental protection ministry. A massive cleanup operation has been launched involving thousands of volunteers

and soldiers on loan from the army.

On a tour of a beach at the southern city of Ashdod, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the government would on Monday allocate funds to support the cleanup.

Visiting the beach alongside Netanyahu, Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel said they needed "tens of millions of shekels" to clean the beaches, noting the intent to sue the polluting ship - once it's located.

All but two of Israel's approximately 100 public Mediterranean beaches were closed for the winter, with the bathing season due to open on March 20.

- AFP



Israeli volunteers clean the HaBonim beach along the Mediterranean after powerful winds and unusually high waves pummelled the shore and dumped tonnes of tar.



Ayubowan!

A warm welcome to HE Imran Khan on his state visit to Sri Lanka by

The Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship, Trade & Investment Association, together with the Giving Sight Foundation



Over the past decades, we have had the privilege of welcoming & meeting the past leaders of this great nation like Presidents Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, General Zia Ul Haq, General Pervez Musharraf, Asif Ali Zardari, Maumoon Hussain, Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto, Shauqat Aziz, Nawaz Sharif, Abbas Khakani and even Prime Minister Imran Khan whom we last met in August 2019 in Islamabad and gifted 65 Corneas for the visually impaired people of Pakistan.

Giving Sight

Gift of Corneas from Sri Lanka to Pakistan has reached a milestone of 25,000 Corneas over the last few decades and to commemorate that, we look forward to donating 100 Corneas during this historic visit.

A few beneficiaries of Corneas. Giving sight foundation worked in close collaboration with the following hospitals: Mayo Hospital, King Edward Hospital and LRBT hospital in Lahore, Military Hospital and Benazir Bhutto Memorial Hospitals in Islamabad and Peshawar Teaching hospital



Trade & Investment

Friendship ties between our two countries have existed over the last 70+ years and the Sri Lanka Pakistan Friendship Trade & Investment Association takes pride of place in strengthening that relationship by promoting Friendship, Trade & Investment opportunities between the people of our two friendly nations. Our two Associations look forward to continuing to play a pivotal role in the future in strengthening the relationship between the Governments & the people of both our friendly countries as we have done for a little over 71 years.

How have we contributed towards cementing this mutually beneficial and meaningful relationship?

- Donation of Human Corneas
- Actively assisting in organising Single Country Pakistan Trade Fairs, Music Festivals, Cultural Shows, Food Fairs, Medical camps, Trade and Friendship visits to and from Pakistan, Sri Lankan and Pakistani businessmen and others on legal, trade and investment issues, etc.
- Working very closely with the High Commissions of Sri Lanka in Islamabad and the Pakistan High Commission in In Colombo and Officials of both countries.

We wish Prime Minister Imran Khan and his delegation a productive visit to our country. Long live Sri Lanka Pakistan friendship!



61st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



23rd of February 2021

Message from H.E. Sugiyama Akira, Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka on the Occasion of the 61st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor

Good afternoon, Ayubowan, Wanakkam and Konnichiwa. Upon this most auspicious occasion of the 61st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor, it is my sincere wish to convey my warmest greetings to the Government and people of Sri Lanka as well as to the Japanese compatriots in Sri Lanka, and with the blessings of many good friends, I take great honour in offering my sincere prayer for the health, happiness, and prosperity of His Majesty, together with my best wishes for our everlasting friendship between Japan and Sri Lanka.



H.E. Sugiyama Akira
Ambassador of Japan

welfare of repatriated Sri Lankan nationals, awareness campaign on health and sanitation, strengthening quarantine facilities as well as providing medical equipment and technical assistance to frontline health workers. Such various supports, on the other hand, are, in fact, a symbolic reflection of Japan's deep appreciation for the vigorous solidarity expressed by our Sri Lankan friends during the pall of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami which will mark the 10th anniversary on the 11th of March this year. In order to alleviate our suffering, Sri Lanka sent a disaster relief team, comprising 15 officials from the Ministry of Disaster Management, and donated USD 1 million and 3 million tea bags, sealed and delivered with encouragement. The sympathy and fraternity expressed to our people throughout our hours of darkness were received with ever-lasting thankfulness – etched deeply in our abiding memory. Trials of afflictions, for Japan and Sri Lanka, could not be the source of weakness but must be that of strength.

The year 2021 marks an important juncture in the history of our valued diplomatic relationship. 70 years ago, in 1951, the first bud of our long-cherished friendship began to sprout in the San Francisco Peace Conference, in which the representative of the then Ceylon, His Excellency J.R. Jayawardene, made an ever-memorable speech on September 6th, paving the way for Japan to recover her status in the international community after World War II. Today, that precious bud grew into a firm and robust tree, standing as a testimony to the time-tested friendship that endured through thick and thin for the past 70 years. The current global pandemic of COVID-19, for Japan and Sri Lanka, presents another circumstance to rise to the occasion, further bolstering the spirit of solidarity with mutual trust and respect in the face of unprecedented challenges. To my honour, Japan's assistance to Sri Lanka in our joint combat against COVID-19 stretches over wide-ranging areas, in total sum of USD 9.6 million, including essential support for children and expectant women,

other a natural maritime partner in the Indo-Pacific Region. Our prosperity and welfare rest upon the blessings of the sea, the imperatives of which has figured in the wisdom of promoting freedom of navigation and a rule-based maritime order for the peace and prosperity of the region, which would benefit all the countries, littoral and non-littoral alike. Japan has been making a determined effort to foster Indo-Pacific to be "Global Commons" or "International Public Goods", which is a holding pillar of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific FOIP in short. As is evident from its appellation, FOIP is an inclusive vision open to all countries that share its basic principles, and under this vision, Japan aspires to further consolidate maritime cooperation with Sri Lanka, which is an important partner located at the strategic position on the east-west sea lanes – and that at the very heart of the Indian Ocean.

To date, Japan and Sri Lanka have made steady progress in this area of crucial importance, which has culminated in; a) granting two new patrol vessels to the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, b) extending technical assistance for improving oil spill management to the Sri Lanka Coast Guard, and, c) supporting VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) Training Courses conducted by UNODC with close support of the Sri Lanka Navy, to tackle the mounting challenge of illegal drug trafficking plaguing the regions, among others. The said patrol vessels also played an active role in contributing to the joint effort carried out by Sri Lanka and India in successfully extinguishing the fire that broke out on a distressed oil tanker steering off the coast of Sri Lanka last September.

The Government of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Navy have also been facilitating port calls by Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) vessels, even amidst of the challenging circumstances caused by the COVID-19. Over the last one year, from January 2020 to February 2021, fifteen JMSDF vessels have made port calls at the ports in Sri Lanka. The visit by KAGA, one of the biggest ships of the JMSDF, particularly highlighted the long-time friendly relationship between the JMSDF and the Sri Lanka Navy through conducting joint bilateral exercise successfully.

The grand design of FOIP envisages creating new dynamism by combining "Two Oceans", that is the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, and "Two Continents" that is Asia and Africa, by, for one, enhancing connectivity through "Quality Infrastructure" development. The "Quality Infrastructure" is a concept originally launched by the Government of Japan, which attaches particular emphasis on; a) open access, b) transparency, c) economic efficiency including life-cycle cost, and, d) financial viability

of recipient countries, leading to resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth of developing countries across the region. In the context of Sri Lanka, the new initiatives have culminated in wide-ranging projects, such as: the Bandaranaike International Airport Development Project (Phase 2) and the New Bridge Construction Project over the Kelani River, among others.

Japan, as a long-time development partner, has committed to assisting the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka in response to the genuine needs of Sri Lankan people. As recent studies have shown, Japan's development assistance to Sri Lanka is characterized by; a) high concessionality, b) lower project cost, c) competitive procurement procedure, and, d) high productivity to the economy, which render positive impact to Sri Lanka's GDP and industrial output growth. The "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor" a people-oriented, highly insightful manifesto of His Excellency the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa gives special attention to the development of agricultural sector and water resource upliftment – the foundation of governance that, to the best of my knowledge, stems deeply from the ancient statecraft of Taprobane. I am pleased to note that Japan has been extending active support in the respective areas. The most recent achievement in the agricultural sector is "Establishment of Research and Training Complex" at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna, which was inaugurated on February 5th. Ongoing projects in the water supply sector are "Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project" and "Kalu Ganga Water Supply Expansion Project (I)". Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide, in his letter commemorating Sri Lanka's 73rd Independence Day, also expressed Japan's categorical support to realize the aspirations envisaged in the "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor".

Japan and Sri Lanka have also been close trade and investment partners for a long time, while I should stress that there still remains untapped potential to expand and diversify the business relations between the two countries. Japanese business people have shown keen interest in Sri Lanka, in view of its geographical location; its proximity to the rapidly growing Indian Subcontinent and neighboring regions; its strong workforce with diligence and high-level education. Japanese investors, in turn, make a substantial contribution to Sri Lanka's economy through creating employment, generating exports, transferring Japanese technology and introducing Japanese management style to Sri Lanka.

Continued on 11



Commemorating a legacy of enduring friendship this Japan National Day

Colombo Dockyard extends its warm greetings to the Government and the People of Japan on their National Day.

Colombo Dockyard as Sri Lanka's premier shipbuilding facility continues to build highly specialized vessels, using first-class modern technology coupled with Japanese quality standards to global markets.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Japan for the pivotal role they've played in our "...odyssey of Excellence"



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61st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



23rd of February 2021

The New Beginning: Exchange of Renewed Commitments

Japan and Sri Lanka have maintained long-standing cordial relations over the decades. Leaders of both countries have always worked with unstinted commitment and mutual respect to further strengthen our bilateral relationship since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1952. Upon swearing in of the Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka in August 2020, the then Hon. Prime Minister of Japan Abe Shinzo sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Rajapaksa, reiterating his commitment to strengthening the long-standing friendship between the two countries in the years to come. This commitment was further reiterated through a reciprocal congratulatory message from Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa to Suga Yoshihide, the incumbent Hon. Prime Minister of Japan, which accentuated Sri Lanka's readiness to further cement the already existing ties.

These commitments at the highest level clearly indicates that the two countries' diplomatic relations, which will mark the 70th Anniversary next year, will continue to grow from strength to strength in the many decades to come.

The Second Japan-Sri Lanka Senior Official Level Policy Dialogue

As part of such efforts, the Second Japan-Sri Lanka Senior Official Level Policy Dialogue was held in an online format on 10th February 2021, for the first time in 5 years. During the dialogue, the two sides discussed the regional situation surrounding the two countries and the bilateral cooperation in political and economic areas, and shared the view that Japan and Sri Lanka would continue working together as partners toward a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Maritime Cooperation

1. "The Fourth Sri Lanka - Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic Issues" On 1st October 2020, "the Fourth Sri Lanka - Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic Issues" was held on the virtual platform. Both sides agreed to further promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the maritime security and the



quality infrastructure development in order to realize a rule-based free and open Indo-Pacific.

2. Pathfinder Indian Ocean Security Conference 2020 On 10th-12th November 2020, a three-day on-line conference was organized by the Pathfinder Foundation to discuss Indian Ocean Security, co-sponsored by Japan and the US. Ambassador Sugiyama stressed the importance of realizing a Free and Open Indo Pacific (FOIP) with the Indo-Pacific Oceans as "Global Commons", while appreciating the Pathfinder Foundation for creating a conducive atmosphere for building confidence among different stakeholders.

3. Port Calls by Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ships Since March 2009, the Japan Ministry of Defense and the Self Defense Force (SDF), in accordance with the Government of Japan's policy, have continued anti-piracy operations off the Coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden by dispatching the

JMSDF ships and aircrafts (P-3Cs.). In addition, in February 2020, Japan commenced information gathering operations for ensuring the safety of Japan-affiliated vessels in the Middle East by one JMSDF ship and two P-3Cs. The Government of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Navy have facilitated port calls to Sri Lankan ports (Colombo, Hambantota and Trincomalee) by those JMSDF ships so that the JMSDF can continue the said operations seamlessly even amidst the challenging circumstances caused by the COVID-19. Fifteen JMSDF ships (14 port calls) have visited Sri Lankan ports from January 2020 to February 2021 (One ship is scheduled to make its port call from 23rd - 24th February). The visit by KAGA, one of the biggest ships of the JMSDF, on 23rd - 24th September 2020, showcased the long-time friendly relationship between the JMSDF and the Sri Lankan Navy through joint bilateral exercises.

Message from H.E. Sugiyama Akira...

Continued from 10

While development assistance and business relations have admittedly elevated our bilateral relationship to a new height, the mainspring has been, and will remain to be, the people-to-people contacts at all levels. Long before the dawn of the establishment of our diplomatic relationship, Srimaltha Anagarika Dharmapala, one of the leading makers of modern Buddhism, had pioneered connecting our hearts and souls by deepening mutual understanding through the common faith of Buddhism, and had kindled the first warmth of friendship during his first visit to Japan in the late 19th century.

Terming Japan as a "beacon light to Asia", Dharmapala not only promoted spiritual interactions between the two countries but also encouraged his devout followers to learn industrial art, such as weaving, from Japan - while admiring Japanese people's practical wisdom and advanced knowledge in technical science. The new path thus broken by Dharmapala was well beaten by the following generations, turning it into a myriad of bridges that connect the hearts of the two peoples today. The undercurrent of mutual attraction, further strengthened by the shared rich Buddhist heritages, can, by no means, be affected by the prevailing scourge of COVID-19. Though the people-to-people contacts between Japan and Sri Lanka, including tourism, suffered sharp fall in 2020, I do believe it will bounce back with renewed zeal once we redeem the life of normalcy. The Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in coming summer as proof that humanity has defeated the pandemic of COVID-19. It is expected to further propel people-to-people exchanges to a greater extent. Three registered host towns, Sanmu, Hashima and Maebashi, will receive the Sri Lankan athletes with open arms, and are preparing to make this "global festival of peace" shared memories for both Japan and Sri Lanka.

In recent years, fresh breeze is beginning to blow from the new generations, especially young women. We have come to know a young female gymnast dedicating herself to rigorous training in Tokyo, while living all by herself, aspiring to represent Sri Lanka in the Tokyo Olympic Games. We also know that majority of young learners of Japanese language are female students, who symbolize the "precious buds" in the great tree of friendship, as I described earlier, to one day, spearhead the new frontiers of our bilateral relationship. This year, in the New Year's video message, His Majesty the Emperor offered faithful prayer for tranquility, happiness and peace of the people of Japan and the world, while stating that humanity in the past have overcome great trials, such as numerous pandemics and natural disasters, each time with unwearied spirit of solidarity and perseverance. Keeping in mind the virtuous thoughts of His Majesty, I would like to renew, with all the might of my ability, my commitment to further consolidating our time-honoured friendship in the years to come.

Warm Greetings & best wishes to
The President, The Government & People
of Japan on the Occasion of the
National Day of
JAPAN

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Trade and Investment

Japan and Sri Lanka have been close trade and investment partners, and Japan sees great potential for further development of business relations between the two countries.

The trade between Japan and Sri Lanka reached US\$ 1,158 million in 2019. Japan is Sri Lanka's 8th largest export destination. Sri Lanka's exports to Japan, including agriculture products, apparel, kitchen and tableware are facilitated through the GSP scheme.

Japanese investors have shown keen interest in Sri Lanka, in view of its geographical location as the hub of the east-west shipping route in the Indian Ocean; its proximity to the rapidly growing Indian Subcontinent and neighboring regions; its strong workforce with diligence and high-level education. Presently more than 70 Japanese companies affiliated with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (JCCI) are doing business in Sri Lanka, making a substantial contribution to Sri Lanka's economy through creating employment, generating exports, transferring Japanese technology and introducing efficient work ethics to Sri Lanka.

Motegi Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, during his official visit to Sri Lanka in December 2019, expressed his eagerness to promote Japanese investment in Sri Lanka, including in the area of high-tech industry, while making the most of the "Japan-Sri Lanka Investment Promotion Roadmap" to which the Government of Sri Lanka responded with equal eagerness by extending cordial invitation to the Japanese business community to invest in high-tech assembly plants, tech parks and investment zones.

JASTECA

Japan Sri Lanka Technical & Cultural Association (JASTECA) has contributed to strengthening business relations between Japan and Sri Lanka. JASTECA has been playing an important role in spreading Japanese style management systems such as 5S and Kaizen throughout Sri

Lankan commerce and industries. These management systems helped Sri Lanka improve its international competitiveness, elevating Sri Lanka's importance as a hub in the South Asian region. JASTECA also contributes to strengthening Japanese language training through

extending cooperation to the Japanese Language Education Association (JLEA). JASTECA held its 34th Annual General Meeting on 25th September 2020 at the Sasakawa Hall with the patronage of Ambassador SUGIYAMA and the council members.



Sri Lanka-Japan Business Council

Sri Lanka-Japan Business Council held its 41st Annual General Meeting on 17th September 2020. The Sri Lanka - Japan Business Council was established in 1979 as the Sri Lanka-Japan Business Co-operation Committee (SLJBCC) by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, following a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japan - Sri

Lanka Business Co-operation Committee (JSLBCC) of the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI). The SLJBC is the first bilateral business council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. The main objective of the Business Council is the promotion of trade and tourism between Sri Lanka and Japan, as well as the facilitation of investments.





61st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan



23rd of February 2021

Japan's development cooperation toward Sri Lanka

Japan has been a strong leading partner for Sri Lanka in advancing its overall socio-economic development, improving quality of life for the people, and enhancing national reconciliation. The partnership dates back to 1954 when Japan became a member of the Colombo Plan, an international organization based in Colombo, and initiated Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries including Sri Lanka.

Japan provided Sri Lanka with development assistance equivalent to 1,445 billion Japanese Yen (Approximately Rs. 2,630 billion) since 1965 as of the end of Japanese fiscal year of 2018, in the form of grants, Yen loans and technical cooperation mainly by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Japan's assistance to Sri Lanka ranges from large-scale infrastructure development to community development at the grassroots level together with human resources development. The construction of Southern Expressway, Baseline Road in Colombo, Upper Kotmale Hydro-electric Power, Sri Jayawardanapura, Anuradhapura and Jaffna hospitals and the expansion of the Colombo Port are a few examples of Japanese assisted projects. In addition, Project for Construction of New Bridge over the Kelani River, Bandaranaik International Airport Development Project and Anuradhapura North Water Supply Project are among currently ongoing projects.

The Government of Japan's assistance is based on its Country Development Cooperation Policy for Sri Lanka, which aligns with Sri Lanka's policies and long-term development needs. Based on the principle of "promoting high quality and inclusive growth", the Government of Japan gives priority to the following three areas:

(1) "Promoting quality growth"

In order to help Sri Lanka achieve quality growth, the Government of Japan actively supports infrastructure development in sectors such as transportation, energy, water supply and sewerage, eyeing utilization of Japan's advanced technology, both in hardware (physical) and software (institutional).

(2) "Development cooperation for inclusive growth"

Reducing regional and individual disparities has been major challenges for Sri Lanka. Japan is, therefore, committed to support development of industries and human resources especially in the conflict-affected areas with focus on agriculture, improvement of basic infrastructure that contributes directly

Leading Demining Operations in the Conflict Affected Areas



Japan is recognized as a leading donor in supporting demining operations in the conflict affected areas. Since 2002, Japan has provided US\$ 38.8 million (approximately Rs. 7.47 billion) for demining activities in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces under its "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)" administered by the Embassy of Japan.

to people's lives and industrial activities, and women's economic empowerment, in order to improve livelihoods of the people in these areas.

