

## India, Sri Lanka flights to resume under 'air bubble'

IRANGIKA RANGE

Flights between India and Sri Lanka will be resumed as soon as possible under the "air bubble" concept.

The decision was taken during a discussion between Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga and Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay in order to boost tourism between the two countries.

It was the Indian Government which forwarded the proposal for an arrangement for an air travel bubble between the two countries. The authorities from both countries have discussed the possibility of commencing flights under the air travel bubble concept adhering to health and safety guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

During the discussion, the resumption of development work at the Palaly international airport was also highlighted. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

# Daily News

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## STATE VESAK FESTIVAL IN JAFFNA

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who is also the Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs has instructed authorities to hold this year's State Vesak Festival at the Nagadeepa Raja Maha Viharaya in Jaffna focusing on the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The Prime Minister had also given instructions to the relevant authorities to organise the State

Vesak Festival together with those following other religions.

Accordingly, the Departments of Hindu, Christian and Muslim Affairs under the Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs will join in the efforts to organise the event.

The Prime Minister had given these instructions to the relevant authorities in the presence of Maha Sangha at Temple Trees on Thurs-

day evening, states the Premier's Media Division in a communiqué.

Accordingly, the Prime Minister instructed the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, Prof. Kapila Gunawardena to make arrangements to hold the State Vesak Festival this year with the participation of 65 temples and 35 Dhamma Schools in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## China strongly supports Sri Lanka during UNHRC Session

China's Permanent Representative in Geneva Ambassador Chen Xu has extended China's strong support to Sri Lanka in his official statement in the Interactive Dialogue on the OHCHR Report on Sri Lanka during the 46th Session of the Human Rights Council. The full text of the statement is as follows:

"As a friendly neighbour of Sri Lanka, China sincerely hopes that Sri Lanka maintains political stability. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Chinese Permanent Representative in Geneva Ambassador CHEN Xu

## Easter Sunday attacks: SLFP rejects PCoI Report

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) on Thursday decided to reject the Final Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) to investigate and inquire into the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks.

The SLFP Executive Committee which met at the Party Headquarters on Thursday decided to reject the report of the Presidential Commission appointed by Maithripala Sirisena during his tenure as President, the SLFP said in statement yesterday.

The SLFP said the report was incomplete and not compatible with the Commission's mandate and the SLFP Executive Committee had no other option but to reject it.

However, the SLFP said it will make a statement later following an in-depth study of the contents of the report.

The SLFP said the Commission has targeted its leader, former President Sirisena unfairly and added it vehemently rejects the recommendations against Sirisena and a majority of other recommendations made in the report. The SLFP also observed that there was no legal tradition to bring criminal charges against state leaders or political authority for the actions of terrorists, according to the accepted norms of responsibility on such incidents in the global sphere. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## ASSAULT ON LAW STUDENT

# FOUR POLICE OFFICERS INTERDICTED



## IGP INSTRUCTED TO CONDUCT SPECIAL INVESTIGATION

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

All the Police officers involved in the assault on law student Migara Gunaratne have been interdicted and the Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Dr. Sarath Weerasekera had instructed IGP C.D. Wickramaratne to conduct a special investigation regarding the incident.

"A youth had been assaulted at the Peliyagoda Police Station premises. Hence, as Public Security Minister,

I instructed the IGP to immediately interdict the Police officers involved in this incident and conduct an investigation.

An assault of this nature having taken place inside a police station cannot be condoned at any cost.

Therefore, we have taken steps to interdict those involved immediately and conduct the investigation to determine what had taken place," said Minister Weerasekera.

Among those interdicted are an Inspector and three Constables.

The victimized student was identified as the son of former Central Province Governor, President's Counsel Maître Gunaratne and the brother of Attorney-at-Law Charitha Gunaratne.

According to reports, nearly 10 Police officers had assaulted him when he arrived at Peliyagoda Police to visit a suspect detained at the station. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Pakistani PM thanks Sri Lanka for allowing burial of COVID-19 victims

Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan yesterday thanked the Sri Lankan leadership for allowing the burial of COVID-19 victims.

Prime Minister Khan who concluded a two-day visit to Sri Lanka on Wednesday took to Twitter to thank the Sri Lankan leadership and welcomed the Government's official notification which was gazetted Thursday allowing the option of burying the people who die due to COVID-19.

"I thank the Sri Lankan leadership and welcome the Sri Lankan Govt's official notification allowing the burial for those dying of COVID-19," he tweeted.

Meanwhile, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi too took to Twitter to thank the Sri Lankan leadership for allowing the option of burial for COVID-19 victims. "Pakistan is grateful to the leadership of Sri Lanka for allowing the option of burial for victims of #Covid19. Indeed it is these very principles of mutual understanding, respect and humanity that bring relationships to thrive and prosper," he said.



## 'A huge relief to Muslim community'

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

A Gazette notice was issued permitting the burial of coronavirus victims on Thursday night (25).

Speaking to the *Daily News*, former MP M.M. Zuhair PC said that the Government's decision to permit burials of COVID-19 victims was a huge relief to the Muslim community in Sri Lanka. He said that the Government's decision to only permit the cremation of COVID-19 victims was understandable as it was a new virus and no one knew how to deal with it. "Understandably, the medical experts were not very clear at that time. But, subsequent investigations and reports, including by the WHO said very clearly that burials will not necessarily lead to the spread of COVID-19. While all citizens wish to have a dignified burial, for Muslims in particular, this is a tremendous relief to them. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa placing the Sacred Relics Casket on the caparisoned elephant at the commencement of the Navam Maha Perahera of the Gangaramaya, Colombo, last night. *Picture by Hirantha Gunathilake*

## Kandy landslide prone areas mapping to be expedited



The Committee On Public Enterprises (COPE) has instructed officials to accelerate the mapping programme to identify high risk landslide prone areas in the Kandy District.

The COPE noted that the Thumpane, Minipe, Ududumbara and Hatharaliyadda areas had not yet been mapped as of December 31, 2020.

COPE Chairman Prof. Charitha Herath pointed out that the amendment of the Disaster Management Act is a very important step towards streamlining the disaster management process for which steps should be taken. The COPE Chairman said that the recommendations of the COPE could be used for any legal purpose as it reflects the opinion of Parliament. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Jobs for persons over 30 living in high-risk GN divisions

The Health Ministry has decided to vaccinate all persons above the age of 30 living in Grama Niladhari divisions identified as high-risk areas for COVID-19 in Gampaha and Colombo districts, starting from yesterday, the Government Information Department said.

The Director General of Health Services of the Ministry of Health has informed all relevant health authorities in the

two districts to identify the GN divisions which need COVID-19 vaccines on a priority basis.

The Director General of Health Services has informed health authorities to vaccinate both permanent and non-permanent residents living in the identified GN divisions.

Only residents of an identified GN division will be vaccinated in medical centres established for the purpose within a GN division.

## GCE O/L to commence on Monday

SITHARA SENANI

The GCE Ordinary Level 2020 Examination will commence on Monday while adhering to COVID-19 health guidelines.

In case any student sitting for the examination is found to be infected with COVID-19, arrangements have been made to set up at least two special examination centres in each district as a precautionary measure.

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said that steps have been taken to ensure the health of the students in consultation with the Public Health Inspectors, Medical Officers and other health authorities in the respective areas. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## No increase in water tariff

ASELA KURULUWANA

Water Supply and Drainage Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara assured that there will be no increase in water tariff in the near future.

He also said that the Government was of the view that no increase should be made in a manner that would be a burden to the public at a time when the people are facing difficulties due to Covid. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



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# 'Public support crucial for success of COVID-19 vaccination programme'

**SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE**

Minister of State for Pharmaceuticals, Regulation and Supply Prof. Channa Jayasumana yesterday said the support and patience by the public was essential for the success of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The State Minister pointed out that some people had behaved in an unruly manner at vaccination centres in the Western Province. He said these centres were overcrowded as some people had gone there to get vaccinated even without a prior notice and requested the public to assist in making the vaccination programme a success.

The Minister of State pointed out that the people should be patient as it has been decided to give the coronavirus vaccine to all persons above the age of 18 years. He further said that the public should follow the instructions of health officials and only go for vaccination following a notice by the authorities.

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## Youth arrested with heroin, cash

**DILSHAN THARAKA**

A 19-year-old youth from the Bodhiyawatta area was arrested with 100 grams of heroin and Rs.145,000 in cash by the Kohuwala Police yesterday.

The suspect is a resident of the same area and was produced before the Nugegoda Magistrate's Court yesterday. Kohuwala Police are investigating.

## Tighter laws sought to curb online harassment of women politicians

Text and pictures by **PRIVAN DE SILVA**

Former member of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka Professor Rathnajeewan Hoole said that alleging female candidates of sexual misconduct on social media was a terrible thing and that no woman would come forward and contest an election if tighter laws are not introduced to prevent maligning on social media.

Prof. Hoole recounted that during the 2020 Parliamentary election, female candidates in the Eastern Province as well as to TNA National List candidate Ambika Sathkunanathan were accused of sexual misconduct on social media. The former member of the EC pointed out that while the allegations may be difficult to disprove, they were difficult to prove as well because the allegations make dark hints without being direct.

He added that individuals cannot fight such unruly postings on their own because it needs deep pockets and suggested that the parties they represent should come forward and make these transgressions costly by prosecuting the villains and reiterated that if not no woman would come forward as a candidate.

Ambika Sathkunanathan an accomplished woman came forward to contest on the TNA National List said that when unsavoury stories were created

about her but she stood firm. Prof. Hoole said that it is sad that even though she was listed first on the National List, she was not chosen because of other pressing needs for the party to address and added that such matters should have been decided before the polls without giving hope to people like Ambika and then dashing that hope.

National Coordinator of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) Manjula Gajjanayake confirmed that the CMEV were aware of 11 notable incidents of hate speech and divisive language being used during the 2020 Parliamentary Election campaign. The aggrieved in two of the 11 incidents were female candidates.

According to Gajjanayake, on June 22, 2020, the CMEV had been informed that a number of posts were shared online by Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi (ITAK) supporters criticizing Thamil Makkal Viduthal Pulikal (TMVP) Batticaloa candidate M. Mangala Shankar.

Most of the posts were fabricated tarnishing her image on the basis of working for NGOs and being a woman. On July 7, 2020 the CMEV had received information that the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Mayor for Dambulla had allegedly made a number of false allegations against United National Party (UNP) Council-

or Nilakshi Jayawardena at two separate press conferences.

Gajjanayake alleged that in most cases the allegations were generated from within the victims' own party due to the rat race for preferential votes. He added that in this modern era the outcome of an election was decided on what is being said on online platforms rather than the conventional methods of canvassing.

"News Editors of mainstream electronic media outlets should be more sensitive to what they broadcast as it is from these broadcasts that social media take their leads to come up with insulting posts" he added.

Gajjanayake was of the view that the Election Commission, the Computer Emergency Readiness Team, the Police and Election Monitors should meet immediately and jointly come up with a plan to overcome the issue at future elections.

When interviewed, Mangalaeshwari Shankar who possibly led the popularity ratings among the females in the Batticaloa district of the Eastern Province who were nominated to contested the 2020 Parliamentary Election said with a shudder that as a woman it is not easy to survive in the present political scenario and if she had known an inkling of what she would have to endure she wouldn't have contested.

"It was terrible" she said and



Prof. Rathnajeewan Hoole



Manjula Gajjanayake



Mangalaeshwari Shankar

added that even months after the election was over she was being harassed on social media.

A lawyer by profession Mangalaeshwari better known as Mangala Shankar is a human rights activist, a former Legal Manager at Transparency International Sri Lanka. She also worked for the Centre for Human Rights Development (CHRD) and at present is a visiting lecturer at the Open University of Sri Lanka. She also worked extensively with women's organisations in the district and took a lead to seek redress whenever they faced an issue.

It was this background that prompted Mangala to take up politics and be a role model to the women in Batticaloa. She made her intention known to the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) but she was overlooked but a few days before nominations closed she was invited by all the main parties contesting the election including the TNA

to contest. Having being turned down by the TNA once she opted to accept the invitation of the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) even though it was not the most popular party.

It was after that, that she was singled out to be humiliated, ridiculed and tarnished on social media, web pages and misquoted on mainstream media. The perpetrators may have been from other parties and even her own as Mangala's popularity among women in the district as a human rights activist and the call by women's organisations in the Batticaloa District where almost 53% of the population are females, to vote for women made her a top contender for a seat in Parliament.

"In early July a fake Facebook page in my name was created by someone and initially it duplicated the posts on my actual Facebook page but later on posts appeared slandering

other candidates. "Everyone thought it was me and I complained to the Police, the Elections Commission, the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) and subsequently to Face book", she said. The page was removed by Facebook in the first week of September but the damage was done. She also said that there were hundreds of other social media accounts that posted insulting, humiliating and abusive posts in Tamil.

In Batticaloa, Mangala was not the only female candidate to be harassed. Senior Lecturer at the Eastern University Dr. Chandra Mahendran said that she was deterred from contesting from the very start. She had to overcome many obstacles even before she was able to sign the nomination papers. She added that she was compelled to use up a considerable amount of her savings on her campaign.

An official who held a top post at the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) said that when a candidate complains of being harassed on social media, the ECSL would request the social media platform to remove the post and suspend the account of the perpetrator and simultaneously refer the complaint to the police division established at the ECSL for further investigation and action.

## Businessmen arrested

**RAGAMA GROUP CORR.**

Three millionaire businessmen allegedly involved in large scale drug trafficking and online lottery scams were arrested by the Police at a house on the 10th floor of a luxury apartment complex in Havelock Town, Colombo yesterday. Several suspects allegedly involved in the racket were arrested by the Police on February 23 in the Mount Lavinia and Dehiwala areas.

"The latest arrests were made on the basis of information received from them," sources said.

Police also seized more than Rs. 8.5 million hidden in the ceiling of the house where they were staying.

It has been revealed that the mastermind of this racket is a resident of Canada. The suspects arrested on February 23 have been involved in the printing of counterfeit currency notes, drug trafficking including ice heroin and is said to have had close links with several Nigerian and Uzbek nationals who were living in Sri Lanka and involved in money laundering.

## Four Police officers... From page 01

Meanwhile, the Peliyagoda HQI issuing a statement regarding the incident stated that on February 23rd the OIC of the Kelaniya Division Crime Investigation Bureau Lynton Silva, based on the directives of the Kelaniya Division SSP, had arrested four Nigerian nationals, two female Belarus nationals, a Sri Lankan male and female and they were detained at the Peliyagoda Police Station on detention orders. They were arrested for a fraud of Rs. 1,745,500, possession of 25 g and 125mg of heroin, engaging in illegal activities and aiding illegal activities and possession of 25 bundles of 100 notes each of paper used to print fake dollar



billings and engaging in the commercial sex trade. On the day of the incident Migara Gunaratne had visited the Peliyagoda Police Station to meet the Sri Lankan female who was in detention around 08.35 p.m. and following the said incident he had sustained injuries.

Accordingly, the IGP had appointed two teams to investigate the incident. One team is headed by the Police Special Investigations Director SSP-D.S. Wickramasinghe while the other team is headed by the Kelaniya Division SSP Sumith Gunaratne.

"A full investigation has been launched regarding the incident," the Police Media Division stated.

## No increase in water... From page 01

He was speaking at the launch of the 37th Conference of Geologists and launch of Research Papers on the subject at the Okre Hotel, William Gopallawa Mawatha, Kandy on Thursday. The Minister said that about 70 per cent of the country's population is under some form of stress at this critical juncture and the Government does not intend to add more burdens to the people.

## India, Sri Lanka flights to... From page 01

Development work of the Jaffna International Airport was temporarily suspended due to the pandemic and plans are afoot to expedite work.

## GCE O/L to commence... From page 01

The G.C.E. Ordinary Level 2020 Examination will be held from March 1 to 10. A total of 622,352 candidates will sit for the exam - 423,746 school candidates and 198,606 private candidates.

The examination will be conducted at 4,513 Examination Centres and

542 Coordinating Centres. Meanwhile, at the request of the Ministry of Education, the Railways and the Road Passenger Transport Authority have made special transport arrangements for the convenience of students during the examination period.

## Kandy landslide prone areas... From page 01

He was speaking at a COPE meeting held recently to inspect the progress of the resettlement project for families living in landslide prone areas in the Kandy District of the Central Province.

It was revealed that the mapping will take into account the number of recent landslides in the Kandy District, the number of buildings in the area and the nature of the developments taking place in the area.

Area mapping identifies landslide high risk and high-risk zones and then categorizes geospatial areas into high risk, medium risk and low risk areas.

The COPE Chairman drew attention to the delay in completing the database with location photographs of buildings, people living in high-risk areas and the delay in providing that data to the Divisional Secretariats.

The Committee also noted that data compiled by the Human Settlement Planning and Training Division (HSPTD) of the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) has not yet been submitted to the Kandy District Secretariat or the Divisional Secretariat in the Kandy District. The Chairman of the Committee inquired whether the National Disaster Relief Services Center, which is directing the action level activities of this project, has prepared an action plan relevant to its subject matter.

Officials of the National Disaster Relief Services Center stated that 372 houses are currently being constructed in the Kandy District. In



addition, it was revealed that by the end of this year, there are plans to build 1,000 houses all over Sri Lanka.

The project report of the National Building Research Organization states that a staff of 31 officers and five support staff is required to implement the project, but the Committee noted that the staff has not yet been provided.

The COPE instructed the Secretary to the Ministry to recruit such officers in accordance with a formal recruitment procedure.

The COPE also noted the lack of coordination between Government agencies involved in the implementation of the project due to the non-establishment of committees in accordance with the guidelines, problems with the selection of beneficiaries and the haphazard release of benefits.

Officials pointed out to the committee that it was difficult to evacuate people from certain high-risk areas as they were economically advantageous.

He said that intervention was needed at Ministry level and it would be important to set up a formal committee to look into the matter.

## Easter Sunday attacks... From page 01

The SLFP said the concept of recommending criminal charges against a former executive President for negligence was a bad precedent.

The SLFP said the contents of the report itself suggest that the former President had done his duty properly and there was no provision or reason to bring criminal charges against him.

The statement also said that it is clear that many of the statements made about Sirisena are based on assumptions.

The SLFP said it was clear that the Commission had adopted double standards when it came to former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and former President Maithripala Sirisena.

The SLFP said the Commission appears to have taken a soft stance on Wickremesinghe while being quite tough on Sirisena.



## 'A huge relief to Muslim... From page 01

They were under tremendous psychological pressure of getting infected with COVID-19 as they were worried of the consequences. I am sure many would have avoided normal treatment if they were suspected cases due to the fear that they may be cremated in case they fall victims to COVID. Now the restoration of the burials will facilitate the burial of Muslims and others who wish to be buried and will take away the people's fear to seek treatment if they are suspected of having contracted the virus."

He said that they were worried that this issue should not become a cause for radicalization in the community. "That was causing us much worry far beyond other factors."

Therefore, he said that the restoration of the burial facilities for COVID-19 victims is a most welcome move by the Health Minister after having recovered from COVID-19 herself.

He also pointed out that the Quarantine Act clearly allows for both options of burial and cremation and said that clearly that provision should not have been removed by the Gazette. "Our view is that that is a violation of the law as well. Hence, we need not have dragged this matter this far and it should have been resolved much earlier. But, its better late than never and we are very grateful and relieved."

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi informed party leaders about the decision to permit the burial of coronavirus victims on Thursday (25).

"In the case of burial, the corpse of such person shall be buried in accordance with the directions

issued by the Director General of Health Services at a cemetery or place approved by the proper authority under the supervision of such authority," the Gazette notice states.

The decision had reportedly been taken following clearance given by a Technical Committee.

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) Leader Rauff Hakeem had also tweeted saying he and his colleagues from several political parties had a pleasant and fruitful discussion with the Pakistani Prime Minister.

"He expressed confidence in the capacity of our Leaders to improve harmony among all Sri Lankans and address their citizens' grievances with view to foster goodwill among nations," Hakeem tweeted.

Also commenting on the issue, SJB-MP Mujibur Rahuman said that the lifting of the ban on burials was the result of much agitation by the Muslim community. He said that this issue need not have been allowed to drag on to a point where it reached the UNHRC. "If the Government had listened to the experts earlier and allowed the burials, this matter would not have caused so much resentment and division. In fact, many Muslims voted for the present Government, but with this issue, they are now disgruntled. We also feel that the Pakistani Prime Minister's visit also had some influence on the Government's decision to finally allow burials of Covid victims. Anyhow, I am sure all Muslims in this country are relieved that the Government has finally approved burials of COVID deceased," he said.

## State Vesak Festival... From page 01

Chief Incumbent of the Nagadeepa Viharaya Dr. Dharmakeerthi Sri Nawadagala Padumakitti Thera, Ven. Munhene Mettarama Thera, Sanghanayake of the Eastern and Thammakaduwa areas, Ven. Gonaduwera Gunananda Thera, Chief Secretary of the All Ceylon Sasanaarakshaka Balamandala, the Sanghanayake of the Malwathu Chapter for the Matara and Hambantota districts, Ven. Agraharare Kassapa Thera were present along with several other leading Buddhist monks.



## China strongly supports... From page 01

ethnic solidarity and national unity and wishes Sri Lanka greater achievements in its national development. We commend the Government of Sri Lanka for its efforts to actively promote and protect human rights, advance sustainable economic and social development, improve people's living standard, protect the rights of the vulnerable groups, advance national reconciliation and combat terrorism.

It's the consistent stand of China to oppose politicization and double standards on human rights, as well as using human rights as an excuse in interfering in other countries' internal affairs. We are concerned about the clear lack of impartiality shown in the OHCHR's report to this session on Sri Lanka and express our regret over the failure of the OHCHR to use the authoritative information provided by the Sri Lankan Government.

The so-called "preventive intervention" and the proposed targeted sanctions contained in the OHCHR's report are clear interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka and exceed the mandate of the OHCHR. We hope that the HRC and the OHCHR will strictly follow



impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicisation principles, respect the sovereignty and political independence of all nations, respect the efforts of the nations for the protection and promotion of human rights, advocate constructive dialogue and cooperation, and abandon the practice of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and exerting political pressure."

Prior to the opening of the 46th Session of the UNHRC, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa wrote a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping requesting China's understanding and assistance on the resolution. On 24th February, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena also made a telephone call to Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to seek the continued solidarity and support. Wang Yi reiterated that China is willing to unswervingly support each other with Sri Lanka to jointly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries, the basic norms governing international relations, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter including non-interference in other countries' internal affairs.



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## PCol an unfair target

The Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) on the Easter Sunday bombings, which was appointed by former President Maithripala Sirisena, has come under heavy flak from several quarters following the release of its final report. Leading the charge are some members of the Maha Sangha who have taken up cudgels with the Commission on certain recommendations made in the report. They claim that the recommendations in the PCol report send a wrong message to the world that it was Buddhists who were responsible for the Easter Sunday attacks. The obvious reference is to the PCol recommendations to bring criminal charges against former President Maithripala Sirisena, former Defence Secretary, former IGP, Intelligence and Police officers all of whom are Buddhists. The Bodu Bala Sena led by Ven. Galagodaatte Gnanasara Thera too has been mentioned for fomenting ethnic and religious hatred whereas the protesting Maha Sangha claim that it was the Ven. Thera who first exposed Islamist extremism in the country that eventually led to the Easter Sunday carnage. The Commission, they allege, had failed to identify the real perpetrators or their agents/handlers.

The Catholic Church too has made its displeasure known at the final outcome of the Commission hearing after harbouring great expectations to see the real culprits being punished. Opposition groups too have jumped in, criticizing the final report and recommendations with suggestions that the Commission had laboured a mountain and delivered a mouse.

We feel it is wrong to lay the blame on the Commission since it was only acting within its mandate which was to ascertain the lapses on the part of the administration in permitting the tragedy to occur and to identify those responsible for such lapses and recommend ways to prevent such a tragedy in the future. The Commission was in no way acting as an investigative arm of the State to seek out the perpetrators. That is strictly a task assigned to the various law enforcement branches.

In fact, in its final report, the Commission had indeed assigned the responsibility to the law to probe the cases against whom it had recommended criminal charges, under the supervision of the Attorney General. Also the Commission had drawn its conclusions based on the evidence led before it during its lengthy sittings. The Attorney General himself has told the media that he is not bound by the recommendations of the Commission.

Hence, there is no need for any individual or group to get excited and heap all blame on the PCol. They can rest assured that the due process will be followed where charges against individuals are concerned. True, the disillusionment of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith and the Catholic Church is understandable. Time and again the Cardinal had declared that they would settle for nothing less than the unraveling of the entire plot and the exposure of the identities of the real agents behind the episode. This was a pledge His Eminence had made to the families of the victims.

Amidst the criticism of the Commission report from all sides and also its recommendations, the role of the ministerial committee appointed to scrutinize the PCol report is also gaining attention. The Ministerial Committee is scheduled to hand over its report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on March 15 - in two weeks' time. Will this be enough time to study the entire report which is a huge volume and make suggestions? From the way things are panning out, with protests and criticism from all sides, it is doubtful if the Commission report in the end would have served the purpose. In all likelihood the Catholic Church which has already taken a firm stand that it would not compromise on its position that the true perpetrators of the attacks be unearthed would not accept the report.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has already given a pledge on Independence Day to bring all those responsible for the Easter Sunday tragedy before the law and have them punished regardless of their status in society or politics. The Government should take a firm stand on what it intends to do with the PCol report on the Easter Sunday carnage. As mentioned, the Commission was only sticking to its mandate but its findings should be acted upon employing due process if the people are to have any faith in future Commissions. Protests, however justified, should not make it throw in the towel. To do so would not only show it in poor light as one giving into pressure but also throw up to question the validity of other Commission Reports that are in the pipeline. Besides the full report of the Easter Sunday Commission is yet to get into the public domain and the current protests are based solely on various scraps of information published in the media. Perhaps the full contents of the report may change the minds of the protestors.



Addu, Maldives

# INDIAN OCEAN: MALDIVES, MAURITIUS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RAJESWARI PILLAI RAJAGOPALAN

India in recent years has stepped up strategic outreach to its key Indian Ocean partners. Both the Maldives and Mauritius have been key countries in pursuing India's maritime security agenda. Thus, it was not a surprise that Indian Foreign Minister Dr. S Jaishankar went on a four-day visit to the Maldives and Mauritius from February 20 to 23, 2021.

The minister held high-level meetings in both countries, including with the Defence and Foreign Ministers, underlining the strategic intent of the trip. Following his meeting with the Maldivian Defence Minister Mariya Ahmed Didi, Jaishankar tweeted that "India will always be a reliable security partner for Maldives."

He had a similar message on India's ties with Mauritius, saying they were "Partners in Security". Extending Defence Lines of Credit and maritime security were dominant in the discussions in both countries.

Ever since Ibrahim Mohamed Solih became the President of the Maldives, India-Maldives relations have been on an upswing and the recent visit is a testament to the present close ties between New Delhi and Male. Solih's predecessors in power were viewed in New Delhi as being pro-China, which had soured bilateral relations.

In addition to Jaishankar's meeting with Solih, he also met with Mohamed Nasheed, the speaker of the People's Majlis (Parliament). He also met with ministers including those overseeing Foreign Affairs (Abdulla Shahid), Defence (Mariya Didi), and Finance (Ibrahim Ameer).

### Bilateral ties

The detailed joint statement issued at the end of the visit is an indicator of the breadth and depth of the bilateral ties between India and the Maldives. Recalling the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the two Foreign Ministers "reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening and strengthening the relationship, and exploring new areas of cooperation."

The two ministers also reviewed the execution of various infrastructure and development projects in the Maldives financed by India's previous Lines of Credit. India had earlier offered assistance to eight major infrastructure projects, of which the contract for construction of roads and drainage systems in Addu City, Maldives, was presented during the visit. India in October 2020 had also offered financial assistance of US\$ 400 million for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) for which the tender has already been published by the Ministry of Finance in Maldives.

The ministers also reviewed other projects including the Hanimaadhoo Airport expansion, the construction of water and sanitation infrastructure on 34 inhabited islands, and the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement Studies in Addu City, which is scheduled to be inaugurated in April



Maldivian President Ibrahim Solih with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.



Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

2021. The two sides agreed to continue the progress made in institutionalizing linkages between the police organisations of India and Maldives in capacity building by focusing extensively on training.

In addition to India's routine invocation of the threat of terrorism, New Delhi extended a US\$ 50 million Defence Line of Credit for two security projects. India and the Maldives also signed an agreement to develop, support and maintain an important Naval facility for the Maldivian Armed Forces. The Maldives National Defence Force Coast Guard Harbour at Sivvaru (Uthuru Thilafalhu) will be developed and supported with Indian assistance. This is a follow-up to the Maldives' earlier request for Indian support in enhancing the capacity of the Maldivian Defence Forces to carry out maritime surveillance of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and islands. This is also in line with and a furthering of the earlier Action Plan for Defence Cooperation signed in April 2016 and further discussions thereafter.

Mauritius was the second leg of Dr. S. Jaishankar's four-day Indian Ocean trip. In addition to signing the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), which is India's first such agreement with an African nation, India and Mauritius also signed an agreement that will provide Mauritius with a Dornier surveillance aircraft and an Advanced Light Helicopter (the Indian-built Dhruv ALH) on a gratis loan basis for two years. This will be significant in enhancing Mauritius' capabilities to patrol and maintain effective surveillance over its extensive maritime spaces. India also extended a US\$ 100 million Defence Line of

Ever since Ibrahim Mohamed Solih became the President of the Maldives, India-Maldives relations have been on an upswing and the recent visit is a testament to the present close ties between New Delhi and Male.

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Chagos Islands

Credit that will support the acquisition of further defence assets from India.

