

264,000 COVAX **Vaccine** doses here tomorrow

UNICEF has procured and will deliver the first shipment of 264,000 doses of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine on Sunday, as part of the first allocation of the 1.44 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the WHO COVAX Facility to the Ministry of Health, UNICEF said yesterday.

Led by UNICEF, the procurement and delivery of this supply of the vaccines through the COVAX Facility underpins the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and will provide critical vaccination support for 20 per cent of the population. TO PAGE 02

Death of former Editor-in-Chief of Daily News Bandula Jayasekera

Senior Journalist, Newspaper Editor and Diplomat Bandula Jayasekera passed away at the age of 60 yesterday. He



was the Editorin-Chief of the Daily News in 2006-2007.

He also served as Director General, President's Office Media Unit for some time during President Mahinda Rajapaksa's tenure and Director General (Public Communication) at the External Affairs Ministry. His last foray in media was at SirasaTV where he worked until recently as a talk show host, including for the popular 'Pathikada' pro-gramme. TOPAGE 02





SATURDAY MARCH 06, 2021 | 20 PAGES | VOLUME - 103 - NO 56 | RS. 30.00 | REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN SRI LANKA | LATE CITY ★

will be held in the village of Weragala in the Giribawa Divisional Secretariat in Kurunegala District

SAMAGA PILIS The 13th phase of today, under the Auspices ministers, state ministers, the Gama Samaga

of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Pilisandarak programme The program will be commenced at Maduragama Playground at 10 am

with the participation of

public representatives, ministry secretaries and public officials.

The Gama Samaga Pilisandarak programme which is a brainchild

of President Gotabaya them in policy making. Rajapaksa is designed to In the divisional secretariat area, there are 35 meet the people in the rural areas and under-Grama Sevaka Niladhari stand their issues first divisions and out of them hand in order to address Weragala is considered to them while considering be the poorest and the

one with most difficulties. The Maduragama village is also in a similar state. The Weragala village has 147 families who mostly depend on agriculture.

ELECTRICITY FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS BY YEAR-END 99.8 PERCENT PENETRATION ACHIEVED

WORK STARTS ON FIRST LNG POWER PLANT **MORE SOLAR, WIND POWER PLANTS**

SANDASEN MARASINGHE

Electricity provision in the country will reach 100 percent by the end of this year, said Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday.

He said that so far the Government had provided electricity to 99.8 percent of households and there are only 84,000 families left to be provided with electricity. He added measures have been taken to provide them with electricity.

He made this observation at the foundation stone laying ceremony at Kerawalapitiya for the construction of the first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plant

in Sri Lanka to add another 350 MW to the National Grid to cater the increasing demand for the electricity.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs.40 billion and its first phase would be completed within 21 months which would add 220 MW to the national grid

and the second phase would be completed within next 12 months which would add 130 MW to the national grid. Prime Minister Rajapaksa said this LNG power plant would be constructed with the latest technology and become a massive leap in the power sector in the country. **TO PAGE O2**

Two SLAF flying squadrons honoured with Presidential Colour

Two flying squadrons of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) were honoured by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with the award of the Presidential Colour in recognition of their exceptional service and contribution to the nation.

President Rajapaksa said that we should pay the nation's tribute to the members of the Air Force who made tremendous sacrifices, including the ultimate sacrifice, in ensuring peace in our nation. He said that maintaining the security of the nation is the primary responsibility of the Armed Forces, including the Air Force. TO PAGE O2

Inland Revenue Dept. to be summoned before COPA again

The Inland Revenue Department is to be summoned again before the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) on March 10 to review the progress of tax and penalty collection.

The Committee on Public Accounts came to a decision during its meeting held on January 6 to publicize all the institutions which have failed to pay the due levy by submitting a list of such institutions to the Media and Chairman of the Committee Prof. Tissa Vitharana further instructed the Inland Revenue Department to submit to the Committee a list of institutions who have failed to pay the due levy within two months. TO PAGE O2



Indigenous medicine system second to none - Prof. G.L.

AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI The Indigenous medicine system of Sri Lanka is not second to any other





advanced medical system in the world Education Minister Professor G.L. Peiris yesterday (04) said.

Professor Peiris made this observation at the ceremony of re-establishing the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Indigenous Medical College as a University on March 04 under the patronage of the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. TO PAGE 02



Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga has appealed to the Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma to intervene into several incidents in which the tourist hotel operators complained that their power supply had been disconnected despite the government's decision not to do so with the tourist hotels. TO PAGE O2



Female doctors and nurses are playing a major role in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic here and abroad. As the world celebrates the International Women's Day on Monday under the theme ""Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world", our photographer captured this scene at the Blood Bank at Colombo National Hospital where Dr. Ajitha Gamage and her team of nurses are seen analysing the blood samples of patients. (Picture by Sulochana Gamage)

empowerment - UN

Sri Lanka is making progress towards an equal future with equal opportunities for women in leadership, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy said yesterday, on the eve of the International Women's



Day Hamdy said: "In 2020 alone, the country wrote a new chapter in its history with the appointment of Bimshani Jasin Arachchi as the first ever female Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Sri Lanka Police. Weeks later, Kasturi Chellaraja was appointed as the first female Group CEO of a major conglomerate in Sri Lanka. Amidst such achievements, the COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted the centrality of women's contributions in our collective response and in the journey towards recovery. TO PAGE O2

Iranathivu not suitable for burials - Douglas

NORTHERN PROVINCE SPECIAL CORR AND ANURADHAPURA ADDITIONAL DISTRICT GROUP CORR.

Minister Douglas Devananda has informed the Government that the Iranathivu area is not suitable to bury the bodies of Muslim Coronavirus victims.

Minister Devananda has pointed out to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa that

the recent decision of the Government to bury the bodies of the Muslims who die from Covid 19 in the Iranathivu Islands area has already caused some unrest and misunderstanding among the people of the Northern Province. The Minister said that the Iranathivu

Island has been getting populated from recent times and the Navy sailors too have encamped in the locality. TO PAGE O2

Wannila Aththo's writ petition fixed for support



The writ petition filed by Uruwarige Wannila Aththo, the leader of the indigenous population known as 'Veddahs', challenging the clearing of the lands at Pollebedda-Rambakan Oya was yesterday fixed for support on May 3 by Court of Appeal. TO PAGE 02

School teacher attacked in Jaffna

NORTHERN PROVINCE SPECIAL CORR.

An unidentified gang wielding swords assaulted and wounded a male teacher in Jaffna on Thursday (4) evening.

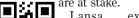
The injured teacher was admitted to the Tellippalai hospital in Jaffna following the incident which occurred at Mallakam area about 9.30 pm

The Police said that according to the evidence a group of five persons who arrived on motorcycles had slashed the teacher.

The reason for the assault is not known. He teaches Health and Physical Education at a school in Jaffna. The Tellippalai Police are investigating.

Saving Crudia tree will cost millions - Lansa

State Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure Nimal Lansa said that changing the Central Expressway plan to keep the controversial and endangered Crudia Zeylanica tree on the same site, will cost around Rs.8,000 million. The people should decide on the course of action to be taken as public funds



are at stake. Lansa expressed these views while participating in the inau-guration of road development projects in the Anuradhapura District.

Import of 6,000 swords: Probe to continue **CA directs IGP and Defence Secretary**

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday directed the Attorney General to obtain instructions from the IGP and the Defence Secretary regarding the investigations pertaining to unrecovered swords and other weapons brought into the country during the Easter Sunday attacks.

Court of Appeal Justice (President) Arjuna Obeyesekere and Justice Mayadunne Corea made this direction pursuant to a writ petition filed by Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. Senior State Counsel Awanthi Perera told the court that she is appearing for IGP and Defence Secretary in petition and sought further time to obtain instructions from the respondents.

Meanwhile, President's Sanjeewa Jayawardena appearing for the petitioner highlighted the importance of conducting an investigation into importation of 6000 swords prior to the Easter Sunday attacks. TO PAGE 02

Two PCoI reports handed over to Speaker

The final reports of the two Presidential Commissions of Inquiry were handed over to the Speaker of Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena at the Parliament Complex. The Cabinet of Ministers has granted its approval to table the final reports of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry.

The final reports of the Presidential Commissions of Inquiry were handed over to the Speaker by Director General of Legal Affairs of the Presidential Secretariat, Senior Attorney Harigupta Rohanadeera

and was also attended by the Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake.

One of the final reports submitted was the Presidential Commission of Inquiry in to Political victimization of Government Officials, staff members of State Corporations, members of the Security Forces and the members of the Police Department during the period of January 8, 2015 to November 16, 2019. The said Presidential Commission was appointed on January 20, 2020. TO PAGE 02



NEWS

concessionary grace period

their electricity bills for one

year which has again been

months due to the COVID

19 pandemic. It is at such a

time when the government

facility, that some regional

is considering extending this

CEB officials have discontin-

ued the power supply to some

"This situation will create

unnecessary and unwarranted

problems. The President and

the Prime Minister very atten-

tively listened to my explana-

tory submissions over the

Iranathivu Burial zone issue

ment will take the most appro-

priate final decision not harmful to the sentiments of the minority com-

munities in the North," Minister

Devananda told the Daily News.

In the meantime Musali Pradeshiya Sabah Chairman A G H Subikhan

said that due to objections on bury-

ing bodies of Muslim Corona Virus

already submitted a letter to Govern-

victims in Iranathivu Island, the

Musali area is the best option to bury them. He said that he has

ment officials in this connection.

and I am sure that the Govern-

Minister Ranatunga said that such

decisions would worsen the tourism

industry that has been affected severely due to the global COVID-19

tourist hotels.

pandemic.

extended by another six

for tourists hotels to pay

Electricity for all households... From page 01

This environment friendly LNG power plant would cater 13 percent of the electricity demand in the country.

He added that since the Government is acting in line with a national agenda and did not act in accordance with personal agenda, it could offer the

nation with three power plants within a short period after assuming power. He added that this government would not stop the development work commenced by any previous government for petty political gain but would complete all suitable projects.

The Prime Minister noted that this government had to face the COVID-19 pandemic no sooner were they elected. However, this Government could manage the situation far better than most of the developed countries. He added in addition the country is treading on the path of development amidst these challenges.

The previous Good Governance Government led by the UNP could not commence a single development project during their tenure but took measures to stop all development programmes that had been initiated

by their predecessor Governments which resulted in a reverse of economic development.

He said that all can remember the frequency of the power failures during the previous Good Governance Government. They did

not have any notion on the importance of an uninterrupted power supply and adding new power plants to the national grid.Premier Rajapaksa said that as his government which was in power before the Good Governance Government understood the importance of power and energy for the development of the country and realizing it was not wise to rely on hydropower only, took steps to construct a coal power plant the first time in Sri Lanka amidst many objections. However, this rationale was proved correct during the past drought seasons. Thereafter they commenced wind power plants, solar power plants as well as waste power plants for the first time in Sri Lanka. All these attempts were taken to provide electricity at a cheaper rate to

Death of former Editor-in-Chief... From page 01

As a diplomat he served in Australia, Canada and also as Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York.

Bandula Jayasekera was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome in July 2019. His efforts for a cure did not materialize and after being diagnosed as terminally ill, Jayasekera was at the palliative care centre at the Karapitiya Hospital, Galle.

Jayasekera even during his last

the people.

days took to print, electronic and social media to create public awareness on palliative care and the need for better palliative care facilities for Sri Lankans such as the one he spent his last days, the dedicated palliative care centre at Karapitiya hospital headed by Dr.Chrysantha Perera.

Excerpts of an interview done with Jayasekera from the palliative care centre in Galle appeared in the 'Daily News', February 12, 2021.

Indigenous medicine system... From page 01

"Indigenous medicine in our country is second to none. Indigenous medicine in Sri Lanka is in high demand and it is very popular among foreign countries, especially in the developed countries where there is a developed Western medical system,' Professor Peiris pointed out.

Speaking further Professor Peiris pointed out, "Health is not just about eliminating disease. This concept is the essence of Ayurvedic philosophy. Perfect health means physical as well as mental well-being. We must look at this indigenous medicine with a free mind. We must study it consciously and we should view it with pride. It should not be viewed negatively. Therefore, I believe the 16th University in our country will soon be

us study its quality with evidence and facts." Professor Peiris also said,

'If we are proud of the strength of our Sri Lankan culture and indigenous medical system, we can give the benefits of this legacy to the world. This university will be an institution that will

impart pure knowledge of Indigenous medicine to future generations. It will soon become a university which we can speak with pride. We know that even in this pandemic situation the support of indigenous medicine was crucial to keep our people healthy. Today, the COVID-19 death rate in the country is 0.5% of the total number of infected people. In the UK, Brazil, Russia and the United States it is many times more. They are countries where medicine is far more advanced than here. We should not look at everything negatively. At present 622,000 of our students are sitting for the GCE Ordinary Level Examination. Examinations will be held at 4,513 centers. It is to be concluded by March 10. After that schools will be reopened in the country. So what advice do we give when it comes to schools? That advice is entirely based on the Ayurvedic philosophy. The importance of social distancing. The importance of hand washing. The value of disinfectant use. For this our Ministry has sent Rs. 50 million worth of equipment." "There are steps we need to take beyond such preventive measures. We must educate children to lead a holistic lifestyle and to live their lives close to nature. The Ayurvedic system also contains a wealth of valuable experience in coping with mental stress," Professor Peiris added.

The members of the COPA will inquire about the measures taken by the Inland Revenue Depart-

ment to collect the taxes due. In addition, the Sri Lanka Customs has been summoned before the COPA on March 09 and "Propensity to tend Education under the Arts Stream and the Unem-

CA directs IGP and Defence... From page 01

Inland Revenue Dept. to be... From page 01

The Court fixed the petition for support on March 31.

Through this petition, Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith is seeking an order in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus directing the IGP and CID Director to conduct an inquire into the importation of the several consignments of swords and other weapons into the country, as well as the individuals and entities involved in the incident.

The petitioner stated that failure on the part of the respondents has placed in peril the entire nation and the body polity. The petitioner further said the foregoing inaction of the respondents are unreasonable, irrational, and are in patent dereliction of their duties, and furthermore, in violation of the legitimate expectation and rights of the citizenry.

The petitioner further alleged that the respondents have failed to apprehend the persons responsible for importing, supplying, distributing and handing out these consignments.

The petitioner has cited IGP C.D. Wickremaratne, CID Director Nishantha de Zoysa, Defence Secretary General Kamal Gunaratne and three others as respondents.

Petitioner states according to information received to him a company by the name of 'Sherwood'

Wannila Aththo's writ petition... From page 01

Additional Solicitor General Parinda Ranasinghe PC submitted to court that the concerned lands allocated for cultivation belonged to Mahaweli Development Authority.

While admitting the concerned lands were belonging to Mahaweli Development Authority, Counsel Pulasthi Rupasinghe appearing for the RAN Plantations (Pvt) Ltd, the sixth respondent in the petition stated that his client had utilised abandoned lands which were earlier used for chena cultivation.

The Court of Appeal two-judgebench comprising Justice (President) Arjuna Obeysekera and Justice Mayadunne Corea directed the Attorney General to obtain necessary instructions from the respondent parties regarding the petition.

ployment of Arts Graduates" will be discussed on March 23. Also, the Inland Revenue

Department is scheduled to be reconvened on March 24 and the Wildlife Conservation Department has been summoned before the COPA Committee on March 25.

("Samagama"), had imported as many as 6,000 swords. Of such numbers, 600 swords were purchased by an individual by the name of Mohomed Shifas Saththar, for a sum of Rs. 400,000. The money for the purchase of such swords had been granted by Mohomad Ibrahim Inshaf, who was the suicide bomber who detonated the bomb at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel, during the Easter terror attacks.

The Petitioner states that as per the aforementioned information, such swords, which are of a

Chinese make, were distributed among 35 individuals, who have since been arrested, and of whom 13 are Maulawis. The Petitioner states that such information elucidates the fact that 132 swords have been recovered and discovered by the police, and that there are inquiries into the recovery of the remainder of 5,400 swords. The Petitioner states that the logical inference one may draw from the above, is that the Respondents are unaware of the whereabouts of the said 5,400 swords, and that the same are still with the members of the public.

President's Counsel Sanjeeva Jayawardena with Counsel Rukshan Senadheera and Manisha Dissanayake appeared for the petitioner Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith.

Mandamus directing Central

Environmental Authority to take actions in terms of the National Environmental Act for the illegal clearing of the lands without conducting an Environmental Assessment.

Petitioners state that Pollebedda is a remote village in the dry zone situated at Mahaoya and is found on the way to Rambakan Oya Reservoir. Pollebedda is one of the traditional homelands of indigenous population

known as Veddhas of Sri Lanka. The petitioners said that deforestation and development have greatly contributed to the shrinking of their traditional lands. This has caused a progressive

decline in their number, and the community is at risk of losing its ancient traditions, which have been handed down from generation to

Power Minister urged to keep... From page 01

Despite the Government's appeal not to disconnect the power supply of tourists hotels which have been given a grace period to pay their electricity bills, there have been reports that some regional CEB officials were taking steps to discontinue the power supply to such hotels.

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga appealed to Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma to intervene in this matter and bring such actions to a standstill.

The Government has given the

Iranathivu not suitable for... From page 01

Devananda said the President and the Prime Minister promised to consider alternative approaches to the issue. The Minister expressed confidence that the final decision would be taken by the Government in a manner that would not harm the sentiments of any minority

community. The Government has already planned to earn foreign exchange worth US\$ 25 million through the recently established Iranathivu sea cucumber export village and the particular decision will hinder all such expectations and development plans and also pose a threat to the fishery industry based livelihood empowerment activities in Iranathivu, the Minister said.

Two PCol reports handed... From page 01

The other Presidential Commission of Inquiry report was on the incidents of fraud and misappropriations which have allegedly taken place at public institutions from January 14, 2015 to December 31, 2018.