(3) "Mitigating Vulnerability"

Sri Lanka, being an island nation like Japan, is vulnerable to natural disasters such as flood caused by the seasonal monsoons. It is also vulnerable in social services due to the delay in establishing its service delivery system. To mitigate the vulnerability, Japan has been providing physical and institutional assistance to develop and strengthen Sri Lankan government's capacity for tackling natural disaster as well as global issue of climate change. Japan has also extended assistance to improve social services, including medical and health services. At the time of the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004, the Government of Japan immediately dispatched

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resources Development Scholarship (JDS) Programme



Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resources Development Scholarship (JDS) Programme offers public officers opportunities to study at post-graduate courses in Japan in order to develop their expertise. Since its commencement in FY2010 up to FY2019, 154 officials has completed Masters degree in Japan, while Japan started to provide two officials every year with the opportunity to study at Doctorial courses in Japan from FY2019.

Solidarity and Assistance in the Joint Combat against COVID-19



The Government of Japan has provided approximately US\$ 9.6 million grant assistance for Sri Lanka's COVID-19 response. Japan's assistance covers wide-ranging areas, including providing critical medical equipment to COVID-19 treatment hospitals and frontline health workers, strengthening quarantine facilities at BIA, renovating hospitals for children and women, supporting repatriated Sri Lankan nationals, and assisting public awareness campaign on health and sanitation. In addition, Japan has pledged US\$ 200 million to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to support global access to COVID-19 vaccines.

A seminar on "Quality Infrastructure" commemorating the "International Cooperation Day"



On 6th October 2020, a seminar on "Quality Infrastructure" was organized by the Embassy of Japan, with the participation of three prominent economists of Sri Lanka. Prof. W.D. Lakshman, the Governor of Central Bank, graced the occasion as a keynote speaker.

October 6th is Japan's "International Cooperation Day", which marks the day when Japan decided to join the "Colombo Plan" on the same day in 1954, while setting a new course for Japan to redefine her role as a major development partner in the international community. The seminar was held in memory of the founding principles of the Colombo Plan, which are deeply rooted in the spirit of mutual cooperation and compassion.



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Congratulations...

TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR NATIONAL DAY



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BEST WISHES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY



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ICRA predicts 3.6% growth for 2021

Inflation to remain within target

ICRA Lanka expects the economic growth of Sri Lanka to be around 3.6% in 2021 and hover around 4% for the next four years thereafter.

"In addition, our estimates indicate industry, services, and agricultural sectors to have contracted by 7.3%, 1.7% and 1.3% respectively." According to ICRA Lanka Economy Highlights – February -2020.

Economies of most of Sri Lanka's key trading partners will not return to the pre-crisis level in 2021. Therefore, ICRA Lanka does not expect the export sector to normalize in 2021.

As per ICRA Lanka's estimates, the total revenue and grants of the government have plummeted by nearly 28% in 2020, while total expenditure records a marginal increase. As a result, the fiscal

deficit may have widened by over 63%. In this context, ICRA Lanka expects the total public debt to have reached 97.4% in 2020.

"Unlike exports, imports are clipped by the import restrictions. Therefore, imports are expected to be more or less flat throughout 2021. But we believe it is likely that the government may ultimately be compelled to relax the restrictions, at least partially, in 4Q.

Nevertheless, ICRA Lanka says the import restrictions would increase the trade deficit to about 6.1% of the GDP while generating a current account surplus of about 0.5% of the GDP.

Foreign currency obligations for 2021 is just over USD 6 Bn. This includes the settlement of USD 1 Bn ISB maturing in July. We expect the GoSL to rollover

about USD 2 Bn existing obligations, borrow about USD 2.3 Bn of which USD 2 Bn may come from a bilateral arrangement with China. In addition, FDIs may remain low around USD 200 Mn. As per ICRA Lanka's projections, with the positive current account balance and additional forex borrowings, the total reserves would fall to USD 3.7 Bn by the end of 2021."

On the fiscal front, ICRA Lanka expects the government revenue to gradually return to normalcy by the 2H. The expenditure side of the government may expand at a steady pace throughout 2021. "According to our projections, the budget deficit would reach 10.8% of the GDP in 2021. The government's fiscal policy is also now closely aligned with Modern Monetary Theory (MMT).

ICRA Lanka Macro projections for 2020-21

	2019	2020	2021
GDP growth, %	2.3	-4.0	3.6
Government revenue, % of GDP	12.6	9.2	9.0
Government expenditure, % of GDP	19.4	20.3	20.4
Fiscal deficit, % of GDP	-6.8	-11.1	-10.8
Government debt, % of GDP	86.8	97.4	99.3
Exports, % of GDP	14.2	12.6	14.4
Imports, % of GDP	23.7	19.7	20.5
Trade deficit, % of GDP	-9.5	-7.1	-6.1
Current account, % of GDP	-2.1	-1.1	0.2
Annual average inflation (CCPI), Y/Y, %	4.3	4.6	5.0
Unemployment, %	4.8	5.5 - 6.0	5.5 - 6.0

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

Rate of Interest

FROM 23/02/2021
TO 01/03/2021

4% p.a.

For further details visit the nearest branch

COMMERCIAL BANK

State Trading Corporation opens in Batticaloa



A branch of the Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation (SLSTGC) has been officially opened by the Minister of Trade Bandula Gunawardana at new Kalmunai Road, Batticaloa on Friday. This corporation started in 1970 deals with all goods connected with the household, office, building sports, recreation, information technology, electrical goods, stationery, hardware, software, furniture and fittings activities. The Minister had come to Batticaloa on an invitation of Parliamentarian and Leader of the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Puliga Party (TMVPP) Sivanesadurai Chandrakanthan and is seen at the opening with Batticaloa Government Agent K. Karunakaran, Chairman of SLSTGC, Yoga Perera and other officials. Picture and Text by Sivam Packiyathan Batticaloa Special Cor.

Ceylinco Life records income of Rs. 36.98 bn in 2020

Premium income grows by 17.9% to Rs. 22.1 bn

Ceylinco Life has achieved consolidated income of Rs 36.98 billion for FY 2020, demonstrating the Company's ability to grow business volumes and investment returns even in the most challenging conditions.

This top line growth of 15.2% was made possible by Gross Written Premium Income of Rs 22.07 billion for the 12 months ending 31st December 2020 – an increase of 17.9% over 2019 – and investment and other income of Rs 14.9 billion, which was up 11.3%, Sri Lanka's life insurance leader reports.

The growth in life insurance business resulted in Ceylinco Life retaining its position as the market leader in Sri Lanka's life insurance sector for the 17th consecutive year.

Ceylinco Life paid Rs 12.2 billion in net claims and benefits to policyholders for the year under review, an increase of 15.7% over the preceding year, and transferred Rs 9.42 billion to its life fund, which

grew by 10.94% to Rs 106.74 billion as at December 31 2020.

The Company's total assets grew by Rs 17.6 billion over the year at a monthly average of more than Rs 1.4 billion to cross the milestone of Rs 150 billion at the end of the year, while its investment portfolio recorded an increase of 14.36 per cent in value over the 12 months to reach Rs 133.7 billion as at 31st December 2020.

Ceylinco Life Managing Director/CEO Thushara Ranasinghe said: "Technology, determination and innovation kicked in at very short notice, enabling us to keep selling life insurance, process and settle claims, and develop new products, while managing our investments strategically and tactically for best returns. The effects of the pandemic continue to impact the business, but we are confident that our systems and the team's spirit will keep us on the path of growth."



Ceylinco Life Chairman R. Renganathan and Managing Director/CEO Thushara Ranasinghe

Ceylinco Life transferred Rs 4.1 billion to the shareholders' fund in respect of the 12 months, increasing the shareholder fund to Rs 38.1 billion at the end of the year.

The Company posted profit before tax of Rs 8.77 billion for FY 2020, reflecting an increase of 6.75% over the previous year. Net profit after tax for FY 2020 was Rs. 6.93 billion and reflected an increase of 3.93% over the previous year. Ceylinco Life's basic earnings per share for the year amounted to Rs 138.68.

HNB Group posts PAT of Rs 13.7 Bn; Deposits up by Rs. 158 bn

Hatton National Bank PLC (HNB) demonstrated resilience and posted Rs 13.7 billion in Group Profit After Tax during 2020, a year laden with unprecedented circumstances and challenges. Bank level Profit After Taxes amounted to Rs 11.5 billion.

Commenting on the performance, Chairman of HNB Dinesh Weerakkody stated that "2020 has been a year unlike any other in recent memory as the COVID-19 Pandemic transformed the socioeconomic landscape dramatically but we proved our ability to adjust rapidly as we leveraged technology and adapted to the new normal, sharing the responsibility to stay safe as well as keep our communities safe and empowered.

Jonathan Alles, Managing

Director/CEO of the Bank stated: "in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reprioritized our focus to ensure that we navigate the uncertainties and risks effectively to safeguard the interests of all our stakeholders"

"During the first phase we provided debt moratoria to customers covering approximately 40% of our loan book."

Jonathan Alles, Managing Director/CEO of the Bank commenting on the performance stated that "in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reprioritized our focus to ensure that we navigate the uncertainties and risks effectively to safeguard the interests of all our stakeholders. We also extended working capi-



Chairman, Dinesh Weerakkody MD/CEO Jonathan Alles

tal finance of over Rs 24 Bn to affected sectors at concessionary interest rates under the CBSL relief scheme and set up a Rs 5Bn fund through our own funds to support SMEs."

The accommodative monetary policy adopted by the CBSL to drive economic growth saw AWPLR dropping sharply by over 400bps during the year. **TO PAGE 14**

ASPI continues in double-digit territory

The All Share Price Index (ASPI), the primary index of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) tracking the price movements of all shares listed on the exchange has remained in double digit year-to-date (YTD) returns territory for 25 consecutive market days, over a period of 5 weeks since January 15, 2021.

YTD return indicates the quantity of profit (or loss) realized by an investment since the first trading day of a calendar year. YTD calculations are frequently used by investors to measure the performance of a stock market.

At the end of trading of 22 February, the ASPI recorded 12.15% YTD returns. The strong performance of the ASPI in 2021 has also frequently placed the ASPI among the best performing primary indices in the world. The S&P SL 20 Index, which includes the 20 largest and most liquid stocks has also indicated double-digit YTD returns over the same period,

and at present indicates YTD returns of 14.85%. The ASPI and S&P SL 20 closed trading today on 7,597.51 and 3,029.79 respectively.

The ASPI recorded its highest YTD growth of 30.08% on 27 January, while the S&P SL 20 Index recorded its highest YTD growth of 33.21% on 29 January.

The stock market has attracted a record-breaking level of trading activity and interest during the first two months of 2021. The daily average turnover figure, which averages the total turnover figure recorded over a particular year over the number of market days, is presently at Rs.8.3 billion, 6.3 times more than the Rs. 1.3 billion recorded at the same point in 2020 in terms of the number of market days.

The total turnover of Rs.275 billion recorded so far this year is already higher than the full-year figures recorded in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

NCE Export awards on Feb. 25

The National Chamber of Exporters (NCE) has rescheduled their 28th NCE Export Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held on February 24 at Shangri-La Hotel Colombo for February 25.

NCE issuing a press release informs that the NCE Awards ceremony had to be rescheduled due to both Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informing them that they are engaged in a high level meeting with the visiting Pakistani Delegation on 24 at the same venue.

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* Current Yield as at 18th February 2021

5.80%

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HELP KEEP COLOMBO CITY CLEAN

SEGREGATE YOUR WASTE AS GIVEN BELOW

Degradable Waste

If you are not in a position to compost your degradable waste, please handover to CMC.

- Kitchen waste vegetable and fruit waste, leftover food, coconut extract, used tea leaves / bags, protein wastage, egg shells
- Dry leaves, flowers, and garden waste
- Empty king coconut cut into pieces



Recyclable Waste

Following materials must be clean:

- Glass
- Paper / cardboard
- Cleaned polythene / plastic
- Metal
- Cleaned coconut shells
- Cleaned tins
- Cleaned yoghurt cups and plastic cups
- Recyclable kitchen appliances



Non - Recyclable Waste

- Soiled polythene / papers
- Sanitary ware
- Soiled yoghurt cups
- Milk packets
- Used sachets / packets (shampoo, sauce, Milo, etc.)
- Fallen hair
- Shavers with blades
- Soiled tins
- Ceramic pots
- Rubber
- Clay pots
- Drugs



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SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)
Main Board							
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	52	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	0.00
ABANS	428	178.00	183.75	188.75	172.00	173.75	(4.25)
ACCESS ENG SL	844,806	25.20	25.70	25.70	24.60	25.00	(0.20)
ACL	261,851	84.90	85.90	85.90	81.50	81.80	(3.10)
ACL PLASTICS	620	275.25	275.25	275.25	273.75	273.75	(1.50)
ACME	92,258	5.70	6.20	6.20	5.80	6.00	0.30
AGALAWATTE	693,083	28.60	30.00	32.90	28.70	29.00	0.40
AHOT PROPERTIES	8,699	45.40	40.30	40.30	40.10	40.20	(5.20)
AITKEN SPENCE	732,569	62.40	62.50	62.50	59.50	60.00	(2.40)
ALLIANCE	17,151	54.40	51.10	51.10	50.50	50.60	(3.80)
AMANA BANK	113,109	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.40	(0.10)
AMAYA LEISURE	5,286	20.50	20.90	20.90	18.80	19.00	(1.50)
ASIA ASSET	8,524	6.90	7.00	7.00	6.80	6.90	0.00
ASIRI	700	26.50	26.50	26.70	26.40	26.40	(0.10)
ASIRI SURG	5,319	14.40	14.80	14.90	14.60	14.70	0.30
AUTODROME	1,842	78.00	74.10	76.20	74.00	75.00	(3.00)
BAIRAHA FARMS	117,376	145.00	144.00	148.00	142.00	144.00	(1.00)
BALANGODA	2,550	14.50	14.80	14.80	13.60	13.60	(0.90)
BUKIT DARAH	432	330.00	330.00	330.00	319.00	323.00	(7.00)
C M HOLDINGS	4,219	95.00	98.00	98.00	86.00	86.20	(8.80)
C T HOLDINGS	67,301	172.50	172.50	172.50	170.00	170.00	(2.50)
CARGILLS	3,156	233.50	232.25	234.00	231.00	234.00	0.50
CARGO BOAT	542	65.00	65.00	69.80	61.40	64.90	(0.10)
CARSONS	1,121	286.00	281.00	282.00	280.50	280.50	(5.50)
CDB [CDB.X0000]	1,049	116.50	116.50	116.50	116.50	116.50	0.00
CDB [CDB.X0000]	12,659	78.80	76.30	80.00	76.30	79.80	1.00
CENTRAL FINANCE	21,855	96.10	98.80	98.80	93.00	94.90	(1.20)
CENTRAL IND.	38,300	123.50	121.25	124.75	117.75	118.50	(5.00)
CEYLINCO INS.	16	1,878.00	1,880.50	1,880.50	1,878.00	1,878.00	0.00
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	3	1,099.75	1,075.00	1,075.00	1,099.75	1,099.75	0.00
CEYLON GUARDIAN	5,267	134.50	126.75	127.00	126.50	126.75	(7.75)
CEYLON INV.	26,366	69.40	70.00	71.50	65.00	66.80	(2.60)
CEYLON TOBACCO	176	1,070.00	1,070.00	1,070.00	1,056.00	1,066.75	(3.25)
CHEMANEX	1,059	86.10	86.00	86.00	82.00	84.80	(1.00)
CHEVRON	17,587	104.00	104.00	105.00	103.00	103.00	(1.00)
CIC	1,475,473	63.30	62.10	62.70	59.50	60.00	(3.30)
CIC [CIC.X0000]	1,299,068	50.50	50.00	51.00	49.10	49.70	(0.80)
CITRUS LEISURE	2,537	9.70	9.80	9.80	9.00	9.20	(0.50)
COLD STORES	40	662.50	657.00	657.00	653.00	662.50	0.00
COLOMBO CITY	40	902.00	900.00	915.00	900.00	902.00	0.00
COLOMBO LAND	4,611	27.00	25.60	26.00	25.00	25.20	(1.80)
COMMERCIAL BANK	1,204,403	90.00	91.00	91.00	88.10	89.00	(1.00)
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	67,902	77.70	78.50	78.80	78.00	78.60	0.90
CONVENIENCE FOOD	74	1,298.00	1,271.00	1,271.00	1,270.25	1,298.00	0.00
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	110,406	12.50	12.40	12.40	12.00	12.10	(0.40)
DFCC BANK PLC	89,974	64.60	63.00	65.60	63.00	63.40	(1.20)
DIALOG	2,056,810	12.40	12.60	13.10	12.60	12.90	0.50
DIMO	180	540.00	540.00	540.00	530.00	530.00	(10.00)
DIPPED PRODUCTS	2,728,937	60.10	58.00	59.50	55.10	55.80	(4.30)
DOCKYARD	56,859	79.90	80.00	80.00	78.00	79.80	(0.10)
DURDANS	217	102.00	102.25	102.25	100.00	100.75	(1.25)
E B CREASY	14,814	40.30	40.90	41.90	39.00	40.10	(0.20)
EAST WEST	33,581	11.80	11.60	11.60	11.60	11.60	(0.20)
EASTERN MERCHANT	12,190	6.00	5.70	5.70	5.60	5.60	(0.40)
EXPOLANKA	4,889,223	47.10	45.00	47.00	44.00	44.30	(2.80)
FORT LAND	2,562	14.60	14.20	14.90	14.20	14.60	0.00
GRAIN ELEVATORS	43,453	135.75	137.00	139.00	133.00	133.50	(2.25)
HAYCARB	926,774	116.00	119.75	119.75	105.00	106.50	(9.50)
HAYLEYS	961,304	70.10	70.00	70.00	65.70	66.00	(4.10)
HAYLEYS FABRIC	1,736,958	16.10	16.20	16.20	15.50	15.50	(0.60)
HAYLEYS FIBRE	11,237	60.00	60.00	60.00	55.50	55.10	(4.90)
HDFC	1,581	39.90	39.90	40.00	38.50	38.70	(1.20)
HEMAS HOLDINGS	110,301	85.60	87.00	87.90	84.10	85.00	(0.60)
HNB	50,754	137.75	140.00	140.00	135.00	135.75	(2.00)
HNB ASSURANCE	264,622	58.70	59.00	59.90	58.60	59.00	0.30
HNB [HNB.X0000]	219,385	105.00	110.00	110.00	107.00	107.25	2.25
HOTELS CORP.	40	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.00
HUNTERS	198	686.75	686.00	686.00	630.50	642.00	(44.75)
INDUSTRIAL ASPH.	2,255,129	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.40	0.50	0.00
JANASHAKTHI INS.	61,504	29.00	29.00	29.00	28.50	28.50	(0.50)
JKH	93,449	160.00	159.00	159.00	155.00	156.00	(4.00)
KANDY HOTELS	1,395	4.90	5.20	5.20	4.90	5.20	0.30
KEGALLE	5,238	125.00	123.50	123.50	115.50	115.50	(9.50)
KELANI CABLES	203	127.75	128.00	128.00	125.00	125.00	(2.75)
KELANI TYRES	61,490	80.50	84.00	84.00	80.00	80.00	(0.50)
KELANI VALLEY	8,687	41.10	41.50	41.50	39.00	41.00	(0.10)
KINGSBURY	36,815	12.00	12.10	12.10	11.20	11.30	(0.70)
KOTAGALA	93,280	6.10	6.20	6.30	5.90	6.00	(0.10)
L O L C HOLDINGS	491,398	407.25	405.00	405.00	373.00	376.75	(30.50)
LANKA ALUMINIUM	176,032	19.10	19.00	19.00	17.90	18.10	(1.00)
LANKA HOSPITALS	1,859	46.20	45.90	45.90	45.00	45.10	(1.10)
LANKA IOC	60,928	22.00	22.00	22.00	20.90	21.30	(0.70)
LANKA TILES	99,620	234.25	236.00	236.00	220.50	226.50	(7.75)
LANKA VENTURES	100	51.40	51.20	51.40	51.20	51.20	(0.20)
LANKA WALLTILE	95,496	234.50	235.00	235.00	220.25	224.00	(10.50)
LAUGFS GAS	27,645	24.00	23.00	23.00	22.00	22.40	(1.60)
LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	1,432	19.10	19.00	19.00	18.10	18.10	(1.00)
LAUXPANA XR	32,804	14.20	14.50	14.50	14.10	14.10	(0.10)
LB FINANCE	8,157	219.75	220.00	220.00	212.25	213.75	(6.00)
LEE HEDGES	116	75.00	70.00	74.90	70.00	70.00	(5.00)
LION BREWERY	50	570.00	565.25	565.25	565.00	570.00	0.00
LMF	25,920	169.25	173.00	173.00	163.00	163.25	(6.00)
LVL ENERGY	9,589	9.90	9.90	9.90	9.60	9.60	(0.30)
MALWATTE	110	14.00	12.50	12.90	12.50	12.90	(1.10)
MALWATTE [MAL.X0000]	31,003	8.80	9.00	9.00	8.40	8.80	0.00
MELSTACORP	347,775	50.30	50.50	50.50	49.00	49.90	(0.40)
MERC. SHIPPING	300	76.90	75.10	75.10	75.10	75.10	(1.80)
MERCHANT BANK	141,511	7.30	7.50	7.50	7.00	7.00	(0.30)
MULLERS	17,611	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.10	0.00
NAMUNUKULA	63	180.00	180.50	181.75	180.50	180.00	0.00
NAT. DEV. BANK	31,539	89.00	89.20	89.20	86.50	86.80	(2.20)
NATIONS TRUST	31,308	59.00	59.00	60.00	58.20	58.60	(0.40)
NAWALOKA	12,832	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.20	(0.10)
NESTLE	553	1,199.50	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,186.00	1,187.75	(11.75)
OVERSEAS REALTY	167,244	16.00	16.00	16.30	15.70	15.80	(0.20)
PAN ASIA	380,860	18.10	18.50	18.50	17.80	18.00	(0.10)
PANASIAN POWER	1,052,907	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	0.00
PEOPLE'S INS	239,071	31.80	31.70	32.00	30.00	30.80	(1.00)
PEOPLES LEASING	173,801	12.30	12.50	12.50	12.10	12.20	(0.10)
PIRAMAL GLASS	1,292,618	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.70	9.80	(0.20)
PRINTCARE PLC	511	29.10	30.60	30.60	30.50	30.60	1.50
R I L PROPERTY	373,970	6.90	7.00	7.10	6.80	6.80	(0.10)
REGNIS	33,383	103.00	104.00	104.00	100.00	100.00	(3.00)
RENUKA AGRI	418,626	3.90	3.90	4.10	3.90	3.90	0.00
RENUKA FOODS	1,531	14.70	14.70	14.70	14.50	14.50	(0.20)
RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]	300	12.50	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40	(0.10)
RENUKA HOLDINGS	127,237	16.20	16.60	16.60	15.50	15.80	(0.40)
RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	4,442	12.80	12.50	12.50	12.30	12.40	(0.40)
RESUS ENERGY	93	24.60	25.00	25.00	25.00	24.60	0.00
ROYAL PIERIS	713,616	17.80	18.00	18.00	16.50	17.00	(0.80)
ROYAL CERAMIC	306,657	324.25	328.00	328.00	310.00	313.75	(10.50)
S M B LEASING	167,031	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.50	0.60	0.00
S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	907,722	0.30	0.40	0.40	0.30	0.40	0.10
SAMPATH	230,109	159.50	160.00	162.00	158.00	158.25	(1.25)
SANASA DEV BANK	86,125	58.70	59.90	59.90	56.90	57.20	(1.50)
SEYLAN BANK	84,168	51.00	50.50	51.60	49.70	50.40	(0.60)
SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000]	45,032						