The joint statement issued during the visit said that "these initiatives underline once again that the security of Mauritius is the security of India; in the prosperity of Mauritius is our prosperity."

### Chagos Archipelago

Dr. S. Jaishankar, in his meeting with the Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, also discussed the issue of the Chagos Archipelago, whose sovereignty has been a point of contention between Mauritius and the United Kingdom (UK). India has extended complete support to Mauritius on the issue - in fact in May 2019, India was one of 116 countries that supported Mauritius by voting in favour of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution clearly stating that the UK is "under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as

rapidly as possible." The resolution further demanded that the UK "withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally within a period of no more than six months from the adoption of the present Resolution, thereby enabling Mauritius to complete the decolonization of its territory as rapidly as possible." India continues to stand by Mauritius on the issue.

For now, India appears to be maintaining a close watch on China's growing presence and influence in the Indian Ocean region. This in fact has prompted New Delhi to improve its strategic game in engaging its many Indian Ocean neighbours. But India's challenge has always been in scaling up the aid and assistance sufficiently to take advantage of the opportunities and goodwill that exist in these countries, especially compared to what China can offer. Nevertheless, for the time being, Maldives and Mauritius appear to be success stories in Indian outreach in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). - *The Diplomat*



Greater Male Connectivity Project

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin.  
- Dwight D. Eisenhower

## ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

In a somber address to the nation as the US surpassed half a million coronavirus deaths on Monday, Joe Biden urged the country to unify in its battle against the virus.

"I ask all Americans to remember those we lost and those we left behind. But as we all remember, I also ask us to act, to remain vigilant, to stay socially distanced, to mask up, get vaccinated when it's your turn," the president said in his address from the White House.

Biden used the speech to urge Americans to overcome partisanship and follow public health guidelines as his administration races to distribute vaccines and end the pandemic.

The Biden administration has increased vaccination rates to 1.7m a day, and is on track to surpass its goal of delivering 100m shots within the first 100 days of the administration.

"We must end the politics of misinformation that's divided families, communities and the country; that's cost too many lives already." ... "It's not Democrats or Republicans who are dying from the virus. It's our fellow Americans, it's our neighbours. It's our friends, our mothers, our fathers, our daughters, husbands, wives. We have to fight this together as one people, as the United States of America. That's the only way we're going to beat this virus, I promise you," President Biden said.

The US has recorded the worst death toll of any country in the world, but there are promising signs ahead. Hospitalizations have declined more than 50% nationwide in the past month, and, as of last Sunday, more than 13% of the US population has received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine.

Biden's speech spoke to this optimism, saying that America and the world would overcome the pandemic. "Let this not be a story of how far we fell, but how far we climbed back up. We can do this," Biden said.

"This nation will smile again. This nation will know sunny days again. This nation will know joy again and as we do we'll remember each person we've lost, the lives they've lived, the loved ones they've left behind. We will get through this, I promise you."

## UNSC on Climate Change



British naturalist Sir David Attenborough

British naturalist David Attenborough warned on Tuesday that climate change is the biggest security threat that modern humans have ever faced, telling the UN Security Council: "I don't envy you the responsibility that this places on all of you."

Attenborough, 94, the world's most influential wildlife broadcaster, addressed a virtual meeting of the 15-member council on climate-related risks to international peace and security, chaired by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

"If we continue on our current path, we will face the collapse of everything that gives us our security: food production, access to fresh water, habitable ambient temperature and ocean food chains," Attenborough said.

"And if the natural world can no longer support the most basic of our needs, then much of the rest of civilization will quickly break down," he added.

"It is literally our last, best hope to get on track and to get this right," U.S. climate envoy John Kerry told the council. He said: "We bury our heads in the sand at our own peril. It is time to start treating the climate crisis like the urgent security threat that it is. This is literally the challenge of all of our generations."

The United Nations will stage a climate summit in November in Glasgow, Scotland. It will serve as a deadline for countries to commit to deeper emissions cuts. It will be the most important gathering since the 2015 event that yielded the Paris Agreement, when



A protester holds a placard during a demonstration against the military coup in Myanmar on Thursday. - AFP

## Biden seeks unity against virus



US President Joe Biden urges the country to unify in its battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

nearly 200 countries committed to halt rising temperatures quickly enough to avoid catastrophic change.

"I know that there are people around the world who will say that this is all kind of green stuff from a bunch of tree-hugging, tofu munchers and not suited to international diplomacy and international politics," PM Boris Johnson told the council. "I couldn't disagree more profoundly."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pushed countries, companies, cities and financial institutions to make ambitious commitments to cut global emissions. China and the United States are the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases.

"We still have a long way to go, and we look to the major emitters to lead by example in the coming months," Guterres told the council. "This is a credibility test of their commitment to people and planet. It is the only way we will keep the 1.5-degree goal within reach," the Secretary General said.

Russia and China questioned whether the Security Council is the right forum to be discussing climate change.

## Myanmar protests

As massive protests continue in Myanmar against the military coup and calling for the release of the country's deocratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and several protesters have now been killed and many injured in attacks by the heavily armed police.

The UN Special Envoy on Myanmar Schraner Burgener, in an interview with France 24, held out hope that the military would not brutally crack down on the ongoing mass protest movement against the February 1 coup.

She also called for "targeted sanctions" on leaders of the regime and said she had asked them to allow her to visit the country, a request they have rejected "for the moment".

Asked about the military junta's plans going forward, the UN diplomat said the army "have a clear roadmap ... to hold [a] new election to give power back to the party who will win the election. Honestly I think they have a clear textbook [for] how they will lead such an election because they started to arrest people from the National League for Democracy (NLD) of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi. At the end they will probably ban this party to run for the next election ... Clearly they want to stay in power and this we have to avoid," she said.

Indonesia has said it was in talks with both sides in Myanmar's political crisis and its foreign minister may visit to help find a solution, but she had no plans for an immediate trip.

Meanwhile Myanmar authorities have ratcheted up their use of force against a massive and largely peaceful civil disobedience campaign for the return of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

## Iran - US

The differences between Iran and the US remain even after some moves by President Biden to have better relations with the ME power. Iran seeks the total removal of sanctions imposed by the US during Donald Trump's presidency. It is also facing a national election later this year, which could lead to a more conservative group coming to power. The Iranian situation, especially regarding its management of nuclear power has an impact on the European Union states too.

A last-minute deal between Iran and the UN atomic watchdog over snap inspections has opened a narrow diplomatic window to revive the landmark nuclear treaty between international powers and Tehran.

Iran had planned to stop snap inspections of its nuclear sites from Tuesday but an agreement announced late on Sunday allows some "verification and monitoring", reducing tensions. While the International Atomic Energy Agency's access will still be more limited than previously, the UN body welcomed the three-month compromise as a "good result".

This agreement leaves room for face-to-face talks between Washington and Tehran over the revival of an accord that former president Donald Trump's administration abandoned in 2018.

The agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was the culmination of 20 months of arduous negotiations.

The US last week made clear its willingness to sit down with Iran and other signatories to the deal to discuss re-entry to the pact. Diplomats and analysts warn that such negotiations are still far from guaran-

teed and big disputes remain over the sequencing of a possible US return to the agreement and the scope of what the refreshed pact would demand of Iran.

Tehran does not want to discuss three changes that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has promised the US Congress he will pursue: strengthening and lengthening the deal, curtailing Iran's missile programme and its support for regional militias.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said last week that Iran's policy was "if Americans take one step, we also take one step, and if Americans take all the steps together, we will also take all the steps together". The only issue Iran is ready to discuss, and even that only after the US removed sanctions, was "how we can avoid and guarantee that the actions by the United States will not be repeated", said Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Sunday.

While Iran has been hard hit by sanctions, many in the regime point out that the country has also survived. In a further sign that Iran will not easily compromise, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that it could even enrich uranium to 60 per cent purity, up from the current level of 20 per cent.

Elections due in June could return a more conservative government that might make it tougher to strike a deal between Iran and the US and western powers.

## Georgia protests

Demonstrators set up tents outside Georgia's parliament building and blocked the capital's main avenue to protest the arrest of the leader of the country's main opposition party.

The demonstration came hours after police stormed the headquarters of the United National Movement and arrested its chairman, lawmaker Nika Melia. Georgian media reported that about 20 other people were also arrested at the party's headquarters.

The political situation in Georgia has been tense amid allegations of voter fraud in the country's parliamentary election last October. The Opposition is demanding a rerun of the vote.

Before the police raid, parliament members named a new prime minister to replace the one who opposed arresting Melia, because of concern it would escalate the country's political crisis.

Melia faces charges of inciting violence during protests that erupted in 2019, when a Russian lawmaker sat in the parliament speaker's chair during a meeting of lawmakers from Orthodox Christian countries. He had been free on bail.

The new Prime Minister, Irakli Garibashvili, said the politician's arrest was justified.

"We are building a democratic state, and everyone in the country, no matter to their taste and political views, must obey the law," he said.

The U.S. Embassy voiced its disapproval, saying in a statement: "Today, Georgia has moved backward on its path toward becoming a stronger democracy in the Euro-Atlantic family of nations."

"We regret that the call of the United States and other international partners for restraint and dialogue was ignored," the embassy read.

The European Union appealed for calm. "We are urging all sides in Georgia to show the necessary restraint, utmost restraint and responsibility, to avoid more escalation in the interest of the country and its people," European Commission spokesperson Peter Stano said.

Salome Samadashvili, a prominent United National Movement member, vowed the protests would continue "until we reach first the release of political prisoners and then early elections later this year, because we need to go back to the chosen path of the Georgian people, which is a European future."

Georgian Dream was created by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a tycoon who made his fortune in Russia. But the party's popularity has dwindled steadily amid the country's economic problems.

Both Georgian Dream and United National Movement are pro-Western and have the stated goals of establishing better relations with possible eventual membership in NATO and the European Union.

But the UNM denounces the current PM's ties to Russia and claims the party pursues pro-Russia policies. The issue is highly contentious in light of a five-day war between Georgia and Russia in 2008 and Russia's control of the separatist Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

## Russia: EU sanctions



Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny

Foreign ministers from EU countries have agreed to place further sanctions against Russian officials over the jailing of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

This will be the first time the EU has used a new mechanism to facilitate punitive measures against human rights abuses.

The agreement was reached on Monday at a meeting in Brussels, where it was said four Russian officials would be targeted.

According to diplomatic sources, they will be hit with asset freezes and entry bans to the bloc, which

will likely take effect once European leaders meet next month.

But Russian oligarchs are not thought to figure among them, to the disappointment of Navalny's supporters. Rather the measures are aimed at police and legal officials responsible for his "unacceptable treatment", Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg said ahead of the meeting.

EU chief diplomat Josep Borrell told a news conference on Monday that Russia was "drifting towards an authoritarian state and driving away from Europe".

"The ministers unanimously interpreted Russia's recent actions and responses as a clear signal of not being interested in cooperation with the European Union, but the country looks interested in confrontation and disengagement from the European Union," he said, confirming the planned sanctions.

This mechanism enables the 27 member states to punish those considered responsible for human rights abuses through the freezing of assets and travel bans, similar to the Magnitsky law in the US.

Last October the European Union imposed sanctions on six individuals and one entity it believed were involved in Navalny's poisoning. Before Monday's meeting, Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said they would look at the question of sanctions against Russia again, "particularly because of Navalny's conviction and the fact that he has to serve his sentence at a prison camp".

A European Union's decision on fresh sanctions on Russia for jailing Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has frustrated Russian political activists, who say the proposed punitive action is feeble and warn it will have little impact on Moscow.

## COVID Vaccine deliveries



As the pandemic continues to spread, the lack of transparency of COVID vaccine contracts and delivery schedules is hampering efforts to get vaccines to developing countries quickly. There are questions on the delivery schedules of vaccine manufacturers, and how much of these have been committed to the Covax scheme for the developing countries.

This comes when the global COVID-19 infection is 12,646,459 and the deaths is 2,449,419 – with many countries of the Third World badly affected.

There are also issues about manufacturers diverting vaccines to wealthier countries that pay more than the poor countries, who seek discounted rates negotiated by Covax and bodies such as the African Union and other Third World organisations.

"The manufacturers are reluctant to commit the doses to developing countries while they have the chance to sell it, or provide it, at a higher price to the advanced economies," said David Malpass, president of the World Bank.

Amidst this crisis in COVID vaccine distribution, leaders of the G7 countries have decided to boost supplies of COVID-19 vaccines to the developing world, although divisions remain over the speed at which the west should share its doses. At a virtual G7 meeting on Friday hosted by UK PM Boris Johnson, leaders increased their pledges to the WHO-led Covax global vaccine initiative to \$7.5bn.

The countries agreed during the call, to share surplus vaccines with the developing world, and US President Joe Biden, promised an extra \$4bn for the Covax scheme, with \$2bn to be paid immediately.

Ahead of the video meeting, France's President Emmanuel Macron, told the *Financial Times* that the west should urgently allocate up to 5 percent of its current vaccine supplies to developing countries where COVID-19 inoculation campaigns have scarcely begun, and China and Russia are offering to fill the gap.

But while the US has increased its financial support for Covax, it rejected Macron's call to share doses before it had completed its own domestic vaccination campaign. "Our current focus is on vaccinating Americans, getting shots in arms here," said one US official. Another official said Biden had asked staff to explore options for donating "surplus" vaccines "once there is a sufficient supply" to meet domestic demand.

Steffen Seibert, a spokesperson for Angela Merkel, said Germany had already agreed to respond to Macron's call to provide greater support to the rest of the world. "We reached an agreement in principle with the French president that European countries will give poorer countries that so far haven't received much vaccine some of our stocks."

Boris Johnson, who will host a G7 summit in Cornwall in June, also urged leaders to step up efforts to vaccinate the developing world against COVID-19 and to back a new 100-day target for the development of vaccines for future emerging diseases. He said there was "no point" in the west vaccinating its citizens if large parts of the rest of the world had not received an adequate supply of vaccines.

The UK has ordered more than 400m doses of various COVID-19 vaccines, meaning that many will be left over once all adults have been inoculated. A UK government official said well over half of the country's excess doses would go to Covax. Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission president, told the G7 that the EU would double its financial contribution to Covax to €1bn.

Von der Leyen, who has been grappling with criticism of the EU's own vaccine procurement scheme, has been a prominent voice calling for fair distribution of job supplies around the world. European countries have also made direct contributions to the Covax scheme. Germany said on Friday that it would contribute an additional €1.5bn for global vaccines, diagnostics and medication.

David Malpass, president of the World Bank, welcomed what he said was a new "spirit of international cooperation" by G7 nations and its enlarged commitments to Covax. "I'm cautiously optimistic that, as the new vaccines are approved and there's competition within the market between suppliers, that is going to begin to unlock the supply," he said.

# Navy arrests suspect with explosives in Kinniya

The Navy and police apprehended a suspect with 37 water gel sticks and 206 safety fuses in a carried out in Kinniya, Trincomalee, on Wednesday.

The suspect is a 42-year-old resident of the same area.

Police believe that the suspect had planned to sell the contraband to those engaged in illegal fishing. He and the explosives have been handed over to the Trincomalee Police for further investigations.



The seized explosives.

# Seven arrested over jewellery shop burglary

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

Trincomalee Police have arrested seven suspects along with the brother of a criminal going by the alias 'Ice Manju' (currently in hiding) in connection with burglarising a jewellery shop in Trincomalee on February 8.

Police investigations have revealed that the robbery was carried out by a group of persons who had come by sea from the Koneshwaram area in Trincomalee. They were said to have

fled in a boat. The man who led the robbery is the brother of 'Ice Manju', a 35-year-old resident of Trincomalee.

Police also found a hand grenade, a foreign-made firearm, and six bullets in his possession. Police have launched a special investigation to find the stolen jewellery.

The owner of the boat has been identified as a resident of Ichchalampattu, Trincomalee. Investigations are underway to arrest him as well.

# Five more COVID-19 deaths yesterday

Five more COVID-19 deaths were reported in the country yesterday, raising the death toll to 464, health authorities stated. They added that four males and one female were among the deceased.

The victims include a 69-year-old male from Nawadagala, 70-year-old male from Kandy, 71-year-old male from Borella, 71-year-old male from Veyangoda, and a 72-year-old woman from Narahempita.

# Two injured in trishaw-bus collision

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

A man and his daughter were admitted to the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital on Wednesday after the three-wheeler they were traveling in collided with a private bus near the Batticaloa clock tower.

The daughter is a preschooler. The bus driver has been taken into custody. Batticaloa Police are investigating.



The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) ship 'Setogiri' arrived at the Hambantota Port on Thursday. 'Setogiri' is a 137-metre-long destroyer and is manned by a crew of 220. The ship was scheduled to depart the island yesterday.



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena visited the official residence of Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Akira Sugiyama and placed a commemorative note on the Royal Guest Book last Thursday in view of Japanese Emperor Naruhito's birthday and the National Day of Japan, which were both celebrated on Tuesday.

## Legal News

### IN THE SUPREME COURT LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, MARCH 1

B.P. ALUVIHARA (P.C.) (J)  
K.K. WICKRAMASINGHE J.  
M.A. SAMAYAWARDHANA J.  
**COURT NO. 501 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 68/13 - HCCA 296/2004  
2. SC. CHC Appeal No. 72/13 - HC (Civil) 244/07  
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 94/20 - HCCA 168/18  
4. SC. (Spl.) LA 194/20 - CA 119/16  
5. SC. HC.CA. LA 286/20 - HCCA 115/17  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 180/18 - HCCA 02/15  
**FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC. HC.CA. LA 437/19 - HCCA 171/19

(Top of the list)

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 113/12 - HCCA 390/12  
**(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)**  
**FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC. (Spl.) LA 64/19 - CA. 594/96  
2. SC. HC. CA. LA 212/20 - HCCA 104/17  
3. SC. (Spl.) LA 410/19 - HC 46/17  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 209/15 - HC 337/14  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Application FR 255/19  
SISIRA J. DE ABREU J.  
A.H.M.D. NAWAZ J.  
A.A.U. WENGAPPU-LI J.  
**COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Appeal

No. 215/16 - HCCA 125/11  
2. SC. (Spl.) LA 76/18 - CA 948/97  
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 383/18 - HCCA 34/09  
4. SC. Application FR 87/19  
**COURT NO. 502 CONTD. (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC. (Spl.) LA 71/17 - CA 178/10  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 113/12 - HCCA 390/12  
**(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)**  
**FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC. (Spl.) LA 64/19 - CA. 594/96  
2. SC. HC. CA. LA 212/20 - HCCA 104/17  
3. SC. (Spl.) LA 410/19 - HC 46/17  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 209/15 - HC 337/14  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Application FR 255/19  
SISIRA J. DE ABREU J.  
A.H.M.D. NAWAZ J.  
A.A.U. WENGAPPU-LI J.  
**COURT NO. 502 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Appeal

MURDU N.B. FERNANDO P.C.J.  
YASANTHA KODAGODA P.C. J.  
**COURT NO. 403 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Appeal 155/18 - HCCA 68/09  
2. SC. Application FR 63/19 & 249/19  
3. SC.HC. LA 86/19 - HC (Civil) 29/18  
4. SC.HC. LA 88/19 - HC (Civil) 07/17  
5. SC.HC.CA. LA 270/20 - HCCA 22/24  
6. SC.HC.CA. LA 289/20 - HCCA 06/16  
**TO BE RESUMED TO PROCEED**  
1. SC. Application FR 158/12 - HCCA 104/17  
2. SC. Application FR 247/19  
**FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC. HC. CA. LA 493/19 - HCCA 13/16  
2. SC. (Spl.) LA 145/20 - HC 77/19  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Application FR 145/20  
1. SC. Application FR 46/08  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 66/20 - CA 87/13  
L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J.  
A.L.S. GOONERATNE J.  
JANAK DE SILVA J.)  
**COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Application FR 181/14  
2. SC. HC. LA 40/20 WITH 88/20 - CHC 24/19  
3. SC.HC. 87/20 - HCCA 52/20  
4. SC.HC.CA. LA 338/20

- HCCA 44/19  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal 112/10 - HCCA 378/07 (Top of the list)  
2. SC. Appeal 157/19 - HC. (Civil) No. 253/17 (Top of the list)  
**(FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)**  
**FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE**  
1. SC.HC.CA. LA 339/20 - HCCA 45/19  
2. SC.HC.CA. LA 340/20 - HCCA 91/19  
3. SC.HC.CA. LA 341/20 - HCCA 90/19  
4. SC.HC.CA. LA 342/20 - HCCA 88/19  
5. SC.HC.CA. LA 343/20 - HCCA 89/19  
**COURT NO. 404 CONTD. (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.)**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal 15/19 - CA 163/13  
2. SC. Appeal 16/19 - CA 164/13  
3. SC. Appeal 17/19 - CA 166/13  
**(FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.)**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal 41/19 & 42/19 - HCCA 15/14, 14/14  
**IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, MARCH 1**  
ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J. (P/CA)  
M A Y A D U N N E COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 503/07  
Writ of Cert 2. 114/14  
Writ of Cert 3. 153/19  
Writ of Cert 4. 467/19  
Writ of Cert 5. 530/19  
Writ of Cert 6. 03/19 COC  
7. 215/14 PHC  
8. 01/12 HCA  
9. 194/19 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. SC. Appeal No. 66/20 - CA 87/13  
L.T.B. DEHIDENIYA J.  
A.L.S. GOONERATNE J.  
JANAK DE SILVA J.)  
**COURT NO. 404 (FROM 10.00 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.)**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. SC. Application FR 181/14  
2. SC. HC. LA 40/20 WITH 88/20 - CHC 24/19  
3. SC.HC. 87/20 - HCCA 52/20  
4. SC.HC.CA. LA 338/20

WITH WRT 550/19  
2. 48/20  
Writ of Cert  
ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J. (P/CA)  
M A Y A D U N N E COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 10.30 A.M. FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 37/21  
Writ of Cert  
ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J. (P/CA)  
M A Y A D U N N E COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 12.00 NOON FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 416/20  
Writ of Cert  
2. 86/21  
Writ of Cert  
ARJUNA OBEYESEKERE J. (P/CA)  
M A Y A D U N N E COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 OTHERS**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 163/19  
Writ of Cert  
2. 06/18 COC  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 73/20  
Writ of Cert  
2. 74/20  
Writ of Cert  
3. 96/20  
Writ of Cert  
4. 134/20  
Writ of Cert  
5. 160/20  
Writ of Cert  
6. 407/20  
Writ of Cert  
K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)  
SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J.  
**COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 328/19 HC  
2. 338/19 HC  
3. 421/19 HC  
4. 429/19 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 136/19 HC  
2. 178/19 HC  
3. 206 - 208/19 HC  
4. 408/19 HC  
K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J)  
SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J.  
**COURT NO. 107 OTHERS**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 350/19 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 177/19 HC  
MENAKA WIJESUNDERA J.  
NEIL IDDAWALA J.  
**COURT NO. 204 AT 09.30 A.M. TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 24/17 PHC  
2. 81/17 PHC  
**FOR**

**SUPPORT**  
1. 10/21 PA  
**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 124/20 PA  
MENAKA WIJESUNDERA J.  
NEIL IDDAWALA J.  
**COURT NO. 204 OTHERS**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 06/20 BA  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 151/17 PA  
N. BANDULA KARUNARATNE (J)  
R. GURUSINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 205 AT 10.00 A.M. ASSIGN COUNSEL**  
1. 85 - 86/20 HC  
2. 87/20 HC  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 69/06 LTA  
WITH RV 278/06 (To be mentioned)  
2. 18/21 PA  
3. 19/21 PA  
4. 154/17 HC  
5. 348/18 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 369 - 370/17 HC  
N. BANDULA KARUNARATNE (J)  
R. GURUSINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 205 OTHERS**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 109/13 HC  
2. 237/13 HC  
3. 135/15 HC  
4. 41 - 42/16 HC  
5. 239 - 240/17 HC  
6. 13/18 HC  
7. 155/18 HC  
8. 203 - 204/18  
DEVKA ABEYRATNE J.  
P. KUMARARATNAM J.  
**COURT NO. 110 AT 10.00 A.M. ASSIGN COUNSEL**  
1. 84/20 HC  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 190 - 191/17 HC  
2. 102 - 104/18 HC  
3. 390/19 HC  
4. 02/20 HC  
5. 76/20 HC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 32/16 HC  
2. 58-61/17 HC  
3. 120 - 122/18 HC  
DEVKA ABEYRATNE J.  
P. KUMARARATNAM J.  
**COURT NO. 303 OTHERS**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 142/15 HC  
2. 52/18 HC  
3. 402/18 HC  
4. 422/18 HC  
M. T. MOHAMMED LAFFAR J.  
K. K. A. V. SWARNADHIPATHI J.  
**COURT NO. 206 AT 10.00 A.M. TO BE**

**MENTIONED**  
1. 710 - 712/99 (F) DC  
2. 348/18 Writ of Cert  
M. T. MOHAMMED LAFFAR J.  
K. K. A. V. SWARNADHIPATHI J.  
**COURT NO. 206 OTHERS**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 1102/98 (F) DC  
2. 425/14  
Writ of Cert  
3. 243/17  
Writ of Cert  
4. 170/18  
Writ of Cert with PHC 30/15  
DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J)  
M. SAMPATH K. B. WIJERATNE J.  
**COURT NO. 302 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 21/19 TAX  
DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J)  
M. SAMPATH K. B. WIJERATNE J.  
**COURT NO. 302 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 18/19 TAX  
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.  
D H A M M I K A GANEPOLA J.  
**COURT NO. 303 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR ORDER**  
1. 169/19  
Writ of Cert  
**COURT NO. 303 AT 10.00 A.M. contd...**  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 164/19  
Writ of Cert with WR 165/19 - 168/19, 171/19, 177/19, 317/19 - 319/19, 28/20 (To be mentioned)  
2. 377/19  
Writ of Cert  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 11/19  
Writ of Cert  
2. 183/19  
Writ of Cert  
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J.  
D H A M M I K A GANEPOLA J.  
**COURT NO. 303 OTHERS**  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 73/19  
Writ of Cert  
WITH WR 163/16  
2. 187/19  
Writ of Cert  
D. N. SAMARAKOON J.  
PRADEEP KIRTISINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 108 AT 10.00 A.M. FOR**

**ARGUMENT**  
1. 17/15 TAX  
D. N. SAMARAKOON J.  
PRADEEP KIRTISINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 108 OTHERS**  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 06/19 RII  
PRASANTHA DE SILVA J.  
S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE J.  
**COURT NO. 109 AT 12.30 P.M. TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 22/17 PHC  
2. 96/17 PHC  
3. 85/20 PA  
PRASANTHA DE SILVA J.  
S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE J.  
**COURT NO. 109 OTHERS**  
**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 06/05 PHC  
2. 27/17 PHC  
3. 183/17 PHC  
**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 35/16 PHC  
2. 190/16 PHC  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 122/14 PHC  
**CIVIL APPEAL WESTERN PROV. INCE (COLOMBO) LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, MARCH 1**  
A.M. MOHAMMED MACKIE (H.C.J.)  
D.F.H. GUNAWARDHANA (H.C.J.)  
**(AT 10.00 A.M.) TO BE MENTIONED**  
152/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 295/15 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 97/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 225/17 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 11/19  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
LA 03/21  
HCCA/Colombo LA 11/19  
HCCA/Colombo  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
04/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 45/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 147/16 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 12/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 27/19 RA  
HCCA/Colombo 38/19 RA  
HCCA/Colombo 11/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo LA 160/18  
HCCA/Colombo 22/14 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo 38/19 RA  
HCCA/Colombo

## Birthday Remembrance



**Birth**  
27  
★  
02  
★  
1918

**Called to Rest**  
07  
★  
02  
★  
1980

## J.E. JOHN RODRIGO

On your birthday, we cherish a man so sophisticated and wise, with a heart that was filled with warmth and love. Your caring touch and invaluable advice is dearly missed every day. Yet, your memory lives on in the generation left behind, who are comforted by the knowledge that you are the star that shines the brightest in the night sky.

Beloved father, father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather

# Government aims to export pharmaceuticals to Africa, South East Asia by 2023: Prof. Jayasumana

NIMAL WIJESINGHE,  
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

Pharmaceuticals Production, Supply, and Regulation State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana told the media recently that the government plans to export locally manufactured pharmaceuticals to African and South East Asian countries by 2024. He said that special attention is being given to encouraging public-private phar-

maceutical projects, adding that foreign investors involved in the international pharmaceuticals market would be invited to begin joint ventures. The State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Cooperation (SPMC) has plans to set up a factory at Ratmalana, Prof. Jayasumana said. He added that it would be commissioned in 2023. The state minister also said that several other factories would start producing pharmaceuticals under the supervi-

sion of the SPMC within the next six months. A few more factories have been planned to be constructed in a 65-acre land in Millewa, Horana. This would usher in direct and indirect employment opportunities to residents of the area, Prof. Jayasumana said. Furthermore, the Hambantota District and the Oyamaduwa area in the Anuradhapura District have been selected to be converted

into two main hubs of pharmaceutical production in the country, he added. The government has two main targets behind the construction of these pharmaceutical factories. One is being self-sufficient in medicine, and the other is adding pharmaceuticals to the country's exports list, the state minister said. Aside from local pharmaceutical companies, several foreign and international companies have also shown interest in the pro-

ject. The Sri Lanka Standards Institute, Industrial Technology Institute, and the Institute of Nanotechnology have also extended their support for the endeavour, the professor said. A 100-acre land is to be used for the factories to be set up in Oyamaduwa, the state minister said, adding that if it and the Hambantota factories prove to be successful, the project would be expanded to other provinces as well.