Saving Crudia tree will cost... From page 01

The State Minister said, "While constructing the Central Expressway, a rare tree was found. The people of the country demand that the trees be protected. The Cabinet Ministers are all working to listen to the people and take necessary action.

This is public money. If this plan is changed, billions of rupees will have to be spent. This money belongs to the public. Environmental groups have stated that this tree could be uprooted and replanted. But we can't do that. There is a great social opinion that this tree should not be uprooted. Then we have to change the plan

by spending Rs. 8000 million. We

change the plan to leave the tree

as it is. A final decision has not

Different people have different

dential Commission on the Easter

place during the last good govern-

views on the report of the Presi-

Attack. The Easter attack took

ance government. The Easter

Attack Presidential Commission

Maithripala Sirisena. It is not a

commission appointed by Presi-

dent Gotabaya Rajapaksa. We

report of this commission. Our

have big questions about the

was appointed by former President

been taken yet.

are currently in discussions to

Cardinal hoped to find those behind the terrorist act and those who aided it. The Easter attack was not carried out by Buddhist organizations. I do not know why Buddhist organizations have been named. As Catholic MPs, as the

Catholic Church, we call for the capture of the terrorists who carried out the Easter attack. We were not talking about the Sinhala Buddhist organizations that helped us. We wonder if anyone was involved in creating a problem between the Catholics and the Buddhists. It must be clearly stated that justice was not done for the innocent people who died







able to rise to the top nationally as well as internationally."

Professor Peiris observed, "Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was in our country at the time of the tsunami disaster. He had great respect for the indigenous medical system of our country.

That is why he also donated a large sum of money to our country. I also met K. Shanmugam, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs and the current Minister of the Home Affairs in Singapore, at the Wadduwa Indigenous Medical Hotel. He often comes there for treatment, stress relief, meditation and so on.

These VIPs strongly believe in and respect the indigenous medical system of our country.

It is worth wondering whether we as citizens have much respect for our medical heritage. We must understand that our medical system has a great deal of international recognition. Let

Two SLAF flying squadrons... From page 01

Uruwarige Wannila Aththo and the Centre for Environmental Justice filed this petition seeking an interim order staying the validity of approvals granted to Mahaweli Authority for the proposed Agriculture, Livestock Development Project. The petitioners are further seeking an order to halt the clearing of the lands at Pollebedda-Rambakan Oya, one of the traditional homelands of indigenous population.

Filing this petition through counsel Ravindranath Dabare, the petitioners have named Central Environmental Authority, Mahaweli Development Authority, Department of Forests, Department of Wild Life Conservation. Minister of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, RAN Plantations (Pvt) Ltd and several others as respondents.

The petitioners are also seeking an order in the nature of a Writ of

264,000 COVAX Vaccine... From page 01

The President made these remarks addressing the Presidential Colour Awarding ceremony held at Air Force Base Katunayake, yesterday (05).

The President presented colours to the No. 05 Fighter Jet Squadron and the No 06 Transport Helicopter Squadron of the Sri Lanka Air Force, which have a proud history of over seven decades, under the theme 'Protecting the Lankan Skies' ('SurakimuLakambara').

The Presidential Colour Award is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon any unit of the armed forces by Commander-in-Chief. With this, the Sri Lanka Air Force has been awarded 13 Presidential Colours.

The President pointed out that sincere international cooperation that recognizes and values our shared humanity will help us to successfully face many of the threats in this present era that cut across national boundaries. "It underscores the need for the utmost preparedness in a complex, dynamic and continually challenging global environment," the President said.

President Rajapaksa appreciated the presence of representatives of several friendly foreign Air Forces and said, "Their presence is a testament to the friendly ties between our nations, and it reaffirms the

importance of sustaining and strengthening these bonds".

After the awards ceremony, the President inspected C-130 Squadron Nos. 02 and 05 at Sri Lanka Air Force Base, Katunayake.

The President also observed the Indian Air Force aircrafts and posed for a group photo with the pilots.

The book written by Air Commander Commodore ChannaDissanayake on the theme "70 years of Air Power of Sri Lanka Air Force" was presented to the President.

Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal SudharshanaPathirana presented a memento to the President.

After posing for a photo with the Air Force Board of Directors, the President made a note in the Sri Lanka Air Force Special Guest Book.

Western Province Governor Marshal of the Air Force RoshanGoonetileke, Defence Secretary Retired General Kamal Gunaratne, Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander General Shavendra Silva, Commander of the Navy Vice Admiral NishanthaUlugetenne, Commander of the Air Force Air Marshal Sudharshana-Pathirana, IGP C.D. Wickramaratne, Air Chiefs and delegations from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and the US Pacific Air Forces and their family members participated on this occasion.

The first 264,000 doses from COVAX will be for the most vulnerable persons above 60 years of age group in the most high-risk areas impacted by COVID-19.

As part of the agreement between the Ministry of Health and the COVAX Facility, the supply of the 1.44 million doses will be procured by UNICEF in stages until May 2021, subject to the availability from manufacturers and authorization by WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL).

The UNICEF led supply operation to Sri Lanka on behalf of the COVAX Facility is part of one of the largest global vaccine procurement and supply operations that covers the procurement and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to 92 low- and lower middle-income countries around the world. As the largest single vaccine buyer in the world, UNICEF is currently geared to deliver 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines globally in 2021.

The first shipment of 264,000 COVAX vaccines is being delivered through UNICEF via Emirates Sky Cargo. Additionally, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health to support Sri Lanka's preparedness to receive vaccines and roll-out vaccination plans as part of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan of the Ministry of Health including supply and logistics, and risk communigeneration.

Petitioners state that an area of approximately 500 ha had already been cleared for the Proposed Agricultural and Livestock Development Project at Pollebedda-Rambakan Oya according to the site inspection carried out by the petitioners.

The petitioner states the Central Environmental Authority is the apex body for the protection of the Environment in Sri Lanka and they have failed in their statutory duties to take cognizance of the clearing taking place in the said area and had permitted to proceed with the proposed project without an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) instead of taking actions against the relevant parties for clearing amounting to 500 acres of forest cover in a water catchment area without obtaining approval in terms of the National Environmental Act.

cation and demand generation. This

involves technical support to ensure

Chains Management (ISCM) system

including the Cold Chain, is in place

out the Covid-19 vaccine even to the

most difficult-to-reach communities;

and the development and implemen-

tation of a COVID-19 risk communi-

cation and community engagement

The COVAX Facility is a global

collaboration to ensure everyone

around the world is provided with

equal access to COVID-19 vaccines.

The Facility supports the research,

wide range of COVID-19 vaccines,

price negotiation, and enable equal

access to all participating countries.

The COVAX Facility is coordinated

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness

by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the

Innovations (CEPI) and the WHO,

with UNICEF leading procurement,

logistics and storage globally.

development and manufacturing of a

strategies.

and ready to receive, store and roll-

that the Immunization Supply

lines in our response as

"This year, International Women's Day celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world, and their role in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Key to this recovery is sustainable and inclusive development which, relies on ending discrimination towards women – we cannot deliver on the promise of 'leaving no one behind' in development, if half of our world is left underrepresented in places of power, excluded from decision making or

"As the pandemic deepened vulnerabilities in our food supply chains, for instance, it was evident that more women in leadership roles were needed to contribute to advance agro-technology and improve food security and nutrition education in the country. This leadership is vital to ensure response efforts address the needs of all members of society, and particularly the gendered impact of COVID-19 to reach the furthest left behind.

Despite the many achievements, change has been incremental and slow. Harmful gender norms, discrimination and biases in Sri Lanka

The Cardinal has declared this Sunday a Black Sunday. It is a very fair programme. It is right to ask for justice for the innocent people who have died. It is for that right that we are asking them to hoist a black flag in their homes this Sunday and to wear black to the Church.

We are all working hard to bring all those involved in the Easter attack to justice. We asked the President to expedite it. None of us will intervene to protect them. It must be clearly stated that the Cardinal's program this Sunday is very reasonable," the Minister said.

SL making progress in women's... From page 01

The Sri Lankan-born scientist Dr. Maheshi Ramasamy, for example, pioneered and led key COVID-19 vaccine research. Similarly, many other women continue to stand at the fronthealthcare workers, caregivers, essential workers and innovators.

marginalized and harmed."



continue to present obstacles for women in leadership positions. The Women's Wellbeing Survey (2019) shows that 47.5% of women in Sri Lanka felt that men are superior to women. At present, only 5.3 per cent -12 out of 225 legislators are women. Despite early

achievements of producing the first female Prime Minister in the world, the representation of women legislators at the national level has never exceeded 7 per cent throughout Sri Lanka's electoral history, since 1931. Discriminatory attitudes continue to prevail, and women in leadership positions are not exempt from opposition, in fact they are held to a much higher level of scrutiny. This is evident in the recent petition challenging the appointment of DIG Bimshani Jasin Arachchi.

Gender-based violence is another key factor that prevents women and girls from safely and fully participating in social and public life. Violence against women and girls is an alarming and persistent human rights violation that has long-term and severe socio-economic, physical, mental, and sexual and reproductive health impacts on victims and survivors. Recent data from the Women's Wellbeing Survey (2019) shows that 35.3 per cent of women in Sri Lanka agree that men can have a good reason to hit their wife or partner, and one in five ever-partnered women in the country have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.

In special two-day operation

Navy arrests seven suspects with 2.712 tonnes of smuggled turmeric

Naval personnel arrested seven persons with 2.712 metric tonnes of smuggled turmeric in a special operation conducted in the Manalkulam area of Silawathura and the Pulachchanai area of Norochcholai between Thursday and Friday, the Navy stated in a communiqué yesterday.

The Northwestern Naval

The turmeric seized in the two-day operation.

Nearly 4,700 houses in Kurunegala lack electricity - Dullas

M.A.R.MANUKULASOORIYA

Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma said that 4,672 houses in the Kurunegala District do not have electricity. He said that the Power Ministry plans to address the issue by the end of 2021.

The minister was speaking at a public gathering that was held following the inauguration of the Maho-Maeliya High-Tension Transmission Line Project in Kurunegala, recently.

Electricity supply in certain areas of the district has been limited due to the lack of proper roads, Minister Alahapperuma said. He added that reports about the government increasing electricity charges were false.

Command seized 24 sacks holding 826kg of smuggled turmeric from a house in Manalkulam on Thursday. Two persons were arrested in conseized.

Total Value of Prizes

Rs. 4,922,580/-

Development Fortune

Winning Numbers

52 59 61

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English Letter

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The following day, Naval personnel arrested five more suspects in Pulachchanai with 1.391 metric tonnes of smuggled turmeric on three

nection with it.

separate occasions, the statement read. The suspects had been transporting the contraband in a car, lorry, and motorcycle at the time. Their vehicles have also been

Those apprehended have been identified as residents of Silawathura, Palaviya, and Wattala. They are between the ages

Draw Number > 1386

Draw Date 04.03.2021

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Fate Number

(8)

of 31 and 52, the communiqué added. The Navy believes that the dried turmeric had been smuggled into the country from abroad via boats.

The suspects, along with the turmeric consignments and vehicles, have been handed over to the respective police stations for further action, the Navy stated.

plants 5,000 saplings **IRANGIKA RANGE** The Transport Ministry planted 5,000 sap-

S.M. WIJAYARATNE,

Kurunegala Daily News Corr

lings of different plant species to mark International Free Public Transport Day yesterday. The saplings were planted at Sri Lanka

Transport Board bus depots, railway stations, and the Makumbura Multipurpose Transport Centre.

Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila

Perera urged the public not to admit their

children to national schools, even if school

Transport Ministry

heads were persuading them to do so. He added that student intake for national schools was finalised on February 28. The Ministry Secretary said that they should not visit the ministry for the purpose either.

'National school student intake finalised'







only for six months

FUNERAL NOTICE Chairperson of DASA Group of Companies, Dalugama, Kelaniya.

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months

Mrs. Sirimathie Gunadasa.

For Results

It's with profound sadness and grief that we inform the demise of our beloved chairperson.

Her remains lie at No 90, Jawatta Road, Colombo 05. for last respect.

> Funeral will be held at the **Borella General Cemetery on** 06th Saturday at 5:00 pm.

She will be sadly missed by her children, sons and daughters in law, grandchildren and staff of the DASA Group.

ASA Group of Companies, Dalugama, Kelaniya.

NEWS

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021



The Novice Monks' Attitude Development Programme's Ninth Phase was held at the Sri Dhammarathana Tripitaka Institute at Hanthana, Kandy, recently. The programme was coordinated by Sathsrapathi Ven. Kolonnawe Narada Thera, with the assistance of Buddhist Affairs Department Director-General Sunanda Kariyapperuma. Picture by Ajith Gangoda.



Italian Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives Rita Giuliana Mannella called on Defence Secretary General (Rtd.) Kamal Gunaratne at the Defence Ministry in Colombo, yesterday. Matters of bilateral importance and mutual relevance, especially on measures to boost tourism and avenues for Italian investments in Sri Lanka, were discussed at the meeting.



Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, participated in the 24th Convocation Ceremony of the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), yesterday.

1. 44 – 45/16 HC

COURT NO. 110

OTHERS

1. 252/14 HC

2. 396/17 HC

3. 400/17 HC

MED LAFFAR J.

NADHIPATHI J.

<u>TO BE</u>

1.406/10

2.159/13

Writ of Cert

Writ of Cert

3. 215/14 PHC

WITH 114/14

Writ of Cert

ARGUMENT

1. 02/19 WKF

LTA 02/20

MED LAFFAR J.

NADHIPATHI J.

ARGUMENT

Writ of Cert

OTHERS

1.155/14

2.132/15

3. 168/18

4.399/18

NANDO (J)

Writ of Cert

Writ of Cert

Writ of Cert

<u>FOR</u>

COURT NO. 206

<u>FOR</u>

COURT NO. 206

<u>AT 10.00 A.M.</u>

MENTIONED

2. 186/17 HC

3. 296/17 HC

RATNE J.

NAM J.

FOR ARGUMENT



MARCH 8

(P.C.) (J)

YA J.

S.

P.C. J.

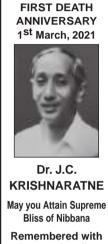
FOR

FR 163/19

FR 165/19

<u>IN THE</u> <u>S U P R E M E</u> **COURT**

DN page 4



Remembered with love and sadly missed by your wife Therese and family members

6. SC. Application FR 191/19 7. SC. Application FR 193/19 8. SC. Application FR 195/19 9. SC. Application FR 196/19 10. SC. Application FR 197/19 11. SC. Application FR 198/19 LIST OF CASES 12. SC. Application FOR MONDAY, FR 293/19 SISIRA J. JAYANTHA JAYAS-ABREW J A.H.M.D. NAWAZ J. URIYA P.C. (C.J.) B.P. ALUVIHARA A.A.U. WENGAP-PULI J. PRIYANTHA JAYA-**COURT NO. 502** WARDANE (P.C.) (J) (FROM 10.00 A.M. L.T.B. DEHIDENI-<u>– 11.30 A.M.)</u> <u>TO BE</u> MURDU N.B. FER-**MENTIONED** NANDO P.C.J. 1. SC. (CHC.) THURAIRAJA Appeal 31/15 - HC (Civil) 64/13 E.A.G.R. AMAR-2. SC. Appeal ASEKARA J.) No. 35/19 **COURT NO. 501** – PHC 02/18 3. SC. Application (AT 10.00 A.M.) FR 225/16 4. SC. Appeal 236/16 **ARGUMENT** – HCCA 1326/12 1. SC. Application 5. SC.HC.CA. 2. SC. Application LA 354/18 - HCCA 81/16 3. SC. Application 6. SC. Application

FR 166/19

FR 184/19

FR 188/19

FR 51/19 4. SC. Application 7. SC.HC.CA. LA 196/20 5. SC. Application - HCCA 157/09 8. SC.HC.CA. LA 310/20 - HCCA 11/19 <u>FOR</u> **SUPPORT** 1. SC. HC.CA. LA 492/19 - HCCA 1742/17 FOR GRANTING **OF LEAVE** 1. SC. (Spl.) LA 137/19 - HC 09/18 2. SC. HC.CA. LA 346/19 DE - HCCA 14/19 <u>FOR</u> ARGUMENT 1. SC. Application FR 192/19 (Top of the list) COURT NO. 502 <u>contd...</u> (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED 1. SC. Application FR 106/18 2. SC. Application FR 273/20 FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE 1. SC. (Spl.) LA 465/19 -CA 75/15 2. SC. (Spl.) LA 475/19 - HCCA 58/17

<u>FOR</u> ARGUMENT 1. SC. Application FR 216/18 (FROM 01.30 P.M. - 03.00 P.M.) <u>FOR</u> ARGUMENT 1. SC. (Spl.) LA 12/19 - PHC 159/16 2. SC. Appeal No. 54/20 – HCCA 114/13 VIJITH K. MALAL-GODA P.C. J. WICKRA-K.K. MASINGHE J. SAMAYA M.A. WARDHANA J. **COURT NO. 403** (FROM 10.00 A.M. <u>– 11.30 A.M.)</u> TO BE **MENTIONED** 1. SC. Application FR 373/15 2. SC. Application FR 64/17 3. SC.HC.CA. LA 423/18 – HCCA 95/16 4. SC.HC.CA. LA 292/19 - HCCA 97/17 5. SC. Application FR 402/19 with 429/19 6. SC. HC. LA 89/20 - CHC 209/18 7. SC. Application FR 369/20

8. SC.(Spl.) LA 03/21 - CA 07/17 FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED 1. SC. Application 505/19FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE 1. SC. (Spl.) LA 186/19, 175/19, 187/19 – CA 160/13 <u>FOR</u> **ARGUMENT** 1. SC. Appeal 73/12 - HCCA 713/10 (FROM 11.30 A.M. - 12.45 P.M.) FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED 1. SC. Application FR 298/20 2. SC. Application FR 374/20 FOR GRANTING OF LEAVE 1. SC. HC.CA. LA 203/19 - HCCA 119/17 2. SC. (Spl.) LA 356/19 - CA 1254/00 3. SC. (Spl.) LA 34/20 - CA 158/19 COURT NO. contd.. (FROM 11.30 A.M. <u>– 12.45 P.M.)</u> <u>FOR</u> **ARGUMENT** 1. SC. Application FR 283/14 (FROM 01.30 P.M. – 03.00 P.M.) **FOR** ARGUMENT 1. SC. Application FR 39/17 2. SC. Appeal No. 235/17 - HCCA 135/08

SENA J.