ADVERTORIAL



Dr. Padma Gunarathne, the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, Dilshan Rajapaksa, Director at D. Samson Industries, Dr. Chaturanga Ranasinghe, the Chairperson of NIROGI Lanka project, Dr. Thusitha Kahaduwa, Oshini Jayasooriya, Business Development Manager at DSI and Janaka Bandara, Assistant Business Development Manager at DSI.

D. Samson Industries signs MoU with NIROGI Lanka Project of SLMA

D. Samson Industries recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) for the production of a Beta Brand-Diabetic Shoe Range under the NIROGI LANKA Project.

Dr. Padma Gunarathne, the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, Dilshan Rajapaksa, Director at D. Samson Industries (Pvt) Ltd., Dr. Chaturanga Ranasinghe, the Chairperson of NIROGI Lanka project, Dr. Thusitha Kahaduwa, Oshini Jayasooriya, Business Development Manager at DSI and Janaka Bandara, Assistant Business Development Manager at DSI were present at the signing of the MoU.

Recognizing the gap in the market

for diabetic shoes and the necessity to produce footwear that is tailored to the comforts of diabetic patients, D. Samson Industries (Pvt) Ltd. has decided to collaborate with SLMA as well as the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Colombo (FOMUOC). Being involved in the production and marketing of footwear in Sri Lanka and on an international level, D. Samson Industries is motivated to provide the best service for their consumers. 'NIROGI LANKA' is a project under the Sri Lanka Medical Association, which provided technical expertise to DSI in developing diabetes ulcer prevention shoes during 2016/2017 as 'NIROGI Diabetic footwear'. This collaboration

further extended towards the development of beta diabetic 'prescription shoes' in accordance with the objectives of this project.

Beta diabetic shoes are specially designed shoes intended to offer protection for diabetic feet by increasing comfort and reducing irritation. With a protective interior made with soft material and with no stitching, and soft and stretchable material these beta diabetic shoes cater to the tenderness of diabetic feet. The special insoles that provide support and reduce pressure on the bottom of the foot coupled with the specially designed lightweight soles are for optimum comfort of the diabetic patients.

iHarvest shines at NBQSA

iHarvest, a plantation digitization platform developed by Sri Lankan startup Itechro Private Limited, recently clinched major honours by becoming a winner at the National Best Quality Software Awards 2020 within the Industrial Agriculture Category for its achievements in digitizing the plantation eco-systems and showcasing the potential it possesses as an international product.

The revolutionary platform has been developed to address common issues faced by agricultural enterprises to create a digitally enabled plantation ecosystem by connecting each entity via a digital platform to sustainably redefine the current interactions creating value to every stakeholder in the process.

Agriculture is an inherent part of Sri Lanka economy with over 7.5% of contribution to the economy. The recent pandemic has shown the importance of being self-sufficient whilst improving the efficiency of the industry to be globally competitive.

Itechro Private Limited recognised the problem and has come up with their latest product, iHarvest, developed with the bold vision to create a digitally enabled plantation ecosystem.

Itechro team explains that, iHarvest product is built on a fundamentally different view to solve the problems in the industry through a four-stage product journey to create excellence. During the initial digitalize stage, we ensure the plantation data is digitally captured.



The award-winning Itechro Private Limited team

Today, the application is run supporting about a 15,000 workforce. The company believes to enrich their users with greater knowledge giving access to state of the art knowhow through an edutech module planned for next release. Contributions are led through the community and expert content.

Chamara Jayaweera, Co-founder and director of the company leading the product, added that as technologists it is our responsibility to contribute to positively support the industry to transform.

"As a team, Itechro is taking efforts to derive insights through a big data platform which can support the plantations in the long run. Digitally recognising the norms in the industry which will support the planters on best ways to treat a plant to optimise the outcomes," Jayaweera said.

Rusiru Malik, Co-founder and Head of Products for Itechro Private Limited said: "We are very encouraged by the

support our partners across the supply chain are providing. We want to make the industry future proof and keep it robust in the long run. Our priority is to serve the long term crops lifecycle which is much longer than software product life cycles. Hence, Itechro's philosophy is to create a flexible architecture which is nimble enough to adopt any new technology fast to keep the platform cutting edge."

Bhathiya Bulumulla, Chairman of the Planters Association of Ceylon and the Director/CEO of Elpitiya Plantations said "Over the past decades, we have been looking for ways to transform the traditional methods followed on the Plantations on data capturing into a technology platform."

Itechro is in discussion for strategic alliances and introductions are made opening doors to markets such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Africa, and Europe which also provide very large market potential.

Abans Logistics donates containers to support Government efforts

In response to a request made by the Ministry of Trade and Commerce to Aban Pestonjee, Chairperson of Abans Group, Abans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd. donated two units of 40' HC.

These were deployed to facilitate the distribution of essential food items to those in need, via an initiative being a concept of 20Q-Shop.

Two entities under Abans' Logistics Vertical; Abans Logistics (Pvt) Ltd. and Crown City Developers (Pvt) Ltd., cater to discerning needs of customers ranging from freight forwarding, customs brokerage, 3PL, haulage, Container Freight Station (CFS), bonded warehousing and a whole array of other services, facilitated the purchase, repair and delivery of the two units.

The logistics vertical was initiated in 2007 to complement the Group's presence in retail, manufacturing, the restaurant business and others. Over the years, both companies have expanded their services to become prominent players in the logistics



industry. Abans Group is renowned as the pioneer of introducing new technology and innovation to Sri Lankans, and paving the way for ultimate convenience and an ever-evolving portfolio of international brands, high quality service and comprehensive industry experience.

The Flemington lays foundation for third apartment project

Following the success of The Flemington's first and second condominium development projects at Rajagiriya and 103 Campbell, the property developer recently hosted the ground breaking ceremony and commenced construction of its third condominium complex at 20 Vajira Road, Colombo 4.

The ceremony was headed by Shamitha Ganegoda, Managing Director of EliSh Development (Pvt) Limited and was followed by religious activities to commemorate the milestone.

The piling contract for the project has been awarded to San Piling (Pvt) Limited, a subsidiary of Sri Lanka's premier construction service provider Sanken Construction (Pvt) Limited.

The Flemington 20 Vajira follows in the footsteps of highly successful Flemington projects in Rajagiriya and 103 Campbell, both of which are already sold out. It is scheduled to be completed by the first quarter of 2023.

"The Flemington 20 Vajira is a modern condominium influenced by our signature Australian concepts and styling. It features minimal and spacious interiors without compromising on privacy and the convenience of city living," said Mr. Shamitha Ganegoda, Managing Director of EliSh Development.

ated in a prime location on Vajira Road, Colombo 04 in close proximity to leading schools, making it particularly convenient for parents with young children.

The Flemington 20 Vajira follows EliSh Development's knack for offering modern living solutions in the heart of Colombo, with emphasis on location and access to conveniences and necessities such as banks, supermarkets, hospitals and parks. Whilst the location is central, the property is also situated in a residential area and the management has taken care to design the condominium with utmost privacy, comfort and serenity in mind.

The Flemington 20 Vajira offered apartments starting from LKR 27.3 million for two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom apartments started from LKR 38.4 million.



Shamitha Ganegoda

Currently, the condominium has several mid-to-high floor apartments available for sale starting from LKR 31.7 million for two-bedroom apartments while three-bedroom apartments start from LKR 40.8 million upwards.

With 27 two-bedroom and 18 three-bedroom apartments, the condominium offers spacious and airy

accommodations for convenient city living. Each apartment is carefully designed, keeping in mind occupant comfort, privacy and the need for natural light and good ventilation. The apartments come with features such as en-suite bathrooms and well-designed kitchens with built-in appliances. The location also offers breathtaking scenic views of the Indian ocean and Colombo skyline.

During the past 5 years, The Flemington has maintained an active presence in Colombo's property development industry. Since their opening in 2015, The Flemington's success in the community has continuously grown with an expanding property portfolio, client database and a track record that places a high value on integrity and commitment to their clients.

Vinod Hirdaramani appointed to Sampath Bank Board

Sampath Bank announced the appointment of veteran industrialist Vinod Kishore Hirdaramani as Non-Executive, Independent Director to its Board of Directors, with effect from February 16.

Vinod Hirdaramani brings with him extensive management experience in the apparel and energy sectors. A member of the Hirdaramani Group's Board of Directors since 1993, he oversees the functions of its knit facilities in Sri Lanka and Vietnam and is involved in the Group's investments in the renewable energy sector as well. He also serves as a Director at several subsidiary companies of the Hirdaramani Group, which own 38 facilities across Sri Lanka, Bangladesh,



Vietnam and Ethiopia. He is a member of the Young Presidents' Organization and has served as the past Chapter Chair for its Sri Lanka Chapter.

An Alumnus of the Harvard Business School, he holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Northwestern University, USA, and attended the Harrow School in the UK.

Sampath Bank PLC's Board of Directors is comprised of a team of experienced professionals from across diverse sectors and disciplines and is further strengthened with Vinod Hirdaramani coming on board. Together, they will continue to drive Sampath Bank forward as it continues to strive to deliver greater value to the nation.

SLASSCOM to host AI Asia Virtual Summit from Feb 25-27

Driven by the need to raise awareness and discussion around the applicability of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across multiple industries, the Tech Forum of Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies (SLASSCOM) will be organising its AI Asia Virtual Summit 2021 from 25-27 February.

The summit will incorporate conversations on two broad knowledge areas: linking the AI Tech community together with the general populace to create much-needed awareness and excitement around the topic, and also exploring the practical applications of AI across local industries and businesses.

"AI is poised to play a vital part in tomorrow's growth agendas across the world, as both an accelerator and an enabler. Powered by unprecedented growth in big data, computer sciences and connected devices, Sri Lanka has much to gain through the applications of AI," stated SLASSCOM Chairman Channa Manoharan, adding that there is a promising potential in AI for Sri Lankan companies, both locally and when penetrating global markets. "Every year, the AI summit has been successful in stirring the waters of the tech community in Sri Lanka, and this year, we're expanding our reach by gathering an audience comprising of individuals and community members in both Sri Lanka and overseas. The focus is on providing participants with opportunities to learn from industry experts and to explore the topic of AI and where it can take their organisations," stated SLASSCOM Board Director Nuwan Perera.

Committed to being a thought leader in the AI space in Sri Lanka, SLASSCOM's Tech Forum has a packed calendar for 2021, with the AI Asia Virtual Summit being a key milestone. "We believe that we can steer the right conversations around AI to the right audiences to leverage the full benefit of the technology to create jobs and improve the country's

growth prospects," highlighted Nuwan. The summit has an array of acclaimed local and global speakers from a range of industries, that includes Dr. Romesh Ranawana CTO at Tengri UAV Ltd.; Jeevan Gnanam Serial Entrepreneur, Angel Investor, Data Scientist and Founder Member of the Lanka Angel Network; Dr. Nisha Talagala CEO at Pyxeda AI; Prof. Johan Loockx Assistant Professor of Applied R&D at the Artificial Intelligence Lab Brussels; Prof. Emi Yuda Researcher at Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University; Prof. Morten Goodwin Professor, Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research, University of Agder; Professor Olave Lysne Director of Simula Metropolitan Centre for Digital Engineering; and Prof. Marija Slavkovic Associate Professor at the University of Bergen in Norway, specialising in AI with expertise in collective reasoning, multi-agent systems, machine ethics and computational social choice.

The AI Asia Summit 2021 will spread across three days and include keynotes, discussions, panel discussions and networking opportunities.

This year's summit will pay special attention to attract participants from around the global, especially from the Asia Pacific region.

An excellent opportunity for Sri Lankans and the global community to gather together to explore the unprecedented potential of applying AI to businesses, industries and economies, the AI Asia Virtual Summit is set to be an eye-opener and conversation-starter at a much-needed time.

SLASSCOM is supported in this venture by Royal Norwegian Embassy and IKT Norge Strategic Partners, Veracity AI Gold Sponsor, HSBC Official Banking Partner, Northwood Consulting Digital Media Partner, Orel IT AI Case Study Partner, IIT Knowledge Partner and Dialog Enterprise Corporate Sponsor

HNB partners merchants to support cardholders

HNB PLC has once again partnered with an extensive portfolio of leading retailers islandwide to provide its loyal debit and credit cardholders with exclusive discounts and valuable benefits, while continuing to support the community.

HNB is offering customers discounts up to 50% as well as convenient interest-free instalment plans for up to 24 months.

"Every year we seek to ensure that our cardholders get the best possible deals in the market. Given that the 2020 was an especially challenging

time for all of us, we redoubled our efforts to partner with an even wider range of merchants and healthcare providers, so that we could provide as much support to our customers as possible," HNB Head of Cards, Gauthami Niranjan expressed.

A notable inclusion in this year's partnerships are leading hospitals, which are offering HNB cardholders up to 25% on selected healthcare packages and treatments. Customers can also make use of interest-free instalment payment plans for medical expenses at leading hospitals.

Additionally, customers also have the option of transferring their credit card balance from other banks to HNB for a hassle-free instalment plan with zero documentation requirements, all for a nominal handling fee and bundled with convenient instalment payment options.

Moreover, HNB cardholders will also be entitled to discounts of up to 25% when purchasing daily essentials from leading supermarkets until April 2021. Additionally, fine dining enthusiasts can avail themselves of discounts of up to 25% from HNB's fine dining

partners, which include. Catering to the growing online customer base, HNB has partnered with online shopping platforms PickMe Market, Daraz Saturdays, Wasi.lk, Lassana.com, giftbasket.lk, buyabans.com, glomark.lk and Atlas-Myshop to offer discounts of up to 25% and easy instalment payment options for selected items.

Cardholders can renew and obtain insurance covers at insurme.lk with a 10% discount on basic premiums for life and motor insurance. Parents and students can also settle their fees via myfees.lk, with HNB offering interest-

free instalment plans for several leading educational institutes as well.

Photography aficionados can use discounts of up to 15% on HNB credit cards for selected camera accessories at Cameralk. Meanwhile, HNB's vehicle buffs are offered discounts of up to 50% and selected services from Ideal First Choice, and up to 10% off for lubricant services and original spare parts for repairs (for European vehicles) at the Merc Shop respectively.

HNB was also declared Best Sub-Custodian Bank in Sri Lanka at the Global Finance Awards 2020.



THUSHARA JAYALATH

-the cager turned ruggerite

ALTHAF NAWAZ

There was an era when the game of rugby football was listed as one of the prominent sports in the country, with schools engaged in handling the oval shaped ball producing some outstanding players who had the distinction of making their 'Alma Mater' proud. Thushara Jayalath was one of them who represented St. Peter's College, Colombo, with a sound academic and sporting career and ended up by donning the National jersey.

Thushara who is in 50's hails from a family that had no previous involvement in sports. He was not actively encouraged to pursue or participate in sporting activities. However, as an over-enthusiastic child, he often found much joy in participating in a wide range of sports. His father was a civil servant, and mother was a housewife. His illustrious academic career was at St Peter's College, Colombo, where he joined his first sports discipline, which was basketball and played as a Centre forward.