## GNOA urges Government not to import Sinovac, Sputnik-V vaccines

'Neither has been approved by WHO'

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE and RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

The Government Nursing Officers' Association (GNOA) has urged the government not to use the COVID-19 vaccine manufactured in Russia and China as the World Health Organisation (WHO) was yet to approve them. GNOA President Saman Ratnapriya said that the government is holding discussions about importing the Sinovac and Sputnik-V vaccines from China and Russia, respectively. As WHO has not yet approved the two vaccines, the government should refrain from purchasing them, he added.



The Batticaloa District Secretariat held a meeting to review the measures taken by the government to prevent child abuse, child labour, and suicide on Thursday. The event, organised by Assistant Government Agent A. Naveswaran, was also attended by Batticaloa Government Agent K. Karunakaran, judicial medical officers, child probation officers of National Child Protection Authority, and police officers from the Women and Child Protection Bureau. Pictures by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Corr.



## SLFP displeased with Easter Commission Report: Dayasiri

S.M. WIJAYARATNE,  
Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products State Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara told the media in Kurunegala yesterday that the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) is displeased with the final report of the

Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) on the Easter Sunday Attacks. He said that former President Maithripala Sirisena was unfairly targeted by it. Instead of revealing the masterminds behind the attack, the report only highlights less important details, Jayasekara added.

## Troops offer emergency support for hospitals on strike

A group of 185 troops of the 14 Division HQ in Colombo offered their assistance to all hospitals in Colombo, Kurunegala, and Puttalam Districts for the management of health services after sections of the minor staff went on strike on Wednesday. It was carried out under the directions of Army Commander General Shavendra Silva and the supervision of the respective Commanding Officers, Brigade Commanders, and the General Officer Commanding. The troops covered the duties of minor staff at the Colombo National Hospital, Colombo Eye Hospital, as well as the district hospitals in Kalutara, Avissawella, Homagama, Marawila, Polpithigama,



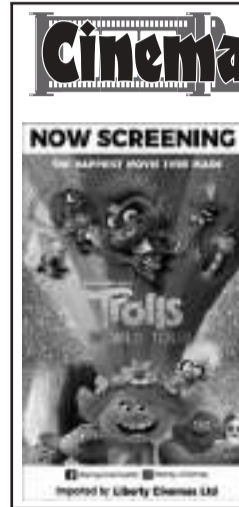
A soldier helping a patient.

Galgamuwa, Dambadeniya, Nikaweritiya, Thalagama and the base hospitals of Puttalam, Chilaw, and Kurunegala. Meanwhile, the 51 Division troops provided assistance to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital for management of health services in the emergency sections.

## Nine arrested in 24h for breaching COVID-19 regulations

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

Police arrested nine persons who violated COVID-19 regulations from Thursday to Friday, Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said. He added that 3,242 persons have been arrested for not wearing face masks and violating quarantine rules so far this year.



## NOTICE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA GENERAL CONVOCATION - 2021

The General Convocation of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka will be held in the month of October 2021 for the conferment of First Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees/Diplomas on all those who have successfully completed the first Degree and Postgraduate Degree/Diploma Examinations conducted by the Faculties of Architecture, Business, Engineering, Information Technology and Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and the results of which have been released since the closing date of application for the last Convocation held on 25th August, 2020.

All those who are eligible are kindly requested to supplicate (online with a hardcopy) for the conferment of First Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees/Diplomas at this Convocation on or before 31st May, 2021.

Online application form is available in the University Web ([www.mrt.ac.lk/suppliation-2021](http://www.mrt.ac.lk/suppliation-2021)) and both the duly submitted online form and a hard copy of the said online application form shall be submitted to process further as a valid application. While the completed online application form is submitted via the University Web, the hard copy of the online application form with your signature along with the payment receipt should be sent under the registered post to the following address on or before 31st May, 2021. (Indicate 'Supplication for General Convocation - 2021' on the top left-hand corner of the envelope).

Deputy Registrar/Examinations  
University of Moratuwa  
Katubedda,  
Moratuwa  
10400

If you find any difficulty in submitting the application form, please send an email to [supplication@uom.lk](mailto:supplication@uom.lk) indicating the support sought.

Registrar,  
University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka,  
Katubedda,  
Moratuwa.  
22.02.2021

## Former DIG Anura Senanayake passes away

Former Senior Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Anura Senanayake passed away yesterday.

Senanayake joined Sri Lanka Police in 1973 as a Sub-Inspector. He was promoted to the rank of Inspector eight years later. In 1985, he received a promotion to the post of Chief Inspector. He also served as an Officer-in-Charge (OIC) at several police stations.

He was appointed as the Director of the Colombo Crimes Division in 2008 and was promoted to the rank of Senior DIG in December, 2011. He retired from the Police service in 2015.



## Showers, thundershowers in Ratnapura, Southern Province

Showers or thundershowers could occur in some regions of the Southern Province and the Rathnapura District during the evening or night, while fair weather is expected in other areas, the Meteorology Department stated yesterday.

Mist could be expected in some places of the Central, Sabaragamuwa, Uva, and Western provinces, as well as the Galle and Matara districts during the morning. Meanwhile, sea areas around the island would experience fair conditions.

## Local Bodies Act needs revision: Janaka Bandara

S.M. WIJAYARATNE,  
Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon told the media recently that the Local Bodies Act needed to be revised as it had not been amended in 30 years. He added that a proposal for it would be submitted to Cabinet soon.

Tennakoon said that if the Act is revised, local bodies would be able to expand income sources and solve administrative issues more effectively.

**25.02.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 1,068,496**  
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 69,714,097.50**  
**RS. 18,857,277.50 SUPER PRIZE 01 Rs. 2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs. 1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs. 100,000.00 PRIZES 41**

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA**  
**DATE: 25-02-2021**  
**Winnings: 5 9 9 1 6 7**  
**Prize structure - from right to left:**  
 1st Prize: 5 9 9 1 6 7 Rs. 2,000,000/-  
 2nd Prize: 9 9 1 6 7 Rs. 100,000/-  
 3rd Prize: 9 1 6 7 Rs. 10,000/-  
 4th Prize: 1 6 7 Rs. 1,000/-  
 5th Prize: 6 7 Rs. 100/-  
 6th Prize: 7 Rs. 20/-  
**Prize structure - from left to right:**  
 7th Prize: 5 9 9 1 6 Rs. 10,000/-  
 8th Prize: 5 9 9 1 Rs. 1,000/-  
 9th Prize: 5 9 Rs. 100/-  
 10th Prize: 5 Rs. 50/-  
 11th Prize: L Rs. 20/-  
**Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 7,895,770.00**  
**The Super Prize of next draw Rs. 16,399,629.00**

**Govisetha**  
**OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
**Draw Number: 2704** **Draw Date: 25/02/2021**  
**English Letter: R** **Winning Numbers: 16 46 49 78**  
**COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS**  
 1st Prize: If all 4 numbers correct Rs. 1,000,000.00  
 2nd Prize: If letter & any 3 numbers correct Rs. 100,000.00 06  
 3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers correct Rs. 2,000.00 173  
 4th Prize: If letter & any 2 numbers correct Rs. 1,000.00 405  
 5th Prize: If any 2 numbers correct Rs. 100.00 9,708  
 6th Prize: If letter & any number correct Rs. 40.00 6,476  
 7th Prize: If any number correct Rs. 20.00 156,014  
 8th Prize: If only the letter is correct Rs. 20.00 29,169  
**TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 204,551**  
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 6,336,500.00**  
**SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 67,898,336.40**  
 Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes over Rs. 500,000/- are liable to government taxes. To obtain prizes, Presenting National Identity Card is a must.

**DHANA NIDHANAYA**  
**Official Results**  
**Date - 25/02/2021**  
**Draw Number - 446**  
**English Letter: J** **Winning Numbers: 38 55 67 77**  
**COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS**  
 1st Prize: If all numbers correct Rs. 1,000,000.00 01  
 2nd Prize: If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct Rs. 100,000.00 06  
 3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct Rs. 3,000.00 94  
 4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct Rs. 1,000.00 193  
 5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct Rs. 100.00 5,129  
 6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct Rs. 60.00 3,210  
 7th Prize: If 1 number is correct Rs. 20.00 86,877  
 8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct Rs. 20.00 16,480  
**Total prize money won in this draw Rs. 4,865,640.00**  
**Number of Prize Winners in this draw 112,290**  
**Next Draw Super Prize Rs. 84,181,878.40**  
 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.

**Mega POWER**  
**OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
**DATE: 25.02.2021**  
**Draw Number: 775**  
**Winning Numbers: 02 17 19 54**  
**Prize Structure:**  
 1st Prize: If all 4 numbers are correct 1,000,000.00 01  
 2nd Prize: If only 3 numbers with English Letter is correct 100,000.00 08  
 3rd Prize: If all 3 numbers are correct 1,000.00 33  
 4th Prize: If any 2 numbers with English Letter is correct 400.00 198  
 5th Prize: If only 2 numbers are correct 100.00 5,386  
 6th Prize: If any 1 number with English Letter is correct 40.00 3,503  
 7th Prize: If only 1 number are correct 20.00 82,421  
 8th Prize: If only English Letter are correct 20.00 16,975  
**Next Mega Super Prize Rs. 118,614,858.80**  
**Next Power Super Prize Rs. 20,938,204.80**  
**Next Grand Super Prize Rs. 32,069,777.60**  
**Total Prizes Won in This Draw Rs. 4,719,640.00**

**SEVANA**  
**OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
**Date: 25/02/2021**  
**Draw Number: 317**  
**English Letter: B** **Winning Numbers: 13 14 26 40**  
**COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS**  
 SUPER PRIZE: If English Letter and all numbers are correct Rs. 14,000,000/-  
 1st Prize: If all numbers are correct Rs. 1,000,000/-  
 2nd Prize: If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct Rs. 100,000/-  
 3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct Rs. 1,000/-  
 4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct Rs. 200/-  
 5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct Rs. 100/-  
 6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct Rs. 50/-  
 7th Prize: If 1 number is correct Rs. 20/-  
 8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct Rs. 20/-  
**Total Prize Won in this Draw Rs. 1,898,200/-**  
 Winning Tickets are valid for a period of 6 months from the draw for a period of 6 months only.

# STRATEGIES FOR THE RENAISSANCE OF IRRIGATION GLORY



The ongoing Kaudulla Damsopura Extension project which was started in 2013

NIMAL WIJESINGHE

Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

There is an awakening in the field of irrigation development in the country. The ancient kings treated rainwater as a highly precious national asset and constructed small, medium and large-scale tanks and anicuts for collecting and storing every drop of rainwater for irrigational, agricultural and drinking purposes. This concept converted the North Central Province into the 'Kingdom of Tanks' or the "Wew Bendi Rajaya". In the Anuradhapura District alone, there are nearly 3,000 tanks being the lifeline for a population of 1.5 million.

The greatness of the irrigation systems in Sri Lanka is a result of the remarkable engineering skills and workmanship showcased in the time of great kings. The progressive creation of a massive complex system of integrated tanks and cascade systems of storing and exchanging rainwater is marvellous and amazing.

According to irrigation information sources, this year, the Irrigation Department has allocated Rs. 8,000 million to continue the construction work of 14 irrigation schemes under which around 13,350 hectares will receive adequate irrigational water. The ongoing irrigational schemes are Yan Oya Reservoir Project, Lower Deduru Oya Project, Kalugal Oya Reservoir Project, Morana Reservoir Project, Wellassa Navodya Project, Maha Galgamuwa Feeder Canal Project, Maha Gona Reservoir Project, Kaudulla Damsopura Extension Project, Godigamuwa Reservoir Project, Wilakandiya Reservoir Project, Kudawilachchiya tank renovation, Dematagala tank renovation and Ellawewa Reservoir Project. All funds required are completely invested by the Sri Lanka Government. The total estimated cost for completion of the ongoing 14 irrigational development projects is Rs 60,815 million.

Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa has instructed the Irrigation Director General and senior irrigation executives to take action to accelerate the construction work of these projects to enable the people to receive the benefits even during the project planning stage.

According to senior irrigation engineers, the main reason for the delay in completion of irrigation projects is the change of Governments, political interference, lack of funds, differences of opinion between the Irrigation



King Parakramabahu the Great who endeavoured to collect every drop of rainwater for the benefit of the people.

Ministry, the Irrigation Department and other stakeholders, the delay in amending the present Irrigation Ordinance including out-of-date laws and regulations and the absence of a suitable regulatory process. They point out the construction of the Lower Malwathu Oya Reservoir in Thanthirimale in the Anuradhapura District which has not yet commenced although the foundation stone was laid thrice since 2013, the latest in 2019, by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. With regard to the Anuradhapura Yan Oya Reservoir, although the reservoir along with its two main canals was completed two years back, the project has not yet been officially commissioned.

The construction work started in 2014 and still there is compensation amounting to around Rs 2,500 million waiting to be settled to the farmers who have lost their properties for accommodating the reservoir bearing a capacity of 149,000-acre-feet. Some lands have not been released by the Forest Department and the Government is paying a monthly allowance to the farmers at the rate of Rs 8,000 per family.

When speaking about the renovation, restoration, rehabilitation or modernization of ancient tanks, it is obvious that irrigation officers are finding it difficult to attend to duties as per above under the existing irrigational laws and regulations, such as governing water resources development, riverine management, preservation of catchment areas, irrigational water management, preservation of water resources and existing irrigation projects and in commencing new projects. Irrigation officers, while planning construction and management of irrigation systems, confront numerous inconveniences and complexities due to ambiguities in the present irrigation legislation, especially with regard to the delegation of authoritative powers from top to bottom.

Anuradhapura Government Agent R.M. Wanninayake told the Daily News that a large number of tank reservations are in the grip of encroachers who clear the reserved landscape including tank beds for cultivation and housing which has resulted in large scale soil erosion, accumulation of sediment in the tanks thus contracting tank capacity and the destruction of tank bunds and the irrigation canals affiliated to the tanks causing water contamination and environment pollution at large.

He said there are several stakeholders concerning the custody of the tanks - Irrigation Department, Provincial Irrigation Department, Agrarian Development Department, Mahaweli Development Authority, Ceylon Electricity Board and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board thus sometimes creating problematic situations in the distribution of funds, sediment disposal, land distribution, water management, lawsuits against vandals and procurement issues.

In the Anuradhapura District, around 1,500 acres belonging to the tank reservations of mainly Padaviya, Huruluwewa, Mahakanadarawa, Thissawewa, Nachchaduwa, Rajangane and Wahalkada are in the grip of encroachers, and as disclosed at the District



Rajanganaya Reservoir water flows without being used for any purposeful project.



The Lower Malwathu Oya Project confined only to the Project Director's Office.



Kala Oya river where a water balance study is to be conducted.

Agriculture Committee meetings, the menace is growing. This situation highlights another loophole in the Irrigation Ordinance, in that the district irrigation directors have not been delegated powers for taking direct legal action against the vandals as all legal matters such as filing cases for the evacuation of encroachers and land acquisition are performed remotely only by the Legal Department of the Irrigation Department in Colombo.

As explained by the Government Agent, the majority of the tanks, mainly the major reservoirs in the Anuradhapura District, are exposed to encroachers and antisocial elements since the boundaries of the tanks are not earmarked with boundary stones or demarcation fences. This lapse is directly responsible for the ruin of tanks. This issue is often raised and discussed at the district coordinating meetings and District Agriculture Committee meetings and no fruitful and productive action has been taken so far.

There is another obstacle being faced in irrigational development - finding water sources for drinking water supply projects. For instance, the construction work of Anuradhapura Mahaweli "H" Division's Thambuththegama Proposed Water Project is now progressing without a definite water source for running the project. Earlier the Rajangane Reservoir was identified as the water source for the Thambuththegama Water Supply Project and farmers cultivating using the Rajangane tank vehemently protested against the removal of water from the tank. This controversial issue is yet to be settled and the Angamuwa tank may be the alternative water source. Irrigation experts on many occasions have proposed to

conduct water balance studies in several major river basins including the Kala Oya river. It is the feeder water source of Rajangane reservoir. The aim is to evaluate the volume of water flowing in them enabling to decide the maximum volume of water that could be extracted from major tanks situated in the particular river basin for catering to emerging or proposed drinking water projects and irrigating additional landscapes. The authorities have been lethargic in taking prompt action to implement the water balance study programme, seemingly having underestimated the invaluable national importance of the exercise at this juncture. It is supposed to be the most appropriate solution to judge the maximum water intake that can be extracted from a particular river basin.

Rural areas in the country are lagging behind in access to improved drinking water. Globally more than eight out of 10 people are without access to drinking water sources. In this con-

text, it is a timely requirement to streamline the irrigational and drinking water management since in most cases the tanks are the main water source for feeding drinking water projects. Issues such as amending the present Irrigation Ordinance, conducting water balance studies in major river basins, vesting the authoritative power for administering the country's tank resources to the Irrigation Department are to be taken up for enforcement with necessary amendments, revisions and reforms being instituted, on par with the awakening in the field of irrigation development programmes such as Wari Saubhagya (Irrigation Prosperity), Wew Gam Pubuduwa as well the Pivithuru Ganga river protection programme in accordance with the President's 'Saubhagya Dekma' (Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour) policy manifesto.

In the absence of a single authority dealing with irrigation, the *Wari Saubhagya* programme is handled by a number of institutions such as the Irrigation Department, Irrigation Ministry, Agrarian Development Department, Provincial Irrigation Departments and Mahaweli Authority creating complications in regulatory and implementation mechanisms. It is envisaged to complete the 5,000 rural tanks renovation target by 2023 and continue the programme covering around 15,985 working tanks, 2,100 abandoned tanks and 15,800 anicuts in the country, at a cost of Rs 12.5 billion.

It is learnt that the *Wew Gam Pubuduwa* tank renovation programme is also being affiliated to *Wari Saubhagya* Project since both programmes are implemented to achieve the same target to a major extent. Under the *Wew Gam Pubuduwa* it was planned to renovate 350 small tanks under 30 tank cascades at a cost of Rs. 3,113 million.

With regard to the Irrigation Department's Pivithuru Ganga river protection programme launched in 2018, it is learnt that the Environment Ministry too has embarked on a project called Surakimu Ganga (Let's Protect Rivers) for saving the 103 main rivers in the country from destruction mainly due to unwarranted human activities such as dumping garbage, gem mining and sand mining, and soil excavation. This situation leads to a complicated episode in deciding the custodianship of the major river basins in the country.

The revision of the Irrigation Ordinance is identified as an urgent need under the current context of water management on par with the Saubhagya Dekma policy manifesto and the mega irrigation development schemes such as Wari Saubhagya, Wew Gam Pubuduwa and Pivithuru Ganga. Irrigation experts say that the Irrigation Department which is nearly 120 years old, possesses an invaluable practical experience in the engineering and technological components.

This is the right time for investigating whether the subjects such as water resource development, riverine management, catchment area preservation, rainwater harvesting and irrigational water management are under the control of the Department. It is learnt that funds worth Rs. 2,000 million has been allocated for the *Surakimu Ganga* project whereas Rs. 500 million has been allocated for the Irrigation Department to proceed with the *Pivithuru Ganga* programme although both agencies work for the protection and maintenance of the 103 river systems in the country.

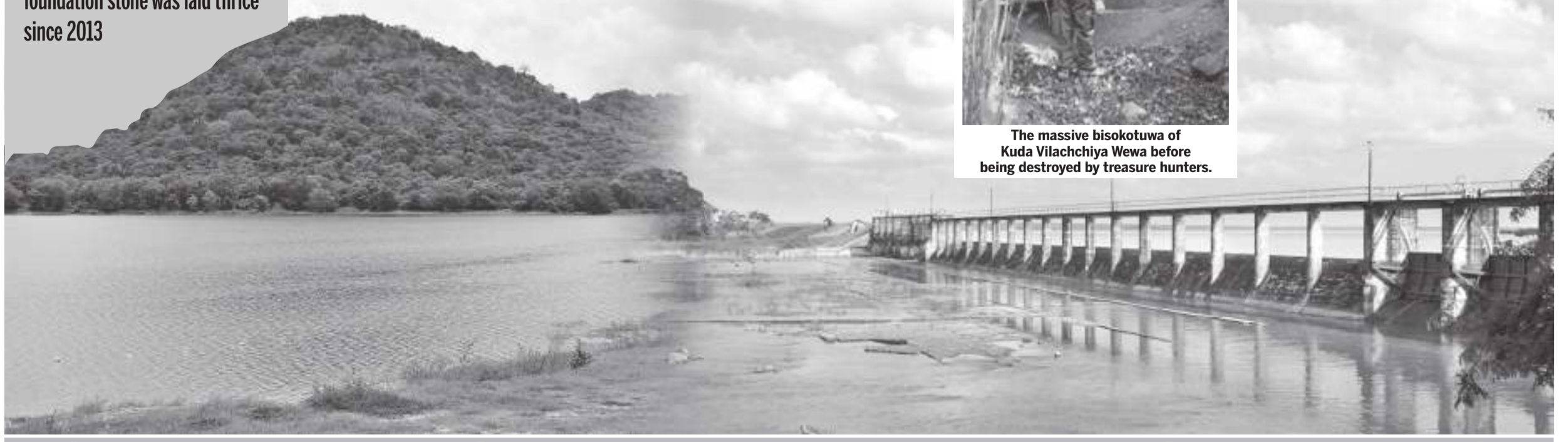
In this context, there could be a controversy creating misunderstanding among the various stakeholder agencies coming under the Irrigation Ministry and the Environment Ministry. In the time of ancient kings in Sri Lanka the feudal system was in effect with regard to irrigation.

The British rulers revoked the feudal system and consequently the tanks system started facing decay. Under these circumstances, they passed the first Irrigation Ordinance called Irrigation and Paddy Fields Cultivation Ordinance No 09 of 1856. Then consequently, in 1946, 1951, 1968, 1973, 1983, 1990 and 1994 at various stages this Ordinance was amended depending only on the emerging necessities.

According to senior irrigation engineers, the main reason for the delay in completion of irrigation projects is the change of Governments, political interference, lack of funds, differences of opinion between the Irrigation Ministry, the Irrigation Department and other stakeholders, the delay in amending the present Irrigation Ordinance including out-of-date laws and regulations and the absence of a suitable regulatory process. They point out the construction of the Lower Malwathu Oya Reservoir in Thanthirimale in the Anuradhapura District which has not yet commenced although the foundation stone was laid thrice since 2013



The massive bisokotuwa of Kuda Vilachchiya Wewa before being destroyed by treasure hunters.





# REV. C.N. JANSZ, A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF GOD FOR 5 DECADES

DISHAN JOSEPH

The Holy Bible makes reference to rivers in its Old Testament. These rivers primarily sustained and enhanced life. Their source was springing from the depths of a distant fountain that never ran dry. These rivers welcomed every human who came to quench their thirst. It has been my great privilege to know Rev. Charles Norton Jansz whose life and Christian ministry has been like a magnificent river, refreshing many people. He is affectionately known to thousands simply as CNJ. In this digitally-dominated era where 'religion' is often assigned to the backbench, this faithful servant of God will be completing five decades of Christian ministry with the Christian Reformed Church of Sri Lanka.

Ancient church records indicate that the first Dutch clergyman who came to Ceylon had preached in Galle in 1642. Over the centuries the Dutch Reformed Church (as it was then known) steadily grew with many churches and adherents across this resplendent island. With British colonization in 1796, many parishioners joined the Church of England.

Serving God by being a spiritual shepherd is a task filled with multiple challenges, as one has to deal with all kinds of people from so many diverse backgrounds. When asked about his decision to join the priesthood, the



Rev. C.N. Jansz with the Pope

amiably clergyman said, "To be precise it was not dramatic. As a child and teenager, I was very much part of the Dehiwela Church where I was baptized. I always won the attendance

prize for coming to church every Sunday. During my time as a young adult, we were at a one-day workshop where we were encouraged to consider pastoral ministry. After completing my O/L exam, I worked as a typist clerk for about six months. But it did not yield the desired satisfaction, and the call to ministry was gently tugging at my heart. In mid-1967, I gladly applied to be a Student in Training at the DRC Seminary. I was duly accepted and enrolled in the DRC Seminary and Bible Institute in July 1967. I graduated with a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1971 and pursued my Master of Divinity, in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1981. I was ordained on March 4, 1971, at the magnificent DRC Church at Wolvendhal, Colombo. I was later enrolled at Pretoria University, South Africa for doctoral studies. This required time and the exigencies of ministry did not allow me to complete these studies."

Looking back, Rev. Jansz recalled many special moments of pastoral ministry. Perhaps the rewarding moments were baptizing children, whose parents he had blessed and given in marriage. Other moments include the sad

Looking back, Rev. Jansz recalled many special moments of pastoral ministry. Perhaps the rewarding moments were baptizing children, whose parents he had blessed and given in marriage. Other moments include the sad deaths of members of the congregation or people leaving the church for some reason. Humour-laden moments include strangers giving the "v" sign during sermons and once when the wine turned into water. Over these 50 years, he has taught God's word and drawn satisfaction by seeing the positive change in people's lives

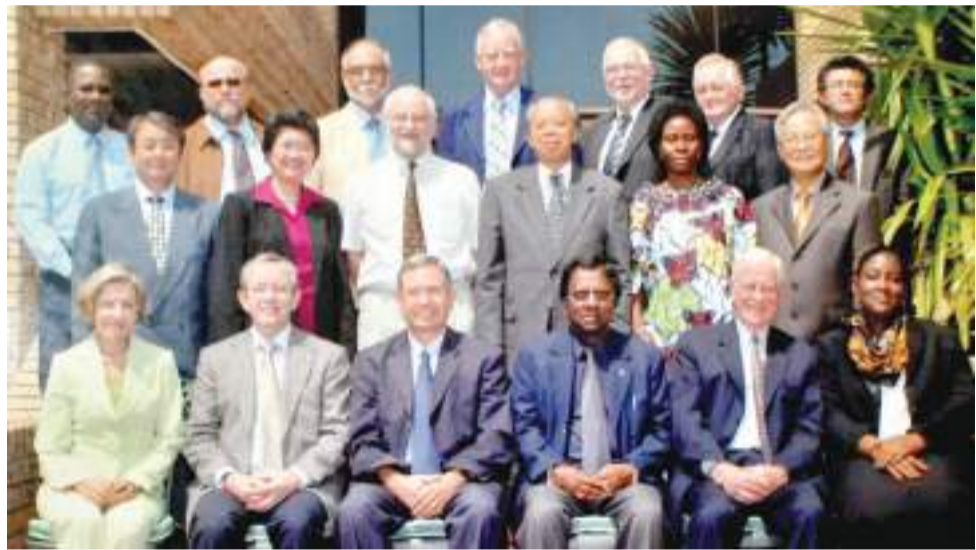
deaths of members of the congregation or people leaving the church for some reason. Humour-laden moments include strangers giving the "v" sign during sermons and once when the wine turned into water! Over these 50 years, he has taught God's word and drawn satisfaction by seeing the positive change in people's lives. Being brilliantly gifted in communication, and his passion for people made him a sought after personality. He did admit



Rev. C.N. Jansz

there were a few times he would have quit but God remained faithful. During these moments, his wife Maxine had been a great encouragement.

The prudent priest has served in local and international Christian missions. Some of these key positions include President of the Christian Reformed Church, Chairperson National Christian Council, Chairperson National Christian Evangelical Alliance, Vice Patron National YMCA, Executive member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Vice Chairman United Bible Societies (Global Board), Executive Member of Reformed Ecumenical Council and Editor of The Herald. When I asked him about the changes to church services after the COVID-19 outbreak, he said, "There were challenges with technology. I was duly assisted by experts in those fields. It was a challenge to preach without seeing people and being able to read facial expressions. He also had some advice to those young people aspiring for Christian ministry "Firstly a determination that it is a call from the Lord, secondly an understanding of your gifts, thirdly a resilience not to look back and finally be open to serve through every challenge." The life and dedicated ministry of Rev. C.N. Jansz is an inspiration to all Christians.



Rev. C.N. Jansz with some dignitaries a few years ago.

## THE SESAME TREAT

### THE ICONIC OIL OF THE NORTH ENTICES THE SOUTH

DISHAN JOSEPH

Sri Lanka has a galaxy of succulent dishes within its national cooking traditions. Like any other country, each Sri Lankan province beautifully reflects its own natural regional ingredients, proportionately combined in a tasty culinary symphony to entice all of us. These mainly rural food ingredients have slowly made their way into the multi-cultural big towns influencing everyday menus. In today's narrative, I draw your attention and taste buds to sesame oil, or *nallenai* as it has been known for centuries in Jaffna and other villages in the Northern Province.

Oil has been used in cooking for centuries in every culture. There are various strains of oil in the marketplace. For the housewives of the Northern Province, their primary choice has always been sesame seed oil. Those using this oil in cities outside Jaffna refer to this product as 'gingelly oil'. During one of my adventurous media visits to Jaffna, I was keen to locate and visit an oil mill that produced this healthy oil, in the traditional method.

I was accompanied by Terry, a retired engineer, who knew these areas pretty well. We made some inquiries, and finally connected with an obliging clerk who kindly guided us to visit the remote village of Navaly. This was my first visit to this section of the Northern Province. The drive to Navaly was quite demanding, as we passed through fields cultivated with small red onions. A herd of buffalo defiantly sat on the road at one point, and we waited until they decided to give us the right of way. As we drove further we encountered vast areas of uninhabited land dotted with clusters of palmyrah trees. The heat was not very conducive for travelling but this is all part of the northern road trip. After reaching a sand road we turned into a by-lane and



A vintage oil mill

we were greeted with the mildly pungent aroma of sesame oil drifting in the air. A fence with dried palmyrah fronds covered the entrance to the oil mill. Some dogs began to bark heralding our sudden intrusion into this village oil mill. A robust bare-bodied man, attired in sarong greeted us.