(FROM 01.30 P.M. <u>– 03.00 P.M.)</u> <u>FOR</u> **ARGUMENT** 1. SC. Appeal No. 28/17 – HCCA 122/10 2. SC. Appeal 180/17- CA 1009/98 IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR MONDAY, MARCH 8 ARJUNA OBEYES-EKERE J. (P/CA) MAYADUNNE COREA J. COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M. FOR ORDER 1.400/20Writ of Cert (Arjuna Obeysekera J.) (P/CA) <u>TO BE</u> **MENTIONED** 1.100/19 Writ of Cert 2.180/20Writ of Cert 3. 334/20 Writ of Cert 403 4.22/21Writ of Cert 5.104/21Writ of Cert 6. 04/12 HCA 7. 188/18 HC <u>FOR</u> SUPPORT 1.119/20Writ of Cert 2.120/20Writ of Cert 3.124/20Writ of Cert 4.130/20Writ of Cert 5.290/20P. PADMAN SURA-Writ of Cert 6.44/21

1. SC. Application

FR 85/15

Writ of Cert 3.294/20 Writ of Cert <u>FOR</u> INQUIRY 1. 01/18 COC <u>FOR</u> ARGUMENT 1. 130/14 REV PRIYANTHA Κ. FERNANDO (J) Β. SAMPATH ABAYAKOON J. **COURT NO. 107** AT 10.00 A.M. <u>FOR</u> **JUDGMENT** 1. 133/19 HC **COURT NO. 107** <u>AT 10.00 A.M.</u> CONTD... TO BE MEN-**TIONED** 1. 115 - 117/19 HC 2. 127/19 HC 3. 250 - 252/19 HC 4. 270/19 HC 5. 272/19 HC 6. 274/19 HC <u>FOR</u> ARGUMENT 1.80/19 HC 2. 213/19 HC 3. 214/19 HC 4. 248/19 HC 5. 263/19 HC K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO (J) В. SAMPATH ABAYAKOON J. **COURT NO. 107 OTHERS** <u>FOR</u> **ARGUMENT** 1. 64/19 HC 2. 92/19 HC 3. 183/19 HC 4. 299/19 HC MENAKA WIJESUNDERA J. NEIL IDDAWALA J.

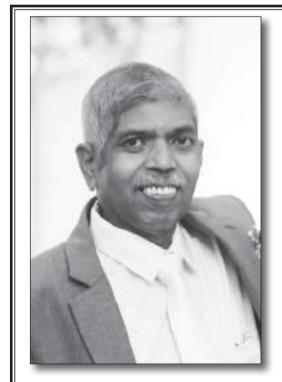
SUPPORT

Writ of Cert

1.25/20

2.214/20

SUPPORT 1.201/19 Writ of Cert DEVIKA ABEY-2.202/19Writ of Cert P. KUMARARAT-D. N. SAMARA-KOON J. PRADEEP KIRTIS-INGHE J. **COURT NO. 108** AT 10.00 A.M. <u>FOR</u> SUPPORT 1. 04/20 RII 4. 126 - 128/18 HC <u>FOR</u> ARGUMENT M. T. MOHAM-1.889/00 (F) DC K. K. A. V. SWAR-2. 407/12 RII WITH 408/12 RII (To be mentioned) 3. 14/18 RII D. N. SAMARA-KOON J. PRADEEP KIRTIS-INGHE J. **COURT NO. 108** <u>OTHERS</u> <u>FOR</u> **ARGUMENT** 1. 318/14 RII PRASANTHA DE SILVA J. S. U. B. KARALLI-WITH LTA 11/19, YADDE J. **COURT NO. 109** M. T. MOHAM-AT 12.30 P.M. <u>TO BE</u> K. K. A. V. SWAR-**MENTIONED** 1. 47/16 PHC 2. 32/17 PHC 3. 124/18 PA <u>TO BE</u> **RESUMED** 1. 143/14 PA WITH PA 117/19 WITH COC 10/16 (FOR ARGUMENT) WITH PHC 106/14 PRASANTHA DE SILVA J. S. U. B. KARALLI-YADDE J. **COURT NO. 109** DR. RUWAN FER-**OTHERS** <u>TO BE</u> M. SAMPATH K. B. MENTIONED 1. 150/08 PHC



TRIBUTE TO A LATE **COLLEAGUE** RATNAPALA RAMANAYAKE

Ratnapala Ramanayake (Ratna to his friends and colleagues) passed away on the 3rd of December 2020 after a brief illness and it's been 3 months since his demise. Unfortunately, Ratna could not enjoy his retirement for long, as he passed away just a few months after his well-earned retirement.

Born into a very modest business family of 9 children in 1955, it was said that Ratna's ambition from a very young age pushed him to break away from the herd and gain popularity in his hometown of Udupila in Gampaha as the kid who would bring change to his village. Being the first among his peers to successfully complete a course in Chartered Accountancy, he introduced the concept of higher education which inspired many neighboring students to enter universities and attempt professional level education after having completed their schooling.

Ratna started his career in plantations in 1983 as an internal auditor for the Janatha Estates Development Board after gaining audit experience at B. R. De Silva Auditors for a couple of years. He was the first from his hometown to get into corporate management, and climb the corporate ladder to reach the very top in a reputed company, which to date is spoken of with admiration by the people of his hometown.

He found the love of his life, Nilanthi, whilst working at the Janatha Estates Development Board and they were married in 1987. Together they had Danushka, who is a strategist at Sri Lanka's largest apparel solutions provider and Madushi, who is on her way to becoming a biotechnology scientist. Ratna and Nilanthi had almost completed 34 years of happy married life at the time of Ratna's demise, and whilst the family are in grief over the passing away of their loved one, I am sure his two children will pass on the rare qualities inculcated in them by their father to the generations to come.

I had the privilege of working with Ratna for over 28 years, for Finlays Plantations along with a very energetic team of Managerial staff. Initially, the phobia that operational teams have of accountants was an issue which I had to sort out, but Ratna was such an unassuming individual and such a bubbly personality off duty that everyone found him to be a Chartered Accountant with very rare qualities and more of a supportive team member than many who aspire to climb the ladder in unethical ways — very rare for any professional accountant that I have met in my 48 years in the industry.

He gave priority to the importance of people management and quickly gained the confidence of all managers and staff which made my life so easy and also enabled the Company's growth during his tenure as Chief Accountant, Finance Controller, Finance Director and Executive Director of two plantation companies.

He was such a respected and reliable person that my predecessor, (Paddy lappin) in his account on his experience in Sri Lanka, had this to say: Quote "The Head Office Accountant whom I relied on, and without whom the task would have been virtually impossible, was Accountant Ratnapala — better known as 'Small Problem' after his standard opening remark to all the accounting and financial 'horrors' he was about to disclose — a brilliant individual." Unquote

He overcame many obstacles from people of varied professional skills and knowledge to move to the position of Finance Director of two multinational-owned Regional Plantation Companies with their Head Office based in the UK. He excelled in everything he was entrusted with. I need to say that it was not a smooth climb to the top, and Ratna achieved it with dedication, commitment and hard work together with his superior skills of people management and professionalism. An important quality in Ratna was that he was very modest about his achievements thereby allowing some of his peers and successors to take credit for what he achieved, which never bothered him.

And so today, three months after his demise, we honour him by profoundly feeling and expressing our sense of loss, and also by remembering Ratna as an amazing person who has played a unique and special role in all of our lives.

He was an outstanding example of a good human being, not just to his family but to everyone who knew him.

To me personally, he was a good friend who was always there for me, and I will no doubt miss him very much.

May he attain the supreme bliss of Nirwana......

Naresh Ratwatte

SEAN J. GOMER 6.44/21 Null IDD/WALA J. M.SAMPATINE J. DEMENDANCE ALS. GOURT NO. 404 T. 62/21 ATOBADAM. COURT NO. 502 2.146/15 PHIC JANAK DE SILVA Wriel of Cert T. 69/24 PK COURT NO. 502 2.146/15 PHIC J. DUBT NO. 404 Wriel of Cert COURT NO. 502 2.146/15 PHIC J. DUBT NO. 404 Wriel of Cert COURT NO. 502 1.50/08 PHIC TO BE NOTICE COURT NO. 502 1.50/08 PHIC SUPPORT L30.0AMJ Wriel of Cert COURT NO. 502 1.50/08 PHIC SUPPORT L30.13/10 PHIC DOBE NOTICE COBR Wriel NTA 27/13 FOR Wriel Also Wriel of Cert 3.02/21 BA 1.44/19 TAX 2.118/01 TIPAC C-CA 178/03 FOR POR MRWAR FRF NCUMAR PHE S.S.CHCA. MA 1/4 DI NNE L. 70/20 PA MARDAMATH K.B. MCOMONAR S.S.CHCA. MA 1/4 DI NNE L. 70/20 PA MARDAMATH K.B. MCOMONAR S.S.CHCA.	SENA J.	6. 44/21	NEIL IDDAWALA J.	M. SAMPATH K. B.	MENTIONED
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EDITORIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021





The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited, LAKE HOUSE P. O. Box 1217 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694 : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021

Towards global vaccine success

here was good news on the vaccine front on Thursday as the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) of Sri Lanka approved the Emergency Use of the Russian 'Sputnik V' COVID-19 vaccine. It will now join the country's other vaccine already in use - the Oxford/AstraZeneca, which has been given to nearly 600,000 persons in just over one month.

Sputnik V is a COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of Russia and was registered on August 11 last year by the Russian Health Ministry. It was the first vaccine to be registered anywhere in the world for clinical (non-trial) use.

There are several advantages of selecting the Sputnik V. It is an adenovirus viral vector vaccine, the same technology used by AstraZeneca. In other words, it uses a common cold-type virus, engineered to be harmless, as a carrier to deliver a small fragment of the coronavirus to the body. Safely exposing the body to part of the virus's genetic code in this way allows it to recognise the threat and learn to fight it off, without risking becoming seriously ill. Moreover, it can be stored at temperatures of between 2 and 8C degrees, making it easier to transport and store. Incidentally, these are the same transport and storage conditions for the AstraZeneca jab.

- Since our vaccinators (doctors, nurses and health workers) are already familiar with the AstraZeneca vaccine, it will be a seamless transition when the Sputnik V arrives here in due course. However, with two vaccines in play, they will have to note which type of vaccine is being administered, as the second dose should also be from the same vaccine manufacturer. Those who receive the vaccine should also carefully note the manufacturer's name.
- Sri Lanka is indeed fortunate to have come this far in the vaccination campaign in the context of many other developing countries still not being able to kick off theirs. The credit must go to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and the health authorities for their pro-active stance on procuring vaccines at the earliest possible opportunity.

If all goes well, Sri Lanka will be able to vaccinate 70-80 percent of the population by end of June (schoolchildren are currently not eligible for vaccination in any case). That is the threshold at which "herd immunity" is generally achieved, whereby the virus finds it difficult to infect any new hosts as almost everyone has gained immunity. It is also a creditable achievement when one considers another phenomenon - "vaccine nationalism". Rich countries have "locked in" much of the available vaccine supply - some countries have ordered doses far in

UNEMPLOYMENT: CAUSES AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

MANOJA ALWEERA

t is useful to examine the robustness of mismatch hypothesis for understanding the current trend in unemployment in Sri Lanka since some researchers and commentators are of the opinion that it is the most influential hypothesis in explaining the issue of high level of unemployment. Accordingly, the sign of mismatch can be still found in certain specific areas. For example, more than 40% of unemployed desires employment in professional, technical and clerical occupations although in the current employment profile these three categories comprise only around a 15% of all the employed in that broad area. When expectation for obtaining clerical jobs are particularly concerned, more than a 20% of the total unemployed persons expects clerical occupations whereas in the current employment profile only about less than 5% is engaged in clerical iobs.

Expectations to become skilled agricultural and fishery workers and craft and related workers are very low compared to the number of employees already engaged in these fields. As such, these facts suggest that the mismatch hypothesis is still relevant in certain employment areas. Further, as a whole, the analysis of the profile of expectation reveals that expectations for higher level jobs rise with increasing education. The persons with lower levels of education are prepared to be employed in elementary occupations. Also, long-term unemployment is most conspicuous among those who have obtained higher educational qualifications, and as such, there is a positive relationship between the duration of unemployment and the increased level of education of the job aspirants.

However, contrary to views of the advocates of the mismatch hypothesis, now evidence appears to believe that rigour of mismatch hypothesis has faded away. It is found that unemployment in all educational levels shows a considerable decline with nearly the same rates over the years. Also, unemployment in all ages has considerably reduced. When university education system is considered, it can be noticed that now the university education system has been geared to give more skills to graduates. For example, Dassanyake and Karunaratna (1996) proposed a number of steps to be introduced to enhance the quality of university education for Commerce and Management students. Some of the suggestions were; arranging staff development programmes for lecturers, adopting continuous evaluation methods with the introduction of course unit systems, providing opportunities for students to evaluate their lecturers, giving practical training and making collaborations with the industry. Anecdotal evidence shows that within a period less than a decade from making these recommendations they have been successfully put into practice by almost all the faculties in the university system.



tion while increasing that of informal economy over time.

These data show that under neo-liberalized economic policies considering that the private sector is the engine of growth from 1977 economic reforms has failed to achieve a high level of economic growth and thereby generating sufficient amount of employment, particularly for the educated youths who are not prepared to shift to the informal economy for finding employment. Thus, the employment creation by the formal private sector has not sufficient to catch up job drop in the public sector after 1990, and absorb new job seekers considerably to the formal economy. On the other hand, even under export oriented industrial (EOI) policies the country's export structure has been still depending mainly on producing and exporting low value added products (mainly garments) abnormally for a long period, indicating that the private sector led economy has largely failed in graduation to generate higher skill jobs. The study by Ratnayake and Nayananada (1998) confirms this view saying that Sri Lanka's manufacturing industries have a very low level of back-

ward linkages to the economy. Nanayakkara (2005) emphasizes that the Sri points out that the country's manufac- mal economy. Also, this shows a situa-

mainly because of poor technological innovations.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

Comparative status of employment data reported by the Annual Central Bank Reports over time show not only how each major sector of the economy has absorbed labour, but also analysis of those data suggests the way forward for mitigating this issue. Accordingly, in 2018 compared with 1991 data, the public sector's employment share has dropped by 8.4% from 22.9%, the private sector's share has increased only by 3.9% from 39.5%, the employer's share has increased only by 0.6% from 2.2%, self-employed share has increased by 6.9% from 25.4% and unpaid family support workers' share has decreased by 2.8% from 10.0% respectively. As such, reduction of employment in the public sector has not been captured by the inadequate increase in the formal private sector's employment generation.

The self-employed share has increased considerably indicating that there has been a substantial increase in the informal sector showing that the formal economy has not expanded for Lankan businesses have failed to con- providing employment opportunities tinue to increase both efficiency and for absorbing the educated youths who effectiveness. Embuldeniya (2004) is looking for employment in the for-

thinks that it is a favourable trend. More importantly, all over the years, the employers' share of the status of employment remains between 2 to 3 percent of the workforce of the country, indicating that percentage of employers in the economy has been remaining at a very low level which shows that there is a lack of successful entrepreneurs in the economy, and as a result, job generation too has not increased over time. Therefore, what is mainly needed is increasing entrepreneurs in the economy, which can be possible by motivating persons to shift from other sectors of employment to become successful employers. For example, the formal private sector employees can be motivated to commence their own businesses as much as possible. Also, self-employed or on their own account employees can be supported to become more successful entrepreneurs, and finally, entrepreneurial education at the high school and the university levels can be promoted so that at least some of the educated youths can be motivated to come forward as entrepreneurs rather than totally depending on existing institutes for finding jobs.

However, more comprehensive employment plan paying attention to Human Resource Management (HRM) aspects should be developed and implemented for solving all major types of unemployment such as frictional, cyclical and structural unemployment. The nature of frictional unemployment can be minimized by improving the flow of job information in the labour market, such as with an establishing computerized and some other job banks, improving public employment service, and organising job fairs where prospective job candidates can talk with representatives of different companies. Also, the relevant public policy can be formulated to reduce the level of frictional unemployment by eliminating undesirable causes of labour turnover. Further, public policy can be mainly used to reduce the extent of cyclical unemployment. The most direct approach is to adapt fiscal and monitory policies that ensure stable and healthy rates of economic growth. Once a recession does begin, timely intervention in the form of tax cuts or an easier monetary policy can limit the severity of the economic downturn and resulting unemployment. Also, as advocated by John Maynard Keynes carrying out alternative public work projects such as new irrigation work, highway constructions and urban renewals can be arranged to reduce the effect of recession. Finally, even the public policy can be employed to reduce the structural unemployment. One solution is government provision or subsidization of training programmes which give young people marketable skills. This can be promoted by giving tax incentives to companies that offer training to workers. Education system at each level including giving training can be reformed in order to inculcate the various job skills motivating school dropouts at O/L and A/L to follow technical causes. Another possibility is to make the government the employer of last resort by directing some educated youths to team up for finding new job opportunities to create new and innovative businesses. Also, unemployed graduates for years can be recruited for public sector jobs under graduate employment schemes by following more organised and effective training programmes than what are done currently. Also, foreign employment can be promoted, and lastly, movement of unemployed workers can be encouraged out of depressed areas by providing reallocation allowances and other incentives. priyangikamanoja@gmail.com (The writer is a visiting lecturer and research consultant) Concluded

excess of their populations. Just 10 countries have administered 70 percent of all available vaccines while more than 100 countries in the developing world have not even given a single dose. The good news is that COVAX, the World Health Organisation (WHO)-led initiative that will supply vaccines to 92 developing countries including Sri Lanka has just got off the ground with the first shipment going to Ghana. Sri Lanka will get its first COVAX consignment this week. Hoarding vaccines is, ultimately, self-defeating. Vaccinating the entire population of one country is not going to guarantee lasting protection if the virus is allowed to run rampant in other parts of the world, mutating into potentially vaccine-resistant variants. As the oftrepeated saying on COVID-19 goes "no one is safe until everyone is safe". This is why vaccines must be equally distributed around the world. Many developing countries with vaccine manufacturing facilities have urged manufacturers to waive off Intellectual Property (IP) Rights for their vaccines so that they could be manufactured at a lesser cost. However, there has been no positive response to this appeal yet.