While being a member of the team, he succeeded in winning the under-19 schools Basketball Championship in 1987, under the coaching of Ajith Kuruppu, one of the renowned basketball coaches in Sri Lanka. During that year, he also went on a tour of Maldives winning the 'Ali Jinnah Trophy'. The year 1988 was another productive year for him where he managed to clinch the title by defeating Dharmasoka Ambalangoda in the finals with a score of 53-46. That team was coached by Sohan Wimalaratne (a past Peterite and National Basketball player). While he was dribbling



Thushara Jayalath

the ball for his college basketball team, he was selected for the National schools team. Gradually maturing as a sportsman, he had shown interest in rugby, often playing tag rugby with his friends for fun. Two of his close friends in school-Manoj Bakshani and Harin Perera motivated him to take up rugby, where he finally wore the College jersey representing the school under-19 rugby team in 1989 under the captaincy of Colin Denish. While concentrating on studies, the rugby team was coached by a former rugby referee and coach, S.W. Chang. Under his watchful eyes and guidance, he was able to hone his rugby skills and improvise his techniques, which led the way to a long and successful career in rugby.

While competing in school rugby, he had an opportunity to join the Havelocks under-20 Rugby Squad in

1989, after which his school rugby career came to an end. In 1990, he completed his Advanced Level examination and joined Peterson Rugby Club. During his tenure as a player Petersons went on to win many matches by overcoming several big names in the fray in that era.

Subsequently, in 1991 he rejoined Havelocks and played until 1998 occupying the position of second row forward. He opted to cross over to another club to see whether his fortunes will change and on a request made by Asanga Seneviratne and Rizly Ilyas he joined CH and FC from 1999 and went on to play until 2002 as a second row forward.

Upon receiving his A/Level results, he decided to apply to Kotelawala Defence University with the hope of joining the Sri Lanka Army. Following his acceptance into this academy in 1991, he was offered a job at ANZ Grindlays Bank, which was organized by his club Havelocks, affirming that he will continue playing for them. Same year, while playing for Havelocks, he was selected to represent Sri Lanka in a match against Hong Kong as part of the under-24 rugby team led by Imthi Marikkar. Then he played in the 1994 R. Premadasa Trophy Final which they lost to CH. In 1995, he was entrusted as the captain of Havelocks under Ana Saranapala's coaching. In 1996, he was a part of the rugby team representing Sri Lanka in the Asian Rugby Football Tournament led by Priyantha Ekanayake. In 1997, he was selected to represent Asian Barbarians along with Priyantha Ekanayake

and Harin Perera. In the same year he represented the winning team in Asian Quadrangular Tournament under Priyantha Ekanayake's leadership.

During the 2000 rugby season, Nazeem Mohamed (the captain of CH) suffered an injury which sidelined him until the end of the season. During his absence, he was made a makeshift captain until Nazim returned after recovery. After leading the Gymkhana club in two matches, he decided to step down from that position feeling uncomfortable due to various reasons.

One of the achievements at CH was winning the Caltex Rugby League in 2000, which was one of the fondest memories of his rugby career whilst demonstrating his rugby skills. In 2000, he represented the Sri Lanka team in Japan under the coaching of Nimal Lewke. In his illustrious rugby career, he was extremely fortunate to be associated with some of the best coaches in rugby circles like Ana Saranapala, Nimal Lewke, Ajith Abeyratne, Tony Amith and S.W. Chang. He paid a glowing tribute to the late George Simpkin for recognizing the potential in him and improving Sri Lanka's rugby standards.

Rugby has taught him many valuable lessons in life which he was able to take into account not just on the field but also in day to day life. He was transformed to a good human being due to his sportsmanship. At present he is living in London as an entrepreneur with his wife and 16-year-old daughter.

Vimansa Nimsara Perera - karateka par excellence

DILWIN MENDIS
Moratuwa Sports Special
Correspondent

Karate Gold Medalist and Black Belt Holder. Vimansa Nimsara Perera has brought honour and fame to his Alma Mater Sandalankawa Central College. In 2011 he was admitted to Sri Rathnapala Maha Vidyalaya Hendigala, Giritulla when the Principal was Sasiri Gamin Kumara and his first Class Teacher was Mrs. Menike. He participated in the 100 meters race in the Annual Inter House Sports meet in 2015 and came second and also participated in the Zonal Meet. He did not take much interest in athletics and as he showed an interest in Karate his parents Roshan Wimalasiri Perera and P. M. Priyadarshana handed over their son to the ISKU Karate Academy Coach Sugath Kumara in 2015.

In 2016 his first meet was 21st KENSHO International Karate Open-Do Championship and he won a Gold Medal for Kumite in the under 11 age group and in 2017 at the SFKF Open Karate Championship he ended up among the Best Eight and received a Merit Certificate and in the fifth Kumite Championship held in Kurunegala he won a Gold in Kumite.

At the North Western Province Kata Championship he won another Gold for Kumite and in the 4th Open International Semi Contact Karate Championship he got a Bronze Medal and in the 6th Kurunegala District Karate-Do Cham-



Vimansa Nimsara Perera

pionship he won another Bronze and at the 27th North Western Karate Championship held in Kuliyapitiya University in 2018 he won a Bronze in Kumite.

Then in the Sub-Junior under 13 Sri Lanka National Karate Championship he recorded the Best performance and at the 7th Kurunegala District Karate Championship he won a Gold for Kumite in the under 15 age group in 2019 and at the 28th North Western Province Karate Championship he won a Gold in Kumite and in the ISKU International All Island Kata Championship in under 14/15 age group Online Competition he received a Gold Medal and in the same year he was awarded the Black Belt for his achievements. In this connection his Principal Asanka Gamin and Mrs. Erandi were always supportive.

Prabuddha of Ibbagamuwa Central a prolific run getter

Seventeen year old Prabuddha Premalal excelled for Ibbagamuwa Central College in the Under 19 Division III inter Schools Cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association.

Right hand batsman Prabuddha Premalal scored 1144 runs in 11 matches with a double century, two centuries and six half centuries in the 2019/20 season. He maintained a 71.50 average in the season.

Prabuddha Premalal was born on 21st February in 2003 at Ibbagamuwa. He commenced his cricket career at Ibbagamuwa Central College in the under 13 age limit under his first coach Dilip Chandrasekara in 2014. He represented the under 13 'B' team in that year. He represented the college under 13 'A' team in 2015 and 2016. He scored 575 runs with a double century and century in the season of 2016.

He was deputy skipper of the college under 15 team in 2017. He scored over 200 runs in six matches with two half tons. He represented Kurunegala and North Western under 15 teams in the



Prabuddha Premalal

Prima Champion Trophy inter district and inter provincial tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket in the same year. He scored 379 runs in 10 matches with half tons in the under 15 cricket season 2018.

He was deputy skipper of the college under 17 team in 2019. He scored only 210 runs with a century. He represented the college first XI team as a fresher in 2017/2018 season under the guidance of Mrs. Nirodha Abeywickrama, Principal, Suranga Ranatunge, Master In charge and coaches Dilip Chandrasekara and Prasanna Karunawansa. He scored 278 runs in a few matches. He represented the college first XI team in the 2018/19

season. He scored only 337 runs.

Prabuddha Premalal helped Ibbagamuwa Central College advance to the quarter finals. He made unbeaten 204 runs against Azhar Central College Akurana. He made centuries against C.W.W. Kannangara Central College Matugama (151) and Nugawela Central College (138). He made half centuries against St. Xavier's Marawila (74), Sir John Kotalawala Kurunegala (94), Azhar Central Akurana (84), Royal Polonnaruwa (56), Methodist High School Moratuwa (96 & 51) in the season.

How he fared in the last Season 2019/2020

vs St. Xavier's Marawila 74 & 26*, vs Sir John Kotalawala Kurunegala 30 & 94, vs Azhar Central Akurana 204* & 84, vs Jaffna Central 12 & 00, vs Nugawela Central 10 & 138, vs Ibbagamuwa Model School 30, vs Royal Polonnaruwa 00 & 56, vs Skandavarodaya MV Jaffna 21, vs Maliyadeva Model Kurunegala 00 & 17, vs C.W.W. Kannangara Central Matugama 151, vs Methodist High School Moratuwa 96 & 51* (YK)

On this day 29 years ago

When Ranatunga masterminded first ever 300-plus ODI chase

Batting great Arjuna Ranatunga may be synonymous with Sri Lanka's 1996 Cricket World Cup triumph over Australia at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan.

But it was four years ago in 1992, exactly 29 years from now, on February 23 that this stocky left-hander gave a glimpse of his potential with a brilliant batting performance against Zimbabwe.

Sri Lanka were heading for a humiliating World Cup defeat in their opening match of the tournament against the minnows as Zimbabwe rattled a massive 312 for four wickets in 50 overs at New Plymouth, New Zealand.

In fact, Zimbabwe always had this habit of creating upsets and producing surprises against some of the more fancied opponents in every World Cup they had participated.

In 1983, they edged out Australia by 13 runs and in the next World Cup they almost had the better of New Zealand.

Another major upset was on the cards in 1992 against Sri Lanka as Man-



Arjuna Ranatunga

of-the-Match and opening batsman Andy Flower struck an unbeaten 115 on his debut with the help of one six and eight boundaries.

Andy Waller batting at number six then hammered the Sri Lankan bowling to all parts of the ground with a swashbuckling 83 not out from 45 deliveries.

His unbroken partnership with Flower was worth 145 runs as Zimbabwe set Sri Lanka a daunting task of scoring over 300 runs in the second innings of a match for the first time in the history.

No doubt, in the modern era, scoring over 300 runs in a One Day International (ODI) may be a common scenario but

down the lane, 29 years ago it was a tough ask for any team.

The openers Athula Samarasekera and Roshan Mahanama took the Lankans off to a flying start while putting on 128 runs with both completing half centuries.

However, Sri Lanka lost the key wickets of Skipper Aravinda de Silva and

Asanka Gurusinha cheaply and their chances of winning looked almost bleak when they collapsed to 212 for five wickets by the 39th over.

But the situation was tailor-made for Ranatunga who scored more than a run-a-ball to remain unbeaten on 88 inclusive of one six and nine boundaries.

The feature of his batting was the manner in which he handled the pressure situation and was not prepared to throw his wicket away despite the asking-rate had climbed to nearly 10 runs per over.

The elegant left-hander gave a classic example of playing under pressure as he found the gaps beautifully and hit the boundaries regularly without ever resorting to slogging.

The other significant fact was how he shielded the lower batting order and fittingly, Ranatunga hit the winning runs with four balls to spare in an amazing game that produced the second-highest ODI match aggregate at that time.

(C.D)

Devindu Dissanayake an outstanding weightlifter and swimmer

UPANANDA
JAYASUNDERA
Kandy Sports Special
Correspondent

Devindu Charithapani Dissanayake, a Grade 13 student of Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy in the art stream is an outstanding Weightlifter and a promising swimmer. She is a cadet as well and her weightlifting Coaches are M.G.N.R. Bandara and Srimali Samarakoon and her swimming coach is U.H.Sugath and the cadet-in-charge is Captain T.Abeykoon and Warrant Officer Vidyaratne who helped Devindu to improve her Weightlifting ability.

At the start she



Devindu receiving colours for swimming from the chief guest.

secured the first place in the 75 Kg. Weight Class at the Junior Novices Championship held at the Welikanda weight lifting Centre in the year 2018. In the same year she secured the first place at the All Island Weightlifting Championship in the 69 Kg. weight class held at the

Mawanella Ravisanda School Hall. She secured the second place in the 81 Kg. Weight class at the All island Schools Weightlifting contest held in 2019. At the Provincial Meet Devindu secured the first place in the 69 Kg. weight class and repeated her winning spree to secure the



Devindu Dissanayake in action at a Weightlifting Meet.

first place at the XLV National Sports Festival in the 75 Kg. weight class in the year 2018. In 2019 she won the first place in the 81 Kg. Weight class and in 2020 she won the first place at the XLVI National Sports Festival in the 81 Kg. weight class.

As a Swimmer Devindu

won the first place in 200 Metre Individual Medley event at the seventh Novices Meet in 2011 and in 2012 she won the first place in 25 Metre Backstroke in the same event. At the Age group championship she won the first place in 200 Metre Individual Medley event and in the same year she secured the second place in the Butterfly event.

At the 8th Annual Age group Swimming Championship she secured the second place in the 100 Metre Free Style event. After she started her swimming career she has won the first place in the Backstroke in 25 Metre event and first

place in 100 Metre Individual Medley event and in 2014 she won the 25 Metre Butterfly event at the Central Province Swimming Meet.

As a Cadet in the year 2017 she attended the School Cadet Battalion at the Annual

Assessment Army Wing Boys/Girls Camp and was placed third in the De Soysa Challenge Shield for which she won the School Colours. Devindu is thankful to all three coaches of the sports disciplines and after her higher studies she hopes to join the Kotalawala Defence Academy to become an Officer in the Armed Forces.

Kotmale Speed Hill Climb on May 1 and 2

HAFIZ MARIKAR

The management team of Senkadagala Motor Sports Club, which is a newly formed club with experienced riders and drivers with some motor sports lovers in the hill capital in association with the Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Club has decided to conduct the most looked forward Kotmale Speed Hill Climb on 1st and 2nd of May. They have planned to bring back the event and it is going to be the first speed show of the year. All top motor sportsmen are expected to take part in this event. Last year they were to have this event on June 22 and 23 organized by Senkadagala Motor Sports Club in association with Negombo Motor Sports Club but had to postpone it due to Coronavirus.

So, this time plans are going on to bring back the hill climb motor event in the central hills. They have fixed the date for 01st and 02nd of May in Kotmale. The President of the Senkadagala Motor Sports

Club Thusith De Silva, Secretary Poorna Dahanayake, Treasurer Dammika Bambaradeniya, and committee members John Baskaran, P.H.N. Solomon, Errol Kempes, Lakshman Issac, Oshada Wijesekera, Sarath Tennakoon, Charminda Weerasinghe, E.M. Dissanayake, Akila Senanayake, Darshana Abeyasinghe, Gihan Deesekera, Eranga Ranasinghe, Madhushank Alawala, Thilanka Abeyasinghe, Anuradha Navaratne are making all arrangements to make this hill climb a success. They have planned for events of Nissan March, Mini 7, Modified Cars, Ford Lasers, SLGT up to 3500cc, Subaru Legacy, Formula cars, Truck, and Jeeps also Motor Bikes from 250cc to 1000cc events.

Motot Sports loves who are keen to take part can collect their entry forms from A.U Motors, No. 82B, S de Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kohuwala, Nugegoda and Sujewa Optical's No. 88, Kotugodella Street, Kandy.

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by me, Chairman, Procurement Committee of the North Central Provincial Department of Health Services up to **10.00 a.m. on 10.03.2021** from qualified suppliers for the project stated below.

Source	Project	Bid Fee - Rs. -	Value of Bid Security valid for 105 days - Rs. -
Line Ministry of Health Services	The Dogs Sterilization Programme of the North Central Provincial Department of Health Services, for the year 2021.	2,000.00	30,000.00

- Bidder should be a Veterinary Surgeon registered at the Veterinary Medical Council.
- Bidders who are not blacklisted and who fulfil required qualifications can obtain relevant bid documents from **22.02.2021** up to **09.03.2021** from the office of the North Central Provincial Director of Health Services, Anuradhapura during office hours (9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) on payment of the non-refundable bid fee, made to the North Central Provincial Director of Health Services and the bid documents can be inspected free of charge at the same office. Further details can be obtained on Telephone Nos: 025-2050718 / 025-2223790.
- Bids, duly completed in accordance with the bid conditions, could either be sent by registered post addressed to Chairman, Provincial Director of Health Services, Provincial Department of Health Services, Bandaranayake Mawatha, Anuradhapura or placed in the Bid Box kept at the Accounts Section of the office of the Provincial Director of Health Services, to be received at or before **10.00 a.m. on 10.03.2021**.
- Bids should be prepared in two copies as the original and duplicate and should be placed in separate covers. The two covers then should be placed in a single sealed cover, marked "Dogs sterilization programme - 2021 of the North Central Provincial Department of Health Services" at the left side top corner and submitted.
- Bids received will be opened immediately after closing of acceptance of bids at **10.00 a.m. on 10.03.2021** and bidders or their authorized representatives can be present at the opening.
- The Bid Security could either be a Bank Security obtained from a reputed commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, valid up to **105 days from 10.03.2021** (from **10.03.2021** up to **23.06.2021**) or the Receipt received from the office of the Provincial Director of Health Services for depositing the relevant monies, by cash.
- The decision of the Procurement Committee of the Provincial Department of Health Services in this regard shall be the final.

**Chairman / Provincial Director of Health Services,
Provincial Department of Health Services (NCP),
Bandaranayake Mawatha, Anuradhapura.**

18.02.2021

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PERADENIYA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids are hereby invited by the Regional Procurement Committee of the Extension & Training Center of the Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya for purchase of Solar Powered Energizer Equipment.

Details regarding this matter, bid forms and conditions etc could be inspected free of charge at the Extension & Training Center at the head office of the Department of Agriculture, Applicants could obtain bid forms containing relevant documents during working days of the week from 23.02.2021 upto 16.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the Extension & Training Center of the Department of Agriculture located at Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya after paying a non refundable fee of Rs. 3500/= in cash to the Shroff of the Department of Agriculture.

As shown in 8.1 of Exception 13 of the Guidelines code the applicants as relevant should be registered under the Registrar under the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987 and a certified copy of this registration certificate should be submitted with the bid documents.

All bids should be enclosed in sealed envelopes and sent to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Extension & Training Center, Department of Agriculture, Old Galaha Road, Peradeniya, by registered post or could be inserted in the tender box after making an entry in the Register kept in the extension and training center, in the head office of the above address. The words "Quotation for supply of Solar Powered Energizer Equipment" should be marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope containing the bid. A pre bid meeting for this purpose will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 08.03.2021 at the Extension & Training Center.

Accepting of bids will close at 10.00 a.m. on 17.03.2021 and they will be opened immediately thereafter at the Extension & Training Centre of the Department of Agriculture. The bidder or only one authorized representative could be present on this occasion.

An unconditional bid security issued by a commercial bank registered at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to the value of Rs. 165,000.00 valid until 30.06.2021 or a sum of Rs. 82,500.00 in cash should be paid to the Shroff of this Department as a bid security and submitted.

All bids should be valid upto 02.06.2021.

This Procurement committee has the right of the final decision regarding bids and any queries which may arise from the bids and to reject any bid without showing reasons and also the right to refrain from purchasing the quantity mentioned herein or a part of same.

**Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Extension & Training Centre,
Department of Agriculture,
Peradeniya.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(GOSL Funded Project)

Department of Engineering Services (Central Province)

- The Chairman of Departmental Procurement Committee on behalf of Department of Engineering Services (Central Province) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Construction work as described in the table below. Construction cost and Construction period are mentioned in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB). Since the Total Cost Estimate of these procurements are below Rs. 50Mn. regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Circular No. 04/2016(ii).
- 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 Grade as mentioned below in the field of Building Construction.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award are mentioned in the form of Qualification Information in Section 4 (Documentary proof should be attached) and the bids of bidders who do not fulfill the specified technical, financial and other qualifications will be rejected.
- Bidder should fulfill the requirement of registration under the terms of Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Provincial Director (Development & Training) (Telephone Number 081-2203931) Department of Engineering Services (Central Province), No. 230/3, S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake Mawatha, Kandy from 0900 - 1500 hours on working days and inspect the bidding documents at the same office.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased from Deputy Director (Finance) by interested bidders on the submission of a written application addressed to the Provincial Director (Engineering Services), from 24.02.2021 until 16.03.2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs. upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 3,000.00. The method of payment will be in cash to the Deputy Director (Finance).
- Bid shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below on or before 17.03.2021 at 1000 hours. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 77 days after the deadline of bid submission.
- All bids shall be accompanied by Bid Security, to the amount described below, valid till 30.06.2021 or the receipt of cash deposit of the amount described below to the Deputy Director (Finance), Department of Engineering Services.
- Pre Bid meeting will be held at the below address at 1000 hrs on 10.03.2021.