The mill operator Thangaratnam is 54 years old. His father's generation has been residing at this location for 120 years, operating a small oil extraction mill. His family is looked upon with a certain kind of reverence, perhaps due to sustaining this old rural tradition. His hands were covered in oil and he apologized for his inability to shake hands with us, which broke the ice. He explained, "My grandparents ran this mill for many years, later my father took over the family business. As you realize, many years ago we used the services of some sturdy bulls. The bulls worked hard and we depended on their strength to operate the oil extraction *chekku*. But with

time and innovation we were forced to let go of the bulls. Because we cannot afford to care for them. During our school days, dried hay and fresh grass were purchased for Rs. 10 a bundle, but today it is expensive so that is an increase in our operational cost. We do not make a big profit, this business is our family legacy and of cultural significance. Besides, the bulls require much care, and need space to graze and rest." These bulls were part of our home and we were sad to lose them.

For the past few years, enterprising Thangaratnam has turned to the power

**Ancient Ayurveda physicians realized that sesame oil is filled with ingredients that are capable of providing a silky texture to your skin. The presence of fatty acids makes them an effective moisturizer for the skin. Today many shops in areas such as Pettah and Wellawatte sell sesame oil to health-conscious customers in Colombo**

of a motor-mechanical device (somewhat similar to a small handheld tractor). This device has replaced the circular rotation of the robust bulls. The centre of the garden has a large *chekku* or oil extraction well, built with wood. In the past, this was built with solid granite that was chiselled patiently by hand. The wood-based container is buried firmly into the ground. Within it is the main grinding apparatus of the *chekku* - a thick wooden pole. This pole is connected by a fulcrum, which extends about seven feet and is bound to the mechanical-mini tractor. Once in operation, the motor unit goes around in circles causing the sesame seeds to be crushed at a steady rhythm, releasing virgin oil. This oil is blackish brown in colour and collected at the base in a plastic bucket. Thangaratnam added, "We put 20 kilogrammes of sesame seed into the well. After two hours

of pressing, we obtain about 14 bottles of quality oil. We send this oil to the traders who filter it many times, and obtain the nice brown oil, though it is not limpid like some other oils. Today, a bottle of sesame oil is sold here between Rs. 800 and 900; I reckon it is more costly in Colombo."

Sustaining this century-old tradition comes with many challenges. One of them is the hard and demanding physical operation. Though Thangaratnam is in his mid-fifties, he looks much older. He explained, "With the time and cost of my labour I do not make a big profit. I must work six days a week. People in Jaffna love to cook with sesame oil. But I do not make a lavish profit from my work. Presently I have to incur diesel costs to operate my motor."

We walked to the back garden where he pointed to a massive log that had been felled. This log will be chiselled by hand and made into the "grinding pin" - which can then be used for a year. Previously, these objects were made with granite that lasted years, but today, there are no skilled workmen to cut and make them. Another rural tradition that has been lost. Thangaratnam adds, "Sesame oil has many health benefits - sesame oil is known to be an effective treatment for wounds and inflamed skin. It contains anti-inflammatory properties that fight bacterial infections. When someone gets a burn wound, we rub this soothing oil. As you grow old, sesame oil can assist you in avoiding osteoporosis and numerous other age-related weaknesses in the bones. If you wish to enjoy the benefits of lower blood pressure level, you should add sesame oil to your diet. It is good for frying food. Also copper is a key mineral that helps fight swelling



Extraction in progress



Mill operator Thangaratnam



A regular customer



Fried crabs



Fried fish



A sweet snack made with sesame seeds

and reduces pain associated with arthritis. In addition, the mineral also helps add strength to your bones, joints, and blood vessels." Ancient Ayurveda physicians realized that sesame oil is filled with ingredients that are capable of providing a silky texture to your skin. The presence of fatty acids makes them an effective moisturizer for the skin.

They are also rich in vitamin E, D and B complex which reduces scars and other rashes on the skin. Sesame oil forms a protective film over the skin and is a natural sunscreen. It is applied by those who work in the fields in the intense sun. Today many shops in areas such as Pettah and Wellawatte sell sesame oil to health-conscious customers in Colombo. Over the years, sesame oil from Jaffna has become familiar in Sinhalese and Muslim kitchens, making the product a cultural bridge - in a culinary sense. Crushed sesame seeds mixed with jaggery is a healthy snack eaten by all ethnic groups in Sri Lanka.

After thanking this diligent family, we were exiting the oil mill when a senior citizen cycled into the garden. Sporting unkempt hair and a long grizzled beard, this worthy was a regular customer, who told me that sesame oil has kept him in great health. After buying a bottle, the old man cycled away. As he disappeared down the road into the outskirts of Navaly we wondered if this ancient art of oil production would fade away in the future.



# US, EU vaccine rollout on track as global deaths hit 2.5 million

**US:** The United States on Thursday hailed progress in turning around its troubled COVID-19 vaccine rollout, and the European Union said it was also on track to meet its targets as global coronavirus deaths topped 2.5 million.

Brazil hit 250,000 fatalities – the second-highest national death toll after the US – while the worldwide vaccine campaign received the royal endorsement of Queen Elizabeth II, 94, who urged people not to be wary of the injection.

President Joe Biden declared the US rollout is now “weeks ahead of schedule” as he celebrated 50 million vaccines administered since he took office on January 20, but he warned Americans to keep masking up.

“We’re moving in the right direction despite the mess we inherited,” Biden said, referring to the program under his predecessor Donald Trump.

The United States is the world’s hardest-hit country, with



**US President Joe Biden talks to Victoria Legerwood Rivera, an attendance counselor at Stoddert Elementary School in Northwest DC, before receiving her vaccine at an event commemorating the 50 millionth COVID-19 vaccine shot on Friday at the South Court Auditorium of Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, DC. - AFP**

coronavirus deaths crossing the 500,000 mark earlier this week.

Biden said that there would be “enough supply” for all adult Americans by the end of July.

The EU announced Thursday it expected to vaccinate 70 percent of adults by the end of the summer, after months of problems and friction.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said fully vaccinating just under three-quarters of adults by late summer was a “goal that we’re confident with.”

But in Brazil, the grim quarter-

million deaths milestone came one year after the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in the country, which is struggling with severe vaccine shortages and a devastating second wave. The coronavirus has hit especially hard in Brazil’s impoverished “favelas,” among indigenous communities and in the Amazon rainforest city of Manaus, where there have been haunting scenes of mass graves and patients suffocating to death with no oxygen.

Vaccine rollouts have been patchy so far, and most of the 217 million vaccine doses administered globally have gone to wealthier countries.

Meanwhile, China approved two more vaccines made by domestic companies for public use, bringing the number of Chinese vaccines to four.

Two Cuban vaccines will undergo advanced clinical trials from March after they reportedly elicited a “powerful immune response” in early tests, one of the scientists in charge of the project said Thursday. - AFP

millions of people have died, and the number of deaths is still rising. The process, known as reconciliation, allows lawmakers to pass a budget-related bill with just a simple 51-vote majority in the 100-member Chamber, rather than the 60 votes normally required for major legislation.

Republicans in the evenly split Senate are largely opposed to the relief package, meaning Democrats would need to shelve the national minimum wage hike to \$15 an hour from \$7.25 if they want any chance at passing the COVID aid.

“President Biden is disappointed in this outcome, as he proposed having the \$15 minimum wage as part of the American Rescue Plan,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement.

“He urges Congress to move quickly to pass the (bill), which includes \$1400 rescue checks for most Americans” and other funding to help control and eliminate the pandemic. Republicans voiced support

## Biden’s hopes for minimum wage increase suffers setback

**US:** A key US Senate official ruled Thursday that President Joe Biden’s \$15 per hour minimum wage measure cannot be included in the huge COVID relief bill as written, imperiling Democratic efforts to fulfill a progressive priority.

The Senate parliamentarian told lawmakers that the minimum wage language is not eligible to be in the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus package if Democrats seek to pass it through a filibuster-proof bill.

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**A banner for a \$15 per hour minimum wage is displayed as airport employees are joined by drivers from Uber and Lyft and other southern California workers for a protest at Los Angeles International Airport.**

for the ruling, with Senator Lindsey Graham saying “this decision will, over time, reinforce the traditions of the Senate.”

The blow to Democrats comes one day before the House of Representatives votes on the plan aimed at providing relief to millions of struggling American families, along with businesses and communities hurt by the pandemic.

The ruling affects only the Senate. But because any bill must pass both chambers before the president signs it into law, parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough’s decision effectively strips the wage hike out of the package.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi nevertheless insisted her chamber will go ahead with its vote on the bill – with the wage increase included.

“House Democrats believe that the minimum wage hike is necessary,” Pelosi said in a statement.

“Therefore, this provision will remain in the American Rescue Plan on the floor tomorrow.”

Should that pass, the minimum wage language would likely be stripped out of the Senate version.

With the Senate split 50-50, Democrats would need to remain unified if they get no Republican support, then count on a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Kamala Harris.

If the Senate and House versions are different, as they now appear certain to be, they would need to be reconciled into a single bill and passed again before Biden signs it into law. - AFP

## Four die in Sweden after falling through ice on lake

**SWEDEN:** Four people were killed when they fell through the ice on a lake in southern Sweden on Thursday, police said, as the country experiences a spell of unseasonably mild weather.

Four men aged between 65 and 75 were found in a hole in the ice on Savsjo lake, south of the town of Jonkoping, and could not be resuscitated after being pulled out of the water, a local

police spokesperson told AFP. The exact circumstances of the incident were yet to be determined, she said.

Accidents caused by people walking across unstable ice are common in Sweden, but it is rare for the death toll to be so high.

After several weeks of intense cold throughout most of the country, which drew walkers to frozen

lakes and estuaries, parts of Sweden have seen a rapid hike in temperature over the past few days.

A national heat record for February was set on Thursday, according to the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.

A temperature of 16.8 degrees Celsius (62.2 degrees Fahrenheit) was registered in Kalmar, in the southeast of the country. - AFP



**People skating and enjoying a day out on a frozen lake in Sweden which has seen a rapid hike in temperature over the past few days.**



**Friends of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi hold posters bearing his picture on the second anniversary of his killing in October 2020.**

## Biden, Saudi king speak ahead of Khashoggi murder report

**US:** US President Joe Biden held a long-delayed first phone call Thursday with Saudi King Salman ahead of an imminent US intelligence report expected to link the Arab kingdom’s powerful crown prince to the killing of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Biden kept the king waiting in his long list of calls to US allies after being sworn in five weeks ago.

And when he did finally reach out to the Saudis, it was pointedly to the king and not the expected successor Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, commonly known as MBS.

The telephone diplomacy was all part of what the White House is calling a reset in relations in the wake of Khashoggi’s horrific 2018 murder inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

A US intelligence report on the incident, in which Khashoggi is believed to have been killed and then chopped into pieces, is being made public “soon,” the White House says.

It is expected to state that the crown prince in some capacity was connected to the killing, which involved a whole squad of Saudi agents positioned at the consulate before Khashoggi visited.

Khashoggi, a Saudi national who wrote for The Washington Post and was a US resident, had been an outspoken critic of the young prince.

The White House said that Biden and the 85-year-old king emphasized the countries’ security ties and “the US commitment to help Saudi Arabia defend its territory as it faces attacks from Iranian-aligned groups.”

However, in a shift from the Donald Trump era, Biden also “affirmed the importance the United States places on universal human rights and the rule of law.”

The Saudi state news agency said in its readout that the king and Biden stressed “the depth of the relationship between the two countries” and discussed Iran’s “destabilizing activities and its support for terrorist groups” in the region.

With its vast oil reserves and rivalry with Iran, Saudi Arabia is also a vital strategic ally. A reminder of shared US and Saudi interests in the region came Thursday when the US military struck at facilities they said were being used by Iran-backed forces in Syria.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday had his own telephone call with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan.

They “discussed the importance of Saudi progress on human rights, including through legal and judicial reforms,” State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

Prince Mohammed has said he accepts Saudi Arabia’s overall responsibility in Khashoggi’s killing but denies a personal link.

In Saudi Arabia, five people were handed death sentences over the murder. But a Saudi court in September overturned them while giving jail terms of up to 20 years to eight unnamed defendants following secretive legal proceedings.

Human rights advocates called the judicial process a whitewash aimed at blaming the hit men while not touching the mastermind. - AFP

## Thousands rally in Armenia after PM warns of ‘coup attempt’

**ARMENIA:** Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan defied calls to resign and accused the military of an attempted coup on Thursday, as divisions over his handling of last year’s war with Azerbaijan brought thousands to the streets.

Hours after the general staff of Armenia’s military made a shock call for the government to step down, Pashinyan rallied some 20,000 supporters in the centre of the capital Yerevan against what he said was an attempt to oust him.

The opposition gathered some 10,000 of its own supporters not far away, then began putting up tents and building barricades outside parliament as it vowed to hold round-the-clock demonstrations.

There were no signs of any military action against Pashinyan, who ordered the armed forces to stand behind the Government.

“I am ordering all generals, officers and soldiers: do your job of protecting the country’s borders and territorial integrity,” he said during the rally.

The Army “must obey the people



**Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addresses his supporters gathered on Republic Square in downtown Yerevan on Thursday. - AFP**

and elected authorities,” Pashinyan said.

The defence ministry also issued a statement declaring that “attempts to involve (the military) in political processes are unacceptable.”

Pashinyan said he was ready to

start talks with the opposition, but also threatened to arrest any opponents who “go beyond political statements.”

The Prime Minister has been under intense pressure over his handling of the conflict for control

of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, but has ignored repeated calls to resign for losing swathes of territory to Azerbaijan.

After backing the prime minister for months, the military’s general staff on Thursday joined calls for him to step down, saying in a statement that he and his cabinet “are not capable of taking adequate decisions”.

Pashinyan hit back with an accusation that top brass were mounting an “attempted military coup” and ordered the firing of the chief of the general staff Onik Gasparyan. Pashinyan then led supporters through the streets of the capital, surrounded by his family, ministers and security detail, as marchers chanted “Nikol Prime Minister!”

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke to Pashinyan and “called on all parties to show restraint,” the Kremlin’s spokesman said.

The United States, which under President Joe Biden has redoubled efforts to support democracy, warned the military and urged all sides to avoid violence. - AFP

## North Korea ordered to pay \$2.3 bn over 1968 USS Pueblo seizure



**A Korean People’s Army guide walks aboard the USS Pueblo at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang, North Korea.**

**US:** A US court has ordered North Korea to pay damages to the crew and family of the spy ship USS Pueblo, who were tortured and mistreated for 11 months in 1968 after being captured by the North Korean navy.

The Washington federal court said that the surviving members of the crew and families of those now dead are owed compensatory damages for confinement and suffering of \$1.15 billion and doubled that for punitive damages against Pyongyang.

It said many of the 83-strong crew, one of whom was killed by the North Koreans when they seized the Pueblo on January 23, 1968, were mentally and physically abused during their captivity.

In addition, wrote Alan Balaran, the government-appointed “special mas-

ter” in the case to decide how damages were to be apportioned, most suffered long-lasting after-effects, both psychological and physical.

“As a result of the barbarity inflicted by the North Koreans, almost all required medical and/or psychiatric intervention,” Balaran wrote.

“Many have undergone invasive surgical procedures to ameliorate the physical damage resulting from the relentless torture they underwent as prisoners,” he wrote.

The lawsuit was only brought in 2018 after the US Justice Department ruled that, despite a law giving foreign government’s broad immunity from suits in US courts, they could be sued if the government had been designated a state sponsor of international terrorism. - AFP

# Nearly 140 NGOs from 31 countries call for Myanmar arms embargo



## Myanmar's civil servant strikes start to bite

**UN, MYANMAR:** Nearly 140 NGOs from 31 countries signed an open letter Wednesday calling for the United Nations Security Council to urgently impose an arms embargo on Myanmar after the military coup there earlier this month.

"The United Nations Security Council should urgently impose a global arms embargo on Myanmar in response to the military coup and to deter the junta from committing further abuses," the letter said.

"The UN Security Council should also impose targeted sanctions, global travel bans, and asset freezes on the leadership of the junta and military-owned conglomerates," said the signatories, which also included dozens of Asian NGOs. - AFP

Despite risks to their lives and livelihoods, many Myanmar civil servants are refusing to work for the junta, as a growing civil disobedience movement seeks to thwart the generals by paralysing the bureaucracy.



A pro-military supporter throws projectiles at residents in Yangon on Thursday following weeks of mass demonstrations against the military coup. - AFP

"The military needs to prove that they can manage the country well as a government. But if we... the civil servants don't work, their plan to take power will fail," Thida, a public university lecturer who asked to use a pseudonym, told AFP Monday as cities were brought to

a standstill by the largest strike yet.

From the capital to seaports, work stoppages in the private sector have hollowed out offices and factories and forced many bank branches shut.

One crowdsourced survey found members of all 24 Government ministries are now

involved, while the UN special rapporteur on Myanmar has estimated three-quarters of the civil servants are on strike.

Their absence is beginning to bite. Nearly one-third of the nation's hospitals are no longer functioning, coup leader Min Aung Hlaing said this week.

Decrying medical professionals' failure to fulfil their duties, he hinted that working doctors and teachers would soon receive cash rewards, according to remarks reported by state media Tuesday.

The Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB), which distributes government salaries and pensions, has been hobbled by walkouts, but state media said it was a "baseless rumour" that compensation would not be forthcoming.

In a sign of the generals' growing uneasiness, official media outlets have printed near-daily summonses for civil servants to return or face legal action, while overnight arrests have targeted civil disobedience movement participants. - AFP

# Doctor recalls first reported US COVID-19 death

**US:** This time last year, infectious disease physician Francis Riedo was having what he'd consider a fairly typical Friday - and didn't suspect his hospital would soon report the United States' first death from COVID-19.

It was the middle of flu season, and several patients were being treated in the intensive care unit of EvergreenHealth Medical Center Kirkland, a suburb of Seattle.

Two of them were on ventilators, critically ill with lower respiratory infections, but "there was no clear diagnosis," Riedo recalled.

A handful of COVID-19 cases had so far been detected in the country, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had just changed its guidance to recommend testing people with suspicious symptoms, even if they hadn't traveled to Wuhan.

That evening, "we filled out the three pages of paperwork for each, and the following morning, on Friday morning, collected the swabs of these two individuals and sent them off to the state lab testing."

It happened to be the first day that state labs were trusted with testing samples - prior to that, the specimens were all sent to the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta.

Riedo wanted to make sure the swabs were correctly collected, and hand them over himself.

He'd certainly been keeping up with the mysterious new disease that had been ravaging China but wasn't really worried.

"I dropped those specimens off and went about my day," said Riedo. "I honestly did not think that this was going to be more than an exercise." He then went to see one of the two critically ill patients - whom he had happened to have treated five years earlier, too.

"By the time I got there in the afternoon, he had already passed away," he said. The man had been in his fifties and in poor health. His family had come to see him, and it wasn't known at that point that he had had COVID-19. Riedo didn't expect the test results to come back for several more days, but that evening, he received a call from the county health authorities, informing him both samples had returned positive.

"My initial response, I have to say, was a bit of skepticism," he said, recalling widespread reporting at the time of defective tests.

The officials, however, were adamant. "After that moment of skepticism or incredulity, I said, 'This is it, this is really where it begins.'"



Frank Riedo, the Medical Director for Infection Control and Prevention at Evergreen Health Hospital near Seattle, said he was initially skeptical when some of his patients first tested positive for COVID-19 a year ago.

The revelation unleashed a rapid chain of events.

Riedo spoke with the family of the deceased and had to respond to inquiries from the county authorities, as well as talk to the nurses about remembering masking practices. The names of everyone who was exposed were also collected, so that they could be tested as well.

"This immediately launched a huge investigation," said the doctor.

Since the two individuals had no known connection to each other, doctors quickly realized the disease was already spreading in the community.

The announcement was made public the next day, February 29. And the cases continued racking up.

"These two individuals turned into 31 within five days, and hundreds within weeks," continued Riedo. Officials later confirmed that others had in fact succumbed to the disease as early as mid-February, in California. Looking back, Riedo recalls "there were a great deal of unknowns" at the time.

"I don't think we ever imagined that it would be a magnitude that we've experienced," he said.

But within weeks, "ambulances were literally lining up outside the emergency department to drop off patients."

The United States has been hit hardest by the pandemic, and earlier this week crossed the latest grim milestone of 500,000 deaths. Even with the early mayhem, "I don't think anybody could have expected half a million," Riedo concluded. - AFP

# Queen says COVID jab 'didn't hurt at all'

**UK:** Queen Elizabeth II said on Thursday that her coronavirus jab "didn't hurt at all" and urged those wary of receiving the vaccine to "think about other people".

The 94-year-old monarch was vaccinated along with her husband Prince Philip in January, telling health officials leading the rollout in a video call that she now felt "protected".

"It was very quick, and I've had lots of letters from people who have been very surprised by how easy it was to get the vaccine. And the jab - it didn't hurt at all," she said.

"Once you've had the vaccine you have a feeling of, you know, you're protected, which is I think very important."

"It is obviously difficult for people if they've never had a vaccine... but they ought to think about other people rather than themselves."

More than 18 million people across Britain have now been jabbed as part of the vaccination drive that is seen as crucial in tackling one of the



Queen Elizabeth describes COVID-19 as a "plague".

world's worst outbreaks, which has claimed more than 122,000 lives.

The Queen called the disease a "plague" and praised the "remarkable" speed of the vaccination programme rollout.

Her eldest son and heir,

Prince Charles, 72, who contracted a mild dose of COVID-19 last year, has also received his jab, as has his second wife, Camilla, 73.

The monarch told the health leaders to "keep up the good work" and compared the community spirit fostered during

the pandemic to that during World War II.

"Well, having lived in the war, it's very much like that, you know, when everybody had the same idea," she said.

"And I think this has rather, sort of, inspired that - hasn't it?." - AFP

# Nigeria loses 200,000 bpd of crude oil daily to theft

**NIGERIA:** Oil-rich but cash-strapped Nigeria is losing 200,000 barrels of oil valued at 13 million dollars daily to theft and vandalism, the state-run oil group NNPC said on Thursday.

Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Mele Kyari was quoted as making the disclosure on Wednesday during a meeting with the country's Defence Chief, Major-General Lucky Irabor in Abuja.

"We have two sets of losses, one coming from our products and the other coming from crude oil," Kyari was quoted as saying in a statement by the NNPC. - AFP



An aerial picture shows Barges laden with stolen oil stationed along the Imo Rivers in Nigeria's Abia State.

# Golden Globes eye history as show goes on without stars

**US:** Hollywood's A-listers are staying home, but this Sunday's Golden Globes could still offer plenty of reasons to party - from history-making female filmmakers to posthumous glory for a beloved Black film star.

Second only to the Oscars, the season-opening Globes - which also honor the best in television - can massively boost or fatally dash the hopes of this year's film awards frontrunners like "The Trial of the Chicago 7" and "Nomadland."

Aaron Sorkin's ensemble drama about anti-war riots in 1968, and Chloe Zhao's paean to Americans roaming the West in vans, fueled by their timely themes of protest and joblessness, are battling for the Globes' top prize. "Chicago 7" is tipped to win best drama film.

They will have to best Anthony Hopkins' dementia drama "The Father," #MeToo thriller "Promising Young Woman," and "Mank," David Fincher's ode to "Citizen Kane," which topped the overall nominations with six.

While the battle for best drama is tight, Zhao is seen as the clear favorite to scoop



Golden Globes veterans Amy Poehler and Tina Fey will once again host tomorrow's show.

best director. It would be a historic win, as she would be only the second female victor in the Globes' long history, and the first woman

of Asian descent. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association had nominated just five female directors in the last 77 years, but Zhao

competes Sunday alongside Emerald Fennell ("Promising Young Woman") and Regina King ("One Night in Miami"). Several movies with predominantly Black casts including "One Night in Miami" missed out on best film nominations from the HFPA's mainly-white, 90-odd voters.

But one African American star is a strong bet for lead actor honors - the late Chadwick Boseman.

Boseman, who died last August from cancer after a string of seminal roles including "Black Panther," put in an arguably career-best performance as a tragic young trumpet player in 1920s blues drama "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." In a Globes first, part of the show will take place down the road from Broadway at New York's Rainbow Room, where Tina Fey will be joined by presenters including Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Amy Poehler will co-host a scaled-down remote broadcast from the Globes'

traditional base at a Beverly Hills hotel, as Globes organizers scramble to cope with California restrictions in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. The A-list audience and nominees are expected to largely remain at home, accepting awards via videolink - similar to the format of September's widely praised Emmys - although precise details remain under wraps.

While the Globes are typically known as a raucous, star-studded and champagne-soaked event, Hammond predicted a "subdued party atmosphere."

That may not matter to the winners at Sunday's ceremony, which due to pandemic-related delays is being held five days before voting begins for April's Oscars.

"Those wins will be fresh," said Gray. "If you win a Golden Globe... it's a notice to Oscar voters - you'd better see this film before you vote, because it's worth looking at." - AFP

# Mr. Potato Head goes gender neutral

**US:** Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head are going gender neutral, the company that makes the popular plastic toy announced Thursday.

Hasbro said it was dropping the honorifics from the spud's name "to promote gender equality and inclusion."

From later this year, the toy launched almost 70 years ago, will be known simply as "Potato Head."

"Hasbro today announced the iconic

brand will be reimagined for the modern consumer," read a statement on the manufacturer's website.

The re-branded toy in which children add facial characteristics and clothes to the body of a plastic spud will hit shelves in the fall.

It will allow kids "to imagine and create their own Potato Head family," said Hasbro.

"The way the brand currently exists -

with the "Mr." and "Mrs." - is limiting when it comes to both gender identity and family structure," Hasbro General Manager Kimberly Boyd told business magazine Fast Company. "Culture has evolved," she added.

Mr. Potato Head first went on sale in 1952. On the back of its success, Mrs. Potato Head, along with traditional feminized accessories, was launched the following year.

The move follows other updates to classic brands, including Barbie, who was initially known for being tall, white and blonde but now comes in a range of ethnicities and body shapes.

In 2019, global toy giant Mattel released a line of gender-neutral dolls.

- AFP



Mr. Potato Head is no longer a mister.

# COVID SPARKING 'OXYGEN EMERGENCY' - UN

**SWITZERLAND:** The COVID-19 pandemic has left an already strained medical oxygen supply gasping for breath, with the UN and its partners warning Thursday that \$1.6 billion was needed to address the global emergency.

COVID-19 has put massive pressure on health systems around the world, and in particular in poorer countries, where many hospitals have faced oxygen shortages.

This has resulted in preventable deaths and forced families of hospitalised patients to pay extra to ensure access to oxygen for their loved ones.

The WHO-led ACT-Accelerator, a global-pooled hunt for Covid-19 vaccines, diagnostics and treatments, said Thursday it was launching an Oxygen Emergency Taskforce to address the spiralling crisis.

"This is a global emergency that needs a truly global response," said Philippe Duneton, head of the international health agency Unitaid, which co-leads the therapeutics pillar of ACT. A wide range of organisations are participating in the taskforce, including WHO, UNICEF, the Global Fund, World Bank and Save the Children.

The global supply of oxygen was already constrained prior to the pandemic for treating things like pneumonia – which kills some 2.5 million people annually.

But COVID-19 has significantly exacerbated the problem.

An estimated half-million Covid patients in low and middle-income countries alone need 1.1 million cylinders of oxygen every day, Thursday's statement said.

At the same time, 25 countries, mostly in Africa, are reporting surging demand.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has taken this



A man carries his empty oxygen tank to be filled in the Villa El Salvador neighborhood of Lima, Peru.

acute shortage and made it a full-blown emergency," Henrietta Fore, who heads the UN's children's agency UNICEF, said in the statement. She stressed that addressing the oxygen gap would go beyond helping with Covid-19 treatment and avoiding preventable deaths. It would also "help to improve health systems and health outcomes beyond Covid-19 in the long term, including for the many newborns and children who require oxygen to survive."

The new taskforce has determined that \$90 million is needed immediately to address the key challenges in oxygen access and delivery in 20 countries, including in

Malawi, Nigeria and Afghanistan. But the overall needs are far greater, with an estimated \$1.6 billion needed this year alone to stabilise the global oxygen supply and ensure access. Unitaid and its ACT partner Wellcome, a global charity, said they would put forward \$20 million immediately, and called for other donors to step up.

"We need to urgently increase access to medical oxygen to ensure patients are benefiting regardless of where they live and ability to pay," Wellcome chief operating officer Paul Shreier said in the statement.

"International solidarity is the quickest – and only – way out of this pandemic." - AFP

# VACCINE PASSPORTS DIVIDE WORLD

**FRANCE:** The idea of vaccine passports, which would allow people who have been inoculated the freedom to travel, is gaining traction.

While some countries trumpet them as a way out for the hard-hit tourism and airline industries, others are more sceptical with only a tiny percentage of the world's population vaccinated.

As European Union leaders debate the idea Thursday amid claims that it could be divisive and discriminatory, we look at the thorny issue.

EU countries and Gulf emirates that rely on tourism have been the passports' biggest promoters.

Last month Greece called on Brussels to allow "vaccine certificates" for travel within the EU.

And Athens has since signed a deal with Israel to allow vaccinated people to travel between them, with its tourism minister Harry Theocharis floating a similar deal with Britain.

Cyprus – which relies heavily on British tourists – says it is also keen on an agreement with Israel, which is in talks with Malta too.

Spain, Europe's most popular summer sun destination, sees vaccine passports as possibly "a very important element to guarantee a safe return to mobility."

Bulgaria and Italy too say they could pave the way back to "normal activity".

The Gulf-based airline giants Emirates and Etihad were among the first to say they will test an application that verifies vaccinations. Sweden and Denmark have already announced electronic certificates that could allow bearers to travel abroad, attend sports or cultural events and even dine in Danish restaurants. Iceland, not a member of the



'Vaccine passports' may be a condition of returning to normality.