The other side of the coin is "vaccine diplomacy" countries donating vaccines to other countries. Sri Lanka received 500,000 doses of the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine as a donation from India under its "Vaccine Maitri" programme on January 28. China and Russia have similar programmes to donate vaccines to developing countries, from which Sri Lanka too may benefit. However, instead of donating vaccines per se, some countries including the US have pledged to donate funds to the COVAX facility. It does not really matter how it is done, rich countries must do more to eradicate COVID from our midst. After all, one study recently disclosed that rich countries will lose as much as US\$ 5 trillion over the next few years even if the disease persists only in the developing nations.

In the meantime, research on COVID must be intensified, with a particular emphasis on vaccine efficacy. It is still not known how long immunity lasts after vaccination some scientists think that we will have to get inoculated annually, with COVID becoming yet another persistent flu. It is also not known whether vaccinated individuals can still spread the disease. But studies in Israel, which leads the world in per capita vaccinations, suggest that the jabs can indeed cause a drastic drop in the number of COVID cases. This is indeed a positive sign that bodes well for the future.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Vaccines save lives; fear endangers them. It's a simple message we need to keep hearing. - Jeffrey Kluger

EMPLOYMENT DATA

Finally, as a whole, job creation by all the major sectors can be analyzed to determine whether or not sufficient employment generation over time has been made by each sector. Sri Lanka's status of employment data show how employment absorption has been taken place over the years.

Accordingly, if latest data available in the Annual Report of the Central Bank for the year 2018 are taken into account it shows that the public sector's employment share is 14.5 %, private sector's share is 43.4%, Employers' share is 2.8%, self-employed share is 32.3% and unpaid family workers' share is 7.2%. Accordingly, formal economy's total labour absorption is 60.7% while that of informal economy's 39.3%. If these total percentages were compared with those in 1991, respective shares were 62% and 38% which shows a trend of reducing the formal sector economy's job genera-

turing industry has been trapped by low tion of labour market deterioration level value-added production system although the Central Bank wrongly



The nature of frictional unemployment can be minimized by improving the flow of job information in the labour market, such as with an establishing computerized and some other job banks, improving public employment service, and organising job fairs where prospective job candidates can talk with representatives of different companies. Also, the relevant public policy can be formulated to reduce the level of frictional unemployment by eliminating undesirable causes of labour turnover. Further, public policy can be mainly used to reduce the extent of cyclical unemployment.



OPINION



ecurity forces in Myanmar lobbed tear gas to break up anti-coup protests on Thursday as demonstrators returned to streets, a day after 38 people were killed in the bloodiest crackdown since last month's military takeover of government.

The 38 people were killed in Myanmar as the military quelled protests in several towns and cities on Wednesday, the most violent day since demonstrations against last month's military coup. Police and soldiers opened fire with live rounds without warning to the peaceful protest-

The bloodshed occurred one day after neighbouring countries - members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had called for restraint in the aftermath of the military's overthrow of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The dead included four children. Hundreds of protesters were arrested.

"Today it was the bloodiest day since the coup happened on the 1st of February. We had today — only today — 38 people died. We have now more than over 50 people dead since the coup started, and many are wounded," United Nations special envoy on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, said in New York.

Schraner Burgener said that in conversations with Myanmar's deputy military chief Soe Win, she had warned him that the military was likely to face strong measures from some countries and isolation in retaliation for the coup.

"The answer was: 'We are used to sanctions, and we survived'," she told reporters in New York. "When I also warned they will go (into) isolation, the answer was: 'We have to learn to walk with only a few friends'."

In the main city Yangon, witnesses said at least eight people were killed. In the central town of Monywa, six people were killed. Others were killed in the second-biggest city Mandalay, the northern town of Hpakant and the central town of Myingyan.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said the United States was "appalled" by the increase in violence. The administration of President Joe Biden was evaluating "appropriate" measures to respond and any actions would be targeted at Myanmar's military, he added.

The European Union said the shootings of unarmed civilians and medical workers were clear breaches of international law. It also said the military was stepping up repression of the media, with a growing number of journalists arrested and charged.

France is calling for "the immediate end of the repression in Myanmar", the release of all those detained and for the return of democracy, President Emmanuel Macron said.

On Tuesday, ASEAN failed to make a breakthrough in a virtual foreign ministers' meeting on Myanmar. While united in a call for restraint, only four members - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore - called for the release of Suu Kyi and other detainees.

ASEAN members are Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam.

The foreign minister of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, urged Myanmar to "open its doors" to the ASEAN bloc to resolve the escalating tension. She called for the release of political detainees and restoration of democracy, stating ASEAN countries would not break their pledge of not interfering in each other's affairs.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein suggested ASEAN, could "help bridge the discrepancies found in the last elections".

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who in an interview with the BBC described the



Police in Myanmar crack down on crowds defying protest ban.

MYANMAR'S **BLOODIEST WEEK AFTER COUP**



Jamal Khashoggi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

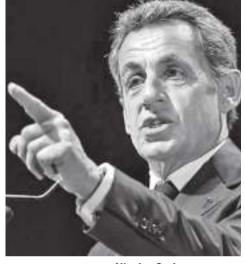


criminal case in a German court against Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for "crimes against humanity" in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The complaint, which seeks an inquiry by prosecutors under Germany's international jurisdiction laws, accuses Saudi Arabia of persecuting Khashoggi – who was murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 - as well as dozens of other journalists. "We call on the German prosecutor to take a stand," Christophe Deloire, secretary-general of RSF said. "No one should be above international law, especially when crimes of humanity are at stake," he said. The 500-page complaint, filed on Monday with the German Public Prosecutor General in the Karlsruhe federal court, includes allegations of arbitrary detention of more than 30 journalists and the 2018 murder of the Washington Post columnist in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018.

Authorities said the informal poll was part of a plan to "overthrow" the government.

Prosecutors opposed bail, and requested a three-month adjournment to further investigate. Defence teams argued against the long wait, and questioned why charges had been laid if the case was so far off readiness. The national security law makes it almost impossible for anyone charged to be granted bail. Outside the West Kowloon magistrates court, foreign diplomats joined the crowds hoping to get one of the 100 or so seats inside the courtroom. Security was tight, with about 100 police officers deployed as supporters gathered outside the court in one of the largest rallies since the coronavirus outbreak. Later in the afternoon police warned crowds against breaching laws against unauthorised assemblies and the national security law with chants and slogans.



France's former President Nicolas Sarkozy

Yemen facing hunger and huge economic hardships.

Britain has drastically cut its aid to Yemen, which has been devastated by conflict for six years, saying the pandemic created "a difficult financial context for us all".

Meanwhile, the US pledged an extra \$191m at the event - bringing its total aid for Yemen to \$350m this year.

Aid officials have condemned the cut. The UN chief, Antonio Guterres, said reducing aid was a "death sentence".

The situation in Yemen has been called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The conflict

be "pandering" to the agency, he told reporters, drawing comparisons to state security in the former East Germany.

The anti-Islam, hard-right AfD has often courted controversy by calling for Germany to stop atoning for its World War II crimes. Gauland once described the Nazi era as just "a speck of bird poo" on German history.

Starting out as an anti-euro outfit in 2013, the AfD capitalised on public anger over Chancellor Angela Merkel's 2015 decision to allow in a wave of asylum seekers from conflict-torn countries like Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. The AfD took nearly 13 percent of the vote in the 2017 general election, allowing it to make its debut in the German Bundestag where it is also the biggest opposition party.

But with the migrant influx waning and with the coronavirus pandemic roiling Germany, the AfD has seen its popularity fall while Merkel's handling of the health crisis has won her plaudits.

The AfD faces six regional elections this year and a general election on September 26, the first in over 15 years that will not feature Merkel, who is retiring from politics. Latest surveys show the party's popularity at between 9 and 11 percent.

The head of Germany's Central Council of Jews, Josef Schuster, welcomed the classification as a "right and necessary step". "With its destructive politics, the AfD contributes to undermining our democratic structures and to discrediting democracy," he said.

Sarkozy: Corruption

France's former right-wing president Nicolas Sarkozy has been found guilty of corruption by a court, with an imprisonment sentence, which he is appealing against.

He was handed a three-year sentence for cor-ruption following a trial, which he portrayed as a travesty of justice. A Paris court ruled that the 66-year-old Sarkozy had formed a "corruption pact" with his lawyer Thierry Herzog to convince a judge to obtain and share information about an inquiry into the financing of Sarkozy's 2007 presidential campaign.

With three other legal cases pending against him, Monday's conviction deals a blow to any hope Sarkozy has of making another political comeback after a failed bid to win a presidential nomination in 2016.

Despite being given a three-year jail term Sarkozy is not expected to serve time: two of the three years were suspended by the court, with the remaining year set to be served at home with an electronic bracelet.

Handing down the sentence, the court said Sarkozy's crime was "particularly serious having been committed by a former president who was the guarantor of the independence of the judici-

On March 17, the ex-president is scheduled to face a second trial over accusations of fraudulently overspending in his failed 2012 re-election bid.

In 2016 he was beaten to the presidential nomination of the Republicans by his former Prime Minister Francois Fillon, who later crashed out of the race after being charged with fraud.

Sarkozy has also been charged over allegations that he received millions of euros from the late Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi for his 2007 election campaign.

And in January, prosecutors opened another probe into alleged influence-peddling by Sarkozy over his advisory activities in Russia.

ICC probe: Israel - Palestine

coup as a "tragic" step back for Myanmar, said sanctions would not affect the military government but hurt the people and the way forward was to free Aung San Suu Kyi and work out a solution.

"To use lethal force against civilians and unarmed demonstrators, I think it is just not acceptable. That is disastrous not just internationally, but disastrous domestically," he said.

US on Khashoggi killing

The US administration of President Joe Biden has released an intelligence report that Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, approved the 2018 murder of the Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The report confirmed that the 35-year-old crown prince had a personal hand in the violent murder of one of his most prominent critics, a columnist and former Saudi insider who was living in exile in the US, and strongly critical of the crown prince's crackdowns on dissent.

The release of this leads to the unveiling of a new "Khashoggi policy" which is set to impose visa sanctions on individuals who, acting on behalf of a foreign government, engage in "counter-dissident" activities, including harassment, surveillance, and threats against journalists, activists, and dissidents. However, - Washington did not target the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) with financial or other sanctions, which has led to criticism of the Biden administration.

Asked whether President Biden had concerns about Prince Mohammed's position in Saudi succession, the White House press secretary, Jen Psaki, said it was for Saudi Arabia to "determine the path forward on their future leadership".

"I will say that the president has been clear, and we've been clear by our actions that we're going to recalibrate the relationship," Psaki said.

In Saudi Arabia, the mood was said to be one of relief. In a statement, the Saudi foreign ministry said the kingdom's government "categorically rejects what is stated in the report provided to Congress'

While MBS has previously denied ordering the killing or having any knowledge of it, the new report raises serious new questions about how the newly published information will affect the future heir's relationship with the Biden administration and other foreign and business leaders. Tony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, said: "While the United States remains invested in its relationship with Saudi Arabia, President Biden has made clear that partnership must reflect US values. To that end, we have made absolutely clear that extraterritorial threats and assaults by Saudi Arabia against activists, dissidents, and journalists must end. They will not be tolerated by the United States.'

RSF against Saudi Prince

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has filed a

RSF said it filed the lawsuit in Germany because of its principle of universal jurisdiction, allowing its courts to prosecute crimes against humanity committed anywhere, and that other names could be added to the complaint at a later stage.

Hong Kong - Security Law

Forty seven pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong are charged with conspiracy to commit subversion under the National Security Law.

The group is accused of organising and participating in an unofficial primary poll in July last year aimed at selecting the strongest candidates for a legislative council election the government later postponed, citing the coronavirus.

Nearly every major voice of dissent or figure of opposition in Hong Kong is now in jail, in exile, or on trial.

Sunday's charges drew international condemnation and calls for the release of the detainees. The European Union said the charges made clear that "legitimate political pluralism will no longer be tolerated in Hong Kong"

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, condemned the charges. "Political participation and freedom of expression should not be crimes. The US stands with the people of Hong Kong," he said. On Sunday, the British Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, described the charges as "deeply disturbing".

Yemen - UK and US

The UK and the US have taken important different moves in providing aid to the people of

Naccine .

began in late 2014, when rebels seized control of much of the west of the country and a Saudi-led coalition of Arab states launched a military operation to restore President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi's rule.

An estimated 20 million people - two-thirds of the Yemeni population - depend on humanitarian assistance. Some two million children are acutely malnourished. In addition to conflict, Yemen has seen a collapse of its health system, leaving it incapable of coping with the coronavirus pandemic.

UN officials warned that if the UN failed to meet its \$3.85bn target for 2021, millions of Yemenis could face starvation. It is unclear how much has been raised so far.

David Beasley, Executive Director of UN's World Food Programme, told the conference: "We've got famine knocking on the door."

Mr. Guterres said that generous donations had averted a famine in 2018, but that "today, reducing aid is a death sentence".

The US Biden administration has pledged an extra \$191m - bringing its total aid for Yemen to \$350m this year.

The United States announced it is revoking the designation of Yemen's Houthi rebels as a terrorist group, a reversal by the Biden administration welcomed by the United Nations and humanitarian groups who feared former president Donald Trump's actions would impede aid deliveries to the conflict-torn country facing the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called President Joe Biden's decision to rescind the designation "a recognition of the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen".

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric on Friday called the U.S. action "extremely positive."... "We hope that helps build momentum for a political solution to the conflict in Yemen," Dujarric said.

Germany: Far Right threat

Germany's domestic security agency has placed the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) under surveillance for posing a threat to democracy, parliamentary sources said Wednesday, dealing a blow to the anti-immigration party in a big election year.

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution has classified the AfD party as a "suspected case" of having ties to right-wing extremism. The decision will allow intelligence agents to shadow the party, tap its communications and possibly use undercover informants.

This follows a two-year investigation and a report containing some 1,000 pages of evidence, including several hundred speeches and statements by AfD members at all party levels.

One of the heads of the party, Alexander Gauland, accused the Security Agency of playing politics and trying to bring about the "destruction" of the AfD. The party would not

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has launched an investigation into alleged crimes in the Palestinian territories, plunging the court into the midst of one of the most fraught conflicts of the past half century.

Fatou Bensouda said the probe will look into "crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court that are alleged to have been committed" since June 13, 2014, and that the investigation will be conducted "independently, impartially and objectively, without fear or favour.

Israel swiftly condemned the decision. Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi called it "an act of moral and legal bankruptcy" and said Israel "will take every step necessary to protect its citizens and soldiers from legal persecution."

Bensouda said in 2019 there was a "reasonable basis" to open a war crimes probe into Israeli military actions in the Gaza Strip as well as Israeli settlement activity in the occupied West Bank

The Palestinian Authority welcomed Wednesday's move. "This long-awaited step serves Palestine's vigorous effort to achieve justice and accountability as indispensable bases for peace," the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said. It called for concluding the investigation quickly because "the crimes committed by the occupation's leaders against the Palestinian people are lasting, systematic and far-reaching.

Israel blames Hamas and other militant groups for Palestinian war casualties, saying the militants use residential areas as cover to launch rockets and leave the military no choice but to strike back.

Hamas welcomed the initiation of the investigation and called on Bensouda to "resist any pressure" that could scuttle the process.

COVID -19: Spread and Control

The World Health Organisation (WHO) sees a resurgence of cases in central and eastern Europe, as well as a rise of new cases in several western European countries.

The spread of the virus globally is 115,257,713 with 2,561,585 deaths midweek. Of these the highest is the US with 28,761,056 infected and 518,458 deaths, followed by India 11,156,923 (157,435) and Brazil - 10,718,630m (259,271).

Vaccination is spreading with Covax facilities being given to several countries in Africa and Asia. However, there are considerable fears that the vaccine production and spread is insufficient to meet the needs of the Third World countries, as the richer Western countries have already purchased and made orders for much larger numbers than needed for their populations.

The rollout of a 'Vaccine Passport' scheme, whereby those who have been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus will have a record to help travel to foreign countries is gaining the interest of western governments.



FEATURES

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021



DISHAN JOSEPH

page **8**

he cool climate and lush green tea planta-tions of the hill country is an alluring oasis of rest for all of us in the city. An invigorating cup of Ceylon Tea is the trademark of trusted quality, refined to blissful perfection over 150 years. Ceylon Tea is among the world's best brands, a brew that resonates with original flavour. As we prepare to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, some women will receive awards, flowers and opulent dinners as a gesture of appreciation which is nice. What about the thousands of hard-working resilient plantation workers who work in the mist-laden hills? These women are also wives and mothers. They have needs, emotions and aspirations like all other women.