Item No.	Work	BOQ amount (Rs) (without VAT)	Construction period in weeks	Required CIDA Registration	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)	Value of cash deposit for Bid Security (Rs.)
01	Construction of Proposed Three Storied Quarters Building - Stage i (Ground Floor) for Office of The District Engineers at Hawaeliya in Nuwaraeliya).	9.7 Mn	16	C6 & C7	150,000.00	75,000.00

The address referred to above is :

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Department of Engineering Services (Central Province),
No. 230/3, S.W.R.D. Bandaranayake Mawatha,
Kandy.**

19th February 2021

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & INDIGENOUS MEDICAL SERVICES

WIJAYA KUMARATUNGA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SEEDUWA

PROCUREMENT NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - 2021

- Sealed quotations are entertained by the Director, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa up to 10.00 a.m. on 18/03/2021 for the supply of under mentioned Medical Equipment.

2.

Equipment	Qty	Non Refundable Tender Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security value (Rs.)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Mn.)
01. Mounted Static Radiography System (X Ray Machine)	01	1,000.00	140,000.00	7.00
02. Ophthalmic Operating Microscope	01	3,500.00	340,000.00	17.00
03. Other Medical Equipment (one Pulse Oxymeter, one Sucker Machine, one Mini Autoclave Machine, One Nebulizer, Ten BP Apparatus)	Lot	1,000.00	30,000.00	1.5
04. Medical Instruments for Eye Surgeries & General Medical Instruments (List Provided)	Lot	1,000.00	16,000.00	0.8

- Only the local representative / accredited agents of manufacturers of the equipment are eligible to participate in this bid.
- If the estimate cost for the procurement exceeds the Rs. 5 million the bidder shall register at the Registrar of Public Contract Sri Lanka.
- A complete set of bidding documents should be obtained from Administrative Officer, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa (Tele. 011-2258861-4) from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm during the period from 23/02/2021 to 17/03/2021 (Except on public holidays and weekends) on submission of the following documents.
 - A written request to Chairman, Regional Procurement committee, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa.
 - Receipt of the payment of the non-refundable fee as stated above in cash to the Accountant, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa.
 - A certified copy of the original Business Registration Certificate.
 - A certificate / letter issued by the principals appointing your company as local agents for their products.
- Sealed bids prepared in duplicate should be sent by registered post to reach at or before 10.00 am on 18.03.2021 to the address given below or personally deposited in the tender box available at the Office of the Director, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa before the closing of tender. The top left hand corner of the envelope containing the bidding document should be clearly marked, "Tender for the supply of Medical Equipment - -----/2021".
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at 10.00 a.m. on 18/03/2021 at the Office of the Director, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa. Bidders or their authorized agents are permitted to be present at the time of bid opening.
- Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge on working hours at the Office of the Administrative Officer of Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa.
- Further information could be obtained from the Director, Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa.

Tele : 011-2258861-4 Fax - 011-2258865

**Dr. ULRM. Perera,
Director,
Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital,
Seeduwa.**

Date- 23-02-2021

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



PEOPLE'S BANK
(AKURANA BRANCH)

AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WITH LAND, BUILDINGS, PLANTATIONS AND EVERYTHING STANDING THEREON

All that divided and defined allotment of the land marked Lot No.01 depicted in the Plan No. 2012/36 on 21.03.2010 and 03.04.2010 made by Mr. P.H.R.Kumara, Licensed Surveyor, called Korakahagalle Waththa, situated at the village of Alawathugoda, in the Grama Niladhari Division of Alawathugoda within the limit of Akurana in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Akurana in the Udahampaha Koralie in Hirispaththu in the District of Kandy in the Central Province and which said land is bounded on,

North: Lot No. 02 in the Plan No. 2010/2
East: Muthengedara Waththa
South: Lot No. 05 in the Plan No. 2010/2
West: Pradeshiya Sabha Road running from Saman Devala to Aluthwathugoda

Containing in extent of Twenty-Two Perches (A00 R 00 P 22) of the land, building and trees, fruits together with everything standing therein.

Property secured to People's Bank, for the facilities granted to Mr. Rajapaksha Wasala Mudiyansele Kumbura Gedara Wasantha Bandara Jayasinghe as mortgaged and hypothecated in payment due on Mortgage Bond No. 4851 dated 08th May 2012 attested by Mrs. Galewasala Rajapaksha Mudiyansele Kumuduni Palmakumbura Notary Public of Kandy.

Under the Authority granted to us by People's Bank, I shall sell by Public Auction On Wednesday, 17th March, 2021 Commencing at 10.30 a.m. at the spot

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY

Proceed from Akurana Town up to Alawathugoda Town and turn left along Ankumbura road. Travel for about 150m and then turn left along Saman Devalaya road. Go for about 250m along this road. Then the subject property is situated on the left with wide motorable frontage

FOR NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Please refer the Government Gazette of 30th August 2019 and Daily News, Dinamina, and Thinakaran Newspapers of 30th August 2019 for additional information.

MODE OF PAYMENT

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

1. 10% (TEN PERCENT) of the Purchased Price.
2. 2% NBT on the Purchased Price.
3. 8% VAT on the above.
4. 1% (ONE PERCENT) Local Sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
5. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the Purchased Price.
6. Cost of Sale and all other charges, if any
7. Stamp Duty to the Certificate of Sale.
8. The balance 90% of the Purchased Price will have to be paid within 30 days from the auction date to the Regional Manager, People's Bank, Regional Head Office, No.17 Dalada Veediya Kandy.

If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit of the purchase price already paid and resale the property.

Title deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the following address.
The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice.

**Regional Manager,
People's Bank - Regional Head Office,
No.17, Dalada Veediya Kandy
Tel. Nos.: 081 - 2227900, 081 - 2228383,
Fax: 081 - 2223123 / 081 - 2223017**



DALLAS KELAART

Licensed Auctioneer
No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela.
Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111
E-mail: auctsk@gmail.com

**SRI LANKA STATE PLANTATIONS CORPORATION
MINISTRY OF PLANTATION**


Obtaining Security Services - Midland Plantation - Rattota

It is intended to obtain the services of Security Officers for protection of the Cardamom Plantation in the Midland State Plantations, belonging to the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation.

Sealed applications from experienced Security Institutions are requested to be sent to the General Manager, Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation, No. 21, Meeraniya Street, Colombo 12 to be received at or before 08.03.2021 for this purpose.

For further details: Plantations Superintendent - Midland - 066-5679800/071-4634122/ 077-4055999.

**Chairman,
Procurement Board,
Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation,
21, Meeraniya Street, Colombo 12
22-02-2021**



**High Commission of Maldives
Colombo
Address: No. 25, Melbourne Avenue
Colombo 4
Telephone: 5516302 Ref: 27/IUL/2021/05
Fax: 2581200 Date: 22/02/2021**

The High Commission of Maldives invites all interested parties to submit bid proposal to look after the security of the premises of the High Commission of Maldives situated at No: 25, Melbourne Avenue and Maldivian Educational and Cultural Centre situated at No. 23, Kaviratne Place (Sosun Villa), Colombo 06.

Interested parties are requested to attend the information session which will be held on the following dates:

**For High Commission of Maldives
Wednesday 24th February 2021, at 1300 hrs at High Commission of Maldives.**

**For Maldivian Educational and Cultural Centre
Thursday, 25th February 2021, at 1100 hrs. at the Maldivian Educational and Cultural Centre.**

All the proposals should be submitted by Tuesday, 02nd March 2021 at 1400 hrs. to the following address:

**No: 25, Melbourne Avenue,
Colombo 4
Telephone: 2580076
Fax: 2581200**

For further information please call 0727277290

Daily News Classifieds

Automotive



Suzuki Cars
For sale

CP-CAZ-0032
Suzuki DAA-MH55S Wagon-R motor car 2018. Urban Brown Pearl metallic colour for highest offer. CBC Finance Ltd. 187, Katugastota Rd., Kandy. TP: 0812-200272. 014079

M/Cycles & T/Wheelers
For sale

SG BHV-0829 TVS Apache, 2018, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711-210810. 013304

WP AAW-9938 Bajaj, 2015, Three wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711-210810. 013305

Employment

Professional Consultancy
Services

Consultancy in labour issues, fraud prevention, conflict resolving. No political interference. De Abrew & Co. 0722062919. 014053

Positions Vacant
Hotel & Bakery

Urgent requirement for the following personnel for 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. 011863

General

Educational Vocational

Learn to drive accurately and perfectly within the city without fear. Most welcome inexperienced driving licence holders. 0762905252, 0714225441. 013935

Personal

Sports & Fitness

Instructions and exercise equipment for physical fitness and mental health, free of charge (from a government officer). 071-2555763. 014151

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY OF RESOLUTION PASSED
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON NOVEMBER 20, 2020**

**Initiation of Parate Action - NPLs Parked at MCB Sri Lanka Operations:
Resolution No.BOD/268/2020
M/s GEENULI CINNAMON, A/C NO. 008001004059**

It is hereby resolved by the Board of Directors of MCB Bank Limited, which is a Licensed Commercial Bank within the meaning of the Banking Act No. 30 of 1998 and a Bank within the meaning of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, (as amended) and which has its Registered Office at MCB Building, 15- Main Gulberg, Jail Road, Lahore, Pakistan and which has a Branch Office and a Place of Business at No 8, Layden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 and also of No. 28, Matara Road, Galle, as follows:

**MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA
"MS.GEENULI CINNAMON"**

WHEREAS, MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA who is carrying on business, as Sole Proprietor, under the name, style and firm of "MS Geenuli Cinnamon" at No. 613/6, L M P Mawatha, Kurundugaha Hethama, Elpitaya has made default in the payment of monies which are due from **MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA** to MCB Bank Limited under Primary Mortgage Bond No.466 dated 23rd August 2017 and Secondary Mortgage Bond No. 540 dated 24th July 2018 both attested by M.Z. Hussainmiya, Notary Public of Colombo and duly registered, which Mortgage Bond Nos 466 and 540 were executed by **MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA** in favor of MCB Bank Limited as Security for the repayment of an aggregate sum of Rupees Thirteen Million Only (LKR 13,000,000/-) and interest thereon and charges out of the monies which are or may be or become due and owing upon Loans (by way of a Short Term Loan Facility and an Overdraft Facility) granted by the said MCB Bank Limited to **MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA**; and there is, as at 30th September 2019, due and owing and unpaid and in default from **MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA** to MCB Bank Limited:

i. A sum of Rupees Eight Million Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety-Five Cents Eighteen Only (LKR 8,037,595.18) only together with interest on aggregate Capital Sum of LKR 7,800,000/- at the Rate of One Month Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (1 Month AWPLR) as disseminated by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka with a margin of 5.00% per annum (1 Month AWPLR + 5.00% per annum) until payment in full, upon the Short Term Loan Facility; and

ii. A Sum of Rupees Two Million One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Eight Cents Twelve Only (LKR 2,151,728/12) only together with interest thereon at the Rate of One Month Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (1 Month AWPLR) as disseminated by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka with a margin of 5.00% per annum (1 Month AWPLR + 5.00% per annum) until payment in full, upon the Overdraft Facility.

WHEREFORE, the Board of Directors of MCB Bank Limited, under the powers vested in them by the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990, (as amended) do hereby resolve that all the Land and Premises described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to MCB Bank Limited by the said Mortgage Bond Nos. 466 and 540, be sold by Public Auction by Dallas Kelaart Specialist Licensed Auctioneer of 146/3, Caldera Gardens, off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela for the recovery of the said sum of Rupees Eight Million Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Five Cents Eighteen Only (LKR 8,037,595.18) only together with interest of the aggregate Capital Sum of LKR 7,800,000/- at the Rate of One Month Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (1 Month AWPLR) as disseminated by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka with a margin of 5.00% per annum (1 Month AWPLR + 5.00% per annum) until payment in full and the said sum of Rupees Two Million One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Eight Cents Twelve Only (LKR 2,151,728/12) together with interest thereon at the Rate of One Month Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (1 Month AWPLR) as disseminated by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka with a margin of 5.00% per annum (1 Month AWPLR + 5.00% per annum) until payment in full or such portion thereof as may remain unpaid at the time of such sale together with the Cost of Advertising and conducting the said sale less payments (if any) since received by MCB Bank Limited.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that allotment of land marked as Lot B1 as depicted in Plan No. (being a portion of Lot A of the land called Assalu Kanda Addara) as depicted in Plan No. 1089 B made by Maduwa Thejassee, Licensed Surveyor of the land called Assalu Kanda Addara in the Grama Niladhari Division of Kurundugaha Hathagama No. 93C in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Karandeniya, in the Pradeshiya Lekham Office of Karandeniya in the Wellabada Pattawa in the District of Galle, Southern Province and which said Lot B1 is bounded on the **NORTH** by Ela and on the **EAST** by Assalukanda Addara Owitana and on the **SOUTH** by Road and on the **WEST** by Ela and containing in extent Eleven Perches (A0-R0-P11) and together with the trees plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered in Volume/Folio J 23/116 in the Land Registry of Elpitaya.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked as Lot A2B as depicted in Plan No. 893 E made by D G Mendis Licensed Surveyor of the land called **ASSALUKANDA ADDARA OWITA** in the Grama Niladhari Division of Kurundugaha Hathagama No. 93, in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Karandeniya in the Pradeshiya Lekham Office of Karandeniya in the Wellabada Pattawa in the District of Galle, Southern Province and which said Lot A2B is bounded on the **NORTH** by Lot A2C in Plan No. 893 and on the **EAST** by 12 foot wide road as depicted in the same Plan 893 E and on the **SOUTH** by Lot A2A depicted in the Plan No. 893 E zonal land and on the **WEST** by the Paddy Field of Assalukanda and together with the buildings, trees plantations and everything else standing thereon and containing in extent Eight Perches (A0-R0-P8) and registered in Volume/Folio J 70/115 in the Elpitaya District Land Registry. Together with the roadway from this land to the Ambalangoda Elpitaya Main Road as depicted in Lot 1 (Roadway marked 12 feet wide) in Plan No. 893.

**By Order of the Board of Directors
Board Secretary
MCB Bank Limited
No. 8, Layden Bastian Road, Colombo 01**



DALLAS KELAART

Licensed Auctioneer
No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela.
Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111
E-mail: auctsk@gmail.com

**Ministry of Fisheries
State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish & Prawn Farming,
Fishery Harbour Development,
Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports**

**National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka
INVITATION FOR BIDS
PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

01. The Chairman of the National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) invites sealed bids from qualified and eligible bidders for the Procurement of following goods.

Contract No & Name of Procurement	Bid Security (SLR)	Non Refundable Bid Fee (SLR)	Closing Date & Time of Issuing of Bidding Documents	Closing Date & Time of Receiving of Bid
NQ/DPC/2021/NCB/G/01 Procurement of Polythene (LLDPE) (Total requirement of 10,925kg)	50,000.00 121 Days (08.07.2021)	2,500.00	09. 03. 2021 at 3.00 p. m.	10. 03. 2021 at 2.00 p. m.
NQ/DPC/2021/NCB/G/03 Procurement of Hormones for Fish Breeding Activities	70,000.00 121 Days (08.07.2021)	3,000.00	09. 03. 2021 at 3.00 p. m.	10. 03. 2021 at 2.00 p. m.
(i) Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone (GnRH) - 451 nos. of 10 ml vials				
(ii) Luteinizing Hormone-Releasing Hormone - Analogue (LHRH) LHRH-A - 240 nos. of 1 mg vials				
(iii) Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (HCG) -106 nos. of 5,000 IU vials				
(iv) 17 α Methyl Testosterone - 60 nos. of 1 g vials				
NQ/DPC/2021/NCB/G/04 Procurement of Trichlorfon (Total requirement of 456 kg)	70,000.00 121 Days (08.07.2021)	3,000.00	09. 03. 2021 at 3.00 p. m.	10. 03. 2021 at 2.00 p. m.
NQ/DPC/2021/NCB/G/05 Procurement of Bleaching Powder (Total requirement of 16,500 kg)	30,000.00 121 Days (08.07.2021)	2,500.00	09. 03. 2021 at 3.00 p. m.	10. 03. 2021 at 2.00 p. m.

2. All eligible bidders may obtain further information from NAQDA official website: www.naqda.gov.lk

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee -Minor
National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka,
41/1, New Parliament Road,
Pelawatte, Battaramulla.
23.02.2021**

CORRECTION NOTICE

STATE PRINTING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Advertisement published in Daily News on 22.02.2021

This item should be corrected as below:

Tender Ref. No.	Item	Qty	Bid Bond
SPC/SU/2020/1/41	Imp White Writing paper in Reels 610mm / 70 gsm	100 MT	Rs. 160,000/-

OBSERVER JOBS

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CANCELLATION OF GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY
 Know all men by these presents that I, WEERASEKARA ARACHCHIGE NALIN CHAMINDA WEERASEKARA bearing Identity Card No: 710261849V of No. 108, North East Park, Kiriwaula, Thorayaya, Kurunegala do hereby inform the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that I do hereby revoke the General Power of Attorney No. 3845 dated 19.12.2017 attested by W.A.D.P.P. Imbulgoda Notary Public of Kurunegala granted to BATAGALLEGEDARA NILUSHIKA PUSHPA KUMARI bearing Identity Card No. 796881259V of No. 108, North East Park, Kiriwaula, Thorayaya, Kurunegala is henceforth cancelled and revoked and I take no responsibility for any act or transaction performed by the said Attorney on the said General Power of Attorney.
 WEERASEKARA ARACHCHIGE NALIN CHAMINDA WEERASEKARA

GOVERNMENT NOTICE
National Consumer Price Index
 Computed by the Department of Census and Statistics
 (Base: 2013 = 100)
 It is hereby notified for general information that the National Consumer Price Index computed by the Department of Census and Statistics for the month of January 2021 was 142.1 (One Hundred and Forty Two point One)
 P.M.P. Anura Kumara
 Actg. Director General of Census and Statistics.
 Department of Census and Statistics,
 P.O. Box 121,
 Battaramulla,
 22nd February 2021

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

PEOPLE'S BANK
PEOPLE'S BANK (THE DENIYA BRANCH)
AUCTION SALE
OF A VALUABLE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WITH LAND, BUILDINGS, TREES, FRUITS AND EVERYTHING STANDING THEREON

01. All that divided and defined allotment of the land marked Lot No.01 depicted in the Plan No. 3053 surveyed on 15.07.2016 made by Mr. C.D. Dayarathne, Licensed Surveyor, bearing a land called Galapitakandawaththa situated at the Village of Metideniya within the limit of Meda Dumbara Pradeshiya Sabha, in the Divisional Secretariat Division of Meda Dumbura, in the Udasiya Paththu South Korale, in Meda Dumbura in the District of Kandy in the Central Province and which said land is bounded on,
 North & North East : Live Fence separated the Lot No. 02 in the Plan No. 442 and Land and Live Fence claimed by H.M.I. Kiri Banda,
 South & South East : Live Fence separated the Lot No. 04 in the Plan No. 442 and Access Road width of 10 feet from V.C. Road running from Rangala to Meda Mahanawara to this,
 West & North West : Live Fence separated the Lot No.02 in this Plan and Live Fence separated the Lot No.02 in the Plan No. 442,
 Containing in extent of **Two Roads, Eighteen Perches (A. 00 R. 02 P.18)** of the land, buildings and trees, fruits together with everything standing therein and rights of servitude of way.