EU but part of its Schengen travel zone, started issuing digital vaccination certificates in January to ease travel between countries.

Poland and Estonia arrivals who show they have been vaccinated or hold a negative Covid test are exempt from quarantine. According to an AFP tally, only 222 million jabs have so far been given globally – mostly of vaccines that require a second dose – to a world population that now tops 7.8 billion.

More than one in every five people live in countries that have not even started vaccinating.

France and Germany are cool on the vaccine passport idea. As of Thursday, at least 10.17 million people across the EU have been fully vaccinated with two doses – only 2.3 percent of the population – according to AFP's tally from official sources.

Airlines have led the push for vaccine passports, with Australian carrier Qantas the first to call it "a necessity". - AFP

# PANDEMIC INEQUALITIES FAVOUR 'TERRORISM' - KING OF JORDAN

**JORDAN:** Jordan's King Abdullah II said Thursday inequalities and the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic created fertile ground for the flourishing of "terrorism".

"Directing our attention and resources to counter the pandemic has taken away from our focus on fighting terrorism and extremism...

although the battle may be won, the war is not yet over," Abdullah said in a speech for an online conference held by the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think-tank.

"Rising inequalities and emerging crises caused by the pandemic will fuel the recruitment efforts" of jihadist groups, he added. He cited examples including Al-Qaeda and the

Islamic State group, as well as Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al-Shabaab in Somalia.

The conference brought together leaders and experts to discuss priorities for the new US administration of President Joe Biden in the Middle East and North Africa.

Abdullah also spoke of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which abuts Jordan, and the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Occupation and peace simply cannot coexist," he said.

"There is no alternative to the two-state solution," which would see a viable Palestinian state created alongside Israel, he added.

"Continued unilateral steps will only kill the prospects of peace." - AFP



Jordan's King Abdullah II.

# IS AMERICA BRACING FOR DONALD TRUMP 2.0?



**US:** Brace yourself for Donald Trump 2.0, America. The ex-President returns from political hiatus Sunday seeking to regain control of a Republican Party that is out of power and pondering whether the flawed billionaire can win again in 2024.

After losing the Senate and White House, and failing to retake the House of Representatives, a US political party would normally lick its wounds, jettison its failed leader and chart a new path forward to claw back relevance.

But Trump is a singular force who maintains a vice grip on the Republican base, and all eyes will be on the 74-year-old showman when he addresses the Conservative Political Action Conference and teases attendees about his political future.

The speech, his first post-Presidential address, comes on CPAC's final day in Orlando, Florida where he is expected to be enthusiastically received at the nation's largest gathering of conservatives.

But is he still the party's uncontested leader, despite losing to Joe Biden? Or is Trump a twice-impeached has-been who left Washington in shame, banned from Twitter and accused of inciting a January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol?

While Trump has largely kept to

himself at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, after spending months promoting the falsehood that the election was stolen, strategists and many lawmakers say he remains the dominant conservative political force.

"President Trump is the leader of the Republican Party," Congressman Jim Jordan declared Wednesday on Twitter.

But a Trump 2024 announcement may not come at CPAC, which starts Friday with panels on "cancel culture" and "protecting elections."

CPAC organizer Matt Schlapp, a pro-Trump activist, retweeted a reporter Wednesday citing sources saying that Trump will not announce his candidacy Sunday but will appear "warm" to the idea.

Such posturing will likely freeze other Republican contenders in place, for now at least.

Several potential White House hopefuls – including former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem and Senator Josh Hawley – will address CPAC, which may make for awkward presentations to a crowd still in Trump's thrall.

A mid-February Quinnipiac poll showed three of four Republicans want Trump to play a prominent role in the party. - AFP



Former US President Donald Trump

# GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING HIT RECORD LEVELS IN 2020 - THINK TANK

**UK:** Global military spending, driven in part by Chinese naval expansion, reached record levels in 2020 despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and ensuing economic contraction, a British think-tank said on Thursday.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said military spending reached \$1.8 trillion (1.5 trillion euros) last year – a 3.9 percent increase in real terms over figures for 2019.

The London-based think-tank said in its annual "Military Balance" publication that expenditure rose "despite the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent contraction in global economic output".

The United States remained the world's largest defence spender in 2020, IISS said, accounting for 40 percent of \$738 billion globally.

China, by comparison, accounted for 10.6 percent or \$193.3 billion.

Beijing's military spending was the driving force behind growth in Asia's overall defence expenditure, and accounted for 25 percent of the continent's spending in 2020.

Asia's upward trend in military

expenditure continued last year albeit at a slightly slower pace than in 2019.

"Several countries adjusted their defence budgets to redirect funds to crisis relief or economic stimulus measures," the IISS said.

"However, others simply reduced or deferred planned spending growth rather than implementing cuts," it added.

Total European defence spending grew by two percent in real terms in 2020, the IISS said.

Europe's NATO members also continued increasing military expenditure, continuing a trend seen every year since 2014 as threat perceptions sharpened following Russia's seizure of Crimea.

However, most NATO members are still far from the objective of devoting two percent of their GDP to defence by 2024.

In 2020 only nine of the alliance's European members met the target.

In 2019, the world saw the largest recorded increase in military spending a decade, with 4 percent growth, fuelled by rivalry between major powers and a race for new technologies. - AFP



# TEENAGE T-REXES EDGED OUT SMALLER DINOSAUR SPECIES - STUDY

**US:** A team of US scientists has demonstrated that the offspring of huge carnivorous dinosaurs like Tyrannosaurus rex, who grew from the size of house cats to towering monsters, reshaped their ecosystems by outcompeting smaller rival species.

Their study, published in the journal Science on Thursday, helps answer an enduring mystery about the 150-million-year rule of dinosaurs: why were there many more large species compared to small, which is the opposite of what we see in land animals today?

"Dinosaur communities were like shopping malls on a Saturday afternoon, jam-packed with teenagers," said Kat Schroeder, a graduate student at the University of New Mexico who led the research. "They made up a significant

portion of the individuals in a species and would have had a very real impact on the resources available in communities."

Even given the limitations of the fossil record, it's thought that

overall, dinosaurs were not particularly diverse: there are only some 1,500 known species, compared to tens of thousands of modern mammalian and bird species.

What's more, across the entirety

of the Mesozoic era, from 252 to 66 million years ago, there were relatively many more species of large bodied dinosaurs weighing 1,000 kilograms (a ton) compared to species weighing less than 60 kilograms (130 pounds).

Some scientists put forward the idea that since even the most gigantic dinosaurs begin life as tiny hatchlings, they could be using different resources as they were growing up – occupying the space in ecosystems where smaller species might otherwise flourish.

To test the theory, Schroeder and her colleagues examined data from fossil sites around the world, including over 550 dinosaur species, and organized the dinosaurs by whether they were herbivores or carnivores, as well as their sizes. - AFP



The Tyrannosaurus rex "Growth Series" at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles features a baby (C), juvenile (L) and young adult T. rex (R).

# India, China discuss further troop pullback from border

**INDIA:** India and China's foreign ministers have discussed further de-escalating tensions at a disputed border after a pullback of troops in response to a deadly clash last year, New Delhi and Beijing said Friday.

The nuclear-armed neighbours fought a border war in 1962 and last June their worst skirmish in decades left 20 Indian troops and four Chinese dead on the frontier between Ladakh and Tibet,

the Line of Actual Control. Both sides have sent thousands of extra troops and military hardware to the area since the clash.

But India on Sunday said the two countries had completed a "disengagement" of troops and tanks from one part of the disputed zone around the high-altitude Pangong Tso lake, following nine rounds of military talks.

In a 75-minute call with counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday, Indian Foreign

Minister S. Jaishankar said they "should now quickly resolve the remaining issues", according to his office.

"(Jaishankar) said that once disengagement is completed at all friction points, then the two sides could also look at broader de-escalation of troops in the area and work towards restoration of peace and tranquillity," a statement said.

Wang said the situation on the ground in the Pan-

gong Tso lake area had "significantly eased", according to a report from China's official Xinhua news agency.

"The two sides must cherish the hard-won progress, jointly consolidate the achievements and maintain the momentum of consultation, so as to further ease the situation," he was quoted as saying.

Xinhua reported that Wang said the border issue "is not the whole

story of China-India relations, and should be placed in a proper position in their relationship".

But he added that India "has vacillated and even moved backward over its policy on China, which has affected and disrupted bilateral pragmatic cooperation".

The two sides said they had agreed to establish a hotline, although one is already in place between senior military commanders. - AFP



## Over 300 girls abducted from Nigerian school

**NIGERIA:** Suspected armed bandits raided a school dormitory in northwestern Nigeria overnight, a teacher and parent told AFP on Friday, raising fears of another mass kidnapping in the region.

"More than 300 girls are

unaccounted for after a headcount of remaining students," said a teacher at the Government Girls Secondary School Jangebe who asked to remain anonymous.

He said the attack happened around 1:00 am but did not pro-

vide details on the number of students present in the school at the time.

Heavily-armed criminal gangs in northwest and central Nigeria have stepped up attacks in recent years, kidnapping for ransom, raping and pillaging.

Just last week, 42 people were taken by a gang from a school in nearby Niger state.

In December, more than 300 boys were kidnapped from a school in December in Kankara, President Muhammadu Buhari's home state of Katsina, while he was visiting the region.

The boys were later released but the incident triggered outrage and memories of the kidnappings of schoolgirls by jihadists in Dapchi and Chibok that shocked the world.

A parent told AFP he had received a call about the latest incident in Zamfara.

"I'm on my way to Jangebe. I received a call that the school was invaded by bandits who took away schoolgirls. I have two daughters in the school," said Sadi Kawaye.



Mothers staging a protest after a recent kidnapping of school girls at a Nigerian school.



## Fear and tension as Police clear yangon protesters



Riot Police block a road during protests against the military coup in Yangon, Myanmar yesterday. - AFP

**MYANMAR:** Riot police dispersed on Friday hundreds of anti-coup protesters who have rallied daily in Myanmar's largest city against a junta that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi from power.

The country has seen an outpouring of anger and defiance from hundreds of thousands of protesters who have gathered to call for Suu Kyi's release and a return to democracy.

In some cities, security forces have steadily increased use of force - but in commercial hub Yangon, authorities have exercised restraint, largely relying on barricades and troop presence to prevent gatherings around city landmarks and embassies.

Protesters have bypassed restrictions by moving fluidly through the city, organising around central junctions Hledan and Myaynigone.

But on Friday riot police advanced on the demonstrators, mostly sitting and chanting pro-democracy slogans, warning them to disperse.

At least two people - one of them a Japanese freelance reporter, Yuki Kitazumi - were arrested after officers cleared the busy traffic artery.

"According to eye witnesses, he was beaten on the head by baton but he was wearing a helmet," his assistant Linn Nyan Htun posted Facebook, adding that he had reached out to the Japanese embassy.

A police officer denied that Kitazumi was beaten, but confirmed the journalist had been detained at a local police station and would be released after giving a statement. On a smaller residential street off Myaynigone, some demonstrators assembled makeshift barricades - using barbed wire and stacked tables - to halt police.

Wearing hard hats, protesters shouted

the regular anti-junta refrain: "Failure to the dictatorship is our cause, our cause!" And uptown off Hledan junction, demonstrators sprinted away in alarm as police warned: "If people do not disperse, we will have to disperse by force!" Back on the main traffic junction, officers allowed buses and cars to go through.

Some passengers flashed a three-finger salute - a symbol of resistance borrowed from neighbouring Thailand's pro-democracy movement.

Despite no reports so far of serious injuries on Friday, tensions in Yangon are high. Many are rattled after a pro-junta rally was allowed to move through the city's downtown area Thursday.

The pro-military supporters had slingshots, knives and pipes, which they used to attack people living near the site of their protest, according to reporters and anti-coup residents.

But state-run media blamed the clash on pro-democracy demonstrators.

By Thursday night, a Yangon township saw soldiers and police gather to break up a small rally against a junta-appointed municipal administrator, alarming residents who scattered home to avoid arrests after the 8 pm curfew. - AFP

## Pokemon turns 25

**JAPAN:** Twenty-five years after Pokemon first began delighting children and adults alike, the phenomenon is still capturing hearts, with smartphone craze Pokemon Go enjoying record success in virus-hit 2020.

The augmented-reality game raked in \$1 billion in just the first 10 months of last year - its most lucrative yet - according to market tracker Sensor Tower, and experts see no sign that interest is flagging as the world's highest-grossing media franchise evolves.

"The characters themselves are so appealing, and the mechanics of the actual video and card games are so well executed that it has this very timeless quality," said Brian Ashcraft, an author who writes about Japanese pop culture.

Dan Ryan, a 29-year-old who works in London's finance sector, has been a fan nearly his whole life and is not shy about his hobby, even with colleagues.

"They know I disappear every Thursday to go and play Pokemon cards, they see me come in with my Pikachu jacket, and they see my Pokemon mugs," he told AFP.

He admits he spends "too much money" on rare Pokemon cards, whose prices have boomed as virus lockdowns push people towards indoor pursuits, with some in mint condition going for over \$500,000 in recent weeks.

Pokemon is inspired by the childhood tradition of collecting bugs - popular during Japan's hot and humid summer holidays - and part of its enduring appeal is its simple goal: to catch them all.

Hundreds of round-eyed "pocket monsters" inspired by everything from mice to dragons can be caught and trained to full strength in battles.

The winning concept has sold countless toys, film tickets and more than 30 billion Pokemon cards since the first black-and-white Game Boy titles were released in Japan in 1996.

Atsuko Nishida, who designed the electric mouse Pikachu, once said she modelled it on a round Japanese sweet called a daifuku.

Her fellow designers, who had asked Nishida to draw a cute monster, liked the creature and urged her to make it even more adorable.

"I thought it would be nice to have it store electricity in its cheek pouches. At the time I was really into squirrels, (which) store food in their cheeks," she told a Japanese newspaper.

The character's signature pronunciation "pika-pika" - meaning shiny and sparkly in Japanese - only added to the bright yellow creature's powers of attraction.

For ZoeTwoDots, a Pokemon Go vlogger and livestreamer with nearly 200,000 YouTube subscribers, a childhood obsession has become her full-time job.



Red-cheeked Pikachu is instantly recognisable around the world as one of the best-known Pokemon.

The 27-year-old Australian finds other fans mostly supportive, "which I think is incredibly rare, especially because gaming has that toxic stereotype".

Her favourite Pokemon? "Togepi. It's just a happy little egg. It's quite literally, nothing can bother this." The game's nature imagery, varied characters and focus on building a collection are central to its success, said Jason Bainbridge, executive dean of the University of Canberra's arts and design faculty, who has written extensively about Pokemon.

But there have also been controversies along the way.

An anime episode in the 90s caused several seizures among Japanese children - which some deemed a case of mass hysteria.

And magician Uri Geller recently dropped a 20-year legal battle against Nintendo, which partly owns Pokemon. He had accused it of using his likeness to create Kadabra, a psychic Pokemon holding a spoon.

While real-life 25th-anniversary celebrations are off the cards due to the coronavirus pandemic, a virtual concert featuring US rapper Post Malone - described as a lifelong Pokemon fan - is planned.

And Bainbridge says Pokemon could be around for another 25 years if it keeps adapting.

"Pokemon Go really revived the franchise, at a point when we all knew what Pokemon

was, but all of a sudden... we all wanted to do it again," he said of the game released in 2016.

The game allows players to roam the outside world throwing Pokeballs to capture monsters that pop up on their phone screens.

It has caused real-life mishaps from car crashes to cliff-top falls, but it's still easy to find players waiting for "wild" Pokemon to appear.

"It feels like you are catching the Pokemon, for real," said Tsuyoshi Aihori, 22, who was on the hunt in Tokyo's Akihabara gaming district on a weekday afternoon.

He plays around five hours a week and at a recent promotional event, "I played from dawn to dusk and caught 400 or 500 Pokemon," he told AFP. "I ran out of Pokeballs." - AFP

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Notice under section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.  
**Name of the Company:** SPOT TECHNOLOGIES (PVT) LTD  
**Company Reg No.:** PV00233842  
**Company address:** 46A, 2nd Floor, S.De.S. Jayasinghe Mawatha, Kalubowila, Dehiwala.  
**Date of Incorporation:** 28.01.2021.  
**Company Director**

**NOTICE**  
 It is hereby notified that any Blenders and accessories that have been given for repairs to the Williams Institution at Nugegoda should be obtained before 15th March, 2021 on proving your identity. No liability will be entertained on such items after the said 15th March, 2021.  
**Manager**  
 No. 125, Stanley Thillekeratne Mawatha, Nugegoda.

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 28 OF 1964**

**My No. 3/2/1/139/1-Gam/Minu/2020/03**  
**Land Ministry Ref No. 4-3/7/2019/HW/61**

The Government intends to acquire the land /Lands described in the Schedule below, for further particulars, please see the Extraordinary Gazette 2212/19 dated 26.01.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**SCHEDULE**

P.P. No/ Cadastral Map No.	No. of Lots	Extent (Hectare)	Village	Grama Niladhari Division
510435/04/05	27	1.0945	Doranagoda	No. 110/1, Doranagoda East
510493/02/13	30	1.2476	Vigoda	No. 128, Vigoda.

**K.A.M.L.C. Kulathilaka**  
 Divisional Secretary  
 Minuwangoda.

**Minuwangoda Divisional Secretary's Office**  
 20.01.2021

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE****PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS AND ACCESSORIES****PROVINCIAL TREASURY  
NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

1. Sealed Bids are invited by me, Chairman, Department Procurement Committee and Deputy Chief Secretary (Finance) from eligible Bidders for the purchase of Computers and Accessories for the North Central Provincial Treasury.

Item No.	Accessories	Quantity Required	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)
1	Desktop Computer	36	40,000.00
2	UPS	37	2,000.00
3	Laser Printer	25	5500.00
4	Dot Matrix Printer	16	5000.00

2. Bidding will be conducted according to National Competitive Bidding procedure.
3. Bidders fulfilling the eligibilities and not being blacklisted could obtain Bid Documents during working days from 01.03.2021 up to 22.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the North Central Provincial Treasury by submitting the receipt obtained after paying a non-refundable Bid Fee of Rs. 1500.00 to the Accountant of the North Central Provincial Treasury.
4. An unconditional Bid Security to the value as shown in the Column above obtained from a commercial bank registered at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in favour of the North Central Provincial Deputy Chief Secretary (Finance) and valid until 20 June 2021 should be submitted with all Bids.
5. Duly perfected Bids according to Bid Conditions should be sent to the **"Deputy Chief Secretary (Finance), Departmental Procurement Board, Provincial Treasury, Third Floor B, Provincial Council, Administration Building Complex, Harischandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura"** by registered post to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 23.03.2021 or could be inserted in the Procurement Box kept in this Office.
6. Bids should be prepared in two copies, marked as original and duplicate and inserted in separate envelopes and sealed and thereafter these envelopes should be enclosed in a single envelope and sealed and submitted. The words **"Invitation for Quotations for Computers and Accessories - Provincial Treasury"** should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
7. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 23.03.2021 immediately after closing of accepting Bids. Bidder or a representative with written approval could participate on this occasion.
8. The decision of the Departmental Procurement Committee of the North Central Provincial Treasury regarding this Procurement is deemed final.

**Deputy Chief Secretary (Finance)**  
**Chairman,**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee,**  
**Provincial Treasury**  
**North Central Province**  
27.02.2021

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lk**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA  
(BOI)****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****PROVISION OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO  
SEETHAWAKA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (SEPZ)**

Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites bids to provide Transport facilities for ;

- 1) BOI Staff from Maharagama to Seethawaka (Avisawella) up and down in the morning & evening.
- 2) National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWS&DB) at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone (Avisawella) for their site use.

The expected vehicles should fulfill following conditions;

- Year of registration should not have exceeded year 2011.
- Seating capacity for the BOI Staff vehicle is 12 Nos. and for NWS&DB vehicle is 08 Nos.
- Vehicle should be registered under the name of the Bidder.

Bidding documents could be purchased from the office of the Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 750/- plus 8% VAT.

Sealed Bids may be dispatched under sealed envelope marked **"Quotation to provide Transport Facilities for BOI Office / NWS&DB at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avisawella"** on the top left hand corner either by Registered Post to the Director (Zone), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avisawella or may be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the BOI Zone Management Unit at SEPZ to be received on or before 14.00 hrs on 15-03-2021.

Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time at the Director (Zone) office. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Bid Bond of Rs. 7,500.00 per each Bid should be submitted with validity for 03 months from 15-03-2021. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Senior Deputy Director (ZM), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka at Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, Avisawella on Telephone No. 036-2231078.

**Chairman**  
**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

**Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna,  
Sri Lanka****INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following works.

No.	Bid No.	Description of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in millions)	Contract Period (No. of Calendar days)	Minimum required ICTAD	Required Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Bid Fee (Non-refundable) Rs.	Pre- Bid meeting
01	BID/UJ/VC/R FAS/2021/01	Renovation of Dean's Office, Faculty of Applied Science, Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna, Pampaimadu, Vavuniya.	7.47	120	C7 or above	74,700.00	2,500.00	Date : 15.03.2021 Time : 2.00 pm
02	BID/UJ/VC/C FAS/2021/02	Construction of Eco-friendly Treatment Unit for the Chemistry and Biology Laboratories, faculty of Applied Science, Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna, Pampaimadu, Vavuniya.	3.72	120	C8 or above	37,200.00	2,500.00	Date : 15.03.2021 Time : 3.00 pm
03	BID/UJ/VC/P MD/2021/03	Construction of Project Management Building Phase III at Vavuniya Campus, Pampaimadu, Vavuniya	2.94	120	C8 or above	29,400.00	2,500.00	Date : 15.03.2021 Time : 10.00 am
04	BID/UJ/VC/R W/2021/04	Construction of Wash Room Unit at the Faculty of Business Studies, Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna Pampaimadu, Vavuniya.	3.83	120	C8 or above	38,300.00	2,500.00	Date : 15.03.2021 Time : 11.00 am

1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive bidding Procedure.
2. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of building construction with the Institute for Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) as indicated in the above table.
3. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as per the information given in the above table.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Assistant Registrar, Administration Branch, Vavuniya Campus, Park Road, Vavuniya** and inspect the bidding documents at the same address on any working day between 9.00 am & 4.00 pm. Contact No is **024 2223316**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language can be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **Assistant Registrar, Administration Branch, Vavuniya Campus, Park Road, Vavuniya from 01.03.2021 to 18.03.2021 between 9.00 am & 4.00 pm** during normal working days upon payment of bid fee of Rupees as indicated in the above table paid at any branch of the Bank of Ceylon by using the Bank of Ceylon cash deposit slip drawn in favour of Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna in the Bank of Ceylon Account No. **0002364602** (Vavuniya Branch).
6. Bidding Documents should reach by registered post to the undermentioned address before **2.00 pm on 19th March 2021**. Bids will be opened soon after the closing of tender submission on the same date in the **Boardroom of the Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna, Park Road, Vavuniya** in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
7. Bids should be valid for a period of **77 Days** from the date of closing of Bids or any extended period.
8. All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be;
  - in the form included in **Section 09** in the Bidding document.
  - Valid up to 77 days
  - in favour of **Rector, Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna**
  - Issued by one of the agencies indicated in Clause 16.0 of the Schedule.
9. Pre-Bid meeting will be held at the **Works Engineer's Office, Maintenance Branch, Vavuniya Campus, Pampaimadu, Vavuniya**

**Chairman,**  
**Regional Procurement Committee,**  
**Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna, Park Road, Vavuniya.**  
**Fax No: 024-2223316**  
27.02.2021

**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA (BOI)****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)****CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELECTRIC  
FENCE FOR PHASE I OF PROPOSED  
PHARMACEUTICAL ZONE AT ARABOKKA**

CONTRACT NO.: BOI/TS/Pharma/2021/02/08.003

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for construction of an electric fence for phase I of proposed pharmaceutical zone at Arabokka.

The Construction period is 90 days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.

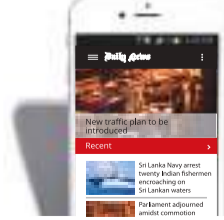
**Required SL/DA Registration**

Specialty. : Electrical & Mechanical Services  
Grade : EM4 or above

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:  
Experience as a main Contractor for at least successfully completed one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works over the period of last 5 years.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Director (Technical Services), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka on Tel. No. 011-2433600, 011-2427280, Fax No. 011-2441826 and inspect the Bidding Documents from the address given below between **0900 hrs and 1600 hrs** during week days.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application on a business letterhead to Director (Technical Services), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 from **25.02.2021** until **17.03.2021** between 09.00 hrs and 1500 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs. 3,500.00 + VAT**. The method of payment will be by cash.
7. Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to Director (Technical Services), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 on or before **18.03.2021 at 2.00 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. Pre-bid meeting will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 08.03.2021 at the zone office.
9. Bids shall be valid up to **17.06.2021**.
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security of **Rs. 100,000.00**. Bid Security shall be valid up to 15.07.2021.

**Chairman**  
**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

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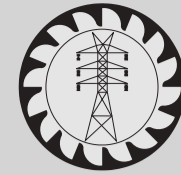


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இலங்கை மின்சார சபை  
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

In pursuit of our objective of improving the quality of supply and service to the consumers, Ceylon Electricity Board intends to attend to construction, rehabilitation and maintenance works in the localities listed below. As a result, the electricity supply would be interrupted to those areas on the dates/times mentioned. We regret any inconvenience caused to the consumers in these areas as a result of these interruptions to our services. Ceylon Electricity Board would take all steps to restore the electricity supplies as soon as the planned works are completed.

## SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE - MARCH 2021

EHELIYAGODA AREA	
Eheliyagoda CSC	
2021 - 03 - 15	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	
<b>Distribution :</b>	Gamini Saw Mill, Moragala, Udumatta(1)Thoranagoda, Udumatta(2)RE(Thoranagoda), Wijenayaka House
2021 - 03 - 15	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Minnana Telecom, Southern Fashion
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ambalanpitiya, Batukotuwa, Bopetta RE, Gamini Saw Mill, Iddamalagoda, Marambe, Meenana 2, Minnana RE, Moragala, Napawala Temple, Pelpitiya, Udumatta(1)Thoranagoda, Udumatta(2)RE(Thoranagoda), Uduwaka 3rd Mile Post, Walawita, Wijenayaka House
2021 - 03 - 20	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Telecom Divurumpitiya
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bolak Kele, Hewainna Kaluandura RE, Higuruhena, Kalatuwawa West, Wikumsihagama
2021 - 03 - 26	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Lalan Rubber Batangala
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Pambegama Tea Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Yogama, Deegalawatta, Ilukthenna Glassalwatta, Madolwatta Hinguralakanda, Maldeniya Yogama, Nahelma Watta, Pambegama, Pambegama Rubber
2021 - 03 - 27	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Cargills Food City, CP Lanka, Eheliyagoda Hospital, Gunathilaka Building, Rear Garment Eheliyagoda
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Tele Exchange Eheliyagoda
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bus Stand Eheliyagoda, Ehaliyagoda Town 2, Eheliyagoda Fair, Eheliyagoda Near Com Bank, Eheliyagoda Police Station, Eheliyagoda School, Nadurana Road
2021 - 03 - 27	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Cargills Food City, CP Lanka, Eheliyagoda Hospital, Gunathilaka Building, Rear Garment Eheliyagoda
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Tele Exchange Eheliyagoda
<b>Distribution :</b>	Asgangula, Bus Stand Eheliyagoda, Ehaliyagoda Town 2, Eheliyagoda Fair, Eheliyagoda Near Com Bank, Eheliyagoda Police Station, Eheliyagoda School, Nadurana Road, Yaya Road
2021 - 03 - 29	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Samagi Food Product
<b>Distribution :</b>	Beligas Handiya, Boraluwa - Paleegala, Bulugahapitiya, Bulugahapitiya Pirivena, Gonamaladeniya, Hindurangala 1 Arapola, Hindurangala 2, Ihalaovita, Kiriporuwa 2 - Temple Road, Kiriporuwa RE, Mahapolwatta, Manikdola, Meegawela, Mitipola, Mitipola Akkara 26, Nakandala, Nedurana New, Nedurana RE, Paleegala, Paleegala New Miyanakolatenna, Wiyalagoda
Kiriella CSC	
2021 - 03 - 12	08:30 - 12:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ayagama Hospital, Baduwalakanda, Gangodakanda, Gawaragiriya 2, Kalumediya, Kolambewa 2, Kolombawa, Pallekada, Pitakanda, Raigamkanda, Tea - Colony Gawaragiriya 1, Watakurugala Heressa
2021 - 03 - 12	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Paragala Tea Factory AN Lanka, Udagala Tea Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ayagama Hospital, Gawaragiriya 2, Handukanada Udugala, Kandawedola, Madanagoda, Negirikanda, Nihathamaniyama, Nikagoda Aludeniya, Pallekada, Paragala, Pimbura, Pitakanda Medakella, Pusellakanda, Tea - Colony Gawaragiriya 1, Thoranagoda Watta Kanda
2021 - 03 - 16	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Dodampe(Millakade), Gorakaella, Halpe, Kahangama, Kahangama New Holipitiya, Mandadeniya, Thunadahena Seewaliwatta
2021 - 03 - 17	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Sampath Tea Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Dammulla Karadana South, Kanuggalla, Karandana - North, Keengahawela, Mapotha Koshena, Nikagalawatta, Nugadanda, Nugadanda 2, Sri Samanpura, Sewila, Wikramakanda, Yatipawwa
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Baduwalakanda, Gangodakanda, Gawaragiriya 2, Kalumediya, Kolambewa 2, Kolombawa, Pallekada, Pitakanda, Raigamkanda, Tea - Colony Gawaragiriya 1, Watakurugala Heressa
2021 - 03 - 20	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Dumbara Tea Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Dumbara - Manana, Kuttikanda, Minipura - Dumbara
2021 - 03 - 24	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Water Board Kiriella, Wijaya Holiday Resort
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Matuwagala Estate (Tea Factory), Y - International Matuwagala
<b>Distribution :</b>	Boraluketiya Ketepola, Epitawala Mobitel Tower, Epitawela, Haraniyawaka, Heraniyawaka Bridge, Idangoda New, Kaluwawalathenna, Ketepola, Ketepola Bodiya, Ketepola Watta Bangalow, Kiriella Police (old), Kiriella Telecom Idangoda, Kiriella Watta, Madabaddara, Matuwagala, Namunuthenna, Nedun Viharaya, Umangedarawatta
2021 - 03 - 24	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Epitawela
2021 - 03 - 27	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Paragala Tea Factory AN Lanka, Udagala Tea Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Handukanada Udugala, Madanagoda, Negirikanda, Paragala, Pitakanda Medakella
2021 - 03 - 29	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Handunkanda Kodithuwakkukanda
Kuruwita CSC	
2021 - 03 - 11	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Kandalanda Tea Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Adavikanda, Batathota, Boraluwa, DAE Song Lanka, Erathna RE, Gollahinna, Indikatupana, Mahawattakanda, Mahawattakanda Dialog Tower, Medahinna, Paladeniya, Seethangangula, Upper Waranagala, Witharanpanguwa, Yatiwala
2021 - 03 - 12	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Daduwangala New Tea factory, Daduwangala Tea Factory, Galahitiya Tea Factory, Telecom Kuruwita
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Keeragala Estate, Pussella Rubber Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bopath Ella, Demada, Devipahala, Dialog Tower Galpussella, Diddeniya, Diyalana, Dodangoda, Ebewela, Elaulla, Enasaldola, Galahitiya, Galpussalla, Godagampola Alawalagama, Heminford Rubber Factory,

Higgashena, Higgashena 2, Honalagala, Imbulpitiya, Indola, Kadangoda Janapadaya, Kiribathgala, Kirigala, Kuruwita Town, Lellagoda, Madolkottunna Mobitel, Medagama Galkada, Meneripitiya, Meneripitiya Meegasthenna, Millawitiya, Near Kuruwita Primary School, Nelugolla, Pannila, Polgahawela, Pussella, Pussella R/E, Rasnakanda, Thantirikanda, Theppanawa Akkara 4 Ihalagama, Theppanawa Kumara Vidyalyaya, Udakada, Udawatta, Watappitiya, Wetummala	08:00 - 17:00
2021 - 03 - 13	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Udakada
2021 - 03 - 20	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Hidramini 2, Kuruwita Prison, Loadstar R.R.I.S.L, Mannapperuma Tea Factory, T.R.I. Tea Factory, TRI New
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Army Camp (Kuruwita), K.TEX Power Loom, Rathnaloka Hotel
<b>Distribution :</b>	DME Work Shop, Galukagama, Isuru Pedesa, Karapincha, Karapincha Farm, Kithulpe Mobitel Tower, Kogala, Malangama R.E, Molakaley, Paradise Watta Land Sale, R.R.I.S.L, Waladura, Yahalakotunna
2021 - 03 - 20	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	ATR Holding, Audit Department, Hidramini 2, Kuruwita Prison, Loadstar R.R.I.S.L, Mahawalawatta Rubber Factory, Malangama Tea Factory (RTS), Mannapperuma Tea Factory, T.R.I. Tea Factory, TRI New
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Army Camp (Kuruwita), K.TEX Power Loom, Malangama Fisheries, Rathnaloka Hotel
<b>Distribution :</b>	DME Work Shop, Ellegedara Junction, Galukagama, Isuru Pedesa, Karapincha, Karapincha Farm, Kithulpe Mobitel Tower, Kogala, Malangama 2 (Near Sapthadi), Malangama R.E, Malankanda, Molakaley, Paradise Watta Land Sale, R.R.I.S.L, Thalawitiya, Waladura, Yahalakotunna, Yayadeniya
2021 - 03 - 20	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Hidramini 2, Kuruwita Prison, Loadstar R.R.I.S.L, Mannapperuma Tea Factory, Nilmini Metal Crusher, Parakaduwa Lakmal Tea factory, T.R.I. Tea Factory, TRI New
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Army Camp (Kuruwita), K.TEX Power Loom, Makply (Prime Lanka), Rathnaloka Hotel
<b>Distribution :</b>	Amuhenkanda, Bendaluwa, DME Work Shop, Galukagama, Isuru Pedesa, Karapincha, Karapincha Farm, Kethumathiramaya Thalawitiya, Kithulpe Mobitel Tower, Kogala, Malangama R.E, Molakaley, Mudunkotuwa West New, Paradise Watta Land Sale, Parakaduwa, Pohorabawa RE, Pohorabawa Technical village, R.R.I.S.L, Thalawitiya, Waladura, Yahalakotunna
2021 - 03 - 24	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Makply (Prime Lanka)
<b>Distribution :</b>	Mudunkotuwa West New, Pohorabawa RE, Pohorabawa Technical village
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Keeragala Estate
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bopath Ella, Demada, Devipahala, Kadangoda Janapadaya, Kiribathgala, Kirigala, Thantirikanda, Udakada, Udawatta

### EMBIPIITIYA AREA

#### Embilipitiya CSC

2021 - 03 - 11	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Banana Farm, E G C metal Crusher, Mavicksel, Nelna Breeders, Paper Corporation
<b>Distribution :</b>	Industrial Zone 1 Kanabediara, Industrial Zone 2 Kanabediara, Kanabediara, Palukatuwa, Sooriyagahagoda, Thorakolayaya
2021 - 03 - 14	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Abenayake Building Saman Mal, CIB Shopping Center, Lakmini Super Market Cargills, Prasanga Garment, Sarathchandra Textile, Sarathchandra Guest House, Technical College - Embilipitiya
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ariyadasa Rice Mill, Bodhiraja Mawatha Kiralawelkatuwa, Bus Stand - Embilipitiya, C.E.B.Deport Sub, Co - Op Sub, Kiralawelkatuwa, Kothalawala Junction, Lakmini Building New Com bank, Near Chandima Trade Center, Near Lakmini Gems, Near Sampath Bank, OLD Camp, Udagama
2021 - 03 - 14	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Abenayake Building Saman Mal, Centuria Hotel, CIB Shopping Center, Kanamediaa Circuit Bangalow, Lakmini Super Market Cargills, Poly Clinic, Prasanga Garment, Sarathchandra Textile, Sarathchandra Guest House, Subashi Garment Factory Apperal, Technical College - Embilipitiya, Telecom Embilipitiya, W.B. Pump House Embilipitiya, Water Board Embilipitiya
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Hospital Embilipitiya
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ariyadasa Rice Mill, Bimbadyaya Junction, Bodhiraja Mawatha Kiralawelkatuwa, Bus Stand - Embilipitiya, C.E.B.Deport Sub, Chandrika Wewa, Co - Op Sub, Economic Center, Embilipitiya Concrete Yard, Heendalukhinna, KawanthissaPura, Kiralawelkatuwa, Kothalawala Junction, Kumbugoda Ara Circuit Junction, Lakmini Building New Com bank, Mahapeessa South, Modarawana, Mullagasyaya, Near Chandima Trade Center, Near Lakmini Gems, Near Sampath Bank, OLD Camp, Pallegama Temple, Pepolwatta - Kawantissapura, School Junction, Sewana Camp, Sewana Camp - New Canal Rd, Siluminagama Yodagama, Udagama, Weerasinghapura New Kanabadi ara, Wew Athura Udagama, Yodagama Gammudawa
2021 - 03 - 14	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Centuria Hotel, Kanamediaa Circuit Bangalow, Poly Clinic, Subashi Garment Factory Apperal, Telecom Embilipitiya, W.B. Pump House Embilipitiya, Water Board Embilipitiya
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Hospital Embilipitiya
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bimbadyaya Junction, Economic Center, Embilipitiya Concrete Yard, Heendalukhinna, KawanthissaPura, Kumbugoda Ara Circuit Junction, Mahapeessa South, Modarawana, Mullagasyaya, Pallegama Temple, Pepolwatta - Kawantissapura, School Junction, Sewana Camp, Sewana Camp - New Canal Rd, Siluminagama Yodagama, Weerasinghapura New Kanabadi ara, Wew Athura Udagama, Yodagama Gammudawa
2021 - 03 - 17	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bandokkayaya - Panamure, Daylight Metal Crusher Darshanagama, Galamuna Junction Panamura Rd., Koonkatuwa I, Koonkatuwa II, Modarawana Thebaduara 2, Mulkumbura Panamura, We Atura, Welipothayaya
2021 - 03 - 18	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Crystileema, Ilukwelawatta Holiday Bungalow, Nail Factory - Hingura ara, Randi International, Saranga Metal Crusher
<b>Distribution :</b>	Darshanagama, Guruara, Higurura Akkara 500, Hingura Ara - Galwanguwa, Kalagediara, Karanayaka Rice Mill, Kethsirigama, Kethsirigama 21 Ela, Moraketiya 3rd Mile Post, Moraketiya 7 Ela, Moraketiya New 1st Mile Post, Moraketiya Rice Mill, Moraketiya Temple, Moraketiya VG Rice Mill, Near Bimro Tile, Near Rathnawera Fuel Station
2021 - 03 - 20	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Army Camp Thunkama Higureara
<b>Distribution :</b>	D 6 Channel Thunkama, Hingura Water Pump, Moraketiya 9 Ela

2021 - 03 - 26	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Ceyland Factory, Kodithuwakku Metal crusher, Nelna 2 Kadurugas Ara, Siera Rice Mill
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Uswewa Tile Factory
<b>Distribution :</b>	42 Junction Padalangala, ACE Factory Kadurugasara Thunkama, Army Camp Kuttigala, D 15 Channel - Kuttigala, Gotabayagama, Hagala Water Pump, Hagala Junction 12 Ela, Jayathi Mapiyagama, Julangate, Kadurugas ara 05 Canal, Kadurugas ara Junction, Karagahapitiya, Kuttigala, Modarawana Thebaduara 2, MPSC Rice Mill, Mulkumbura Panamura, Padalangala Hospital, Therunnesegama R.E, Therunnesegama 10 Ela, Therunnesegama School, Thunkama, Uruperetta, Walawandee school (Welangahawela), We Atura, Weheragodella, Welipothayaya
2021 - 03 - 27	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Beliattegama, Kachchigala, Warayaya Thoragala
Godakawela CSC	
2021 - 03 - 12	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ilukkumbura, Koongasthenna - Koongaha Handiya, Panana Hapugasthenna, Panana Medagama, Pollamura Udagangoda, Weligepola, Weligepola Town
2021 - 03 - 15	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bogahakumbura, Pallekanda, Pilagolla, Wawulpane, Welewattha Godakawela
2021 - 03 - 16	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Hingura, Kopiwatta, Koswetiya Temple, Nindagamaya Koswetiya, Thelissakatuathura, Thithawelpotha Metal Crusher
2021 - 03 - 17	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Akarella Nekathwalakada, Delwalakanda, Medaganoya
2021 - 03 - 18	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Airtel Tower Kumburugamuwa Road, Kuburugamuwa II, Kumburugamuwa School, Miyanakoladeniya, Morayaya Kumburugamuwa I, Tigo Tower Kumburugamuwa Road
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Galamella, Udukumbura
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:30
<b>Distribution :</b>	Bibilegama, Galamella, Horepola, Meddegama, Udukumbura
2021 - 03 - 23	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Neesha Apperal
<b>Distribution :</b>	Akarella Nekathwalakada, Ambewila, Buluwela Ranwala, Delwalakanda, Godowita, Medaganoya, Pitakanda, Ranwala Hospital, Thalagaskanda Kularatnagama, Uda Ranwala - Koongahayata, Yapalara
2021 - 03 - 24	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Dambagahawela, Galpaya - Babaragala - Thelambughaha Athura, Hatangala, Ilukkumbura, Koongasthenna - Koongaha Handiya, Kottimbulwala, Magayaya, Palugawela Omara, Panana Hapugasthenna, Panana Medagama, Pollamura Udagangoda, Polwagagama, Thaligamayaya 1, Thaligamayaya 2, Urawala, Weligepola, Weligepola Town, Yatipasgamuwa
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Abenayaka Metal Crusher
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ilukketiya, Kokwalayaya, Madawalalanda, Muthettupola, Niyangama, Niyangama 2, Pallegama, Warayaya, Welkeniyaya Pahalagoda
2021 - 03 - 25	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Cargills Food City Godakawela, Chalenger Food Product, Chandra Food City, Chellow, Cremo Yogurt, Dewmini Fashion, Rakwana, Godakawela Water Board, Mount View Tea Factory Kauduwawa, Nelco, Prasanga Shopping Center Redewita
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Power Loom Kauduwawa Randi Garment
<b>Distribution :</b>	Alawaththenna, Alpiya, Bibilegama, Dialog Tower Niyangama, Elamalpe, Emitiyagoda, Emitiyagoda Metal Crusher, Galahitiya, Galamella, Godakawela Town 1, Godakawela Town 2, Hiramadagama, Horepola, Kauduwawa Atakalanpanna, Malawatta, Malwatta Fonseka Mawatha, Masimbula Dikyaya, Meddegama, Nagaspola, Niyangama, Niyangama 2, Pallegama, Pelawatta, Redewita, Udukumbura, Ukwatta Rakwana, Urubodakanda, Warayaya, Welipotha Werahera Godakawela, Welkeniyaya Pahalagoda, Werahera Mobitel Godakawela
2021 - 03 - 26	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Galpaya - Babaragala - Thelambughaha Athura, Palugawela Omara, Polwagagama, Thaligamayaya 1, Thaligamayaya 2
2021 - 03 - 29	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Akarella Nekathwalakada, Buluwela Ranwala, Delwalakanda, Godowita, Medaganoya, Pitakanda, Ranwala Hospital, Thalagaskanda Kularatnagama, Uda Ranwala - Koongahayata
2021 - 03 - 30	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Yatipasgamuwa
Kolonna CSC	
2021 - 03 - 10	08:30 - 17:30
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ranhotikanda, Wijeriya ii, Wijeriya RE
2021 - 03 - 12	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Boraluwageaina, Mugunathenna, Poddana
2021 - 03 - 12	08:30 - 17:30
<b>Distribution :</b>	M.T.T Sooriyakanda Kadamuduna, Micro Repeater Station Suriyakanda, Poddana
2021 - 03 - 15	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Dorapane, Batahenkanda Dorapane, Dapane New (North), Dapane Omalpe, Kalugahena, Kempene
2021 - 03 - 15	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Dorapane, Batahenkanda Dorapane, Dapane New (North), Dapane Omalpe, Kalugahena, Kempene
2021 - 03 - 17	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ambagahawehera, Botiyawewa, Ethgala, Gamakanda, Gurumada, Jandura, Kalugoda, Panamura, Pepolwathuyaya, Wisamithura
2021 - 03 - 17	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	Ambagahawehera, Botiyawewa, Ethgala, Gurumada, Jandura, Panamura, Pepolwathuyaya, Wisamithura
2021 - 03 - 18	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b>	Kooppakanda Tea Factory
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b>	Bernard Bitheju Garment, Kolonna National School
<b>Distribution :</b>	Abagahayaya, Alubowelketiya, Alubowelketiya II, Ginigalgoda, Habeliara, Kapukanda, Karagahayaya, Katuwedamede Kolonna Fair, Kelikanda, Kella, Kella II, Kooppakanda, Madana, Mugunathenna, Nandanagama, Sapugahalangoda, Udahagoda, Walakada, Wedigala

2021 - 03 - 18	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Koopakanda Tea Factory	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Bernard Bitheju Garment, Kolonna National School	
<b>Distribution :</b> Endimitikanda, Katuwedameda Kolonna Fair, Kelikanda, Kella II, Kolonna Hospital, Koopakanda, Mugunathenna, Sapugahalandugoda, Udahagoda, Walakada	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Ereporuwa Water Board	
<b>Distribution :</b> Keselpotawa, Managoda, Pahala Walakada, Ranhotikanda, Thennapitiya, Wijeriya ii, Wijeriya RE, Yakmadiththa	
2021 - 03 - 22	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Bulathwelkanda, Malapalawa, Muladiyanwala I, Muladiyanwala II, Sudugala	
2021 - 03 - 24	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Ittekanda RE, Wijeriya iii	
2021 - 03 - 24	08:30 - 17:30
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Eigirth Tea Factory, Lankabariya Estate	
<b>Distribution :</b> Boraluwageaina, Wijeriya iii	
2021 - 03 - 24	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Ambagahawehera, Gurumada, Panamura, Pepolwathuyaya, Wisamithura	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Bernard Botheju Garment, Kolonna National School	
<b>Distribution :</b> Abagahayaya, Alubowelketiya, Alubowelketiya II, Endimitikanda, Ereporuwa, Ginigalgoda, Habbeliara, Kapukanda, Karagahayaya, Katuwedameda Kolonna Fair, Kella, Kolonna Hospital, Madana, Mugunathenna, Nandanagama, Wedigala	
2021 - 03 - 26	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Koopakanda Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Kella II, Koopakanda, Walakada	
2021 - 03 - 30	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Endimitikanda, Kolonna Hospital	
<b>Udawalawa CSC</b>	
2021 - 03 - 13	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Centuria Hotel Udawalawa (SarathChandra), Dame Site Udawalawa, Makuluwagama sugar water pump, Moraketiya water Pump, Sewanagala H.S, Sewanagala Sugar Factory, Sewanagala Suger Factory Site, Sewanagala Suger Water Pump	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Katupilagama Water Pump, Sewanagala Suger Work Shop	
<b>Distribution :</b> 5th Mile Post Thanamalwila Road, Anandagama, C.E.B. Udawalawa Quarters, Chandimaramaya Makuluwa, Dallukketiya, Danduma Sewanagala Police, Ekamuthugama I Wild Life, Ekamuthugama II, Gemunupura, Ginigalpelessa, Habaraluwewa Mayuragama, Habaraluwewa Water Pump, Habaraththawela Junction, Habaraththawela Mihindugama, Karametiara Panahaduwa Light Para 11, Katupilagama, Kiriebbanara, Koul Ara Gemunumawatha, Koul Ara School, Koul Ara Water Pump, Laksirigama Navodagama, Muthuminigama, Nelumsirigama, Sakapala 2, Samanalagama, Sampathgama 7th Mile Post, Sankapala 3, Sankapala Temple, Sankapala Water Pump, Sewanagala Sugar Mobitel Tower, Sewanagala Makaluwagama, Thalapatgama, Thanamalwila RD New Forest, Thunhiriyawa, Walawegama	
2021 - 03 - 13	08:30 - 17:30
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Sewanagala Suger Work Shop	
<b>Distribution :</b> Dallukketiya, Muthuminigama, Thalapatgama	
2021 - 03 - 14	08:30 - 17: 20
<b>Bulk :</b> Army Camp Udawalawa	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Inland Fisheries 1 (Thiapia Breeding Center), Inland Fisheries 2, Sugar Cane Research	
<b>Distribution :</b> Udawalawa Electrical	
2021 - 03 - 17	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Maha Ara 2, Maha Arawa	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Ranjith Garment Colombage Ara	
<b>Distribution :</b> Bisokotuwa Junction Colombage Ara, Bisokotuwa Miriswelpotha, Colombageara, Kandamuduna Colombageara	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17: 20
<b>Distribution :</b> Andoluwa, Kakunawatta Andoluwa Middle, Katukumbura, Komarika Miriswelpotha, Koongasthota, Water Project Pahala Andoluwa	
2021 - 03 - 20	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Bahirawa School, Bahirawa Village Temple, Dematapelessa, Habaraththawela Divulmandiya, Indikolapelessa, Kiriibbanara Ayurweda, Kiriibbanwewa Water Pump New	
2021 - 03 - 22	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Chandimaramaya Makuluwa, Habaraluwewa Mayuragama, Habaraluwewa Water Pump, Nelumsirigama, Thunhiriyawa	
2021 - 03 - 24	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Roshan Lanka Hotel, Udawalawa Water Board 2	
<b>Distribution :</b> Gurumadayaya, Maha Ara 2, Maha Arawa, Mudunmalkada, Panahaduwa 3, RET Junction	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Centuria Hotel Udawalawa (SarathChandra), Dame Site Udawalawa	
<b>Distribution :</b> 5th Mile Post Thanamalwila Road, C.E.B. Udawalawa Quarters, Thanamalwila RD New Forest	
2021 - 03 - 27	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Buruthakanda Ladiyagala, Ranchamadama Manel Pedesa, Ranchamadama Thanakola Mandiya, Uda Ranchamadama, Uda Ranchamadama Near Temple 2	
2021 - 03 - 29	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Dallukketiya, Muthuminigama, Thalapatgama	
2021 - 03 - 29	08:30 - 17: 20
<b>Bulk :</b> Army Camp Udawalawa, Udawalawa Water Board 1	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Inland Fisheries 1 (Thiapia Breeding Center), Inland Fisheries 2, Sugar Cane Research	
<b>Distribution :</b> 100th Mile Post, 97 1/2 Mile Post (Bodimaluwa), 97 Junction Thimbolketiya, 99 Junction Gangeyaya 2, Gangeyaya 16 Ela, Gangeyaya I, Udawalawa Electrical, Udawalawa Power Station Near Primary Sub, Weeragaha Junction 100km Post, Welikadayaya, Yaya II, 13 Ela	
2021 - 03 - 30	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Abenayaka Metal Crusher, HKT Tile Factory, Moraketiya water Pump	
<b>Distribution :</b> 96 New Sub, Buruthakanda Ladiyagala, Danduma Sewanagala Police, Gemunupura, Habaraththawela Junction, Habaraththawela Mihindugama, Koul Ara Gemunumawatha, Koul Ara School, Koul Ara Water Pump, Laksirigama Navodagama, Ranchamadama Junction, Ranchamadama Manel Pedesa, Ranchamadama Thanakola Mandiya, Thalakella, Tigo Tower Udawalawa, Uda Ranchamadama, Uda Ranchamadama Near Temple 2, Udawalawa Junction	

**KAHAWATTA AREA**

**Balangoda CSC**

2021 - 03 - 12	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	
2021 - 03 - 17	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Boskomba Tea factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Dehigasthalawa, Keangnam, Kumaragama, Samanalawatta, Kumaragama 2, Massennawatta Galle Division	

2021 - 03 - 18	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Balangoda Hospital 2, Blumont Tea Factory	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Cicolton Factory, Dolomite Factory Marathenna, Marathenna Tea Factory, Rye Estate, S.P.I. Garment Factory, Thanthirimale Sherwood Estate, Waleboda Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Andamethgama, Atawakwala Nelliwela, Balangoda Hospital 1 Oluganthota, Gurubewila R.E, Kapotch Estate & R.E, Maddegama, Morahela R.E, Morahela Udawela, Pambagolla, Pinnawala R.E, Borangamuwa, Marathenna, Gaiwatta, Gurubewila 2, Kanathiriyawala Mobitel Tower, Kesel Kotuwa, Pinnawala Police Station, Kotiyakanda, Nelliwala 2, Oluganthota Mobitel Tower (feeder 1), Pinwatta Temple, Siththaragewala, Udagama Maha Vidyalaya Pinnawala, Wegapitiya Junction	
2021 - 03 - 18	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Thanthirimale Sherwood Estate	
<b>Distribution :</b> Pinwatta Temple	
2021 - 03 - 22	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> New Hope Well Tea Factory (Wijaya Nilmini), Bodyline Garment	
<b>Distribution :</b> Jaqa lanka Garment, Dangasmandiya, Kirimetithenna Junction	
2021 - 03 - 24	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Ariyapala Metal Crusher, Wilocity Metal Crusher	
<b>Distribution :</b> Dahamana - Galgoda R.E, Dahamana Mobitel tower, Maleesha Hardwear, Mawela R.E, Rukkattana Welange	
2021 - 03 - 25	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b>	
2021 - 03 - 29	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Uva Kosgama	

**Kahawatta CSC**

2021 - 03 - 16	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Tea Lanka Tea Factory Kudugaldeniya	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Allerton Tea Factory, Deshika Tea Factory, Heatherligh Tea Factory, Horamulla Tea Factory, Madampe Rubber Factory, Madampe Tea Factory, Spring Wood Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Aluthpara R.E, Demuwawatha Morawakadeniya, Demuwawatha RE, Dolekanda, Galwetawatta Kiranodagama, Gangoda RE, Karankatiya RE, Labuwelwatta Pannila, Mandula Tea Factory, Pandeniya, Rakwana 3 Post(Tigo Sub) Pothupitiya, Rakwana Rest House, Rakwana T.C., Botiyathenna, Digandala Kiriberiya, Haldola (Pannila New), Koopikella RE (Saipraswatta), Palam Cotta Weththilakanda, Udagangoda Udadeniya (Batalawatta), Weralugahamula	
2021 - 03 - 16	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Demuwawatha Morawakadeniya, Demuwawatha RE, Galwetawatta Kiranodagama, Labuwelwatta Pannila, Digandala Kiriberiya, Haldola (Pannila New)	
2021 - 03 - 17	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> New B.C.J.A. Tea Factory, New Panawenna Tea Factory, Temple View Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Handurukanda, Kiribathgala, Sandasilugama R.E.S.	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kahawatta Mobitel	
2021 - 03 - 30	08:30 - 12:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Dalukgala Athura, Manana Kanda	
2021 - 03 - 30	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Endana Hospital, Endana Tea Factory, Nawalakanda Tea Factory, Samawaththa Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Madalagama RE, Panapitiya Gabbella, Sri Godakumbura, Uda Houpe RE, Dalukgala Athura, Kohombakanda, Manana Kanda	
2021 - 03 - 30	13:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Endana Hospital, Samawaththa Tea Factory	

**Kalthota CSC**

2021 - 03 - 19	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Dippitiya, waipothayaya 1 budugala, walipothayaya 2, Danwalodaya pansala para new, walipotha yaya vidyalaya	
2021 - 03 - 23	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Quality Chemicals - Thanna	
<b>Distribution :</b> Nelyaya Junction, 16th post Thanna, Ilukkalpalla pokunuthanna Kalthota, Kandiya pitawewa kotavehera mankada, Parakum yaya, Kalthota, Galiramankada, Thanamalwila para nawa, Thanjanthanna, Thanjanthna 13th post, Demodara, Demodara lagingalaga, Demodara madabadda new nawalakade, damwalodaya nawa, diyavinna, Diyavinna school, dhayyagala, Dippitiya, Beligolla, Pihibiyagoda, Nabada palassa, Bellan kanda mobitel Bellangala, Madabadda, Mahakula, mahapalssa, Welioya Junction, welipothayaya 1 budugala, walipothayaya 2, Danwalodaya pansala para new, walipotha yaya vidyalaya, walipthayaya new Kongaha mankda, sadagala gama, Piyangiriya,	
2021 - 03 - 23	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kalupedigama, Pokunuthanna kalthota, Diyavinna, Diyavinna school, Dippitiya, waipothayaya 1 budugala, walipothayaya 2, Danwalodaya pansala para new, walipotha yaya vidyalaya, walipotha yaya new Kongaha mankada	
2021 - 03 - 26	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kandiyapita wewa Kotawecheramankada, Mahakiula, Mahpalssa	

**Opanayaka CSC**

2021 - 03 - 15	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Galpadithenna Tea Factory, Geekiyanaehena Tea Factory, Maswatta Tea Factory Welimaluwa, Silver Ray Sopping Complex, Summit Garment Welimaluwa, Galpadithenna Tea Factory 2	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Lellopitiya Estate Beranduwa, Maliban Garment - Sannasgama, Nawagamuwahena Tea Factory, Peak View Tea Factory, Sannasgama Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Banagoda, Bopetta RE, Bulathwatta Hettikanda, Dombagaswinna, Galassapola, Heenberanduwa, Heenberanduwa Mannagewatta, Hettikanda Silidunkanda, Hiriliyadda, Kempnanawatta 1, Lellopitiya RE, Welimaluwa RE, Bopetta 2, Budulena, Kempnanawatta 2, Kongasthenna Kempnanawatta, Lellopitiya Kanda Uda, Palugampola	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:00 - 12:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Ellepola, Horaketiya (Ellepola New)	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Gawaranhena 1 Galinna, Gawaranhena 2	

**RATNAPURA AREA**

**Elapatha CSC**

2021 - 03 - 12	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Palawela Rubber Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Alupathgala, Delkade Junction, Kadukanaththa, Kehelovitigama, Kehelovitigama Junction, Kohomakanda, Pallegedara	
2021 - 03 - 16	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Gangulwitiya TF	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Falken Tea Factory, Millavitiya - Samangama R.E. & Tea Factory, Rambukkanda Rubber Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Aluketiya, Amuwala, Bataendiriya, Dambuluwana Kahawatta, Dellabada North, Dellabada South, Dimiyawa R.E., Elapatha, Elapatha A.G.S.O., Elapatha Koththabevila, Gangulvitiya I, Gangulvitiya Thembuwana, Haldola Rajasisugama, Hangamuwa R.E., Karangoda Demalaporuwa, Karangoda R.E., Kotamulla R.E., Magurugoda R.E., Namallawaka, Pallegedara, Panilla Digana, Raddella	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Isurugama Hapurudeniya	
2021 - 03 - 24	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Rambukkanda Rubber Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Aluketiya, Bataendiriya, Hangamuwa R.E., Magurugoda R.E., Panilla Digana	