Everybody knows these robust women are the backbone of the nation's tea industry which brings in millions of revenue in addition to enhancing tourism and creating a network of other plantation sector jobs. This labour force has worked with tremendous output for decades. Karl Marx once said, "Accumulation of wealth at one pole is at the same time accumulation of misery, agony of toil, slavery, ignorance, brutality, mental degradation, at the opposite pole." Perhaps his words resonate with a loud silence in these hills. The women workers on the tea estates are not fully appreciated for the very significant work they do. It is a physically demanding job to carry a heavy basket and work on slippery mountainsides, with the threat of leeches and snakes. There are many instances where these poor women have been fiercely stung by hornets, and where they had to wait for a vehicle to be rushed to the hospital.

They begin their day waking up by 4 am. They do not have hot water taps or homes with carpets. They have to make their frugal breakfast which is very often some rotti. Some take this rotti for their lunch. In addition, they have to attend to their schoolgoing children, like any responsible mother. These children have to walk long distances to school. In the past, we have seen all sorts of claims that other methods to collect and carry the tender green tea leaves or 'kolundu' will be introduced. This is a terrible illusion.

There were other declarations that practical uniforms would be given to make these women more safe and comfortable in their work. Another illusion. Why is it that these voiceless women have been treated like this? For the record, there are a few tea companies that have initiated some good projects to enhance the welfare of these women workers which is commendable. But as a nation what have we done to empower these plantation workers?

Does the higher echelon of the tea industry subtly fear that if these women are duly empowered, especially with education, that they will lose this cheap labour force? Let's pause for a moment. There are thousands of women engaged in tapping rubber on massive rubber tree plantations. They face some difficulties, but their living standards are much better than the exploited estate women. The massive staff cadre employed in the garment industry work hard, but with uniforms, healthy meals and modern technology. The estate women languish, and have been left behind. The Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore said, "We gain freedom when we have paid the full price". For more than 150 years, the women tea pluckers have paid their share by their dedicated labour. They certainly are not free in many spheres of life. To begin with, they never had a

A BITTER BREW: THE ISSUES OF **ESTATE WOMEN** WORKERS



chance of a good education, especially to learn English. The ability to learn the English language is still elusive in the hill country though there are many new schools built, which is commendable.

Married life on these cold hills does not often glow with orange embers of love.

Apart from their hard work, these voiceless women we to endure verbal and physical abuse from their husbands. Most of these men are in fact the sons of estate women. They too have their own frustrations and broken dreams. This is another day's article. These women have to live in uncomfortable houses, manage the finances and teach their children. In my media assignments and The ability to learn the English language is still elusive in the hill country though there are many new schools built, which is commendable. Having studied up to around Grade 8 or 9, many young girls drop out of school. This automatically stops them from learning any other trade skills. Just like their mothers, the 'tea basket' is put on their shoulders and the tradition continues. They often marry within their community. Married life on these cold hills does not often glow with orange embers of love

refreshing holidays, I have spoken to many of these shy women. Most women who are now 55-65 years have not used a mobile phone. The younger women aged between 30-45 years use a basic phone, and cannot afford a smartphone.

These women hardly come to Colombo city unless for a medical need to the Colombo General Hospital. Some of the older women aged 70-80 years have not travelled to Colombo city at all. Those who passionately and genuinely advocate for women's rights must take note. One old woman told me they can only glance at the sky and look at a plane, but never travel in an aircraft.

Within this segment of women is a subdivision of women who have been working in big city homes as servants. In the present day, they have the refined title domestic aide, but are treated all the same. This is another day's deliberation.

Thousands of plantation women have little of zero entertainment or social activity. They work hard and retire with no savings. They only accumulate varicose veins by years of standing and spine-related pains by carrying the heavy baskets. To those beautiful city divas who enjoy high tea, have you thought about these estate women, who are also women like you? On the one hand, we must always buy Sri Lankan and endorse Ceylon Tea, while on the other hand we all must respect and appreciate the resilient women who produce this tea. They must taste success in life. I conclude with a quote from Martin Luther King "All labour that uplifts humanity, has dignity and importance."

Having studied up to around Grade 8 or 9, many young girls drop out of school. This automatically stops them from learning any other trade skills. Just like their mothers, the 'tea basket' is put on their shoulders and the tradition continues. They often marry within their community.

A VOYAGE INTO SRI LANKA'S FORGOTTEN JUNGLE LANDS

The country's first houseboat offers an authentic experience away from tried-and-tested destinations

MIKE MACEACHERAN

ff the port side on a half-submerged branch, the keelback snake clings for dear life in the dark, muddy shallows. The serpent is wrestling with a warty frog and, as dusk approaches, it needs dinner. Flattening its head to strike, it contorts to attack its prey.

It would be a spoiler to reveal what happens next at our anchorage, but also unnecessary. Because the memorable nature of a two-day journey along the Bentara River lies in the ever-variegated encounters with Sri Lanka as it reveals itself, inch by inch, along the riverbank.

It is close to bedtime near Bentota on the south-west coast, but our day is beginning. We are cruising in the twilight on the lookout for fruit bats and owls, chugging at tugboat pace into Sri Lanka's forgotten jungle lands.

The silent mangroves morph into rainforest proper, Tarzan vines and all, and the outline of traditional fishing huts on the embankment hints at some idealised evocation of life deep in the jungle. There are no lights and an absence of electric wires, other boats or visitors. It feels a long way from the crowds of Colombo, 50 miles to the north. Which is exactly why we have come

The Yathra Houseboat by Jetwing is the star attraction. It is a twosuite Keralan-style barge, the first houseboat in the country, with a shaded sundeck. Thatched with a wig of branches, it looks like a countrified canal boat. But that impression is betrayed by the bamboo and burnished jackwood interiors and warmth of the service. Three types

The Yathra Houseboat is the star attraction. It is a two-suite Keralan-style barge, the first houseboat in the country, with a shaded sundeck. Thatched with a wig of branches, it looks like a countrified canal boat. But that impression is betrayed by the bamboo and burnished jackwood interiors and warmth of the service. Three types of hotly spiced fish and veg curry, served on deck, with chilli and mango chutney, coconut sambol and a roof of moodily downlit stars? Yes, please

of hotly spiced fish and veg curry, served on deck, with chilli and mango chutney, coconut sambol and a roof of moodily downlit stars? Yes, please.

Sri Lanka has long been renowned for its hospitality, but there has been darkness to this lightness over the past few years. In

April 2019, the Easter Sunday suicide bombings in Colombo saw nearly 270 people killed. Tourism dried up overnight. COVID-19 saw the entire Indian Ocean region rendered out of bounds for international travellers.

But as restrictions continue to lift, and the outlook looks more



promising, it is time to plan a return to the land of tea, temples and jungle trails – before everyone

else does According to Leel Koralage, Yathra Houseboat's captain, if I want to see the Sri Lanka that he grew up in, there is only one place to begin: next to him at the helm as we embark upriver from glassycalm Dedduwa Lake.

"Look! In the shallows!" he cries, the river basking in a dusky glow. "A marsh crocodile, an adult male. For most of the year, you would be lucky to see him." He passes a pair of binoculars for a closer look, just before the broad-snouted bull slides into deeper water. During the rains, says Koralage, the crocs stick to the swamps, disappearing like ghosts into the undergrowth.

If we are already at the brink of overstimulation - it is hardly wildlife on demand, but still - we can turn to our cabin instead.

The boat is a study in the worth of holding on to the old ways and nightly entertainment is a good book or a board game. Alcohol is a bring your own affair and the excursions are limited to crab fish-



ing or morning and evening cruises through the river's ecosystem, Mother Nature providing all the steamy air-con you need. A little after 8 pm, the boat moors, and the sound of the jungle takes over.

There is the low hum of truck and tuk-tuk traffic from a faraway road, but also a chatter in the treetops. A crew of lost mynas gossiping? A family of whistling kingfishers? Whatever, after copious beers on board, it is a mellow soundtrack for a good night's rest on the river.

In the morning, anchored at an embankment on Dedduwa Lake, I am on my balcony staring out, listening to the songbirds.

The sailing today, a five-hour round-trip, takes us to Pahuru Kanda Temple and a replica of the Buddha's footprint where, says captain Koralage, we can contemplate hope and fate.

Given the wealth of religious relics, palaces and temple highlights elsewhere in Sri Lanka - the terracotta pagodas in Anuradhapura, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Kandy, Lion Rock in Sigiriya - it is a disappointment. More eye-catching by far are the lone

fishermen who paddle past heroically in barely afloat outrigger canoes. Here, catfish and crabs outnumber the locals.

All too soon it is time to putter back towards the coast, and I join the captain beside the stern, neither of us saying a word.

We do not need to. A monitor lizard appears in a climactic rush, diving into the river with a plunging splash, as if to fill the silence between us. It is startling, and for the briefest moment there is a sense that it is times like this that keep him in the job.

Yathra, meaning "the journey", offers plenty of such moments away from tried-and-tested Sri Lanka. Afterwards, lying on a palm-fringed beach in Bentota, or following the crowds south to Galle Fort, you might yearn to be back afloat exploring the serene river lands, lost amid tropical rainforest

As for the frog? It was swallowed, lock, stock and barrel, before the keelback vanished as if it had never been there at all.

(Mike MacEacheran travelled to Sri Lanka before the pandemic.) (Daily Telegraph)

FEATURE

HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

SAMIRA SADEQUE

venty percent of all food bought by households, retailers, restaurants and other food services in 54 countries around the world was thrown away in 2019 - contributing to some 931 million tonnes of food waste and feeding climate change.

This is according to the Food Waste Index Report 2021 which was launched this week by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with UK charity WRAP, which works in the areas of food waste prevention, plastics, sustainable textiles and clothing, resource efficiency and recycling. Research was conducted across 54 countries and the methodology for measuring food waste included citing research done on the ground in each country.

According to the report, most of the global waste comes from households — which throw away about 11 percent of the food available for consumption. Some of the most notable waste occurs in South Africa, Kenya and China.

The data for Kenya was more consistent than other countries between the two years the research was chosen from: 2010 and 2019. It found that higherincome households wasted significantly more food than middle and lower-income households.

In 2010, for every 78 kilo-grammes per capita that was wasted in Kenya's low-income households, high-income house-holds wasted 151 kilogrammes per capita. In 2019, the lowincome group wasted 40 kilogrammes per capita whereas the high-income group wasted 125 kilogrammes per capita. It shows that while low-income households recorded an almost 50 percent drop in food waste between 2010 and 2019, high-income households recorded a mere 17 percent drop.

South Africa appears to have the most comprehensive data over a period of six years, though it shows varying numbers. A 2016 report shows nationwide waste of 134 kilogrammes per capita, whereas a 2017 report documenting only three regions shows 18 kilogrammes per capita.

"South Africa has substantial domestic income inequality, which may contribute to varied results based on the socio-economic profile of participants included or excluded in each





... AND YOU'LL WASTE LESS

study," reads a part of the report. "The experience here encourages caution against putting too much weight on a single data point, as other countries may experience such variation with more studies conducted.

In China, a 2020 study showed throughout urban China there was a waste of 150 kilogrammes per capita. At the same time, a 2015 study shows nationwide waste was at 23 kilogrammes per

capita. The report points out a major limitation in the research methodology: the lack of accurate data points. While this is not the case only for China, the discrepancy between these two numbers: 23 kilogrammes to 150 kilogrammes is "striking," the report notes.

The major limitation with data was acknowledged in the report, and authors reiterated the importance of having access to more



HOUSEHOLD FOOD WASTE

Some estimates say Americans throw out 25% of the food they buy. Here's the share of each commodity that ends up in consumers' trash.



data points in order to make a comprehensive conclusion in the future.

The report states that data on food waste from households, food service and retail sectors is much less available in low-income and, in some cases, lower middleincome countries. For these cases, the data was generated by garnering estimates from nearby countries where the data was available.

Dr. Richard Swannell, Director of WRAP, told the IPS this discrepancy exists because of resources and prioritising — or a lack thereof.

"Robust measurements of food waste require research funding, which may be more forthcoming in developed countries," he said. "In countries where waste collection systems are less formalised, and more waste is treated at home, by informal recycling systems etc. there may be additional barriers to accurate measurement." The other concern is on what

governments prioritise.

"It has often been assumed that in developing countries, food resources are being lost during the first half of the supply chain — such as at the farm level, proessing and transportation.

Swannell. "What the Food Waste Index shows is that the amount of household food waste per capita is broadly similar across highincome and middle-income countries," he added. "In nearly every country that has measured household food waste, it was substantial, regardless of the income level of that country. This suggests that consumer food waste has been previously underestimated, and as a result potentially under-prioritised."

Meanwhile, he expressed concern that while there was a drop in food waste during the pandemic in the UK, food waste figures could increase again.

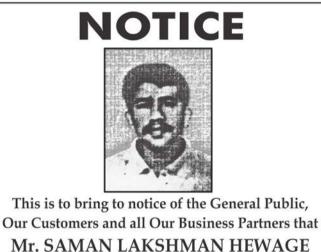
"Being confined to our homes has resulted in an increase in behaviours such as batch cooking and meal planning, which help tackle food waste," he told the *IPS*, citing WRAP's research on the UK's eating patterns during the lockdown. "As a result, people are saying they waste a lot less food during lockdown."

There are also concerns about the impact of food waste on climate change.

Reduction of food waste directly serves the interest of ger and save money at a time of global recession," she said. Swannell said few people were aware of this link.

"Public awareness of the impact food waste has on climate change is less common than other environmental factors," he told the IPS.

He cited WRAP research, specifically on the UK population, that showed while 81 per-



AVAILABILITY OF FOOD AND THUS **REDUCE HUNGER** AND SAVE MONEY AT A TIME OF

cent of the population is con-

cerned about the climate crisis, only a third of the people are aware of a clear link between climate change and food waste. (IPS)

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page **9 "IT HAS OFTEN BEEN ASSUMED THAT IN**

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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FOOD **RESOURCES ARE BEING LOST DURING** THE FIRST HALF OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN -SUCH AS AT THE FARM LEVEL **PROCESSING AND TRANSPORTATION**"

"REDUCING FOOD WASTE WOULD CUT **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, SLOW** THE DESTRUCTION OF NATURE THROUGH LAND CONVERSION AND POLLUTION, **ENHANCE THE GLOBAL RECESSION**"



Swannell said.

He added that this aspect could fall under the category of food losses as part of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 12.3, which calls for halving food waste at retail and consumer levels as a means to achieve the SDGs. Thus, research may be prioritised in these areas, said

climate protection, said Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UNEP.

"Reducing food waste would cut greenhouse gas emissions, slow the destruction of nature through land conversion and pollution, enhance the availability of food and thus reduce hun-

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DN page 10

FEATURE



DISHAN JOSEPH

he past two decades have seen an increase in radicalized extremism and terrorism in the global arena. This created a need for all police forces across the world to enhance and empower their rapid response to demanding situations. These alarming scenarios include taking hostages, raiding terrorist safe houses, arresting dangerous armed criminals and mitigating a violent shootout in a public space. We have seen such cases telecast on BBC and CNN in many countries, especially when psychotic 'lone wolf' shooters unleash their bloody carnage in pub-







(IAEA), the SWAT crews safely transport a radioactive capsule, primarily used in Sri Lanka for medical purposes.

I was able to witness the live training of the WAT members along with Chief Inspector R.M. Wimalaratna (presently ASP). He spoke about the importance of training recruits in Close Quarters Battle (CQB), the dangerous scenario which is where the SWAT team maybe called in to operate, during day and night, in an office, a floor of rooms in a hotel, a luxury passenger bus or even an airplane. The CQB strike must combine the elements of surprise, speed, violence of action and accuracy. I was able to observe the determined SWAT members display their prowess in clearing a room. The elite SWAT officers can execute missions in teams of two, four, six and eight, depending on the requirement and level of danger. The SWAT officer never works alone. He is paired with another member, and they remain buddies throughout their service life. A fourman team approached the room with stealth and alert eyes, scanning potential danger. The door (entrance) to any room poses a risk.

THE SWAT OFFICER NEVER WORKS ALONE. HE IS PAIRED WITH ANOTHER MEMBER, AND THEY REMAIN BUDDIES THROUGHOUT THEIR SERVICE LIFE. A FOUR-MAN TEAM APPROACHED THE

lic.

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Sri Lanka Police is considered one of the best counter-terrorism strike forces in Asia. Within its wide spectrum of operations, its formidable branch is SWAT- Special Weapons Action Team. This is the branch that brings out the best within the STF, and consists of carefully selected and intensely trained police commandos who are the pride of the Sri Lanka Police.

In the international security arena, the concept of SWAT can be traced to Los Angeles, USA. It is recorded that in 1965, a motor vehicle arrest of an African-American soon ran out of control resulting in a sudden and violent riot that left 34 persons dead in Los Angeles. The Watt Riot, as it later came to be known, unleashed sudden mob violence. It was this intense case scenario that provoked Inspector John Nelson (LAPD) to envisage the concept of using a special weapons action team to mitigate such threats. To this day, he is venerated as the 'Father of SWAT' in the global police fraternity. The primary mission of this concept is a ready and concentrated response by SWAT members in a scenario beyond the capability of the regular police force. With a history of more than 150 years, the Sri Lanka Police Service was burdened with an assortment of duties, which was beyond the parameters of routine law enforcement. For decades, the police had to deal with regular crime prevention and detection duties, but this landscape would face dangerous threats.

There was an incident at a factory in the Biyagama Free Trade Zone many years ago. An executive was taken hostage by some disgruntled staff that remained defiant. After a brief standoff with the local police, it was time to call in the Special Task Force. Responding to the call, a Quick Response Team (QRT) was sent to the location, and the issue settled without further aggression. Subsequently, in 2002, a few hardcore prisoners held inside the Tangalle Prison had overpowered the jailors and stolen their uniforms and attempted a daring escape. Once again, the Special Task Force QRT squad responded and brought the situation under control. It was such scenarios that dictated the need for the formation of a SWAT Team within the Sri Lanka Police.