02. All that divided and defined allotment of the land marked Lot No.01 depicted in the Plan No. 2343 surveyed on 08.01.2012 made by Mr. C.D. Dayarathne, Licensed Surveyor, bearing a land called Galapitakanda Waththa situated at the Village of Metideniya, in the Grama Niladhari Division of Metideniya within the limit of Meda Dumbura, in the Udasiya Paththu South Korale, in Meda Dumbura in the District of Kandy in the Central Province and which said land is bounded on,
 North East : A portion of Lot No.03 in the Plan No. 442,
 North East : Reserved Road 10 feet wide
 South : V.C. Road running from Rangala to Meda Mahanawara to 10 feet wide road running to this land,
 South West : Lot No. 02 in the Plan No. 442
 Containing in extent of One Road, (A. 00 R. 01 P.00) of the land, buildings and trees together with everything standing therein and rights of servitude of way.

Property secured to People's Bank, for the facilities granted to MR. KUMARATHISSA KODITHUWAKKU ARACHCHI as mortgaged and hypothecated in payment due on Mortgage Bond No. 5295 dated 24.10.2016 attested by Mrs. Jeewapani Rathnayake Notary Public of Kandy.
Under the Authority granted to us by People's Bank,
 I shall sell by Public Auction
On Tuesday, 16th March 2021
Commencing at 10.30 a.m. at the spot

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY
 From Meda Mahanawara Town Proceed on Metideniya Road about 3 kms to reach the property to be valued, this is situated on the right hand side of Metideniya road having direct and clear legal motorable access over the same.

FOR NOTICE OF RESOLUTION
 Please refer the Government Gazette of 24th April 2019 and Daily News, Dinamita, and Thinalakam Newspapers of 05th December 2019 for additional information.

MODE OF PAYMENT
 The successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the hammer.
 1. 10% (TEN PERCENT) of the Purchased Price.
 2. 2% NBT on the Purchased Price.
 3. 8% VAT on the above.
 4. 1% (ONE PERCENT) Local Sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
 5. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the Purchased Price.
 6. Cost of Sale and all other charges, if any
 7. Stamp Duty to the Certificate of Sale.
 8. The balance 90% of the purchased Price will have to be paid within 30 days from the auction date to the People's Bank Regional Head Office, No. 17, Dalada Veediya, Kandy

If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit the purchase price already paid and resell the property.
 Title deeds and any other reference may be obtained from the following address.
 The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice.

Regional Manager,
People's Bank - Regional Head Office,
 No.17, Dalada Veediya Kandy
 Tel. Nos.: 081 - 2227900, 081 - 2228383,
 Fax: 081 - 2223123, 081 - 2223017

DALLAS KELAART
 Licensed Auctioneer
 No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Durgemunu Street, Kohuwela.
 Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111
 E - mail : aucslk@gmail.com

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
Urban Development Authority

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER STRUCTURE OF MULTI STORIED CAR PARK AND MIXED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT FORT - (PHASE II)

Contract No. : PD/UDA/MDCP/2021/005

The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness on behalf of the Urban Development Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders (CIDA C1 or above - Building) for the aforesaid contract as described below.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method. Estimated Cost of the Project is Rs. 1,200 Mn. The time for Completion is 540 Calendar Days.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the requirements given in the bidding document including CIDA Grade C1 or above for Building Works.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Head of Procurement, Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" Stage 1, Battaramulla (Tel: 011-3049008; Fax: 011-2874546) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge on working days from 23rd February 2021 to 01st April 2021, 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the Head of Procurement, Procurement Unit, Urban Development Authority, 7th Floor, "Sethsiripaya" Stage 1, Battaramulla from 23rd February 2021 until 05th April 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 100,000/- plus VAT in cash to the Shroff of Urban Development Authority, 6th Floor, Finance Division, "Sethsiripaya Stage 1", Battaramulla.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, which shall be in the form included in the Section X in the Bidding Document, issued in favor of Chairman, Urban Development Authority, 9th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage I, Battaramulla for an amount of Sri Lankan Rupees Twelve Million (Rs. 12,000,000/-) which should be valid until 28th September 2021 issued by a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Bids will be delivered to The Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), Office of the Addl. Secretary (Technical), State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness, 18th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla, on or before 11.00 a.m. on 06th April 2021. Contract name should be marked at the top left hand corner of the sealed envelope. Late submissions will be rejected. Technical Bids will be opened soon after bid closing in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend
- The pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held at the Auditorium, Urban Development Authority, 9th Floor, Sethsiripaya Stage I, Battaramulla at 10.00 a.m. on 15th March 2021. All bidders are strongly advised not to miss 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.
- Chairman, Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC), reserves the right to accept a suitable bid out of the bids received or reject all bids. The decision of the CAPC will be treated as the final decision.
- Further instruction / clarification and site visits could be accommodated by Director (Project Management - Western Region) or Dy. Director, (Projects - Western Region), Project Management Division, 07th Floor, Urban Development Authority, Tel. 011-2877539.
- All the alteration in bidding document should be signed by the bidder.
- The Urban Development Authority shall not be responsible for any expenses or losses which may be incurred to the bidder related to any bid.
- Due to prevailing present COVID-19 pandemic situation, before collecting the bidding document please contact Dy. Director (Procurement), Urban Development on Tel. 011-3049008, Fax. 011-2874546 for your facilitation.

Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC)
State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation,
Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness
17th Floor, "Suhurupaya"
Battaramulla.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Provincial Director (NWP) on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Service described below:

Contract No.	Contract Name	Engineer's Est. (Excl. Contingencies & VAT)	Bid Security (Rs).	Non-Refundable fee (Rs).
RDA/NWP/PD/RMTF/RMSL/KURU/2021-12	Repairs and Routine Maintenance of Street Light System on RDA Roads in Kurunegala District (Kurunegala, Polgahawela, Melsiripura)	Rs. 22.26 Million	367,350.00	3,500.00
RDA/NWP/PD/RMTF/RMSL/KULI/2021-13	Repairs and Routine Maintenance of Street Light System on RDA Roads in Kurunegala District (EE Division Kuliypatiya)	Rs.11.64 Million	192,100.00	3,500.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Contract Period is 360 Calendar Days. The work consists of Repairs and Routine Maintenance of Street Light System.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall be having the ICTAD Registration EM-2 or EM-3 or Business Registration in the relevant field.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the following office during office hours, free of charge.
Provincial Director (North Western Province), Road Development Authority, Kurunegala.
Tel: 037-2056534, Fax: 037-2228076.
- The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 10.00 hrs on 04.03.2021 at the Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, Kurunegala and a site visit will be arranged immediately thereafter if necessary.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Provincial Director (NWP), Road Development Authority - Kurunegala from 23/02/2021 until 09/03/2021 during 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500.00 (inclusive of VAT).
- Bids shall be valid up to 10.06.2021.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to The Chairman, Provincial Procurement Committee, Provincial Director's Office (NWP), Road Development Authority, Kurunegala on or before 14.00 hrs on 10/03/2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid-Security for an amount given in the above table. Bid Security shall be valid up to 10.07.2021.

The Chairman,
Provincial Procurement Committee,
Provincial Director's Office (NWP),
Road Development Authority,
Kurunegala.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Supply, Install, Customize, Integrate and Commissioning of a Fraud Management System for the National Payment Switch (FMSNPS)

LankaClear (Private) Limited (LCPL) is a limited liability company incorporated in Sri Lanka in 2002 and jointly owned by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) and the Licensed Commercial Banks in Sri Lanka.

LankaClear operates the Common Card and Payment Switch (CCAPS) as the "National Payment Switch" and has laid a solid foundation in building an integrated electronic payment network of multiple domestic payment systems under the brand name "LankaPay": LankaPay Common ATM Switch (CAS), LankaPay Shared ATM Switch (SAS), Common Electronic Fund Transfer Switch (CEFTS), Common POS Switch (CPS) and Common Mobile Switch (CMobS).

The proposed FMSNPS should be able to comprehensively integrate with the National Payment Switch for offering multichannel and cross-channel fraud detection and monitoring functionalities to LankaPay member financial institutions. The proposed FMSNPS should provide integration with fraud management systems of financial institutions participating in CCAPS payment infrastructure securely and independently for cross-institution fraud detection and monitoring. All data pertaining to each financial institution should be stored separately in the system allowing to implement system and data access controls independently of each financial institution.

LCPL now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for **Supply, Install, Customize, Integrate and Commissioning of a Fraud Management System for the National Payment Switch (FMSNPS)** from eligible and qualified firms which have substantial capability in providing services and have successfully carried out assignments in at least two national/multinational level institutions.

The information and prospective solutions forwarded through this EOI is likely to form the basis for a formal procurement process for the Supply, Install, Customize, Integrate and Commissioning of a Fraud Management System for the National Payment Switch (FMSNPS). However, while some technical features offered by firms may be included in the resulting Request for Proposal (RFP)/Bidding Documents, firms should not assume that they have an advantage in any resulting procurement.

Request for proposal/Bidding documents shall be issued only to those who have been short-listed through this EOI.

The interested firms may obtain the details by sending an email request to bids@lankaclear.com with the following details: Registered Name of the Company; Registered Address of the Company; Name, Designation and Contact Number of the person requesting EOI documents. Further any interested firm may also contact Manager - Procurement, LCPL on 0712981337 for any clarification.

The eligible and qualified firms may express their interest including but not limiting to the proposed solution for Supply, Install, Customize, Integrate and Commissioning of a Fraud Management System for the National Payment Switch (FMSNPS) in the following format. Foreign firms may also express their interest through a partnering local party.

- Name and Address of the firms with telephone numbers, facsimile, website and email.
- Company Profile.
- Relevant experience - Project References with details of the solution (Please attach brochures, description of similar assignments, etc).

The eligible and qualified firms should submit their EOIs via email mentioning "Supply, Install, Customize, Integrate and Commissioning of a Fraud Management System for the National Payment Switch (FMSNPS)" as subject line on or before 31st March 2021.

General Manager /CEO
 LankaClear (Pvt) Limited - (PV7551)
 Level 18, Bank of Ceylon Head Office
 "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka

LankaClear
 TRANSACT THE FUTURE

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



PEOPLE'S BANK (THELDENIYA BRANCH)
AUCTION SALE

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

All that divided and defined allotment of the land marked Lot No.04 depicted in the Plan No. 783/2014 on 25.02.2014 made by Mr. W.A.M.D. Wijesinghe, Licensed Surveyor, called Bogahalande Hena situated at the Village of Penaboda in the Grama Niladhari Division of Penaboda (413D) within the limit of Naula Pradeshiya Sabha, in the Divisional Secretariat of Naula, in the Wagapanaha Udasiya Paththu Korala, in Meda Dumbura in the District of Matale in the Central Province and which said land is bounded on:

- North : Reservation along the road running from Penaboda Village to Naula.
- East : Land belongs to A.M. Abeysinghe and Others (land in P.P. 359752).
- South : Land called Bogahalande Hena belongs to the State and land belongs to J.B. Thenrakoon.
- West : Lot No. 03 in the Plan No. 783/2014.

Containing in extent of Two Acres, One Rood, Twenty-Eight Decimal Seven Perches (A. 02 R. 01 P. 28.7) of the land, buildings and trees, fruits together with everything standing thereon.

Property secured to People's Bank, for the facilities granted to Mr. Kodithuwakku Arachchige Sampath as mortgaged and hypothecated in payment due on Mortgage Bond No. 5678 dated 26.03.2018 attested by Mrs. Jeewapani Rathnayake Notary Public of Kandy.

Under the Authority granted to us by People's Bank,
I shall sell by Public Auction
On Monday, 15th March 2021
Commencing at 10.30 a.m. at the spot

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY

From Kandy town proceed along Dambulla Road for about 55km up to Naula Town and turn left on to tarred road and continue about 450m up to Nathalpa Rajamatha Viharaya junction and then turn left on to concrete road to Penaboda and continue about 150m to reach the subject property.

FOR NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Please refer the Government Gazette of 24th April 2019 and Daily News, Dinamina, and Thinakaram Newspapers of 05th December 2019 for additional information.

MODE OF PAYMENT

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

1. 10% (TEN PERCENT) of the Purchased Price.
2. 2% NDT on the Purchased Price.
3. 8% VAT on the above.
4. 1% (ONE PERCENT) Local Sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
5. Auctioneer's Commission of 2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the Purchased Price.
6. Cost of Sale and all other charges, if any.
7. Stamp Duty to the Certificate of Sale.
8. The balance 90% of the Purchased Price will have to be paid within 30 days from the auction date to the People's Bank Regional Head Office, No. 17, Dalada Veediya, Kandy.

If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above, the Bank shall have the right to forfeit the purchase price already paid and resell the property.

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

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

Regional Manager,
People's Bank - Regional Head Office,
No.17, Dalada Veediya Kandy
Tel. Nos: 081 - 2227900, 081 - 2228383,
Fax: 081 - 2223123, 081 - 2223017



DALLAS KELAART

Licensed Auctioneer
No.1463, Caldera Gardens, Off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela.
Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111
E-mail: aucslk@gmail.com

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 07 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT No. 28 OF 1964

My No. Miga/3/Ath/161
Land Ministry No. 4-3/7/2013/HW/374

It is intended to Acquire the land described in the schedule below. For further particulars, Please see part III of Government Gazette No. 2213/12 and dated 02nd February 2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

SCHEDULE

- Province : Western
- District : Gampaha
- Divisional Secretary's Division : Negombo
- Grama Niladhari Division : 159, Periyamulla and 160, Udayarkoppuwa
- Village : Hunupitiya (Division No. 6 and 8, Municipal Council of Negombo)
- Preliminary Plan No. : Gam. 4142
- Lot No. : 01-77 (77 Lots)
- Total Extent : 0.1467 Hectare

A.U. Pathirana
Divisional Secretary and Land Acquisition Officer,
Negombo.

Divisional Secretary's Office,
Negombo.
18.02.2021

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NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 16 SUB - SECTIONS (2D) OF THE COAST CONSERVATION AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 57 OF 1981

Proposed project on Mining of Heavy Mineral Sand along the Kokilai - Kakkuthoduwai Coastal stretch and establishment of Mineral Sand Processing Plant at Kokilai in Mullaitivu District Environmental Impact Assessment Report

It is hereby notified that the Report of Environmental Impact Assessment study on proposed Heavy Mineral Sand along the Kokilai - Kakkuthoduwai Coastal stretch and Establishment of Mineral Sand Processing Plant at Kokilai in Mullaitivu has been submitted by the Lanka Mineral Sand Ltd., No. 341/21, Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya as required by the Section 16 (1) of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act No. 57 of 1981 as amended by the Act No. 64 of 1988 and No. 49 of 2011 will be available for inspection by the public at the following institutions from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. for a period of 30 days from 23.02.2021 (except weekends and public holidays).

In addition, this report with 03 languages can be used in the official web site (www.coastal.gov.lk) of the Department of Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management.

1. Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, New Secretariat Building, 4th Floor, Maligawatte, Colombo 10.
2. Central Environmental Authority, No. 104, "Parisara Piyasa", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
3. Department of Wildlife Conservation, No. 811/A, Jayanthipura, Battaramulla.
4. Chief Minister Office, Northern Province, Jaffna
5. Pradeshiya Sabha, Maritime Pattu
6. District Secretariat, Mullaitivu
7. Divisional Secretariat, Maritime Pattu
8. Central Environmental Authority, District Office, Mullaitivu
9. Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, District Office, Mullaitivu
10. Forest Department, District Office, Mullaitivu

Any member of the public may within 30 days from 23.02.2021 submit their comments in writing on the above Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the Director General, Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department.

Dr. M.M.S.S.B. Yalgama
Director General (Cover up duties)
Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management
Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department,
New Secretariat, 4th Floor, Maligawatta, Colombo 10.
Telephone - 011-2449754, 011-2449197, 011-2387922
Fax - 011-2438005, 011-2472623

Employment Opportunities

MINISTRY OF BUDDHASASANA, RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NATIONAL FILM CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
VACANCIES

Applications are invited from candidates who possess the following educational and other qualifications for the undermentioned posts that are vacant at the National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka.

POST - INTERNAL AUDITOR (MM 1-1) - 01 POST

Qualifications

- (a) A degree in Management / Accountancy / Commerce obtained from a reputed university approved by the University Grants Commission
- With
- (b) Three (03) years in auditing in a Government Department / Corporation / Board or a reputed institution.

Salary Scale : Management Services Circular No. 02/2016 - MM 1-1
Rs. 53,175/- - 1,375 x 10 - 1,910 x 15 - Rs. 95,575/=

Age limit : Should be not above 45 years

Method of Recruitment

Through an Open Competitive Examination and a structured interview.
Subjects for the Open Competitive Examination are as follows:

Language Proficiency

Measuring the capability of the candidate in the Expression, Understanding, Spelling and use of Grammar rules

Aptitude Test

Measuring the aptitude and capability of the candidate in performing the duties relevant to the post well.

Nature of the Post and Conditions of Services

Officer who is appointed to Grade II of the Post will be appointed subject to three (03) years probation and he / she will be made permanent in service / post at the end of the probation period if had performed the duties well and the conduct had been satisfactory and had passed the first Efficiency Bar Examination. He / She should contribute to the Employees Provident Fund and the Employees Trust Fund.

POST - ELECTRICIAN (PL 3) - 01 POST

Educational Qualifications:

Should have passed in at least two (02) subjects at the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination

Technical Skills

Should have obtained a Proficiency Certificate of not less than NVQ Level Four (NVQ - Level 4) issued by a technical / vocational training institute recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission relevant to the Post of Electrician and should have obtained three (03) years experience in the relevant field in a reputed institution.

Salary Scale : Management Services Circular No. 02/2016 - PL 3
Rs. 26,290/- - 270 x 10 - 300 x 10 - 330 x 10 - 350 x 12 - Rs. 39,490/=

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

Method of Recruitment - Based on the results of a Trade test and / or Structured Interview

Nature of the Post and Conditions of Services

Officer who is appointed to Grade III of the Post will be appointed subject to three (03) years probation and he / she will be made permanent in service / post at the end of the probation period if had performed the duties well and the conduct had been satisfactory and had passed the first Efficiency Bar Examination. He / She should contribute to the Employees Provident Fund and the Employees Trust Fund.

Applicants should be citizens of Sri Lanka and should bear an excellent character and photocopies of the following documents should be attached to the application and sent.

1. Copies of the Educational Certificates
2. Copy of the Birth Certificate
3. Copies of the Experience Certificates

Method of Applying:

- I. Qualified applicants for the above posts should self prepare the application and should send by registered post addressed to "Chairman, National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 303, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07" to receive before 23.03.2021. Post applying for should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.
- II. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted. You will be considered as disqualified before or after recruitment for this post if it is found out that you have submitted any false information.

Chairman
National Film Corporation of Sri Lanka,
No. 303, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project
FUNDED BY ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK - LOAN No. 3699
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
For
Recruitment of Environmental Safeguard Specialist for Project Management (Individual)
(STHRD/PMU - CS24)

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) equivalent to US\$ 145 Million towards the cost of the Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project (STHRDP) under the Ministry of Education.

The Project has decided to recruit Environmental Safeguard Specialist for Project Management (Individual) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan to payment under this consultancy service.