**Kalawana CSC**

2021 - 03 - 11	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kotalapoththala	
2021 - 03 - 12	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kotanakanda, Kudumeriya, Weddagala Mobitel	
2021 - 03 - 17	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Panahetagalala	
2021 - 03 - 18	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kotalapoththala	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kotanakanda, Kudumeriya, Weddagala Mobitel	
2021 - 03 - 22	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Ciciliyan Watta Tea Factory II, Dawalagiri Tea factory	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> C.T.C. Tea Factory, Cyciliyanwatta Tea Fac. I	
<b>Distribution :</b> C.T.B. Kalawana, Delgoda Mobitel, Delgoda RE, Elawella RE, Kalawana I, Kalawana II Town, Koswatta RE, Kukuleganaga HP Camp Site, Tapassarakanda, Telecom Kalawana	
2021 - 03 - 23	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Weddagala North	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kotalapoththala	
2021 - 03 - 26	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Ambalamahena Thennapitiya, Berawakanda Ak.35, Kodipilikanda, Kodipilikanda Kelinkanda, Kotanakanda, Kudumeriya, Kukulegama South RE, Weddagala Mobitel, Wishkamgoda New	

**Malwala CSC**

2021 - 03 - 13	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Calton Sports Network, S.K. Tea Factory, Veenes Hero Water Plant	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Deiyannegama Dialog Tower, Guruluwana TF, Saman Eliya Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Andiyamalattenna, Dehigahahena, Deiyannegama, Egoda Malwala, Embuldeniya Tea Factory, Gilimale, Guruluwana, Ilukwatta, Indikatupana, Kanegalla, Kanegalla NorthAmbatenna, Ketawala, Ketawala Kanegalla, Kunugodahena, Lihinihela, Lunuwella, Malwala, Mapalana, Mihitiya, Mobitel Tower Dehigahahena Road, Olugala, Pallawakanda, Paragala Withanakanda, Pawana Ella, Rathurugala Udawatta, Ratkurugala Athureliyagama, Siripagama, Sri Palabaddala	
2021 - 03 - 18	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> S.K. Tea Factory	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Hapugastenna Rubber Factory, Hapugastenna Tea Factory, Saman Eliya Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Andiyamalattenna, Bambarabotuwa Telecom, Dehigahahena, Dulhena, Gallalla, Guruluwana, Helakanda Navinna, Indikatupana, Kanegalla NorthAmbatenna, Ketawala, Ketawala Kanegalla, Lihinihela, Mapalana, Mobitel Tower Dehigahahena Road, Olugala, Pallawakanda, Paragala Withanakanda, Pawana Ella, Rathgaga, Rathgama, Siripagama, Sri Palabaddala, Welikumbura, Wewelketiya	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> S.K. Tea Factory, Veenes Hero Water Plant	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Guruluwana TF, Saman Eliya Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Andiyamalattenna, Dehigahahena, Embuldeniya Tea Factory, Gilimale, Guruluwana, Ilukwatta, Indikatupana, Kanegalla, Kanegalla NorthAmbatenna, Ketawala, Ketawala Kanegalla, Kunugodahena, Lihinihela, Lunuwella, Mapalana, Mobitel Tower Dehigahahena Road, Pallawakanda, Paragala Withanakanda, Pawana Ella, Rathurugala Udawatta, Ratkurugala Athureliyagama, Siripagama, Sri Palabaddala	

**Metro CSC**

2021 - 03 - 13	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Accident Ward, Adams View Tea Factory, Cargills Food City, Ceylinco Life, David Peris, General Hospita R'Pura No.2, General Hospital R'Pura No.1, Gunaratna Building, JICA Hospital I, JICA Hospital II, Keels Super (Jaykey Marketing), Lal Stores, Leema Print (pvt) Ltd. Ratnapura, Nolimit, Pizah Hut, Ratnapura Stores, Saffiras Lanka, Singhe Hospital, United Moters, W.T. Plant Pompakele	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Co - op Hospital, Mahawalawatta Tea Factory, Telecom Exchange, Water Board Atigala MW	
<b>Distribution :</b> Angammana No.2, Angammana Sumanajothi Mawatha, Bandaranyaka Mawatha, Batugedara Old Road, Central Bus Stand, Chest Clinic, Clock Tower, CTB Depot, Dewananda Mawatha, Ekwala Junction, Ggod Shed Road, Godigamuwa, Hela - Uda, Hospital Junction, Ice Factory, Kaleel, Kudugalwatta Junction, Kumara Pedesa, Mahawalawatta, Mahinda Mawatha, Malwala Road, Moragahayata No. 1, Moragahayata No. 2, Mosque Junction, Polhengoda, Pompakele I, Pompakele II, Pulugupitiya, Rizvi Building, Shaviya MV, Thirivanaketiya, Walkers, Warakotata	
2021 - 03 - 16	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Drug Stores General Hospital, General Hospital Water Pump, Khemananda MW Water Board	
<b>Distribution :</b> Celltel, Collins Cresnat, Dewalayagawa, Ganegoda, Gatangama, Kanadola, Ketaliyanpalla, Khemananda Mawatha, Muwagama RE, Samagipura, Saman Dewalaya, Saman Pedesa, Sri Sumana, Sumana Balika	
2021 - 03 - 20	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> , Palmgarden Tea Factory, Hotel School, Library, Neth Seth, Sabaragamuiwa Provincial Council, Samudi Mawatha, Technical College, Water Sypply Project	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Palm garden R.F.	
<b>Distribution :</b> Court Junction, Duriyangahayata, Hidellana, Hidellana Housing Scheme 1, Hidellana Kanda, Kospelawinna, Kotuwekade, Millagahawela, New Town, Pam Garden, Pole Yard, Prov.Eng. Service Office, Secratarial Office, Weralupe Junction	

**Nivithigala CSC**

2021 - 03 - 13	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Bokutuketiya, Galwanguwa, Mandadola, Pitakelegama (Ambegala), Waththahena	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Fine Wood Dela, Noragalla, Timber Coporation - Dela	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Dela Garment (Nippon Garment), Dela Kiribathgala Rubber Factory, Peenkanda Rubber Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Dela Town, Kukulugala, Marapana I, Marapana II, Noragalla New Village, Panagama, Poththekanda, Sikaradeniya	
2021 - 03 - 27	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Gamekanda	
2021 - 03 - 29	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Watapotha TF	
<b>Distribution :</b> Dammoruwa, Yatagara Manatun kanda	

**RUWANWELLA AREA**

**Bulathkohupitiya CSC**

2021 - 03 - 14	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Knewsmeer Mobitel Tower, Knewsmier, Pahala Knewsmeer Junction, Siyambalawala Mines	
2021 - 03 - 14	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Dedugala Ritigahaoya Tea Factory, Rangala Mines	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Edurapola Watta, Urumeewala Factory, Yatideriya Tea Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Alawathura, Bulathkohupitiya Telecom, Bulathkohupitiya Town, Dedugala, Dedugala Gangaweraliya, Getiyamulla School, Ihala Uduwa, Kabagamuwa, Kalupahana, Kandsirigama, Kendawa, Kirawanawanguwa Alawathura, Knewsmeer Mobitel Tower, Knewsmier, Narangala, Neluwakkana, Pahala Knewsmeer Junction, Pahala Uduwa (Helawa), Rangalla 2 Walakada, Rangalla Temple, Siyambalawala Mines, Sooriyamalgama, Undugoda Hospital, Urumeewala	
2021 - 03 - 17	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kendaloya, Nagasthenna, Seeporth, Seeporth Houses 20	



2021 - 03 - 17	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Ihala Panapitiya Tea Factory	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Para Rubber factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Ambamalla, Ampagala, Dodangasthenna (Aruggammana), Galtenna, Karandawatta Bogala, Mattamagoda Mobitel Tower, Pannala North, Punahela (1Ph), Punahela new sub, Pussahena Mines, Wagolla Watta	
2021 - 03 - 19	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Ambuwakka, Getiyamulla, Hapudeniya, Malwana, Mineemaruwa, Pothukoladeniya	
2021 - 03 - 24	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kandusirigama, Urumeewala	
2021 - 03 - 30	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Alawathura, Ambuwakka, Getiyamulla, Getiyamulla School, Kirawanawanguwa Alawathura	
<b>Deraniyagala CSC</b>	
2021 - 03 - 12	08:05 - 17:05
<b>Distribution :</b> Deraniyagala Town 2 (Devalaya Road), Kajugaswatta Samanpuragama, Pradeshiya Saba Deraniyagala, Saman devalaya	
2021 - 03 - 16	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Hathkella Weediyawatta, Kalanchiwatta, Weediyawaththa Koosgahakanda	
2021 - 03 - 16	08:00 - 17:05
<b>Distribution :</b> Kalanchiwatta	
2021 - 03 - 18	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Imewaththa Magala, Magala Perupalla	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Sapumalkanda Rubber Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> KadawarakandaII	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Nilwala, Pallege North, Pallege South	

2021 - 03 - 24	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Eylawatta	
<b>Distribution :</b> Avington Estate, Boralkanda, Udabagewatta Middle	
2021 - 03 - 28	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Orupeellagama	
<b>Gonagaldeniya CSC</b>	
2021 - 03 - 13	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Alpitiya, Baduradeniya Alpitiya, Dippitiya Janapadaya, Dippitiya Kiuldeniya, Minipura	
2021 - 03 - 13	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Alpitiya, Baduradeniya Alpitiya, Dippitiya Janapadaya, Dippitiya Kiuldeniya, Minipura	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Kiriathula	
2021 - 03 - 20	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Dandeniya Janapadaya, Hadungama Puhulwala, Imbulgoda, Salgala	
2021 - 03 - 22	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Dunumala	
2021 - 03 - 23	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Daigala, Elladeniya Junction, Ihala Daigala, Moraliya, Yalapitiya	
2021 - 03 - 23	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Daigala, Elladeniya Junction, Ihala Daigala, Kapuwelikanda, Moraliya, Napawala, Yalapitiya	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Gonagala North, Gonagala School, Gonagala South, Ipilagala	
2021 - 03 - 25	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Hallawa	
2021 - 03 - 26	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Indurana, Mawarella Haldola Kiriathula	

2021 - 03 - 30	08:30 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Lalan Rubber Amithirigala	
<b>Distribution :</b> Aluthwatta, Glanex Estate, Palle Kanugala, Guruge Uyana Mahadeniya, Palle Kanugala	
<b>Karawanella CSC</b>	
2021 - 03 - 13	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Lavent Watta	
<b>Distribution :</b> Ihala Parussella, Mahawila, Mobitel Parussella, Parussella, Polatagama, Welihela, Welihelatenna	
2021 - 03 - 22	09:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Ihala Muruththettuwa, Muruththettuwa	
2021 - 03 - 27	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Bulk :</b> Dehiowita Pradesheeya Saba, Kamburapola Rubber Mill	
<b>Bulk &amp; Distribution :</b> Dewalakanda Watta, Floor Stores Sabaragamuwa Tea Factory, Lucky Garment, Sandaresa Rubber Factory	
<b>Distribution :</b> Atulgama, Debagama 2, Debagama 1, Dehiowita Town, Dehiowita Dialog Tower, Dehiowita Post Office TC, Iret Watta, Kadawarakanda, Kanangama, Magamma, Magamma 2, Pitadeniya	
<b>Kotiyakumbura CSC</b>	
2021 - 03 - 12	08:15 - 16:15
<b>Distribution :</b> Arukgammana 2	
2021 - 03 - 17	08:00 - 17:00
<b>Distribution :</b> Boyagoda, Boyagoda 2, Mahapallegama, Thunthota Junction	
2021 - 03 - 17	08:35 - 16:35
<b>Distribution :</b> Boyagoda, Boyagoda 2, Mahapallegama, Thunthota Junction	
2021 - 03 - 19	08:45 - 16:45
<b>Distribution :</b> Pindeniyawatta Heenwella	
2021 - 03 - 24	08:20 - 16:20
<b>Bulk :</b> Youth Council Asideniya	
<b>Distribution :</b> Asideniya, Asideniya 28 Janapadaya, Balapaththawa, Dematanpitiya, Kottapola	

**Deputy General Manager (Sabaragamuwa)**  
Office of DGM  
Ceylon Electricity Board  
New Town, Rathnapura.

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## Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Limited Pelwatta TENDER NOTICE



Lanka Sugar Company - Pelwatta invites sealed Bids from ICTAD/CIDA registered contractors from Monaragala, Hambanthota and Rathnapura Districts due to the Covid pandemic situation and also registered societies in Buttala area in Monaragala district for construction of Rain Water Harvesting Ponds. The duly completed bids should be deposited in the tender box by hand or by registered post to reach the Chief Operation Officer, Lanka Sugar Company - Pelwatta, Private, Mail Bag Buttala during the period from 02-03-2021 at 9.00 am to 16-03-2021 at 2.30 pm.

No.	Project Name	Non refundable Fee (LKR)	Bid Bond Value (LKR)
01	Wajira Rain Harvesting pond	2000/=	16,203.00
02	Janaka Rain Harvesting Pond	2,000/=	19,887.73
03	Gamini Rain Harvesting pond	2,000/=	15,793.16
04	Urugala Rain Harvesting pond	2,000/=	15,596.63
05	Ehala Mankada Rain Harvesting Pond	2,000/=	17,075.58
06	Jaya Rain Harvesting pond	2,000/=	14,156.37
07	Siri Rain Harvesting Pond	2,000/=	17,135.58
08	Muthu Rain Harvesting pond	2,000/=	14,588.05

Bid application pertaining to all information and bid conditions can be collected from Lanka Sugar Company - Pelwatta from 02-03-2021 at 9.00 am to 16-03-2021 at 2.30 pm.

Please mention the project name on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Bids will be opened on 16-03-2021 at 3.00 pm at Lanka Sugar Company - Pelwatta in the presence of the bid opening committee and bidder or authorized representative may attend the bid opening.

If you need any further clarifications, please do contact Mr. D.M.R.M. Dissanayaka, the Civil Engineer on 0717304625.

**Chief Operations Officer**  
Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Limited - Pelwatta  
Buttala



## STATE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT NATIONAL BUILDING RESEARCH ORGANISATION



### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following Work of National Building Research Organisation, 99/1, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05.

No.	DESCRIPTION	RECTIFICATION OF UNSTABLE SLOPES SEGMENTS AT MALAPATTAWA, NUWARA-ELIYA DISTRICT
01.	Work	Construction of Concrete drains, Anchor Nailing, Horizontal drains and associated Earthworks.
02.	Contract No.	NBRO/LRRMD/MTI/ND/2021/31/MPT
03.	Approximate estimated cost	Rs. 60.8 Mn (Excluding Taxes)
04.	Bidding Procedure	<b>National Competitive Bidding</b>
05.	Construction period of Work	<b>270 Days</b>
06.	Collection of further information of Bids	Project Management Division of NBRO, 99/1, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05 from <b>09.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. from 27.02.2021 to 19.03.2021.</b>
07.	To be eligible for contract award	Should be registered under <b>Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA)</b> (success or to ICTAD) as a contractor with the following specialties and <b>Building and Civil Engineering (C4)</b> or above with previous experience on Landslide Mitigation or Grade <b>(SP 1)</b> under Soil nailing and slope Stabilization.
08.	Complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders	On submission of a written request to the Director General, National Building Research Organisation, 99/1, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs from 27.02.2021 to 18.03.2021 by cash payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.7,500.00 per bid to the Finance Division of NBRO during working days except weekends.
09.	Submission of Bids	Duly perfected bids in duplicate shall be addressed to Chairman, Procurement Committee, National Building Research Organisation, 99/1, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05, shall be deposited in the tender box kept at the NBRO premises or sent under registered post to reach, <b>on or before the bid closing time of 14.00 hrs. on 19.03.2021.</b> Bids will be opened soon after the closing time and bidders or their representatives are allowed to be present at the time of opening of the bid.
10.	Bids shall be valid for a period	<b>91 days</b> from the bid closing date
11.	All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security	Bid Securities should be obtained from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on the format given in the bidding document. Bid Securities shall be valid for following specific periods from the closing date of bids. Amount of Bid Security <b>Rs. 610,000.00</b> and Validity period of <b>119 days</b> up to <b>25.07.2021.</b>
12.	Site visit would be held	on <b>8th March 2021</b> commencing from <b>11.00 am</b> at the site location
13.	The pre-bid meeting will be held	on <b>10.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m.</b> at the National Building Research Organisation, Head Office Auditorium

**Chairman**  
Department Procurement Committee,  
National Building Research Organisation,  
99/1, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05.

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# Classifieds

## Employment

**318**  
Positions Vacant  
Drivers/Chauffeurs

**Wanted an active driver** who could serve for a company cum residence in Colombo. Accommodation will be provided. Should have driving experience abroad, age 35-45 years. Strictly non alcoholic. Salary Rs. 45,000/= and above, Rs. 10,000/= . Food allowance. Also national identity card and Grama Sevaka Certificate are essential, police certificate will be an additional qualification. Contact: Koshan 077-0478052. 014243

## 320

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. 011865

## 327

Positions Wanted

**Senior Doctor** male MBBS (Ceylon) seeks suitable post in Clinic / Nursing Home. Fluent in English Sinhala Tamil. Tel. 0776286032. 014756

## General

## 427

Tuition Available

**Accounts Economics** Business Studies experienced Graduate Teacher Postgraduate qualification, leading school in Colombo offers tuition for A/L and O/L students Accounts in Sinhala and English medium. Economics and Business Studies Sinhala medium for home visits. Contact 0716846002, 0761389518. 012794



# MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS NATIONAL YOUTH CORPS



## VACANCIES

Applications are invited for recruitment to the following posts that are vacant at the National Youth Corps.

- 01. Board Secretary/Legal Officer (MM 1-1)**
- 02. Procurement Officer (JM 1-1)**
- 03. Instructor (Information Technology) (MA 1-1)**
- 04. Instructor (English) (MA 1-1)**

These posts are permanent and entitled to Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund.

All applicants applying for these posts should be ;

- Citizens of Sri Lanka
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties entrusted to the post and to serve in any part of the island
- Should have an excellent moral character

### 01. Board Secretary/Legal Officer (MM 1-1)

**Educational Qualifications:**

**External Applicants (1 or 2 of the following qualifications)**

- Should have obtained LL.B (Bachelor of Law) degree from a university recognized by the University Grants Commission

**And**

Should have at least one (01) year's experience in the subject field relevant to the post after obtaining the degree.

- Should have obtained at least five (05) years experience as an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court after taking oaths as an Attorney at Law.

**Internal Applicants (1 or 2 of the following qualifications)**

- Fulfilling the qualifications for the external applicants as mentioned above.
- Should have completed at least five (05) years satisfactory service period in a post relevant to the subject field in Junior Management (JM 1-1) Service Category.

**Age:** Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years on the closing date of applications. Maximum age limit is not applicable to internal applicants.

**Salary Scale:** MM 1-1 - 2/2016:- Rs. 53,175 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - Rs. 95,575

Government approved allowances will be paid in addition to the above.

### 02. Procurement Officer (JM 1-1)

**Educational Qualifications:**

**External Applicants (1 or 2 of the following qualifications)**

- Should have obtained a degree in Management or a B. Com degree recognized by the University Grants Commission

**And**

Should have obtained at least one (01) year's experience in the subject field relevant to the post after obtaining the degree.

- Should have passed the Intermediate Examination of a reputed Chartered Professional Institute compatible to the subject field relevant to the post

**And**

Should have obtained at least one (01) year's experience in the subject field relevant to the post after obtaining the qualifications.

**Internal Applicants (1 or 2 of the following qualifications)**

- Fulfilling the qualifications for the external applicants as mentioned above.
- Should have completed at least five (05) years satisfactory service period in the subject field relevant to the post in Grade II of the Management Assistant (Non Technical) (MA 1-1) Service Category.

**Age:** Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years on the closing date of applications. Maximum age limit is not applicable to internal applicants.

**Salary Scale:** JM 1-1 - 2/2016:- Rs. 42,600 - 10 x 755 - 18 x 1,135 - Rs. 70,580

Government approved allowances will be paid in addition to the above.

### 03. Instructor (Information Technology) (MA 1-1)

**Educational Qualifications**

**External Applicants**

- Should have passed the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (06) subjects in one sitting with four (04) credit passes including
  - Sinhala Language/Tamil Language
  - Mathematics

**and**

- Should have passed in three (03) subjects (Except General Common test) at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination

**And**

- Should have passed a Diploma Course in Information Technology of not less than one (01) year from a reputed university or reputed educational institution

**And**

- Should have experience of not less than six (06) months in teaching the information technology subject in government or in a private institution

**Note:** Those who have obtained a degree with information technology as a subject need not have the above (a), (b), (c) and (d) qualifications

**Internal Applicants**

- Employees who have the "b", "c", "d" and "e" qualifications mentioned below of the Primary Grade - Non Skilled, Semi Skilled and Skilled are eligible to apply.
- Should have passed the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (06) subjects in one sitting with four (04) credit passes including

- Sinhala/Tamil
- Mathematics
- Should have passed a Diploma Course in Information Technology of not less than one year at a reputed university or at a National Institute of Education
- Should be holding a permanent post and should have been made permanent
- Should have completed at least five (05) years of continuous satisfactory service period in a permanent post immediately prior to the specified date

**Age:** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years on the closing date of applications. Maximum age limit is not applicable to internal applicants.

**Salary Scale:** MA 1-1 - 2/2016:- Rs. 27,910 - 10 x 300 - 7 x 350 - 4 x 495 - 20 x 660 - Rs. 48,540

Government approved allowances will be paid in addition to the above.

### 04. Instructor (English) (MA 1-1)

**Educational Qualifications**

**External Applicants**

- Should have passed the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (06) subjects in one sitting with four (04) credit passes including
  - Sinhala Language/Tamil Language
  - Mathematics

**and**

- Should have passed in three (03) subjects (Except General Common test) at the General Certificate of Education (Advanced Level) Examination

**And**

- Should have passed a Diploma Course in English Language of not less than one (01) year from a recognized university or recognized educational institution

**And**

- Should have experience of not less than six (06) months in teaching the English Language subject in government or in a private institution

**Note:** Those who have obtained a degree with English Language as a subject need not have the above (a), (b), (c) and (d) qualifications

**Internal Applicants**

- Employees who have the "b", "c", "d" and "e" qualifications mentioned below of the Primary Grade - Non Skilled, Semi Skilled and Skilled are eligible to apply.
- Should have passed the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) Examination in six (06) subjects in one sitting with four (04) credit passes including
  - Sinhala/Tamil
  - Mathematics
- Should have passed a Diploma Course in English Language of not less than one year at a recognized university or at a recognized educational institution
- Should be holding a permanent post and should have been made permanent
- Should have completed at least five (05) years of continuous satisfactory service period in a permanent post immediately prior to the specified date

**Age:** Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years on the closing date of applications. Maximum age limit is not applicable to internal applicants.

**Salary Scale:** MA 1-1 - 2/2016:- Rs. 27,910 - 10 x 300 - 7 x 350 - 4 x 495 - 20 x 660 - Rs. 48,540

Government approved allowances will be paid in addition to the above.

Applicants for these posts should prepare an application according to an appropriate format and may either be sent by registered post to the address given below or by email to [vacancy@youthcorps.lk](mailto:vacancy@youthcorps.lk) along with photocopies of relevant certificates to receive on or before 12.03.2021. Post applied for should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

Incomplete and applications that do not fulfill the relevant qualifications and the late applications will be rejected.

**Chairman  
National Youth Corps Headquarters  
No. 420, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha,  
Colombo 07**

**Chairman  
National Youth Corps  
27.02.2021**

Vacancies for the posts of Board Secretary / Legal Officer, Procurement Officer, Instructor (Information Technology), Instructor (English) exist in the National Youth Corps Headquarters / Training Centres mentioned in the table below.

Post	Province	Headquarters / Center
Board Secretary / Legal Officer Board Secretary / Legal Officer	Western	Headquarters
Procurement Officer	Western	Headquarters
Instructor (Information Technology)	Southern	Embilipitiya
	Eastern	Gomarankadawala, Kuchchaveli
	Northern	Mullaitivu, Mannar
	Uva	Wellawaya, Monaragala
Instructor (English)	Western	Divulapitiya
	Eastern	Seruvawila, Gomarankadawala
	Northern	Mullaitivu, Vavuniya
	Uva	Bandarawela, Thanamalvila, Monaragala
	Central	Naula



## Expression of Interest

State Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness

### Condominium Management Authority (CMA) Obtaining Consultancy Services

Applications are hereby invited to obtain consultancy services, for the Condominium Management Authority (CMA), from a Chartered Town Planner and from an Attorney-at-Law with following qualifications and experience in carrying out such services of consultancies.

#### 1. Qualifications to be fulfilled by a Chartered Town Planner

Should have completed minimum of 20 (twenty) years of experience in the services of the field of condominium property development and planning and of the regulations of planning of the Urban Development Authority (UDA), as a Chartered Town Planner in the private sector or of the Government Sector.

#### 2. Qualifications to be fulfilled by an Attorney-at-Law

Should have LLB Degree (Bachelor of Laws), obtained from a Recognized University, with over ten (10) years experience as an Attorney-at-Law and out of which over 05 (five) years should be of service experience in the enactment of the activation of the Condominium Management Authority Act in addition to this, preference (special consideration) will be given to the applicants having service experience in the fields of housing and property management.

Interested consultants should have to send an application with complete bio-data (CV), inclusive of all the information, stating that they are having required qualifications, to carry out the above mentioned services.

Short-listed, qualified applicants / candidates, based on the above given qualifications and experience will be called for an interview:

Selected successful candidates will have to be responsible to report to the Chairman, of the Condominium Management Authority (CMA), and shall have to work for a full-time assignment of service (Twenty Four hours, per week).

Professionals, having required qualifications, should send an application, with their complete bid-data (CV), including their educational, academic and professional qualifications and experience and marked with caption to the effect "Obtaining Consultancy Services for the Condominium Management Authority (CMA)" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing applications to the following address by registered post, to receive on or before 15.03.2021.

**Chairman,  
Condominium Management Authority (CMA)  
1st Floor, National Housing Department (NHD) Building,  
Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner Mawatha,  
Colombo 02.**

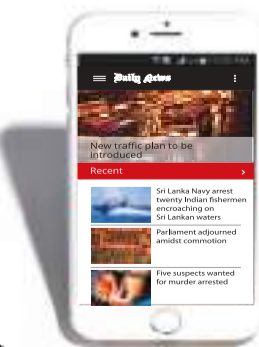
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# Sundar Nirnanjan the athletic and rugby star

ALTHAF NAWAZ

S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia is a leading Christian school with a proud history of producing several sportsmen who stood out in their academic career while becoming renowned players in various sporting disciplines locally and internationally.

Nirnanjan Sundaranathan was one of them who excelled in his studies while turning out as a quality rugby player who brought honour and fame to his school and country.

Nirnanjan Sundaranathan well known as Sundar Nirnanjan was born in 1970 and

had a hefty frame with his height and body structure. His father was Sundaranathan a distinguished sportsman who participated in several sporting activities while his mother was Rebecca and both of them were employed at Central Bank. He had three siblings with elder sister Tharini living in Canada while Vanathi the younger sister is working for Hutchinson Telecom in Colombo. His younger brother is Mahinthan living in Melbourne, Australia.

Nirnanjan grew up in the vicinity of Mount Lavinia which was closer to his 'Alma Mater' S.Thomas College, Mount Lavinia where he studied from 1977 to 1989. He was

associated with several other students who represented his school living in his area. They mingled around and played various sports like cricket, basketball and rugby during their free time. His profound sporting career in school was launched playing cricket and rugby in the under-13 age

category where he captained both sports. Due to the clash of the cricket season with rugby, he opted to play cricket and take part in athletics. While playing cricket for school, was a member of the runners up team in 1982 at the all island Division-one under-15 cricket tournament losing to Ananda in the finals. He was also a member of the runner up team in 1986 in the all island Division-one under-17 cricket tournament once again losing to Ananda in the finals.

In 1987, at the age of 17 years, he decided to get back to rugby when his captain in college, Ravi Gunawardena persuaded him to lock horns for the college first XV team which was coached by another former Thomian Iththikar Cader. He surged ahead to play for that team and in 1988 he played under Shehan Panditharatne and in 1989 under Rizvi Suhaib while being vice captain of the 1989 team. In 1988 and 1989 the team was coached by the great late



Sundar Nirnanjan

Quentin Israel and became runners up in the school championship only losing to Royal College by a point 9-10 at the Sugathadasa Stadium and losing to Ananda 4-14 in the R. Premadasa Trophy quarter finals.

He also was appointed captain of the second XI cricket team in 1989 which earned him school 'cricket colours' for playing four years in the second XI team. During his school cricket career,

he was coached by many coaches namely the late Shelton Gauder, the late Trevor Edwards, the late Bertie Wijesinha, the late Gerry Gooneratne and the late Lassie Aboyardena. In athletics, he became Colombo District's Shot Putt champion in 1989 and was awarded school 'Athletics Colours' and the 'All Island National School Colours' for Athletics in 1989.

He was Awarded Best 'Athlete Trophy' by college in 1989 and his athletic coach was late N.M. Perera. He was a school prefect and the head prefect of the house.

They also became runners up in the school sevens tournament losing to Kingswood College in the finals. The 1989, STC Rugby Team emerged as the unbeaten champs by defeating all the schools including winning the R. Premadasa Trophy by beating Isipathana 15-3 in the finals. They bagged a few other championships which were on offer the same year including the Archibald Perera Trophy, Lady Jayatilake Shield, R. S. de Saram Memorial Shield and the Michael Gunaratne Trophy. He toured Thailand and Malaysia in 1989 with the college team as a reward for their achievements.

Whilst he was a schoolboy, he represented the Havelock Sports Club in

1988 captained by the late N.H. Karunasena, coached by Anton Benedict and Gamini Fernando. During his swash-buckling rugby career, he was a utility player occupying several positions including the number eight, flanker and second row. Played for Havelocks from 1988 to 1995 while captaining them in 1993 and the Sri Lanka under-20 and 24 teams.