Over the past few years, the SWAT teams have improved and streamlined their operational capability to deliver a fierce counter

Commandant of the Special Task Force DIG Waruna Jayasundara

strike to dispel and decimate any dangerous threats. The teams are made up of tough men who display discernment and focus-driven determination. They train at the Special Task Force Academy located at Katukurunda, Kalutara. I was privileged to visit the SWAT teams along with the then Director Training, Superintendent of Police Athula Daulagala (presently SSP/ Deputy Commandant STF).

The STF training school expects a high standard of discipline and performance from all officers. SP Daulagala went on to explain about the diverse role of SWAT in hostage rescue, protection of VVIPs and secure transport of radioactive materials. According to the STF, there was an incident years ago where the Sri Lankan Parliament was subject to a sudden grenade attack. Since then, the SWAT teams have been deployed to respond to any threat. Emphasizing on one of the special duties they carry out, adhering to international rules of the International Atomic Energy Authori-

ROOM WITH STEALTH AND ALERT EYES, SCANNING POTENTIAL DANGER. THE DOOR (ENTRANCE) TO ANY ROOM POSES A RISK. THIS POINT OF ENTRY IS REFERRED TO AS THE 'FATAL FUNNEL', WHERE THE POLICE COMMANDO IS MOST VULNERABLE. THE RAPIDLY UNWINDING SEQUENCE TOOK A FEW SECONDS. IT EFFECTIVELY FOLLOWS THE PROTOCOL OF - CLEAR THE BREACH POINT, ELIMINATE THREAT, CLEAR THE NEAR CORNER, RUN TO THE WALL, COLLAPSE, SET OFF FIRE AND COMMUNICATE

This point of entry is referred to as the 'fatal funnel', where the police commando is most vulnerable. The rapidly unwinding sequence took a few seconds. It effectively follows the protocol of - clear the breach point, eliminate threat, clear the near corner, run to the wall, collapse, set off fire and communicate. According to the STF, all raids are undertaken with verified ground intelligence that is available. An armed hostage taker can hide anywhere inside a room, therefore, the objective is to unleash all offensive action before the party being engaged has time to react. Physical and psychological momentum is very essential during a strike. Teamwork and fortitude is the key to achieving success in SWAT missions.

The SWAT officers use the HK/MP5 submachine gun (its size ideally suited for use in restrictive space), Uzi (open boltblowback operated submachine gun), Glock17 and Browning high power pistol, 12 bore shotguns (used to burst open a locked door) and Sniper rifles when required. The Heckler and Koch MP5 is a dependable weapon made in Germany, with a capacity of 900 rounds per minute. The men who desire to serve in SWAT must already be serving members of the regular Special Task Force, with three years of unblemished service. They must endure 10 weeks of extensive training where they also augment their combat skills to become expert swimmers, drivers and motorcycle riders.

Aspiring police commandos must pass tests including a psychometric test that evaluates their personality characteristics and cognitive ability, scenarios that evaluate their reaction time, accurate firing skills, IQ test and a unique test that defines their ability to smell things in a cloistered environment. They are taught vehicle assault, raids, anti ambush drills and urban operations. After the 10 weeks training period, the men who endure and pass must follow another four weeks of training that hones their skills. The SWAT can take pride in its airborne capability. The Special Task Force SWAT teams have trained and formed a SWAT team for the Maldives, on request.

The incumbent Commandant of the Special Task Force is Deputy Inspector General of Police Waruna Jayasundara. He explained, "I am aware of the value of our elite teams such as SWAT and Small Teams. The future threats will unwind in the urban terrain in a new dimension, unlike terrorism in the past which was fought on a different front. In the recent past, the STF has been deployed to curb organized crime and illegal weapons. Since I assumed office, our teams were able to detect 419 foreign and locally made weapons including 27 (T-56) automatic rifles. In 2010, we used SWAT for the first time in an operation to arrest a famous underworld character. Once again, the SWAT was deployed in 2017 in Minuwangoda to strike at an underworld gang. The Special Task Force SWAT teams have been effectively deployed to raid several illegal cannabis plantations in the Uva Province. Our teams were airborne in SLAF Bell 212 and MI-17 Helicopters and landed at daybreak with the element of surprise. We have proved our ability by raiding a hideout in Muthrajawella using a boat of the Navy SBS."

He added that plans were being made to enhance the capability of the SWAT teams by introducing new high tech equipment, weapons, uniforms and boots on par with global SWAT teams. The SWAT officers will be able to operate with enhanced night vision capacity for discreet operations. The indomitable police commandos of SWAT, imbued with courage remain primed and ready for swift action in defence of the Motherland.

US NEW DAILY COVID CASES AT FIVE-MONTH LOW



Pharmacist Antoun Houranieh unlocks a refrigerator and takes out a box of the Johnson & Johnson COVID -19 Janssen Vaccine to be used for the day's at home vaccinations at the US Department of Veterans Affairs' VA Boston Healthcare System's Jamaica Plain Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts on Thursday. - AFP

States recorded fewer than 40,000 new daily cases of COVID-19 for the first time in five months on Thursday, a piece of promising news as countries across the globe struggle to hold off another infection surge before inoculations become widespread.

With frustration over restrictions having long weighed on populations worldwide, leaders were seeking to balance demands for easing rules while not unleashing another explosion in cases.

In the United States, the world's hardest-hit country, the number of daily cases peaked at nearly 300,000 in early January following the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

With cases declining and vaccines rolling out, several US states have begun jettisoning mask-wearing rules - much to the chagrin of President Joe Biden, who

called the move "Neanthinking." derthal While his administration says its promise to vaccinate 100 million people in its first 100 days is ahead of schedule, Europe is fac-

ing heavy criticism over delays in its inoculation campaign. The EU drug watchdog said Thursday it had started a "rolling review" of the Sputnik V shot, meaning Russian coronavirus vaccines could soon be doled out across Europe. Moscow responded by

saying it could supply doses for 50 million Europeans starting from June as the 27-nation bloc pledged to inoculate all those in need by the end of summer. The EU has already approved three vaccines, but some members have gone it alone, approving shots from Russia and China unilaterally after criticizing delays.- AFP

COVID-19 kills fewer African women than men - WHO study



Children run past al mural warning people about the dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Kibera settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.

19 than men," World

Health Organization

for Africa Matshidiso

conference.

Moeti told an online news

But the pandemic had

services, with women suf-

"There was a rise in

exposed gaps in health

fering the brunt of dis-

rupted access to care.

maternal deaths in 10

countries," Moeti said,

another study that collat-

ed data between February

making reference to

SOUTH AFRICA: Women in Africa are less likely to die from COVID-19 than men, but more likely to succumb to maternal complications due to limited access to reproductive services since the pandemic started, the UN said Thursday citing reports.

A study of 28 African countries including Guinea, Mauritius and Uganda showed that on average women accounted for a slightly smaller proportion of coronavirus infections and deaths compared to men.

Overall around 41 percent of reported COVID-19 cases were women, although the figures

ranged widely from 31 and July 2020. The highpercent in Niger to more est jumps were recorded than 57 percent in South in the Comoros, Mali, Senegal and South Africa. Africa. "In most countries,

Access to sexual and women are somewhat less reproductive care was already poor on the contilikely to die from Covidnent before coronavirus hit. But access was made (WHO) regional director

worse by restrictions to stem the spread of COVID-19, pushing more women to seek risky informal abortions, Moeti explained.

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Overstretched hospitals were often unable to see patients seeking non-coronavirus related services, she added.

More data is still needed to determine the full extent of the effect.- AFP

Cuban-developed vaccine enters Phase III trial

CUBA: A Cuban-developed coronavirus candidate vaccine entered into Phase III trials Thursday, the first shot developed by a Latin American country to get this far, the Government said.

The recruitment of 44,000 volunteers aged 19 to 80 to test the drug named Soberana 2 has already begun, said Cuba's Finlay vaccine institute.

The first trial shots should start being administered in Havana next week.

The trial volunteers will be divided into three groups: some will receive two doses of the vaccine 28 days apart, another group will get two doses plus a third immune booster, and the third a placebo.

This third phase of the trial will officially end three months after the last dose is injected, the institute's Yury Valdes told reporters.

But if the results are promising, authorisation for emergency use could be sought before then.

The Communist state, which has stated it wants to vaccinate all inhabitants this year, has been relatively unscathed by the COVID-19 pandemic, with just over 53,300 recorded cases and 336 deaths in a population of 11.2 million.

Under American sanctions, the island nation began developing its own vaccines in the 1980s, discovering the first immunization against the meningitis-causing Meningococcal B bacteria.

Nearly 80 percent of its vaccines are produced locally, and Cuba is working on four coronavirus candidate vaccines.

Soberana 2, like Novavax developed in America, is a recombinant protein vaccine.

They work by recreating the "spikes" on the surface of the coronavirus and introducing it to the body, training the immune system



Cuba's Finlay vaccine institute has announced that it will launch phase 3 trials of the Soberana 2 coronavirus vaccine.

to recognize such intruders and fight back in case of a real infection. Recombinant vaccines, unlike

some coronavirus shots already in use, do not need extreme refrigeration.- AFP



BRAZIL: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday urged Brazilians to "stop whining" about COVID-19 and renewed his attacks on stay-at-home measures to contain the pandemic, amid a surge of cases that is pushing hospitals to the brink.

The latest controversial comments from the far-right leader, who regularly flouts expert advice on fighting the new coronavirus despite having contracted it himself last year, came after Brazil registered its second daily record of COVID-19 deaths in as many days, leading some cities and states to go back on partial lockdown. "Stop whining. How long are you going to keep crying about it?" Bolsonaro said at an inauguration ceremony for a new railroad line in the central state of Goais. "How long are you going to stay home? How long are you going to keep everything closed? People can't take it anymore," he added. 'We regret the deaths.... But where's Brazil going to end up if we just close everything?" Nearly 260,000 people have died of COVID-19 in Brazil, the second-highest pandemic death toll in the world after the United States. Bolsonaro's comments came as a growing list of cities and states announced new partial lockdown measures, including the city of Rio de Janeiro and state of Sao Paulo. The hard-hit country of 212 million people is having its deadliest week of the pandemic, with an average of more than





Ireland investigates stillbirths linked to COVID-19 pandemic

IRELAND: Irish health officials are investigating four stillbirths potentially linked to COVID-19, the Republic's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Ronan Glynn said on Thursday.

Glynn said officials have been "made aware of four preliminary reports of stillbirths potentially associated with a condition called COVID Placentitis"

Glynn told reporters in Dublin that coroners had reported the cases, in which pregnant women have tested positive for the coronavirus and subsequently suffered stillbirths.

The cause of the stillbirth in

such cases is infection of the placenta, he said.

Glynn cautioned that "further work needs to be done" before the findings can be confirmed.

"I can't give too much detail because there's not too much more details to give at this point," he said.

Ireland has suffered 4,396 deaths from the coronavirus pandemic according to latest official figures.

The nation is currently in the midst of its third lockdown after suffering the highest rate of infection per capita in the world in early January.- AFP



Ireland's Deputy Chief Medical Officer Ronan Glynn explains COVID-19.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

1,300 deaths per day over the past seven days.

An explosion of cases blamed partly on a new variant of the virus that emerged in the Amazon rainforest has filled intensive care units almost to capacity in many areas.

Bolsonaro has stoked controversy throughout the pandemic by comparing the virus to a "little flu," railing against stay-at-home measures and face masks, joking that getting vaccinated could "turn you into an alligator," and pushing the medication hydroxychloroquine despite studies showing it is ineffective against COVID-19.- AFP

COUNTRIES TO FAST-TRACK ADAPTED COVID VACCINES

UK: Modified vaccines designed to protect against emerging coronavirus variants will get fast-track approval under a pact announced on Thursday by medicines regulators in Britain and four other countries

The agreement will avert the need for lengthy clinical studies if authorised vaccines are adapted in future, as long as the manufacturers offer "robust evidence" of their potency and safety, according to the agreement by the ACCESS Consortium.

The consortium comprises Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and counterparts from Australia, Canada, Singapore and Switzerland.

"Our priority is to get effective vaccines to the public in as short a time as possible, without compromising on safety,"

MHRA chief scientific officer Christian Schneider said in a statement.

"Should any modifications to authorised Covid-19 vaccines be necessary, this regulatory approach should help to do just that.

'The public should be confident that no vaccine would be approved unless the expected high standards of safety, quality and effectiveness are met."

The approach is based on the "tried and tested" regulatory process used for seasonal influenza vaccines, which need to be adapted every year to combat new strains, the MHRA said.

Britain began rolling out the world's first mass vaccination programme for the coronavirus in December. But health experts are concerned that new variants of the disease, including one from Brazil, could prove more resistant to the vaccines.

That would undermine plans by Britain and others to start unwinding lockdowns in the coming weeks, which hinge on the vaccines giving enough people protection and bringing down a winter surge in infections and deaths.

In England, the latest wide-scale survey of more than 165,000 volunteers tested for Covid-19 showed that prevalence fell by two-thirds last month from January, with one in every 204 people infected.

The survey overseen by London's Imperial College showed the "R" number in England came to 0.86. Anything under 1.0 signals the virus is no longer growing exponentially in the population.

But it also found that the rate of decrease was slowing, prompting Health Secretary Matt Hancock to urge continued caution as England prepares to reopen schools to in-



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen gestures as he receives the AstraZeneca vaccine during a vaccination campaign against the COVID-19 coronavirus at Calmette hospital in Phnom Penh on Thursday. - AFP

class teaching next Monday in the first phase of ending its lockdown.

"There is some cause for concern that our hard-won progress may be slowing down, and even reversing in some regions so it is

important we remain vigilant -- this is on all of us," Hancock said.

More than 123,000 people have died of Covid-19 across the UK, in one of the world's worst outbreaks.- AFP

DN page 12 White House defends Biden's **'Neanderthals' comment**

US: So it's official: The US President does not think Opposition Republicans belong to an extinct human species. They just behave like them.

"Behaviour of a Neanderthal," Joe Biden's Press Secretary, Jen Psaki said Thursday. "Just to be very clear: the behaviour."

Psaki was circling back on Biden's earlier bashing of Republican Governors in Texas and Mississippi who defied federal coronavirus experts and dropped mask-wearing mandates in their states.

Biden's barbed comment Wednesday about "Neanderthal thinking" from the

US President Joe Biden poses with 'first dogs' Champ and Major in the Oval Office.

governors when the coundrew howls of outrage try is fighting to overcome from some on the right. the COVID-19 pandemic "First we were 'deplora-

bles.' Then 'chumps.' Then 'spineless cow-ards,'" tweeted Representative Jim Jordan. "And now? We're 'neanderthals.' Not smart enough to make decisions for ourselves. This is what the Democrats think of us."

A Republican Senator, Marsha Blackburn, suggested on Fox Business that Neanderthals -- an ancient species of human that became extinct about 40,000 years ago -- are something like models of the can-do, small-government voters her party says it represents.

"Neanderthals are hunt-

er-gatherers, they're protectors of their family, they are resilient, they're resourceful, they tend to their own. So, I think Joe Biden needs to rethink what he is saying," she said.

Psaki addressed the backlash, saying Biden was reflecting "frustration and exasperation" with officials who refuse to follow the medical community's consensus that mask-wearing is vital to stopping the coronavirus pandemic. More than half a million Americans have died from COVID-19 in just

over a year. - AFP

South African medics celebrate after drop in COVID cases

SOUTH AFRICA: After a

year battling coronavirus, exhausted health workers in South Africa are celebrating a drop in cases but dread another wave of infections -- a scenario that could strike just months from now.

"We are relieved now because the numbers are down and patients are no longer that sick," nurse Constance Mathibela told AFP at Thembisa Hospital, in a township east of Johannesburg.

After the epidemic hit its stride, the hospital "was almost full everyday," she recalled.

"There was no time when we had an empty (COVID) ward. It was just a continuous (flow of) things."

South Africa recorded its first case of coronavirus on March 5 last year. It has since been through two virus storms, recording over 1.5 million cases and more than 50,000 deaths -the highest in all of Africa.

But on Sunday President Cyril Ramaphosa declared that the second wave, fuelled by a new, more contagious, variant, was now over. The nationwide

The waiting area at Thembisa Hospital, in South Africa where COVID-19 admissions have fallen sharply recently.

southern hemisphere winter,

Workers at Thembisa -- the

that is alternatively spelt Tembi-

sa -- relived the surges of previ-

scary because we didn't know Covid at all," said Mathibela,

COVID-19 ward at the hospital.

Nkoana, said that in those early

Another senior nurse, Salome

the first nurse to work in a

"At the beginning it was very

public hospital of a township

around May or June.

ous waves.

tally of daily new infections fell to just over 500 this week after peaking at more than 21,000 on January 7.

Ramaphosa's announcement was welcome news for many medical workers who have been driven to the brink of burnout. But with a vaccination drive having started only last month,

they are also bracing for a possible third wave. Scientists believe it could

land with the onset of the

days, frontline workers struggled to care for patients suffering from an unfamiliar infection, all the while fearing that they could fall sick too.

"Every day when I went home, I prayed... 'God, can you please help me to go through this?"

"Now I'm exhausted, I need leave," said the nurse, dressed in blue scrubs, as she went through patients' notes.

One of the least documented aspects of the epidemic is the mental toll inflicted on health workers as they watched patients struggle with the disease and pass away.

"We were so depressed, all of us," said Nkoana, recalling a terrible day when five patients died. "Emotionally it stressed us a lot," observed Phuti Kobo, 39, another ward manager. "One death (alone) is enough to traumatise nurses.

"If you had more than five in a day, that was a real trauma, but we managed through it all." Now the "wards are much

quieter...no more ventilated patients," she added cheerfully. - AFP

Handmade shawl for Pope during historic Iraq visit



Karjiya Baqtar who has worked with other Iraqi Christians for two months on the shawl to be presented to Pope Francis on his visit to the town is seen with Iraqi priest Ammar Yaqo who designed the fabric.