1. The Project Consultancy Procurement Committee on behalf of the Project Director, Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project, Ministry of Education, now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the required consultancy services. The selection is open to National consultants. Interested consultants must prepare and submit an "Expression of Interest (EOI)" in a standard form, "Template for Expression of Interest (Individual)", which can be obtained by contacting the Executing Agency or download from the ADB website (https://adblogin.adb.org/kl_accessgate/ssologin) and clicking the "Expression of Interest for All Selection Methods".
2. The Consultancy Service includes the following:
This consultancy is time-based consultancy for a period of 136 days intermittently within 36 months to ensure adequate planning and implementation of all the activities relating to Environmental Safeguard as per the TOR and achievement of the quantitative targets as well as desirable qualitative results.
3. The Consultant should possess the following qualifications:
Selected consultant should have Master and Bachelor's degree in environmental science or the equivalent and knowledge and experience in environmental impact assessment & environmental management plans related to development projects in general. Relevant professional experience of 10 years and at least and five years as environmental Specialist, for one ADB project or other Official Development Assistance (ODA) or multilateral financial institution programs.

The EOI may be submitted through;

By online submission:

A. (1) Register with ADB's Consultant Management Systems (CMS) at <https://www.adb.org> and (2) submit EOIs online through the advertisement posted at <https://www.adb.org/project/tenders/> with the project name of "Science and Technology Human Recourse Development Project".

B. (1) go to <http://csrn.adb.org>, (2) click on "Sri Lanka", (3) find "Science and Technology Human Recourse Development Project" and click on "view", (4) click on "submit EOI", and (5) follow the instructions. All requested information must be filled-in completely.

OR

By hard copy submission: (1) obtain the "Template for Expression of Interest for Individual at (https://adblogin.adb.org/kl_accessgate/ssologin)", and (2) prepare and submit to the address indicated below in an envelope clearly titled - "Expression of Interest for Recruitment of Environmental Safeguard Specialist for Project Management (Individual)".

Mailing Address:

Project Director
Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project,
Ministry of Education,
363 E, Horagahakanda Road,
Thalangama North,
Koswatta,
Battaramulla
E-mail: ps-sthrd@mohe.gov.lk
Telephone: 011-2791232
Fax: 011 279 1278

Deadline for Submission of Application is **8th March 2021**

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedure set out in the "Individual Consultants Selection Method" following ADB Procurement Guidelines. This consultancy will be commencing from March 2021.

Chairman
Project Consultancy Procurement Committee
Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project
Ministry of Education,
No. 363 E, Horagahakanda Road,
Thalangama North,
Koswatta, Battaramulla,
Sri Lanka.
23rd February 2021

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SMART IS AS SMART DOES!

GIRLS' COLLEGE, DANKOTUWA



PERFECT PREFECT

Head Girl Kushara Tissera



Winning the trophy for the All Island Dancing Group



Clinching the trophy for the Best Performance at the school Sports meet 2020

ISHARA JAYAWARDANE
Success is a blessing to all, but is in the hands of one person and that person is Head Girl of Girls' College, Dankotuwa, Kushara Tissera, who now faces a variety of temptations. Perfect Prefects features Tissera who makes smart choices in life.

Deciding not to be selfish is probably one of the best choices she has made in her life so far. No one is perfect, we are all full of imperfections, we have our limitations and it is natural loving yourself and natural loving those close to you. But if all men and women rich and poor, small and great think about each other then we can create a society that ensures equal opportunity to all. The well-being of everyone in society is not only the duty of the rich but also that of the poor.

"In modern society we see so much selfishness. People think only about satisfying their own desires and have a certain disregard for the welfare of others. Most people are preoccupied with this attitude that is - 'Mine' or 'Me', sometimes to the point of self-obsession. They simply do not think about others. As a result, there is crime and violence. I think we need to change this attitude of 'Mine or Me' into 'We'. 'We' denote generosity, kindness and empathy. I think as students we can influence society. We can promote this attitude of unity. And we need to start with each other," explained Tissera.

With success comes a variety of temptations. In these moments the youth stepping into adulthood need to be cautious. When temptation comes knocking at the door, the youth need to guard against this. Success brings a certain degree of power and with power comes temptation. She points out that there are two types of leaders in the world - Autocratic and Democratic.

Integrity360 a global corporate and social enterprise committed to advancing integrity and raising ethical practices in global development has ranked Suharto (who died in 2008), an Indonesian politician, and military general as the most corrupt world leader in history in their list of the ten most corrupt world leaders in recent history. Suharto is the most corrupt leader in recent history, having embezzled an alleged US\$15-35 billion during his rule. He is widely regarded as a dictator. Indonesia's independence struggle saw him joining the newly formed Indonesian Army. Suharto rose to the rank of major gen-

eral following Indonesian independence. She also pointed out that one leader she admires is Mahatma Gandhi who said - "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Now those are the words of a true democrat. Apparently the opposite of Suharto.

In any society there are goals to be accomplished. Some would be the Millennium Development Goals. There are eight goals. Goal number one is Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger. Goal seven would be ensure Environment Sustainability. In addition to this each country has its own set of objectives. To achieve these goals' we need strong and effective leaders. Ideally democratic leaders.

"A Leader needs to empower and motivate people. He needs to be able to inspire those around him to accomplish that goal. There are various types of leaders in this world. Some are Autocratic and some are Democratic. In my opinion the democratic style of leadership is the best. Democratic leaders give everyone the opportunity to participate, ideas are exchanged freely and discussion is encouraged. Democratic leadership can apply to any organization, from private businesses to schools to government. Above all, a leader should be willing to listen to what people are agitating about and he/she should be humble and patient. A leader is there to serve the

people. My advice to anyone would be to never miss an opportunity to be a leader," pointed out Tissera.

She points out that her long-term goal in life is to make a mark in the business world. She stated that in order to accomplish this goal she is willing to put in the time and effort when it comes to improving her knowledge and skills.

"I like to design new costumes and try out new fashion which is the reason Otara is my biggest inspiration. Otara Gunawardene is a Sri Lankan entrepreneur, philanthropist, designer and fashion icon. She was the founder of Sri Lanka's tremendously successful

fashion and lifestyle store Odel. Otara is driven by purpose and she is determined to give a voice to the voiceless. The Otara Foundation founded in 2015, is focused on protecting and preserving the natural environment. It is also focused on animal welfare with a special focus on loving kindness towards street dogs via the work carried out by Embark, another initiative launched by Otara. Her accomplishments really inspire me and she has proved that marriage is not a barrier to success," added Tissera.

She points out that the covid19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life and poses a daunting challenge when it comes to public health. It is a serious threat that should not be taken lightly. Our normal routines of working, shopping and getting around have changed. But as the international community, we need to be united says Tissera.

"We have to obey the health rules and precautions set forth by the health authorities and always keep in mind that we should be grateful to those serving on the frontlines. It is of paramount importance that we wear masks and practice social distancing. We have to adjust to a new life style. We need to be prepared and informed. Right now information is one of our greatest weapons," added Tissera.

Lastly she wished to say that she would like to express her gratitude to Rev. Sr. Principal Maria Goretti, her Vice Principals, her teachers, the Prefects, family members and friends for the immense support and love given to her. They have encouraged her to do her duties well.

"Finally I want to tell everyone that you have a leader inside of you. Seize the opportunity. Believe in yourself and fulfill your duties with joy and motivation."



Addressing the gathering on School Teacher's Day

SURESHNI PILAPITIYA

If ever there was a musician who has pushed the boundaries of Sri Lankan artistry on the international front, its Charin Mendes. This multi-talented, yet very humble and intriguing recording artist is a multifaceted musical maestro to say the least. He is a chart-topping singer-songwriter, engineer and producer who has iTunes top 10 and top 100 credits in multiple territories worldwide. In 2017 he was the "most Shazamed" Sri Lankan artist on Apple's music discovery app 'Shazam'. He is also the first Sri Lankan to have been invited to the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles and has attended the awards more than thrice.

Charin is a B.A. Jazz (Honours) graduate of the prestigious Leeds Conservatoire (UK), which is Europe's premier jazz conservatoire. Also being a qualified audio engineer and music producer, he graduated with top honours from the Academy of Contemporary Music (London), where other famous alumni such as Grammy award winner Ed Sheeran and Ted Dwane (Mumford and Sons) built their academic foundations as well. A digital marketer and entrepreneur by profession, he also holds a BBA in Management (USA). One thing is clear, this artist is dedicated to honing his crafts and has indulged in every avenue passionately towards success.

With many interesting accomplishments to his name it's inspiring to find that Charin has been an active writer, producer and singer in the international music industry for a while now. So let's find out what our guest today has to say about his latest progress, achievements and his experiences.

Q: What are you up to these days?

I balance a few careers simultaneously so that keeps me very busy. In terms of music, I have the new album coming up. It has music spanning multiple genres and amazing collaborations with some international artists. In my



10 from '20 TWENTY'

corporate life I am continuing my digital marketing endeavours delivering the best to our clients as usual.

Q: What was your vision for your new album and why did you name it '20 TWENTY'?

I wanted to create a timeless record for the ages and celebrate all the genres that I love. 2020 was a monumental year for humanity. The name is also a tribute to Prince. His 35th album was titled '20Ten', so I wanted to name mine '20 Twenty' a decade later.

Q: What inspired you to get into music, while also juggling a corporate profession?

In simple terms - I grew up with both. I grew up seeing my father excel as a corporate director at one of the leading conglomerates in the island. On the other hand my mum comes from a business family which is another well known brand in Sri Lanka. So I always had that influence. However, when it comes to music it was my father's influence that got me started. He is a very good pianist and accordionist who was a former church organist too. He used to play on

his piano in our living room and as a kid that was my introduction to music. Another key influence is my grandmother Iris Mendis. She is a classical piano teacher who has been training Sri Lankan pianists for over 70 years and at 91 years of age, still teaches young aspiring talent.

Later in life, many new mentors inspired me after my family moved to England. These include some of the artists I work with in London and Los Angeles. It's great to inspire each other while working on a creative project we both love together.

Q: Describe yourself in 3 words.

Perfectionist. Passionate. Persevering.

Q: You have been invited to the Grammy awards several times.

Breathtaking for the most part. Overwhelming sometimes too. It's always an amazing experience to meet and hang out with your musical idols. It was simply surreal meeting some of the legends that inspired me as a kid. In general, award season in Los Angeles is a very exciting time. But what was even more amazing is getting the opportunity to work on some amazing projects.

Q: Who is the most down to earth celebrity whom you have met so far?

To be honest all of them have been very humble and kind to me. If I had to choose only one, I would say Tom Hanks. He was one of the nicest humans beings I've met.

Q: Having a bachelors in jazz, what is the music genre that you mostly follow?

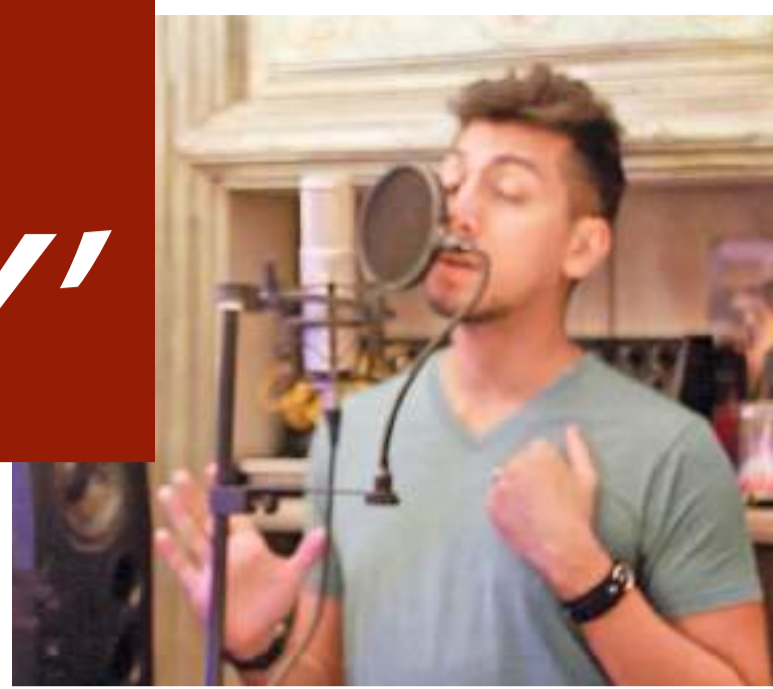


Is it jazz or pop?

Jazz is my inspiration. Pop is my expression of that inspiration. I create music in many genres. Most of my songs these days are EDM and Pop since the charts dictate that. However, my music spans across different genres. For example I have a Soft Rock song called 'Nothing' which was released last year. I released a Country Rock love song just a few weeks ago though as well. There is a jazz-funk song I wrote and produced called 'Purple People' where I play each and every instrument. My other single 'About Us' is an EDM Pop song. So if you go to my YouTube channel you can listen to all these genres in one playlist.

Q: Out of your songs, what is your personal favourite?

It's hard to choose really, because I do love all of them. I have invested myself passionately into each and every piece. I'll narrow it down to three. First, my song 'Satellites' is special to me. I wrote that one while thinking of the future of humankind as a multi-planetary species, where space travel will be quite normal and frequent. So that has a lot of depth personally. Being Sri Lankan I also like my song 'Aalagam' which is the first Sinhalese language song I've released. I wrote, sang & recorded that during the Covid 19 lockdown. Another favourite is 'Purple People' cos I had so much fun playing all the instruments, recording it and producing the record. I enjoyed composing all the orchestration in that song. I got to work with complex jazz harmony, juxtaposing the arrangement against a live performance interpretation of it and also structuring the different movements of the piece while building it



with funk rhythmic components. I simply love composing complex pieces, when I have the time to do so.

Q: During your music career, what's the most memorable moment you had up to now?

Again, I am grateful to have so many of them. I was fortunate to be invited to the The Beatles reunion in Los Angeles. It was organized by the Grammys, and held the day after the Grammy awards. As a pop songwriter I am a Beatles fan and have always considered John Lennon & Paul McCartney as one of my main influences. At the reunion Sir Paul McCartney & Sir Ringo Starr performed the hits together and that was a very unique moment to see The Beatles back together again. They were also given an amazing tribute by Stevie Wonder, Ed Sheeran, John Legend and a host of A-List celebrities. It was awesome to be among that legendary gathering of talent.

Q: What are your thoughts on the local music scene and what can we do to make a mark on the international music scene?

Local listenership is key. I think Lankan audiences need to start supporting Lankan talent. That needs improvement here. Also the music scene needs to progress into an industry as a whole, which means better structure and systems in place to ensure artists have the same opportunities like in other industries. Everything from copy rights management, licensing, royalty payments, fair airtime on radio and the list goes on. These are essential.

Q: What do you think are the similarities you see in being a corporate professional and a musician?

It depends on what you want from each profession. In my case, I want the best in both, so for me both require the utmost dedication, passion to the craft, endurance, discipline and perseverance more than anything. Both are very demanding.

Q: Who would you like to thank for your journey thus far?

First and foremost God for all the blessings, my parents and also my grand parents. Last but not least my mentors in Los Angeles and London who have supported my creative vision throughout.

Q: What are your future plans?

Exciting things are coming up this year together with some amazing international artists. I will be sharing those announcements on my social media this year. Follow me on social media and stay tuned to find out.

Charin's upcoming album '20 TWENTY' comes as his newest chapter in taking Lankan artistry global. Ten new songs have already been released from the album and the album in its entirety is scheduled for release this year. One can watch out for updates and follow his journey on [instagram.com/CharinMendes](https://www.instagram.com/CharinMendes) and [YouTube.com/CharinMendes](https://www.youtube.com/CharinMendes). Charin's music is available on Apple Music, Spotify, Sony Entertainment Network and all major music stores worldwide.

"One World, One Community"

MAHES PERERA

Tomorrow, Wednesday February 24, will be musically a memorable day for musicians in Moratuwa. You may ask why? Actually more than fifty singers and musicians belonging to the Moratuwa Arts Forum will be in the spot light when their VCD with the catchy song "One World, One Community" will be launched at the Sebastianite Reception Hall at 6.30 pm. The inspiration behind the meaningful lyrics and music is none other than Priya Peiris who has the uncanny knack to compose songs that are relevant to a situation or to our country and you can bet your last rupee that this song will be on everybody's lips and be remembered despite the passage of time.

"The music was mine and I supervised and directed the musicians. It was not a simple task to get all the 54 musicians to record the song. But I'm grateful to



them because despite their work schedules and the concerns about the pandemic they extended their co-operation readily to make the song a success. It didn't take long for me to compose the lyrics which goes like this.....

"The time has come for everyone

To look at life anew
To re-assess our life styles
To review and renew
For us to breathe more freely

We have to think as one"

The duration of the VCD is for 4 minutes and believe it or not I composed the song in one week. The Moratuwa Arts Forum will be negotiating TV play back and also the song to be broadcast on Radio. You ask me whether I drew my inspiration to compose the song from Michael Jackson's "We Are The World". Yes, to some extent. The song is meant to uplift the spirit of the world population, to celebrate humanity and to co-exist as one healthy family".

A founder member of the Moratuwa Arts Forum, Priyal Peiris in his teens, he was 18 years at that time, got up one morning and thought to himself he must write a song for an early morning and the result was "Cock-A-doodle-doo" which received heavy airplay on Radio, won unlimited popularity and became a favourite at evening gatherings.



New sound waves hit Chilaw

Chilaw is mostly known as an area which has produced a few big names in the music industry, such as Jayasri and the Marians. The musical town of Chilaw is set to make another 'waveline' in music, since Aruna Thamel, keyboardist of the famous Flash Back band recently opened his new recording venue titled 'The Waveline Studio', Music Center and Music Academy' at No: 190, St. Anne's Road, Katuneriya.

The occasion was made colourful with the participation of the Donald Fernando as the Chief Guest, and the Flashback members along with other guests. The music center was accord-



ingly opened by Thilak Arunasiri, and the first recording in the studio was done by Roshan Fernando, the frontman of Flashback. Artists and Music enthusiasts can pop in at the 'Waveline Music Studio' for all their musical needs and equipment, whereas they can also have voice recordings, advertise-



ments, and music composing according to their requirements. The 'Waveline Music Center' will provide all the musical instruments such as guitars, keyboards, drums and many more. It will also see to all music equipment repairs at a reasonable price. The 'Waveline Music Academy' conducts exclusive classes on Classical Guitar, Guitar, Western Violin, Organ, Piano, Vocal training and drums. Thus it can be ensured that this newly opened venue will be a good

opportunity, for not only for those who live in the area but also for everyone who loves and plays music. Musicians and Music lovers can fulfill every musical need from one place, making it more convenient.

"The Waveline Studio, Music Center and Music Academy' is co-owned by Aruna Thamel of Flashback, and Kevin Thamel. So make sure to drop by this amazing venue and experience the best of music with superb sound quality, state of art music studio, and many more! -SP





RAISING eco-warriors

At a time, when the most potentially damaging challenges faced by the planet are global warming and climate change, it is indeed encouraging to report on counter-initiatives launched by a school in Sri Lanka, achieving an international reach.

The school in question is Lyceum International, Kurunegala, part of the Lyceum International Group of Sri Lanka, which has, within a couple of decades, established a presence in several districts, island-wide.

Lyceum, Kurunegala has launched a campaign to plant 100,000 plants, to commemorate Sri Lanka's 73rd Independence Day celebrations, having obtained the enthusiastic participation of the SMAN 3 School, Padang Panja, Indonesia, DAV Public School, Faridbhad, India and Sialkot Girls' Secondary School, Pakistan. This is

possibly the first instance when Sri Lanka's Independence Day has been celebrated internationally, by three educational institutes in three countries. It assumes even greater significance when the commemorative activity is a project which contributes materially to the greening of the planet, which is rapidly being denuded of its forest cover.

This is not a one off event, as Lyceum International, Kurunegala, will continue to pursue this important objective in the years to come.