The Park Club was coached by Anton Benedict, Gamini Fernando, Y.C. Chang, Nimal Lewke and Ana Saranapala. During his tenure with CH and FC for two seasons in 1996 and 1997 he was coached by Tony Amit.

He was called to don the National jersey with the Sri Lanka under-19 team which toured Thailand coached by late Quentin Israel. He played as a flanker and second row forward with the National sides. He toured Hong Kong with the under-24 National team and was a regular member of the National team from 1992 to 1997 led by Priyaththa Ekanayake, Represented

Sri Lanka in the Rugby Asiads of 1992, 1994 and 1996. Represented Sri Lanka in the Quadrangular trophy in Thailand and Malaysia in 1997, which they won. Played against the visiting teams from PNG, Fiji representing the national team. He was coached by many

great personalities at the National level namely Anton Benedict, Ana Saranapala, Tony Amit, the late Daya Jayasundera and Ajith Abeyratne. The national team was managed by Dr. Maiva Gunasekera in the latter part of his career. He was also fortunate to be guided by some foreign coaches namely Chris Padfield from Wales, the former All Black Jeff Matheson and the late George Simpkin.

Some of his unforgettable memories in his rugby career was winning the Schools Rugby Tournament and R. Premadasa Trophy in 1989 and winning the Quadrangular trophy with the National team in Thailand in 1997.

He joined ANZ Grindlays Bank in 1990 and continued until 2001. Migrated to Australia in 2001 and re-joined the ANZ Bank and worked until 2011 in Retail, Business and Institutional

Banking. Currently owning and managing a Wealth Management and Mortgage Brokering Business in Sydney and co-owning an education franchise with wife Manojji His elder daughter Shivani (13) is a NSW state 100 metres sprinter and 'A' grade netball player. Aliysha (10) his second daughter represents her school in netball and basketball. He is currently domiciled in the Hills District of Sydney, Australia.

## Mishell Saumya Fernando a swimmer par excellence

DILWIN MENDIS  
Moratuwa Sports  
Special Correspondent

Swimmer and Athlete Warnakulasuriya Mishell Saumya Fernando brought honour and fame to her Alma Mater Dankotuwa Balika Vidyalaya. She was admitted to the Grade One of this school in 2009.

When she was in the Primary School she took part in the School Inter House Sports Meets and won places. Her events were 50 and 100 metres and after performing well she participated in the Divisional Meets but could not win places in the Zonal Meets.

When she was in Grade Eight her parents Raju Manoj Fernando and Krishanthi Priyadarshani encouraged her to take up to swimming and admitted her to a private swimming academy at Nainamadama and she came under Ranil Peiris, Awantha Geethadewa and Kingsley Kumara and underwent training seriously. Her first swimming meet was Puttalam District Meet and in the Butterfly 100 metres, Freestyle 50 metres and Individual Med-



Mishell Saumya

ley 200 metres she came first and was adjudged as the under 13 Champion in 2013 and in the following year in the same tournament she became the Joint Champion by winning Individual Medley 200 metres Freestyle and second in 100 metres Butterfly event and in the All Island Meet she could not come up to expectations and in 2015 at the District meet she swept the board by winning 200 metres Individual Medley 100 and 200 metres butterfly events and in the North

Western Provincial Meet too she clinched the Championship by winning the same events

Competing in the under 15 age group too she became the District Champion in 2016 by winning 100 and 200 metres Freestyle and 200 metres butterfly events and at the Provincial Meet she came first in 200 metres butterfly and came second in the other two events and in the Nationals she came fourth in the 200 metres butterfly and finally in the club level participating in the under 18 age group she became the District Champion by winning 100 and 200 metres Free Style and 200 metres butterfly and in the Provincial Meet too she was the champion and participating at the National Championship she could not win a place.

Mishell's first school meet was in 2018 in the under 15 age group and once again she swept the board in 50 metres butterfly, and 200 metres Individual Medley and became the Champion and in the All Island Novices Championship she was the Girl's under 15 Champion.

In 2019 too she won the Championship at the District Level by doing her pet events. Her Teacher in Charge of Swimming is Mrs. Arunalatha Gunethi.

She got through the GCE Ordinary Level Examination with flying colours and for her higher studies she joined Dhammissara National School in 2020 and it is Dhammissara's gain and Dankotuwa Balikas loss. Due to Coronavirus she could not participate in swimming in the last year at school level.



The competitors who participated in the Puttalam District swimming meet. Mishell Saumya Fernando is standing fourth from right in the back row. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

## Kimuthu Sanithma a top class swimmer

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA  
Kandy Sports  
Special Correspondent

Kimuthu Sanithma de Silva, a Grade Eleven student of Mahamaya Girls' School Kandy is an outstanding swimmer who was at St. Anthony's Girls' School Katugastota upto Grade.2 and then was admitted to Mahamaya due to her talent in swimming.

She had a great interest in swimming when she was five years old when she accompanied her sister and saw her practicing swimming and she started swimming at the tender age of five years. Kimuthu participated at the two Mile Sea swim at Mount Lavinia from age of 16 years. She secured the second place in the 50 Metre Backstroke in the Under14 All island Schools Sports festival in the year



Kimuthu Sanithma de Silva

2017. In the same year at the Junior National Aquatic Championship she secured the second place in the 200 Metre, third in 800 Metres and again third in 1500 metres at the Freestyle events and again finished third in the National Age Group Championship in the 1500 Metre Freestyle event. Kimuthu participated at the 4 x 200 Freestyle Relay at the National Short Course



Kimuthu Sanithma in action at a swimming meet. (Pictures by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr)

Championship and her team secured the third place and at the 2 x 100 Metre Freestyle event they became second. At the Sri Lanka Schools Aquatic Sports Championship she came second in 200 Metre and third in 400 Metre free style events in the Under 14 age group. In the following year she secured the second place in 200 Metre Backstroke and 100 Metre Backstroke in the

Under 15 age group and she secured the third place in the 800 Metre Freestyle event at the National Short Course Championship.

In the year 2019 she participated at the Sri Lanka Schools Championship in the under 17 age group and secured the first place in both 100 Metre and 200 Metre backstroke events and was placed third in the 50 Metre Backstroke event

at the All Island Swimming Meet. She secured the second place in the 100 Metre and 200 Metre Freestyle and 100 Metre Backstroke events. At the XLV National Sports Festival she became third in the 200 Metre Backstroke. In the year 2018 and 2019 she was awarded the Zonal Colours at the Zonal Colours award Ceremony held in Kandy and she was also awarded Central Province colours and school colours.

In every Sea swim meet she has received Merit Certificates. Kimuthu is thankful to her Swimming Coach U.H. Sugath and the former Principal of Mahamaya Indra Withanachchi for the guidance given to her. Her ambition is to join the Kotalawala Defence Academy after her G.C.E.(A/L) Examination.

## Kalutara District VB Training Camp concludes successfully



Officials of the Kalutara District Volleyball Association

SUNIL SHANTHA,  
Kalutara Central Special Corr

The Kalutara District Volleyball Coaches Training Camp, organised by the Kalutara District Volleyball Association, under the sponsorship and assistance of Sri Lanka Volley-

ball Federation, Sri Lanka Volleyball Coaches Association and Sports Development Department was held at the Bandaragama Indoor Sports Stadium, recently.

Over 100 coaches from the Kalutara District participated in this

two-day training camp conducted by national level volleyball coaches of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Coaches Association and Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation

. Kalutara District Parliamentarian and the Chairman of the

Bandaragama Volleyball Association, Lalith Ellawala with Bandaragama Divisional Secretary Mrs. Ruwini Deepani Samarasingha and Bandaragama PS Chairman Devendra Perera inaugurated the training camp on the first day.



The training camp in progress (Pictures by Sunil Shantha, Kalutara Central Special Corr)

## Kandy's Olympic heroes in athletics and boxing



HAFIZ MARIKAR

Kandy has produced several Olympic heroes especially in athletics and boxing. Here are some of them who have brought honour and fame to their home town with their achievements

**DUNCAN WHITE** - In the 1948, Wembley Olympics 400 metres hurdles, the most colourful of all track events, there was an obscure youth from a little known island. The stands swelled with cheering spectators, cameras whirred and the air hummed with the voice of famous commentators of the finalist line up.

The loud-speakers blared their names: Two Americans confident of winning, a dour Swede, a swarthy Italian. Then the announcer said "Duncan White" of Ceylon. What notice did anyone take of the lanky youth in the sixth lane?

The pistol 'cracked' and the athletes went flat out like greyhounds. The blonde American sped strongly, the Swede also did same, and so did the man from

Ceylon. But Duncan White made his super effort, the moment he had been waiting for. Big hearted and with the determination written all over his face he flashed past the Swede to take second place. Thus were Kandy and Ceylon engraved on the sports map of the world.

At Trinity Duncan White won his 'Lion' in Athletics. He captained the athletic team. He was also a ruggierite of repute. He broke the Public Schools 220 yards record and won the 120 yards hurdles event and long jump. He also established a 440 yards record and was selected to participate at the first Empire Games held in Australia in 1938. He was national champion for many years in the following events - 120 yards hurdles, 440 yards hurdles and 400 metres hurdles.

White led the first Ceylon Olympic team to London in 1948 and won the Silver Medal in 400 metres hurdles, the first and only Ceylonese to win a Olympic Medal at that time. He won the 440 yards hurdles at the first Indo-Ceylon contest, smashing the Indian record. He became the British and Irish Universities 440 yards hurdles champion and

record holder while at Loughborough College, UK. He also captained the Ceylon team to Commonwealth Games in New Zealand and took the Gold Medal in 440 yards hurdles with a new record.

Duncan White was awarded the MBE for his contribution to sports. The first sportsman in Ceylon to be thus honoured.

He obtained the Diploma in Physical Education of Loughborough College, UK in 1951 and was appointed Ceylon's National Athletics Coach in 1958. He left Ceylon subsequently to take up an appointment as Director of Athletics at University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

**LESLIE DONOVAN PERERA HANDUNGE** - The first Sri Lankan to enter an Olympic ring and win a bout was the second son of Kandy to blaze the Olympic trail. At school he was known as Perera. He joined Trinity College as a schoolboy from Matale, and was guided on the correct path by the coaches.

One time Director of Physical Education of the Peradeniya University, Leslie Handunge the second son of Kandy to blaze

the Olympic trail. He represented Ceylon at the 1948 Olympic Games and was the first Ceylonese to enter an Olympic ring and win an Olympic bout. He led the Ceylon team to the 1952 Olympic Games.

Handunge excelled at Trinity College in four major games - Cricket, Boxing, Ruggar and Athletics, and after leaving school, he played inter-club hockey, football and ruggar for Kandy Sports Club and Kandy YMCA.

Handunge was a Diploma holder in Physical Education of Loughborough College, UK. He was the first Ceylonese to obtain this Diploma and obtained his Master's Degree in Physical Education from Springfield, USA. He had to work his way through at both these institutions.

He won his first National Title in 1944, the Flyweight category. He won the Best Boxer's Award at the Intermediate, Meet. Albert Perera Farewell Meet and National Championships. He represented the University of Ceylon at boxing and ruggar and was the British and Irish University Bantamweight champion

boxer while at Loughbrough College.

**MALCOLM BULNER** - a product of St. Sylvester's College, the one and only Kandy product, if not in the world who was selected to represent two different countries at two different Olympic games. In 1964 Tokyo Olympics he represented Ceylon and was later selected to represent Australia at the following Olympic Games. But was deprived of achieving this rare feat owing to technical reasons. However, he later qualified as a world class boxing judge and officiated at several boxing meets in Australia. He also boxed for Sri Lanka at the Empire Games in Perth and the Asian Games in Bangkok.

He also represented Ceylon at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

Malcolm was the eldest of the famous Bulner brothers and later became an Australian national. Bulner a south paw was the best boxer produced by Derrick Raymond the famous coach. Bulner won several national titles before migrating to Australia. His three brothers Michael, Noel and Clifford too

were good fighters in the lower weight class.

**SELLAPPULIYAGE LUCIAN BENEDICT ROSA** is a former Sri Lankan long-distance runner. Arguably, the greatest long distance runner Sri Lanka has produced, and was hailed as one of the finest track stars in Asia. He was once the Chief Cross Country Coach of the University of Wisconsin, Parkside, USA. He represented Sri Lanka at the 1972 Summer Olympics held in Munich, Germany. He is best known for running bare footed and winning a 5000 metres and the 10,000 metres double at the 1970 Asian Games held in Bangkok, Thailand.

His performance in 10,000 metres was also an Asian Games record. At the Asian Games in Bangkok in 1966, he won the bronze medal in both 5000 metres and 10,000 metres. His personal best performance in the 10,000 metres, 29:18.0 minutes, still stands as a Sri Lankan national record since 1975. Born in Kandy, Rosa started his athletic career at Roman Catholic School, Ampitiya. Later he joined the Army and continued to pursue athletics. He led the Sri Lankan team in the

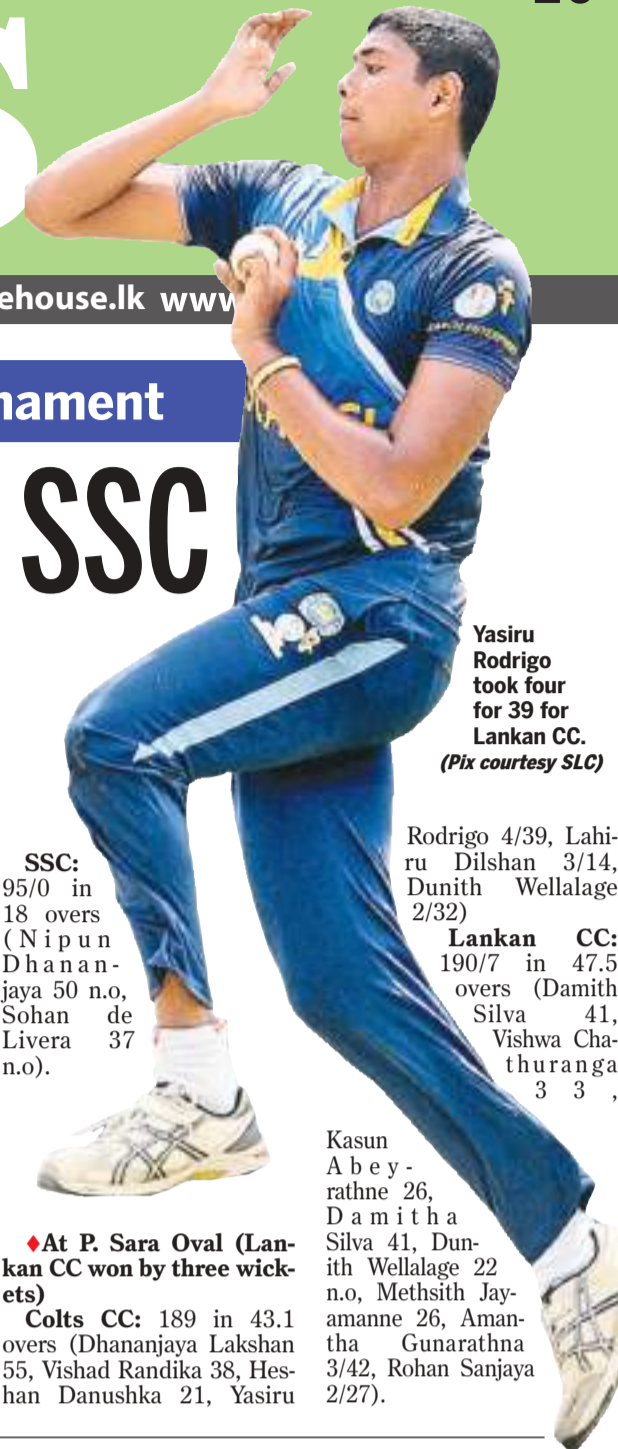
1972 Olympics He was in Ceylon Olympic squad in 1968 but country sent only a three-man team, which did not include Lucian, to Mexico due to financial difficulties. T

When he took part in Olympics the talk in Kandy was will he run barefooted or will he wear spikes? Product of one of Kandy's Roman Catholic Schools, it was only after joining the Army that he began to show his top form.

All the reputed long distance runners at the time were from Ampitiya, and for a time they were his seniors. He joined the first field Regiment of Ceylon Engineers of the Army, and Col.P. D. Ramanayake, a great sports promoter and his Commanding Officer took him in hand. Rosa started winning almost all major awards at AAA and Service Meets. Later he left the Army and joined the Ceylon Transport Board. His 10,000 metres timing was bettered by only five Olympic champions at that time. The 6th Asian Games named him its "Golden Boy", and Kandy gave him a heroes welcome at a public reception on Bogambara ground.

Sports Editor: 922

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Yasiru Rodrigo took four for 39 for Lankan CC. (Pix courtesy SLC)

SLC Major Club Under-23 Cricket Tournament

# Lankan CC will face SSC in Sunday's final



Nipun Dhananjaya (SSC) celebrates his fifty.

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**  
Lankan CC set up a final showdown against the SSC in the SLC Major Clubs Under-23 Cricket Tournament when both teams won their respective semi-final matches in Colombo, yesterday.

Lankan CC created a major upset as they defeated Colts CC by three wickets at the P. Sara Oval, while SSC trounced Baduraliya CC by 10 wickets in a one-sided contest at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place.

Colts CC, batting first, were restricted to 189 in 43.1 overs with Dhananjaya Lakshan making a top score of 55.

In reply, Lankan CC despite losing wickets at reg-

ular intervals, reached their target with two overs and three wickets to spare.

Damith Silva (41), Vishwa Chathuranga (33), Kasun Abeyrathne (26), Damitha Silva (41), Dunith Wellalage (22 n.o.), and Methsith Jayamanne (26) made valuable contributions for Lankan CC.

Meanwhile, SSC's emphatic win was set up by their bowlers as Baduraliya CC were shot out for a mere 93 runs in 34 overs after they were put in to bat.

Mithira Thenura (22) and Thamindu Wickramaarachchi (22) were the only two batsmen to offer any kind of resistance to the opposition.

SSC's Dilum Thilakarathna wrecked the Baduraliya

CC batting line-up with figures of five for 27, while Chamindu Wickramasinghe (2/7) provided back-up support.

SSC, in reply, raced to their target in just 18 overs with opener Nipun Dhananjaya smashing an unbeaten half century.

The final between Lankan CC and SSC will be worked off on Sunday at the SSC Grounds in Maitland Place.

**Chief scores**

♦ **At NCC Grounds (SSC won by 10 wickets)**

**Baduraliya CC:** 93 in 34 overs (Mithira Thenura 22, Thamindu Wickramaarachchi 22, Dilum Thilakarathna 5/27, Chamindu Wickramasinghe 2/7)

**SSC:**

95/0 in 18 overs (Nipun Dhananjaya 50 n.o., Sohan de Livera 37 n.o.)

♦ **At P. Sara Oval (Lankan CC won by three wickets)**

**Colts CC:** 189 in 43.1 overs (Dhananjaya Lakshan 55, Vishad Randika 38, Heshan Danushka 21, Yasiru

Rodrigo 4/39, Lahiru Dilshan 3/14, Dunith Wellalage 2/32)

**Lankan CC:** 190/7 in 47.5 overs (Damitha Silva 41, Vishwa Chathuranga 33)

Kasun Abeyrathne 26, Damitha Silva 41, Dunith Wellalage 22 n.o., Methsith Jayamanne 26, Amantha Gunarathna 3/42, Rohan Sanjaya 2/27).

## The Road Safety World Series

### Dilshan leads Lanka Legends

Former Sri Lankan all-rounder Tillakaratne Dilshan will lead the Sri Lanka Legends team for 'The Road Safety World Series' Twenty20 extravaganza featuring the global superstars of cricket from 5 to 21 March in Raipur, India. The Lankan squad will leave on 1 March.

These legends will not only be playing cricket, but they will also be lending their might towards a greater cause - creating awareness about road safety in India. The 'Road Safety World Series' has got the blessings and approval of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and will feature some of the biggest names in the game from Australia, India, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies.

This year's tournament will welcome England and Bangladesh Legends as the competition expands. The first edition of the series saw some notable retired players from India, Australia, Sri Lanka, West Indies and South Africa like Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Ramesh Kaluwitharana, Zaheer Khan, Brian Lara, Muthiah Muralitharan, Chaminda Vaas, Carl Hooper and Shivnarine Chandernepu. Former India captain,



Sunil Gavaskar is the commissioner of the series, while Sachin Tendulkar will be the brand ambassador.

Known as the dark horse to win it all, the Sri Lanka Legends is a balanced and experienced unit. Under the leadership of Dilshan at the top and backed by the experience of Sanath Jayasuriya, Nuwan Kulasekera, Upul Tharanga, Russel Arnold and Rangana Herath, the side poses a genuine threat to others in fray. The squad comprises some newly retired players who will add to the scale of experience and skill as they campaign to win their first ever trophy.

**The match itinerary** - March 5, India Legends vs. Bangladesh Legends, March 6, Sri Lanka Legends vs. West Indies Legends, March 7, England Legends vs. Bangladesh Legends, March 8, South Africa Legends vs. Sri Lanka Legends, March 9, India Legends vs. England

Legends, March 10, Bangladesh Legends vs. Sri Lanka Legends, March 11, England Legends vs. South Africa Legends, March 12, Bangladesh Legends vs. West Indies Legends, March 13, India Legends vs. South Africa Legends, March 14, Sri Lanka Legends vs. England Legends, March 15, South Africa Legends vs. Bangladesh Legends, March 16, England Legends vs. West Indies Legends, March 17, Semifinal 1, March 18, Semifinal 2, March 21, Road Safety World Series 2021 Final.

**Squad:** Tillakaratne Dilshan (c), Upul Tharanga, Chamara Silva, Chinthaka Jayasinghe, Thilina Thushara, Dhammika Prasad, Rangana Herath, Chamara Kapugedera, Duljanjana Wijesinghe, Nuwan Kulasekera, Russel Arnold, Ajantha Mendis, Farveez Maharoof, Sanath Jayasuriya, Shyam Impett (Manager), Dr. Manjula Prasad (Team Doctor) - (AN)

## Sandithi and Gehansa shine at SSC Open

The quarter-final line-up in the Girls' Under-12 Open Singles was completed on the seventh day of the SSC Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SSC Courts in Maitland Place, yesterday.

The best effort came from Sandithi Usgodaarachchi of Musaeus College as she outplayed Venuli Jayasinghe in straight sets 6-3, 6-2 in the first

quarter-final. Meanwhile, Gehansa Methnadi, another schoolgirl from Musaeus College also reached the semi-finals with a 6-3, 7-5 win over Akeesha Silva in her quarter-final fixture.

In addition, Movindi Fernando of Newstead Girls' College, Negombo and Githmi Fernando of Ave Maria Convent, Negombo also made it to

the semi-finals of the Girls' Under-12 Tournament.

**Results:**

**Girls' Under-12 (quarter-finals):** Sandithi Usgodaarachchi beat Venuli Jayasinghe 6-3, 6-2. Gehansa Methnadi beat Akeesha Silva 6-3, 7-5. Movindi Fernando beat Nimesha Shehara 6-2, 6-2. Githmi Fernando beat Nisali Dissanayake 6-2, 6-4.

## Devans Premier League T10 Tournament today and tomorrow at Rathgama

Devans Premier League T10 Cricket tournament played among the present and past cricketers of Devapathiraja College Rathgama for T.A.C.C.N. Gunasekara Memorial Challenge Trophy will be held on February 27 and 28 at Rathgama public grounds.

Two Sri Lankan Cricketers Tharindu Kaushal and Nirwantha Thikshila de Silva, Sri Lanka under 19 player Dilshan Kanchana, Club Cricketers Chalana De Silva, Raveen Yasaras,

Roshan Lakmal Wijenayake, Pethum Madhusanka, Tharindu Nuwan, Chathura Lakshan, Thisara Dilshan, Kalpa Chethiya, Sudeera Weeraratne, Pawan Sandesh, Jeewaka Shasheen will play in this tournament.

Devapathiraja College Rathgama has produced many talented cricketers at all levels.

They were runner up of the Astra Cup under 16 division three tournament in 2004 under Darshana Srimal Hewawasam and

emerged under 13 division Two champions in 2011 under the captaincy of D. Nilanka Rukshitha.

Devapathiraja College Rathgama was the runner up of Under 19 Singer Trophy division three tournament under Lahiru Madhuwantha in 2013/2014 and emerged champions of Singer Trophy under 19 division Two tournament under Pathum Madhusanka Mendis in 2017/2018. Devapathiraja played in Division One in all age groups under

13,15,17 and 19. They won these titles under the guidance of Y. Nishantha Kumara, master in charge and Ranjan Lasantha de Silva as coach. The four teams are Devan Soldiers Devan Gladiators Devan Fighters and Devan Juniors

The four teams will play on a league basis. Leader and second place of the points table will meet in the final and No.3 and No 4 will meet in the consolation final. - YK

## Super League (pre-season) matches

### CFC vs UpCountry Lions takes top billing

**ALTHAF NAWAZ**  
The clash between Colombo Football Club (CFC) and Up-Country Lions Sports Club will be the key fixture in the Pre-League soccer tournament at the Sugathadasa Stadium today. The match will commence at 8.00 p.m. Red Star Sports Club will take on Defenders Sports Club at 5.00 p.m.

With the support of nine newly players from local clubs, UpCountry Lions from Nawalapitiya has the edge over their rival's CFC. National skipper and goalkeeper Sujan Perera, who was playing for Maldives for quite some time, withdrew from his Maldivian team, the Club Eagles, to sign up with them. He will lead them in this pre-league, followed by the inaugural 'Super League' tournament scheduled to begin from mid-April.

Sujan's team comprises Kavindu Ishan, M.M.M. Mushtaq, Mohamed Shifan, Khalid Azmil, Pathum Vimukthi, Mohamed Muzni and M. Nitharshan, making a strong composition with some national pool players and marquee player. The other feature of this side is the inclusion of the German-born and National poolist Wasim Razik. They will also have the services of the three Gha-

nian national players John Evans, Gyabaah Simons, and Elijah Aryee.

With a 13-year history in this game, UpCountry Lions are yet to win a major tournament. They are focused on this tournament, which is a prelude to the main tournament in April. They commenced practices almost 75 days ago, after being under a Bio-Bubble environment before. They are under the watchful eyes of head coach Mohamed Raheem and his assistant Kosala Navaratne. Mohamed Azwar is the goalkeeper coach.

CFC will rely on the same team with some positional changes, which defeated Blue Eagles 2-0 last week. They will be led by Ivory Coast player Momas Yato, who plays as a midfielder. Their starting up line will consist of Charitha Ratnayake, Zarwan Johar, Chalana Chameera, Chamud Dilshan, and Shabeer Rizunya who are all in the National pool.

"We are in the process of experimenting, by shuffling players in several positions during this phase of the tournament before we play in the main tournament in April. We pos-



sess a well-balanced side that is maturing into a formidable outfit with every match. Our target is to gear up for that main tournament irrespective of the results in these games," said CFC coach Hassan Romy.

Meanwhile, in the other game at 5.00 p.m., Red Star Sports Club will confront Defenders Sports Club. Red Star lost 2-0 to their town mates Blue Star in their curtain-raiser. According to their team coaching staff, they had very limited training before the commencement of this tournament due to the isolation period in their area with the second wave of COVID-19.

## Galaxy Cup Volleyball Tourney from March 16

**SHERIFDEEN AMATH**

The inaugural Galaxy Cup National Volleyball Championship 2021, organised by the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVF) and hosted by Baosheng Lanka Investment Holding (Pvt) Limited, will commence on March 16 at the Volleyball House Sports Complex in Dadalla, Galle.

The championship will be conducted on a Super League basis for Under-25

players for both Men and Women. The first round matches will start from March 16 to 22 and the semi-finals will be played at the NYSC Indoor Stadium in Maharagama on March 26 and 27, while the finals will be worked off at same venue on April 10.

Army SC, Navy SC, Air Force SC, NYSC, United SC, Nattandiya, CEB, Joseph Vaz SC, and Golden Tigers SC will clash in the Men's category, while

Army SC, Navy SC, Air Force SC, NYSC, Hirdaramani SC, MAS Casual-line, Mahauswewa SC, Golden Birds SC, Vijayaba SC, Hungama, and Super Kings SC, Ampara will compete in the women's event.

The winners of each category will be offered a cash award of Rs. 1 million and a trophy while the runners-up and third places will receive Rs.500,000 and Rs.200,000 respectively.



Chairman of Baosheng Lanka Holding Fu Zhong Yue (third from right) handing over the sponsorship cheque to President of SLVF Dr. Ranjith Siyambalapatiya. Also in the picture are (from left): General Secretary SLVF A. S. Nalaka, Vice-President SLVF Kanchana Jayaratne, General Manager Baosheng Lanka Holdings Liang Jin, and Hu Minghao. (Picture by Ranjith Asanka)

## Tharusha, Thinula propel Pathana

**HAFIZ MARIKAR**

Two half centuries from Tharusha Nethasara (82) and Thinula Liyanage (65) helped Ispathana College reach 191 runs in their first innings on the opening day of their Inter-Schools Under-19 practice match against St. Anthony's College, which commenced at Katugastota yesterday.

The Antonians were 20 for one wicket at stumps having faced a total of 11 overs.

**Chief scores**

**Ispathana:** 191 in 83 overs (Tharusha Nethasara 82, Thinula Liyanage 65, Savindu Uthara 19, Divyesh Ramiah 2/33, Asitha Wanninayake 3/35, Yasiru Gamaarachchi 2/20) **St. Anthony's:** 20/1 in 11 overs.