IRAQ: Pulling golden thread with her frail fingers, elderly Christian Karjiya Baqtar has embroidered a precious prayer carefully stitched on either shawl to gift the most cherside in Syriac, a dialect of ished visitor to her Iraqi the language spoken by hometown - Pope Francis. Jesus Christ and still used Francis will visit the in Qaraqosh.

northern town of Qaraqosh, ravaged in 2014 by the Islamic State jihadist group, on the third day of his history-making trip to Iraq.

Baqtar, a petite woman and Hamdaniya, Qaraqosh with veiny hands and wisps has a long pre-Christian of hair gently brushed back history and is also one of from her face, has worked Iraq's oldest Christian with other Christians in towns. It was largely Qaraqosh for two months destroyed in 2014 when on the stole vestment. the Islamic State group

The two-metre (6.5-foot) stole is entirely locally produced – from the checkered red and black fabric to the Syriac prayers handstitched along its edges in

glimmering gold. It was designed by Ammar Yaqo, the priest at

Qaraqosh. "Khaya Baqtar wove the fabric, while Karjiya and

sponsored armed groups the Al-Tahera Church in deployed in large numbers in nearby plains. The prayer stole features

Christian emblems, includ-Miss Adhraa Daaboul ing grapes used for wine --

embroidered it," Yaqo told AFP proudly. The "Our Father" and

"Hail Mary" prayers are

'This is the first time

this kind of stole has been

produced in Qaraqosh, and

it represents the heritage of

Also known as Bakhdida

this town," said Yaqo.

swept through the sur-

rounding province of Nin-

trickled back since 2017

and slowly worked at

eveh, but its residents have

rebuilding their hometown.

The security situation

remains tense, with state-

which for Catholics represents the blood of Jesus -and wheat for bread, or his body. There are Iraqi emblems, including date fronds, for which the country is well-known, and even symbols of Qaraqosh.

"It features three crosses, which were designed to look like the crosses atop the Al-Tahera Church in the town, which was smashed by IS," Yaqo said.

Christians in Qaraqosh have rehabilitated the church but opted to leave the cross as it is, as a memento of the jihadist onslaught they survived. "The fabric, the embroi-

dery, everything about this stole is local," Yaqo added. "It was made specifically

for the Pope and will be presented to him during the mass." It's not the only handmade garment the Pope will be gifted on this trip. Kurdish Muslim designer Shanaz Jamal has stitched an ornate cross, inlaid with semi-precious turquoise and emerald stones, onto a burgundy fabric. - AFP



Youngest American to go into space is a cancer survivor

US: By the end of the year, Hayley Arceneaux will be the youngest American in space and one of the first tourists to enter orbit unaccompanied by professional astronauts.

It is a feat made all the more remarkable by her battle to overcome a childhood cancer that robbed the 29-year-old of her dream of becoming an astronaut herself.

Due to the bone cancer she overcame, Arceneaux has steel rods in her left leg -- which until recently

going into space. Enter Jared Isaac- Inspiration4 and set to take off at man, a young American billionaire with a passion for space exploration who chartered a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at his own expense and decided to take three people with him,

including Arceneaux. Arceneaux said she hopes to be an inspiration with "this precedent that it's going to set and what it's going to show these other kids going through cancer treatment."

were enough to shatter her hopes of unprecedented mission, named it was from St Jude... They basically going into space. Enter Jared Isaac- Inspiration4 and set to take off at said, 'Do you want to go to space?'' the end of 2021, was in fact Arceneaux.

The young woman was treated as a child at St Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, which specializes in childhood diseases, including cancer.

Isaacman hopes to raise \$200 million for the hospital on his space mission.

"I got a phone call pretty much The first person chosen for this out of the blue in early January, and

Arceneaux told AFP.

"Immediately I said, 'Yes, yes, absolutely!" said Arceneaux, who leg. And that's one thing I'm so now works for the same hospital that cared for her, as a medical assistant. As a child, she visited the Arceneaux said. NASA space center in Houston, Texas. "Of course, I wanted to be an go to space is such an honor but astronaut," she said. "But then a few honestly, what I'm more excited months later I was diagnosed with cancer, and it really changed my whole world."

"Until now, astronauts have had to really be physically perfect, which is not a category that I fall into because of surgeries I've had on my excited about with this mission, it is opening space travel up to anyone,"

"Being the youngest American to about is being the first pediatric cancer survivor to go to space," she said. - AFP



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's physician assistant and cancer survivor Hayley Arceneaux, posing for a photo at a SpaceX facility in Hawthorne. California.

US Senate debates COVID relief package

US: The US Senate, whipsawed over the \$1.9 trillion COVID rescue package, finally took up the sweeping bill Thursday, with multiple hurdles ahead as President Joe Biden seeks to push his top legislative priority through Congress.

Republicans already appeared united in opposing the proposal over its high cost, and lawmakers braced for marathon days that will include up to 20 hours of debate and a lengthy list of amendments that will force contentious votes before the bill's final passage.

But Biden has been desperate to implement its key elements, including direct checks of up to \$1,400 for most Americans, funding for vaccines, expanded unemployment benefits, resources to help open schools quickly and money to hard-hit businesses and communities.

With the chamber deadlocked at 50-50, Vice President Kamala Harris broke the tie to allow debate to begin.

The process immediately hit a snag when Republican Senator Ron Johnson demanded that the entire coronavirus package be read aloud on the floor -- a procedure that is almost always dispensed with.

The version which passed the House last week was 630 pages long, and the reading is estimated to take about 10 hours, meaning debate may only begin on the bill well after midnight. After debate, Republicans will introduce multiple amendments to the



Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, a Democrat from New York wears a protective mask while arriving to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Thursday for the debate.

bill in a process known as a "vote-a-rama," in which senators can propose unlimited numbers of amendments.

Republicans aim to delay the process, so Senators are bracing for a vote-a-rama that could stretch into the weekend or next week. - AFP

Myanmar 'in the dark'

MYANMAR: Electricity supply was cut across many areas of Myanmar on Friday because of a "system breakdown", according to multiple government agencies. People started posting on Twitter and Facebook about the widespread blackouts across commercial hub Yangon at around 1:30 pm local time (0600 GMT).

"A system breakdown is causing power outages across the country," reported Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation in central Yangon's Yankin township. Further north in the city of Magway, along the Irrawaddy River, the region's Electricity Supply enterprise reported the same.

Netizens on Facebook - an extremely popular platform in Myanmar -- similarly reported electricity blackouts in other parts of the country.

The supply cut comes as the junta has tightened its chokehold on communications, blocking social media platforms -- which people have skirted by downloading VPNs -- and imposing a nightly internet shutdown.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the February 1 coup that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power, with soldiers and police escalating the use of force on the streets to quell nationwide protests. - AFP

Israel vaccinates Palestinians with work papers

ISRAEL: Israel began giving coronavirus vaccinations to Palestinians in the West Bank with permits to work in Jewish settlements in the occupied territory and inside Israel.

"The vaccination campaign for Palestinian workers began Thursday with a pilot test on 700 people with work permits in Israel," said COGAT, the Israeli military branch responsible for civil affairs in Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian Authority said on February 19 that it had reached an agreement with Israel that would see the Jewish state vaccinate 100,000 Pal-

estinian labourers. The main COVID-19 vaccination campaign, carried out by COGAT and the Israeli health ministry, would begin on Sunday "in seven sites located at entry points" of the occupied West Bank to Israel and in industrial areas of Israeli settlements, COGAT said.

Palestinian workers would receive doses of the Moderna vaccine, it added.

Palestinians in east Jerusalem, occupied territory annexed by Israel, can get vaccinated against Covid-19 like the rest of the Israeli population.

More than 4.88 million Israelis, or 60 percent of the population, have received at least a first dose since the launch of Israel's vaccination campaign under an agreement with Pfizer.

The Palestinians have received just over 30,000 vaccine doses, including 2,000 from Israel, which has pledged to provide 5,000 doses.

More than 135,000 Palestinians in the West Bank have been infected since the beginning of the pandemic, 1,534 of whom have died, out of a population of 2.8 million.- AFP

China sets growth target of 'ABOVE 6%' for 2021

CHINA: China's leaders on Friday set a growth target "above six percent" for 2021, putting it back above pre-pandemic levels, after the virus was largely brought under control at home thanks to strict lockdowns and mass testing.

The goal comes after the world's number two economy suffered its slowest rate of expansion in four decades because of the strict containment measures and as the disease wiped out global trade.

"In setting this target, we have taken into account the recovery of economic activity, said Premier Li Keqiang at the opening of the country's annual legislative session, adding that this dovetails with future goals such as "high-quality development", innovation and reform.

The freezing of the economy last year raised some doubts about the Communist Party's ability to deliver on its pledge of continued prosperity in return for unquestioned political power.

But with coronavirus brought under control domestically, analysts say it is set for a strong comeback, with forecasts putting growth at 8-9 percent at least this year, according to Tommy Xie, OCBC Bank's head of Greater China research.

Beijing usually sets annual economic growth targets that it regularly exceeds, though it did not set a target last year owing to the outbreak.

Leaders did not specify a growth target for its new five-year plan, as is its usual custom, only saying it would be "maintained within a reasonable range".

The draft of the five-year roadmap was also published Friday.

Authorities are also looking to create more than 11 million new urban jobs -- an increase from last year -- and keep urban unemployment around 5.5 percent.

Li added authorities will "maintain necessary



Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang delivers a speech during the opening session of China's National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

policy support" and "avoid sharp turns in policy"

But experts have warned that unemployment is likely to be higher than official figures, given the number of people involved in the informal workforce.

China also set its fiscal deficit target at "around 3.2 percent" of gross domestic product -- below last year's figure but in line with expectations

Many analysts had predicted global uncertainty would lead China to hold off on a GDP target for a second year, and said the target was deliberately cautious.

"The bar is set too low... (it's) as if there is no target," ING chief economist for Greater China Iris Pang told AFP.

This could be because Beijing does not want to slash its growth target next year, when distortions from the pandemic subside, added Nomura chief China economist Lu Ting.

Meanwhile, "as the economy has already made a strong recovery, it will not be necessary to have another major fiscal boost this year", said UOB economist Ho Woei Chen.

She noted that lowering the fiscal deficit target points to a "normalisation", bringing it closer to pre-pandemic numbers. - AFP

Asteroid the size of the Golden Gate Bridge to zoom by Earth

US: An asteroid similar in size to the Golden Gate Bridge will whip past Earth later this month — the largest and fastest asteroid to pass close to our planet this year. But don't worry, it won't get too close. The asteroid, offi-

cially known by NASA as 231937 (2001 FO32), is about 0.5 to 1 mile in diameter, making it larger than about 97% of asteroids but

small compared to large asteroids, according to Space Reference. It has an orbit period of 810 days.

The asteroid is set to come within 1.25 million miles of Earth at 11:02 a.m. ET on March 21, just one day after the spring equinox. That's close enough for NASA to classify it as "potentially hazardous" in its database of near-Earth asteroids.

"This is the closest predicted approach in 2021 for any moderately large asteroid, where 'moderately large' means at least several hundred meters in size," Paul Chodas, the Director of the Center for Near-Earth Object Studies, told CBS News on Wednesday.

However, it poses no risk of impact, and scientists know its path very accurately.

It will zoom past at almost 77,000 miles per hour, or 21 miles per second - peaking scientists' interests as one of the fastest space rocks known to fly past Earth, according to EarthSky. Asteroids are designated as "potentially hazardous" when they come within about 4.65 million miles of Earth, and are larger

than 500 feet in diameter. At its brightest, the space rock will still be "far too faint" to be seen with the naked eye, Chodas said.

The largest asteroid in 2021 will cross Earth later this month.

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"A fascinating aspect of asteroids is that observers using backyard telescopes can spot them as apparently slow-moving 'stars," EarthSky said. "It typically takes at least 5 to 10 minutes for backyard telescope users to detect a space rock's motion in front of its starfield. But asteroid 2001 FO32 will be sweeping past Earth at such a fast pace that, when it's closest, observers using 8-inch or larger telescopes might be able to detect its motion – its drift in front of the stars - in real-time."

Observers at lower northern latitudes and in the southern hemisphere will have the best chance to spot it at its brightest, Chodas said. Star charts will help locate it. Telescopes in New Mexico that are part of the Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research program detected the asteroid on March 23, 2001. The MIT Lincoln Laboratory program, funded by the U.S. Air Force and NASA, has been monitoring it since. - YAHOO NEWS



Teenagers killed as Myanmar Army opens FIRE ON PROTESTERS

INDIA: A number of people have begun escaping Department," local police chief Kumar Abhishek the turmoil in Myanmar into India, some of them police refusing to take part in the violent crackdown on protests against a military coup there, officials and reports said.

Myanmar's junta ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 1, triggering a mass uprising that the military has responded to with increasingly lethal force. The UN said at least 38 people were killed on Wednesday.

Indian police said nine people crossed the 1,600-kilometre (1,000-mile) border into Mizoram ate on the same day, three of them police refusing to take part in putting down protests. The Hindu daily said at least 20 people have crossed over since Wednesday, and quoted locals as saying there were at least 50 in the districts of Champhai and Serchhip.

said.

The Hindustan Times quoted officials in Mizoram saying that locals have been told to report immediately any further Myanmar nationals crossing the frontier.

Champai deputy commissioner Maria CT Zuali told the paper that "those persons have to be caught and the local authorities alerted." "We will try and find out if at all the lives of those entering India are threatened in Myanmar. We can decide on these people based on what the (central government) says,' Zuali said. "If permission is not granted to take them in as refugees, they would be deported." Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga said earlier that the state would welcome people fleeing the Myanmar military "with open arms, give them food and shelter." "We would even approach the central government to grant us permission in the event of a refugees' influx," he said.- AFP



19-year-old Deng Jia Xi, wearing a t-shirt saying 'Everything will be ok' was reported to be among the protesters who died on Wednesday.

"Their identities and reasons for fleeing Myanmar have been forwarded to the State's Home

Deng Jia Xi, a 19-year-old shot dead during protests in Myanmar. - Facebook

NOW SCREENING

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION MORAGAHAKANDA - KALUGANGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REMOVAL OF DAMAGED MATERIAL 2020-I

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SALE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL **UNUSED AND REMOVED FROM USE**

- 1. Bids will be received for the sale of discarded damaged material belonging to Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project. These goods could be inspected at the Wellewela Stores and Moragahakanda Stores of Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
- 2. A bidder could forward bids for one item or several items or for all items through one form.
- 3. Relevant application forms could be obtained from the Accountant on submission of the receipt obtained from the Cashier of Moragahakanda -Kaluganga Development Project for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- from 9.00 a.m. on 08.03.2021 up to 3.00 p.m. on 09.03.2021.
- 4. Details of items to be sold will be issued with each application form.
- Interested applicants should contact Telephone Nos 066-2057854 / 066-5. 2053605 / 066-2053606 for further details, if required.
- 6. Duly perfected applications should be submitted along with a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000/-.
- 7. Bids will be closed at 9.30 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bids received late will be rejected.
- 8. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bidders or one of their representatives could participate at the time.
- All matters related to the sale of discarded construction material will be 9. carried out under Covid-19 health protection provisions and only the bidder or his representative should take part.

Eng. D.B. Wijayaratne **Project Director**, Moragahakanda-Kaluganga Development Project Koongahawela.

Myanmar refugees trickle across INDIAN BORDER

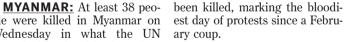
ple were killed in Myanmar on Wednesday in what the UN described as the "bloodiest day" since the coup took place a month ago.

In one photo, a 19-year-old young woman named Deng Jia Xi is seen crouching among fellow anti-coup protesters looking defiantly towards Myanmar's Security Forces, wearing a black T-shirt that says 'everything will be ok'.

Minutes later, she was dead another young life suddenly snuffed out simply for demanding democracy.

A second photo of her lifeless body, stretched out on a gurney with blood oozing from her head, joined many other horrific images flooding out of Myanmar on Wednesday, documenting dozens more victims of violent military crackdowns on peaceful rallies across the Southeast Asian nation. Christine Schraner Burgener,

the United Nations special envoy on Myanmar, said 38 people had



Myanmar's Security Forces are increasingly turning to lethal force, and apparently shooting to kill with impunity, as they try to stem the relentless tide of protests against the Feb. 1 military takeover that ousted and detained the country's civilian leadership.

In Deng Jia Xi's final Facebook post on Sunday - when at least 18 died in the nation's bloodiest protests to date – she offered to donate blood to anyone who needed it.

The post gained 127,000 likes within hours as tributes poured in following news of her death in Mandalay, Myanmar's second biggest city. Many protesters are now resorting to writing their emergency contact numbers and blood types on their forearms in the event that they are killed or need urgent medical care. - YAHOO NEWS

WELCOME

TO

NDIA-MYANMAR

FRIENDSHIP ROAT

25 BRTF

B2RCC



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The Indo-Myanmar border bridge at the border town of Moreh in Maniput State.