Since 2018, the Global Social Leaders Society of Lyceum Kurunegala, a representative student body, has been participating in the Global Goals Competition, organized by the Futures Foundation of UK, in collabo-

ration with Wellington College, UK. The Futures Foundation is an entity operating under the auspices of the Queen's Commonwealth Trust, providing leadership to youth around the world.

Lyceum International Schools' Group, which has, under one umbrella, the greatest single student body in Sri Lanka, gives primary importance to inculcating in its student

body, from the very inception, the importance of the preservation of the environment. In fact, this aspect is separately addressed in the school curriculum.

Apart from this initiative, the Lyceum Global Social Leaders group has also engaged itself in other projects of wide-ranging civic benefit. Amongst them are the two projects, "Prize for Life", and the "Books to Remember", the latter assisting other schools short of reading facilities. This project earned the GSL group the award, "Junior Standout Winners" in the academic year 2019/2020, participating in a virtual summit as dictated by the pandemic restrictions. This enterprising group also participated in the Global Social Leaders world Summit in the UK, proudly representing Sri Lanka and being rewarded with the Junior Standout award for the "Kidney Prize for Life" project.



The current re-greening initiative, and others in the process of implementation, had their genesis in the vision of Dr Mohanlal Grero, who founded Lyceum International 27 years ago, a key driver of the core concept being to "Mold Citizens Who Will Reshape the Motherland". The restoration, protection, and sustainability of our beautiful environment is a key



component of that concept. It is clear, judging from the recent achievements of the Global Social Leader Group, and others which have preceded it, that it is a concept and a vision which is being actively transferred from generation to generation of Lyceumites.



FRESH VISTAS

Text and pictures by M U M SANOON, Puttalam TKN Corr

Puttalam Zahira National College Old boys Association (1980 G.C.E Ordinary Level) "80's Zahirians Heroes" organization recently donated its first batch of donations to the school.

At a cost of about Rs. 395,000, the damaged 100 feet long perimeter wall of the school was completed and handed over to the school with the financial assistance of the members.

The 80's Zahirians Heroes Old Boys Organization was formed on October 18, 2020. The present Principal of the College, H Abdul Jabbar, is a member.

The formation of this merger after about 40 years has



caused great excitement and welcome among the alumni of the school.

M U M Sanoon Media Officer, led the event with prayer and the national anthem, led by M S M Mohideen and A R M Fawas, co-chairs of the organization.

Following the keynote address by M S M Mohideen, one of the co-chairs, the

organization's adviser, Ashsheik M H M Muneer, Principal H A Jabbar addressed the gathering.

One of the songs that contributed to the formation of this old boys group was broadcast.

The note of thanks was



delivered by N M Rasmi, Secretary, School Development Association.

As a final event, the imitation monument of the constructed perimeter wall was handed over to the Chancellor by the members and the memorial crystal engraved on the wall was officially unveiled and handed over to the Chan-

cellor by another consultant Ashshek H M Minhaj in the presence of all the alumni and members.

A cake made by a member of the organization, Askar Murat, was cut and served and a memento was handed over to the principal by S M Ihtiyas for the satisfaction of completing the wall contract.

The event was attended by the School Old boys Association Secretary Engineer H S Nabras and its members, the School Development Association Secretary N M Rasmi and its members, as well as many representatives of the Old Boys groups and members of the School Management Committee.



SCHOOL SCORE

Lessons of Kindness



Text and pictures by I L RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Corr

Teacher of English of Akkaraipattu As-Siraj Junior Vidyalaya M A Gassaly who had retired after 33 years of service at the age of 55 was felicitated for the services rendered to the educational community with the golden shawl, memento and prizes by Akkaraipattu As-Siraj Junior Vidyalaya community recently.

The ceremony was presided over by the School Principal S Rinosdeen while Akkaraipattu Deputy Education Director (Admin) A G Fasmil, Assistant Education Director (English) M A Nowferdeen and Akkaraipattu Divisional Education Officer (DEO) M A Kaleelur Rahman were present.

Retired teacher M A Gassaly, guests and others received a warm welcome.

Principal S Rinosdeen delivered the welcome address. The guests and others spoke about the services rendered by Gassaly to the school community in the field of education.

The teachers of English of the school surprised Gassaly by cutting a birthday cake.

Assistant Education Director (English) M A Nowferdeen, Retired Assistant Education Director (Primary) M A Abuthahir, Akkaraipattu Educational Zone In-service Advisors (ISA) M A L Raji (English), M A Tahir (Guidance and Counseling), Akkaraipattu Educational Zone School Sports Development Project Co-ordinator A L Faiz, Akkaraipattu Sir Razik Fareed Vidyalaya Principal S L A Raheem, School Development Society (SDC) Officials, teachers, special invitees and family members participated.



Text and pictures by RUZAIK FAROOK

Zooming in

The University of Moratuwa is one of the leading universities in Sri Lanka which provides not only educational facilities, but also encourages activities of student societies for the well-being of undergraduates.

Majlis-Ul-Islam is one of the societies in the university that caters to the needs and wants of Muslim students in the university. With a rich history and great academic culture, the origin of Majlis-Ul-Islam dates back to the 1970s. The Majlis has been endeavouring to uplift the academic and extracurricular exposure of members by conducting programmes for members and the society at large.

The 39th Annual General Meeting and Islamic Day of Majlis-ul-Islam of University of Moratuwa was held recently via the Zoom platform with more than 150 participants and the audience could also watch the event live on Facebook.



Dr. Rizvi Noordeen



Dr. Rayes Musthafa



Uzama Zaid



Prof P K S Mahanama

The President of Majlis-ul-Islam, Uzama Zaid delivered the welcome speech. He welcomed everyone to the event,

elaborated the events organized by the Majlis all throughout the year, mentioned the challenges

faced by them and emphasized the importance of the contribution from the Ladies Wing of Majlis-ul-Islam.

Following that, a video containing the names of the past presidents and the formation of the current Executive Committee was played.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, proceeding which the Treasurer submitted the report detailing the expenditure made by the Majlis over the past year.

The winning short films from the school and university categories of an Art, Essay and Short Film competition conducted by the Majlis-ul-Islam were played to the audience.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. Rizvi Noordeen, Senior Treasurer of Majlis-ul-Islam of University of Moratuwa and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the faculty of Architecture delivered a speech. He mentioned that Muslims in the society should set an example to the other societies and that learning to live with dignity, while

respecting the differences and celebrating the diversity is one of the crucial factors for the success of the society.

There were interactive quizzes and online games scheduled for the participants and the winners were announced at the end of the session. Cash prizes, shields and certificates were awarded to the volunteers and winners of competitions conducted by Majlis-ul-Islam.

The launching of the souvenir took place. The appointment of the new Executive Committee for the year 2021 was also held. The newly elected President, M A M Afham was called upon to deliver a speech. He thanked the Executive Committee of the previous year for their huge contribution despite the unfortunate pandemic situation in the country.

M Nabrees, the Assistant Secretary for the previous year delivered the Vote of Thanks. The 39th Annual General meeting and Islamic Day concluded amid friendly relations and cheers.

Sports Editor : 011 242 9223

Fax : +941122343694

e mail : sports@lakehouse.lk www.dailynews.lk

WORLD OF SPORTS

(FEBRUARY 23) LOCAL EVENTS VOLLEYBALL (Men's Super League):
CEB SC vs Ocean SC
Navy SC vs Police SC
Bitulink SC vs Wasana SC
Air Force SC vs NYSC
(All matches at Dadella Volleyball House)

TENNIS
SSC Open at SSC
Courts, Maitland Place

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET
New Zealand Women vs England Women (1st ODI) at Christchurch (Pakistan Super League): Peshawar Zalmi vs Multan Sultans at Karachi (Women's T20 Challenge): Warriors vs Cape Cobras
Highveld Lions vs Knights (Both matches at Durban)

TENNIS
ATP Cordoba Open at Cordoba Lawn Tennis Club, Argentina
Open Sud de France at Arena Montpellier, France

FOOTBALL (Premier League):
Leeds United vs Southampton
(Champions League): Atletico Madrid vs Chelsea
Lazio vs Bayern Munich (Women's International Friendly): England vs Northern Ireland
Malta vs Sweden
Mexico vs Costa Rica
France vs Switzerland

Vaas pulls out of West Indies tour

Consultant Bowling Coach of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), Chaminda Vaas has announced his resignation from his post with effect from March 26, 2021, a SLC media release stated yesterday. The former Sri Lanka cricketer also informed SLC that he will not be available to tour the West Indies as a member of the Support Staff. Vaas' resignation comes hours before the team was scheduled to depart for the West Indies. "It is particularly dishearten-

ing to note that in an economic climate such as the one facing the entire globe right now, Vaas has made this sudden and irresponsible move on the eve of the team's departure, based on personal monetary gain," the media release added further. "The Management of SLC, and indeed the entire nation hold Vaas in high esteem as a cricketer who has excelled for his country. His years of yeoman service have been appreciated and rewarded over the years both in status and in kind."

"In such circumstances, it is extremely disheartening that a legend such as Chaminda Vaas has resorted to holding the administration, the cricketers, and indeed the game at ransom by handing in his resignation at the eleventh hour."



Chaminda Vaas

Tom Moody to join SLC

Former Australian all-rounder Tom Moody is to join Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) as Director of coaching and he is likely to join them early next month. SLC is in the process of finalizing his contract.



Tom Moody

The 55-year Moody is to educate the domestic coaches on the modern techniques and the latest updates of the game. He will be initially contracted for three months and depending on the necessity, the SLC is to regain his services. In 2005 he was in contention to become India's coach but lost out to Greg Chappell. Moody became Sri Lanka's coach a few months later and took them to the final of the 2007 World Cup. He resigned from the job soon after and returned to Western Australia. (AN)

Lankans face heavy defeats at FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers



Action at the Sri Lanka (white) vs. Palestine match

Sri Lanka Basketball team suffered two more defeats at the hands of Palestine (74-129) and Kazakhstan (37-107) in their matches played for the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers window three Group 'F' at Isa Town Basketball Arena in Manama, Bahrain. After losing the curtain raiser Kazakhstan (52-111) Lankans managed to put up a much improved performance against Palestine but ultimately lost the match (74-129). They trailed (19-38) in the first quarter and were 36 points behind at the half time (70-34). Winners dominated the third quarter to post a 101-54 score and sealed their victory with a big margin of 55 points (129-74).

Meanwhile, in the second game against Kazakhstan, Lankans tasted a bitter defeat (37-107) after trailing 02-37 and 13-66 at first quarter and short whistle respectively. The winners had firm control of the game and led 85-26 at the end of the third quarter and recorded a comfortable win. Subsequently, the match against Jordan was postponed after seven players and three officials were tested Covid-19 positive. The organizers are yet to inform the plight of that match which might be played at a later date.

The Lankan camp consisted of a young and inexperienced side comparable to their other opponents. Sri Lanka suffered heavy defeats in their away matches played earlier at the hands of Palestine (60-102) and Jordan (45-100) in February last year, during the first window of matches in group 'F'. They were to play Kazakhstan at home last November but the second window got cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic. The Lankan contingent was sans two senior experienced players Gayan Croos and Krishan Cooray, who missed this tour due to the virtual 38-day quarantine. (AN)

Sri Lanka to focus on 2026 Youth Olympics

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The newly appointed Junior National Sports Development Committee will have the prime task of focusing on the 2026 Youth Olympic Games to be held in Senegal. The Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NOC SL)

have formed this Committee to spot talented athletes and to groom them for major international events. Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa and Education Minister Professor G. L. Peiris have approved this nine-member Committee which is headed by Shirantha Pieris, president of the Rifle Association. The main duty of this new Com-

mittee is to select talented Under-18 athletes from Schools Sports Associations and train them to win more medals at international events. Providing financial assistance, nutrition facilities, physical and mental fitness development, foreign coaches, and preparing the athletes to compete in world ranking tour-

naments are some of the responsibilities of this committee. **The Junior National Sports Development Committee:** Shirantha Pieris (Chairman), Fazeel Husain (Secretary), Sujani Bonalagama, Upali Amarathunga, J. M. Prabhath, Iqbal Bin Issac, Nilu Jayatilaka, Dimuth Gunawardena and Jayalal Ratnasuriya.

Covid-19 forces Suranga in, Lahiru out from WI tour

Suranga Lakmal will replace Lahiru Kumara in the 20-member Sri Lanka squad which is to leave for West Indies today. Lahiru Kumara was tested positive for Covid-19 virus and had to quit the

tour party to follow the Government quarantine process. Suranga Lakmal who was not in the original squad was drafted in as replacement for Lahiru Kumara. (AN)

'Big girls can' - Trailblazer Chamari to show the sporty way

For centuries, one societal issue has tormented the girls of Sri Lanka. When a girl reaches puberty or becomes a 'Big Girl' in Sri Lankan slang, society demands they behave by a certain set of rules and imposes many restrictions on them. Girls are warned not to associate with men who are not from their family, that it is not a girl's place to play sports, that any wounds or scratches are not seemly, and even that it is not good for girls to ride a bicycle. With all these barriers and many more, faced by girls around the country, it is no surprise that most simply give up on sports. This is the message Chamari

Atapattu who is the captain of the National Women's cricket team and Red Bull athlete, wants to bring out to break stereotypical thinking. She wants to inspire the strength/power young girls have and to challenge conservative thinking that prevails in our society about women and their lives through her powerful 'Big girls can' movement. She truly believes in breaking stereotypical thinking and looks to inspire millions of girls around the world who want to follow their dreams and especially pursue a career in sports. In fact, she certainly does show and epitomize the fact that Big girls can.

Chamari Atapattu hails from Kurunegala. This region, like most others, is one where these societal pressures and barriers are especially prevalent. However, her parents recognized both her dream and her talent and gave her the chance and the encouragement she needed to become a world-renowned name in cricket. The ultimate goal is to gather inspiring characters, opinion leaders and parents to support this movement and build awareness to guide the young girls to move forward continuously and drive them to become world champions.



Chamari Atapattu

Sanka Athukorala cruises to emphatic win

Sanka Athukorala cleared his second hurdle on his way towards the Men's Singles Open title with another impressive win at the SSC Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SSC Courts in Maitland Place yesterday.



Sanka Athukorala in action

The hot favourite rallied around through his experience to beat Gayanga Weerasekera in straight sets 6-1, 6-3 in a second-round encounter.

The results:
Men's Singles Open (2nd round): Dumidu Dilum beat Neil Jayaranga 6-0, 6-0. Sanka Athukorala beat Gayanga Weerasekera 6-1, 6-3. Gayanath Senadeera beat Senal Hemakumara 6-4,

6-4. Jagath Gamage beat Suresh Kumara 6-1, 6-2.
Boys' Under-12 Singles (1st round): Metheka Wickramasinghe beat Mohamed Insaf 6-0, 6-0.

Security Forces maintain supremacy

BERNARD PERERA

On the third day of the Munchee National Super League Women's Volleyball Championship conducted at the Volleyball House in Dadella, Galle saw Sri Lanka Army and SL Air Force maintain their unbeaten records. Women Soldiers outplayed Sailors in three sets to nil in the opening game. Meanwhile SL Air Force women dominated in their game against SL Ports Authority defeating them 3-0 to stay unbeaten.

The other two matches saw Hirdardmani SC beating MAS Casual Line 3-0 while Mahuswewa SC women routing National Youth Services Council 3-0. These two matches too failed to go the full strength as both matches were ended in three sets.

Results:
Mahuswewa beat National Youth Services Council 3-0 (26-16, 25-12, 25-13)
SL Army beat SL Navy 3-0 (25-21, 25-20, 25-18)
Hirdardmani SC beat MAS Casual Line 3-0 (25-16, 25-18, 25-20)
SL Air Force beat SL Ports Authority 3-0 (25-8, 25-19, 25-18)

New Zealand beat Australia by 53 runs in first T20

CHRISTCHURCH, MONDAY: A Devon Conway batting masterclass inspired New Zealand to a 53-run win over Australia in the opening Twenty20 international in Christchurch on Monday. Conway smashed an unbeaten 99 off 59 balls as the Black Caps overcame a shaky start to finish on 184 for five after losing the toss and being put in to bat. In reply, the tourists were all out for 131 after 17.3 overs, with Black Caps spinner Ish Sodhi taking four wickets for 28 to give the hosts an early edge in the five-match series. Australia captain Aaron Finch refused to blame the loss on his team's two-week Covid-19 quarantine upon arrival in New Zealand. "It feels like a long time since we played but we were treated brilliantly (in quarantine)," he said. "They just ran harder and we didn't get it right." Jhye Richardson, fresh from signing a multi-million dollar Indian Premier League contract, was the pick of the Australian bowlers, taking

two for 31. But the tourists could not dislodge Conway, whose 59-ball knock included 10 fours and three sixes, helping the Black Caps bounce back from 19 for three. Conway said he was "pretty chuffed" with his career-best effort, even though he was stranded just short of a century after failing to take two runs off the final ball. The South African-born batsman came to the crease with New Zealand teetering at 11 for two and was still settling in when captain Kane Williamson departed for 12. "The key was to try to stay positive, that's when I'm at my best," Conway said. "I was trying not to think too far ahead and just build good partnerships." The frustrated Australians then suffered a horror show early in their innings, as seamers Tim Southee and Trent Boult tore through the top order. Luckless debutant Josh Philippe departed for two after sending a top-edge skyward. AFP

SCORECARD	
NEW ZEALAND:	
M. Guptill	c Conway b Southee 1
c Agar b Sams 0	J. Philippe
T. Seifert	c Conroy b Boult 2
b J. Richardson 1	M. Marsh
K. Williamson	c Santner b Jamieson 45
c Wade b Sams 12	G. Maxwell
D. Conway	c Neesham b Southee 1
not out 99	M. Stoinis
G. Phillips	c&b Sodhi 8
c Marsh b Stoinis 30	A. Agar
J. Neesham	c Jamieson b Sodhi 23
c Wade b J. Richardson ... 26	D. Sams
M. Santner	c Jamieson b Sodhi 1
not out 7	J. Richardson
Extras (lb3, w4, b2) 9	st Seifert b Santner 11
Total (5 wickets; 20 overs) .184	K. Richardson
Did not bat: Kyle Jamieson,	c Neesham b Sodhi 5
Tim Southee, Ish Sodhi, Trent	A. Zampa
Boult.	not out 13
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Guptill),	Extras (lb1, w7, nb1) 9
2-11 (Seifert), 3-19 (Williamson),	Total (10 wickets;
4-93 (Phillips), 5-140	17.3 overs) 131
(Neesham)	
Bowling: Sams 4-0-40-2 (w1),	Fall of wickets: 1-3 (Finch), 2-8
Zampa 5-0-20-0, J. Richardson	(Philippe), 3-16 (Wade), 4-19
4-0-31-2 (w1), K. Richardson	(Maxwell), 5-56 (Stoinis),
4-0-42-0, Agar 2-0-20-2, Stoinis	6-98 (Marsh), 7-99 (Sams), 8-99
2-0-17-1, Maxwell 1-0-9-0x-x-x	(Agar), 9-108 (K. Richardson),
	10-131 (J. Richardson)
	Bowling: Southee 3-0-10-2
	(1w), Boult 3-0-22-2 (2w),
	Jamieson 3-0-32-1 (1w), Nee-
	sham 1-0-9-0, Sodhi 4-0-28-4
	(1nb), Santner 3.3-0-29-1 (3w)
AUSTRALIA:	
M. Wade	
c Williamson b Boult 12	
A. Finch	



New Zealand's Devon Conway celebrates his half century during the first Twenty20 cricket match between New Zealand and Australia at Hagley Park Oval in Christchurch on February 22. AFP