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INVITATION OF BIDS (IFB)

Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation

Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP)

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF **55 NOS. OF MOTOR BICYCLES FOR BEAT OFFICES, ELEPHANT CONTROL UNITS** AND

GALOYA NATIONAL PARK OF DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Contract Nos: LK-ESCAMP-DWC-123593-GO-RFQ, LK-ESCAMP-DWC-123611-GO-RFQ, LK-ESCAMP-DWC-163970-GO-RFQ

The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Project Management Unit - ESCAMP, 1. Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, No. 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 55 NOS. OF MOTOR BICYCLES FOR BEAT OFFICES, ELEPHANT CONTROL UNITS AND GALOYA NATIONAL PARK OF DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION under National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

A brief summary of the requirement is given in Table below;

Item	Quantity/ Units
Brand New Motor Bicycle 2020 (120 - 130 CC)	55

- 2. Bidders are required to bid for the total quantity of Motor Bicycles as listed above. Partial bids shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected.
- Bidding will be conducted using the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure that 3. shall be governed by the procurement guidelines of Government of Sri Lanka and is open to all eligible bidders that meet the eligibility and qualification requirements specified in the bidding documents.
- 4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, at Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project, (ESCAMP) "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla during working hours from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 08th March 2021 until 29th March 2021. Bidding documents can be inspected free of charge at above address during normal working hours. Further a Sample Bidding Document could be found in the **www.escamp.lk** only for reference purposes. (Contact telephone numbers are: 011 2888426 / 011 2888427).
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Project Director, Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP) "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla from 08th March 2021 to 29th March 2021 from 9.00 am. to 3.00 **pm**. upon payment of a non- refundable fee of Rs.5000.00 The method of payment will be in cash to the Project Accountant, Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project. (ESCAMP)
- Completed bids in duplicate inserted in separate envelopes marked as "Original" and "Copy" 6. and sealed, should be enclosed in one envelope with the contract number and the Title of





- 1. The Director, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for civil works as described in the table below.
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding, however, limited to the bidders who registered within the administrative boundary of the Northern Province.
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the CIDA registration and qualification requirements listed below. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director of Irrigation of respective ranges and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

Vavuniya & Mannar District	Kilinochchi District	Mullaitivu District
Deputy Director's Office,	Deputy Director's Office,	Deputy Director's Office,
Vavuniya Range,	Kilinochchi Range,	Mullaitivu Range,
Provincial Irrigation Department,	Provincial Irrigation Department,	Provincial Irrigation Department,
Station Road,	Wilsion Road,	A9 Road,
Vavuniya.	Kilinochchi.	Mankulam.
T.P: 024 2222347 / 024 2222352	T.P: 021 2285867	T.P: 024 3244122

- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language should be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Director of Irrigation, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam from 10.03.2021 to 30.03.2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.3, 500.00 for lot 12 and 2,000.00 for other documents. The method of payment will be by cash.
- 6. Bids shall be delivered to the Chairman of the respective Procurement Committee as indicated in the table below at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam on or before 13:00 hrs on 31.03.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- 7. Bids shall be valid as indicated in the form of bid. (Section 4).
- 8. All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bid Security included in Section-9. The amount and validity of the bid security shall be as per details given in Section - 5.
- 9. Pre-bid meeting will be held at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam commencing at 10.00 hrs on 23.03.2021.

The Table referred to above is:

Lot No	Title of Contract & Contract Identification Number	РС	Proposed contract Price (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security Amount (Rs)	Construction Period	Required CID Grade
		Mulla	aitivu Distri			
1	Rehabiliation to Downstream Works of Maruthamadu Tank PSDG/MUL/MIK/2021/02	Div. PC	4.630	90,000.00	180 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
2	Renovation of Udaiyarkaddu RB Canal Road PSDG/MUL/MIK/2021/03	Div. PC	4.630	90,000.00	180 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
3	Improvement to Iyankankulam Bund & Gravelling of Tank Bund Rec/Mul/VVK/2021/01	Div. PC	0.930	18,000.00	90 Days	C8 & C9 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
4	Improvements to Head Works & Access Road at Muthuiyankaddu Tank Rec/Mul/MIK/2021/01	Div. PC	2.310	45,000.00	180 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
5	Improvements to the Head Works at Udayarkaddu Tank Rec/Mul/MIK/2021/03	Div. PC	0.930	18,000.00	90 Days	C8 & C9 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
	·	Kilino	chchi Disti	rict		
6	Rehabilitation of Kudamuruddy Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIW/2021/03	Div. PC	6.369	125,000.00	140 Days	C6 & C7 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
7	Rehabilitation of Kariyalainagapaduwan Irrigation Scheme PSDG/KOC/KIW/2021/04	Div. PC	6.364	125,000.00	140 Days	C6 & C7 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
8	Improvement of Conference Hall, Cycle park, Store & Quarters REC(Building)/KOC/KIE/2021/01	Div. PC	2.266	45,000.00	75 Days	C9 Building
		Jaf	fna District			
9	Improvements of Vadamarachchi Lagoon & Upparu lagoon REC/KOC/JAF/2021/02	Div. PC	1.840	35,000.00	60 Days	C8 & C9 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
		Vavu	iniya Distrio	ct		
10	Rehabilitation of pampaimadu Tank head works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/VAV/2021/01	Div. PC	4.629	90,000.00	90 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
11	Rehabilitation of Mamaduwa Tank head works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/CHE/2021/04	Div. PC	2.777	50,000.00	90 Days	C7 & C8 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
		Mar	nnar Distric	t		
12	Rehabilitation of Koorai Tank Head Works and Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/MAN/2021/01	RPC	13.888	270,000.00	90 Days	C5 & C6 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
13	Rehabilitation of Welimaruthamadu Tank Head Works & Downstream developments PSDG/VAV/MAN/2021/02	Div. PC	9.259	180,000.00	90 Days	C6 & C7 Irrigation & Drainage Cana
	rocurement Committee, PC: Divisional Procurement Commit	tee			egional Procurer epartment Procu	
Direc	ctor of Irrigation,					Date: 06.03.20

Procurement written on the top of envelope which should be sent to the address given below by registered post on or before 30th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m. Bids shall also be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Conference Room in Project Management Unit, Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project, (ESCAMP) "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla. Late Bids and Bids sent electronically will not be accepted and will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders representatives who choose to attend.

- 7. All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" issued by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The amounts of Bid Security shall be LKR. 200,000.00 (Excluding VAT) The Bid Security shall be valid up to 31st July 2021. Any bid not accompanied by a valid bid security and not according to the format given with the bidding document will be rejected.
- Bids shall be valid up to 30th June 2021. 8.
- 9. The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders' in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids Etc.
- Bidders must provide the PCA 3 form (Public Contract Act No. of 1987) along with their 10. Bids. (http://www.drc.gov.lk/)
- The Project Procurement Committee reserves the full right in either accepting or rejecting 11. any bid fully or partly received and the decision of the Project Procurement Committee in this regard shall be the final.

The Chairman, **Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Project Management Unit,** Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (ESCAMP), "Sampathpaya", No.82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla.

Tel No. 011 2888426 / 011 2888427 www.escamp.lk

06th March 2021





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INVITATION FOR BIDS

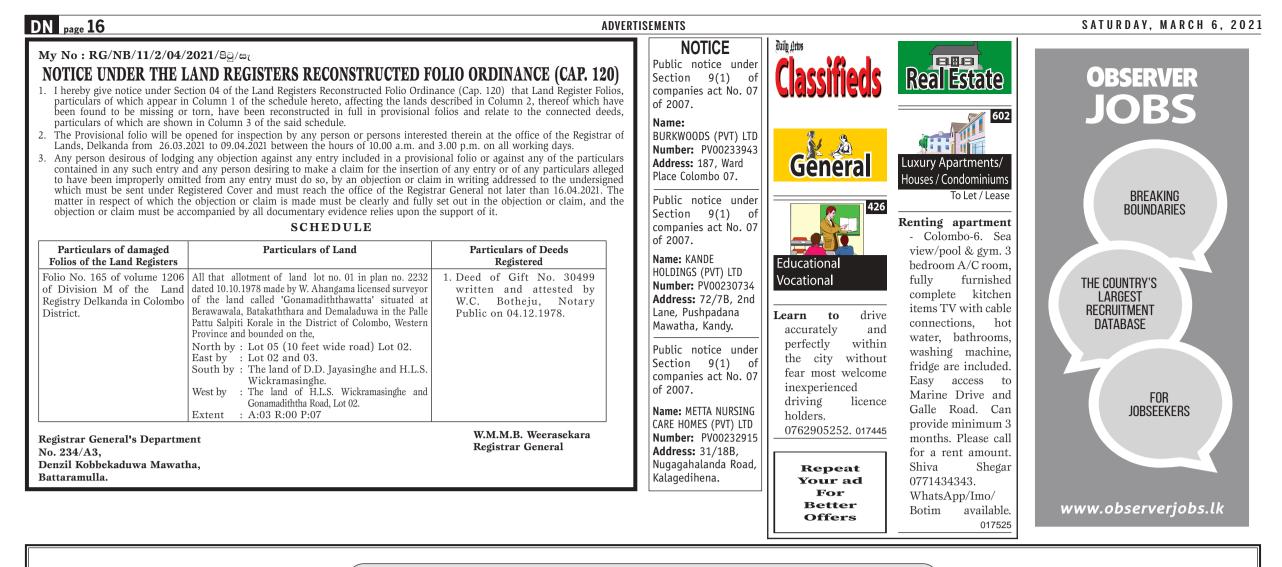
Provincial Department of Health Services Eastern Province

- 1. The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee invites sealed Bids for the works mentioned in the table from eligible Bidders who possess Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration for the Grade mentioned in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB), regional Preference and CIDA Grade preference 2. shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 03/2020.
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder should not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of Building Construction under Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the Grade as mentioned in the table.
- 4. Bidding documents may be purchased during office hours up to 03.00 p.m. on 26.03.2021 at the Procurement Unit, Provincial Department of Health Services, Eastern Province, Trincomalee on submission of receipts for the proof of payment for non-refundable fee mentioned below, made at the office of the Finance Unit, Provincial Department of Health Services, Eastern Province, Trincomalee.
- A Bidder is entitled to obtain the Bidding Documents in duplicate. Interested Bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge, prior to collection, if desired and obtain further information from the **Engineer**, **Provincial Department of** 5. Health Services, Eastern Province, Trincomalee.
- Bids accompanied by a Bid Security for the amount mentioned below shall reach the **Chairman, Deparment Procurement** 6. Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, No. 120, Court Road, Trincomalee on or before 3.00 p.m. on 29.03.2021. Bids will be opened at Provincial Department of Health Services, No. 120, Court Road, Trincomalee (Conference Hall) soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders/Representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected.
- A Pre Bid Meeting will be conducted on 22.03.2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the Office of the Conference Hall, Provincial 7. Department of Health Services, No. 120, Court Road, Trincomalee.
- The Bid Security is acceptable by any commercial bank or any Insurance Agency approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka 8. and Construction Guarantee Fund.

TABLE

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LA Setuvila Co KATARAGAMA
Chairman Departmental Procurement Committee Provincial Director of Health Services Eastern Province 03.05.2021
LAKE HOUSE HEAD OFFICE HOT LINES 1949, 011 242 9342, 011 No 35, D R Wijewardena





PROCUREMENT NOTICE

UVA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

UVA PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Bids are invited for the selection of contractors through the competitive bidding procedure by the Uva Provincial Road Development Department, from qualified contractors registered at the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) to carry out the Road works contained in the below stated table.

S/ No.	Name of Work	Regional Engineer's Office	Refundable Bid Deposit (if paid by cash) (Rs.)	Bid form fee (Rs.)	Required CIDA Garde	S/ No.	Name of Work	Regional Engineer's Office	Refundable Bid Deposit (if paid by cash) (Rs.)	Bid form fee (Rs.)	Required CIDA Garde
1.	Apr 4 km post - Medawalagama	olying second Ta Badulla	r layer 9,500.00	1,000.00	C9 and C8	23.	Walahamulla Uduhawara Perawella Galahagama Road (UC 441)	Welimada	35,000.00	2,000.00	C7 and C6 (Roads)
	Garandiella Road (UC 020)	er defects and ap		1,000.00	(Roads)	24.	Road up to Lunuwatta Beraliyapola Junction (UC 456)	Welimada	11,500.00	1,000.00	C8 and C2 (Roads)
2.	4 km post - Medawalagama Garandiella Road (UC020)	Badulla	11,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	25.	Lunuwatta Unapaana Indigahadowa Road (UC 479)	Welimada	18,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C2 (Roads)
3.	Etampitiya Dehiwinna Road (UC 041)	Badulla	12,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	26.	Moragolla Pahalakota Wehera Yahala Arawa Indigahadowa Road (UC 482)	Welimada	11,500.00	1,000.00	C8 and C2 (Roads)
4.	Kirioruwa Road via Amunudova Land (UC 247)	Diyatalawa	20,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	27.	Bogahakumbura Hewanakumbura Keppetipola Road (UC 401)	Welimada	23,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C2 (Roads)
5.	Structure Construct Badulla Ketawala Road (UC 010)	Badulla	9,000.00	1,000.00	C9 and C8	28.	Ambagasdowa Godalinda Downside	Welimada	23,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C
6.	Hopton Peessa Road (UC 024)	Badulla	13,000.00	1,000.00	(Roads) C8 and C7	29.	Road (UC 460) Welimada Hospital Access Road	Welimada	11,000.00	1,000.00	(Roads) C8 and C
					(Roads)	}	(UC 408)	Monoragala	82,000,00	2 500 00	(Roads) C6 and C
7.	Meegahakiula Kalugahakandura Pitamaaruwa Elamanna Kuruvigolla Road (UC 025)	Badulla	22,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	30. 31.	Hulandawa South Gemunupura Mahamewnawa Road (UC 834) Karanda Kendawinna Medagama	Moneragala Moneragala	83,000.00	3,500.00	(Bridges) C7 and C
8.	Morethota Katugaha Road (UC 036)	Badulla	11,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	{	Road (UC 828)				(Bridges)
9.	Badulla Eladaluwa Mudunpita	Badulla	38,000.00	2,000.00	C7 and C8	32.	Dambagalla Deliwa Baduluwela Road (UC 817)	Moneragala	76,000.00	3,500.00	C6 and C5 (Bridges)
10.	Wewelhinna Road (UC 040) Thaldena Budugekanda Road (UD	Badulla	7,500.00	1,000.00	(Roads) C9 and C8	33.	Dahagoniya Kohukumbura Road (UC 824)	Moneragala	25,000.00	2,000.00	C7 and C0 (Bridges)
11.	087) Ambadandegama Karadagolla Road	Diyatalawa	17,000.00	1,000.00	(Roads) C8 and C7	8 34.	Meegahapitiya Liyangolla Kottagala Road (UC 855)	Moneragala	29,000.00	1,500.00	C7 and C0 (Roads)
12.	(UC 202) Allimale Kurundugolla Heeloya Road	Diyatalawa	14,000.00	1,000.00	(Roads) C8 and C7	35.	Police Station Samagipura Road (UC 613)	Mahiyanganaya	11,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C (Roads)
13.	(UC 213) Haalatutenna Soragune	Diyatalawa	30,000.00	2,000.00	(Roads) C7 and C6	36.	Wewatta Kandugedda Thalawegama Morana Road (UC 634)	Mahiyanganaya	40,000.00	2,000.00	C7 and C (Roads)
	Ranwanguhawa Nikapotha Road (UC 229)				(Roads)	37.	Kandaketiya Kahagolla Arawa Road (UC 655)	Mahiyanganaya	17,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C (Roads)
14.	St. Thomas upper Kahaththewela Kahagolla Road (UC 259)	Diyatalawa	14,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	38.	Meegahakiula Kalugahakandura Pitamaruwa Elamanna Road	Mahiyanganaya	65,000.00	3,500.00	C6 and C (Roads)
15.	Police Kanda Koskote Arawa Road (UC 219)	Diyatalawa	18,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	}	(Construction of Structures) (UC 025)				
16.	Thanthiriya Heeloya Ella Road (UC 201)	Diyatalawa	22,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	39.	Road from Buduruwagala Junction up to Buduruwagala Temple (UC	Wellawaya	145,000.00	3,500.00	C5 and C4 (Bridges)
17.	Pallewela Panangala Diyaunnawa Road (UC 047)	Diyatalawa	15,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	}	1004)	Other works			
18.	Ambegoda Wewatenna Amunudowa Road (UC 215)	Diyatalawa	13,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	40.	Improvements to Badulla pre-mix yard	Badulla	22,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C (Building
19.	Amunudowa Hapathgamuwa Road (UC 214)	Diyatalawa	13,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	41.	Repairs to pre-mix yard	Welimada	27,000.00	1,500.00	and Roads
20.	Heeloya Kithalella Allimale Road (UC 207)	Diyatalawa	13,500.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)						(Building and Roads
21.	Weeramonarawila Keppetipola Mawatha (Haggala Ambagasdowa	Welimada	12,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	42.	Welimada Regional Engineer's Office - repairs and addition of new part	Welimada	21,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C (Buildings
22.	Road) (UC 435) Beraliyapola Bokotutenna Road (UC 436)	Welimada	16,000.00	1,000.00	C8 and C7 (Roads)	43	Improvements to Moneragala pre- mix yard	Moneragala	20,000.00	1,500.00	C8 and C7 (Buildings and Roads
W 50 P Tr F P at In O Is C	idding will be conducted through the rork value (without VAT and any other to 0 Million, in accordance with the provious particular province preference and the reference will be taken into consideration of qualify for granting of bids, successful egistration in the relevant grade and field or work where the bid value exceeds H ublic Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 and ttached with the bid. Bids submitted with the rested bidders can obtain the relevan f the non-refundable fee stated in the ab suance of bid documents, acceptance losing date and time for issuance of bid loging date and time for accentance of bid	taxes) of any wor sions contained i e Construction In- on when bids are and qualified bide d at the Construct Rupees 5 million, the relevant cert thout such docum t bid documents ove schedule mad and opening of I I documents	k included in this n the Finance Min dustry Developmen evaluated. ders should not have tion Industry Devel bidders should h ifficate or any docu nents may be subje from the Regional de to the same office bids will be done a - up to 3.30 p.	notice does not istry Circular N nt Authority's r ve been blacklist lopment Author ave been regist ument in proof ected to be rejec Engineer's Offic ce with effect fro as follows: m. on 25.03.202	exceed rupees to. 4/2016 (iii), egistered grade ted and possess ity (CIDA). ered under the of it should be ted. ce, on payment om 05.03.2021 .	9. 10. Telep	in two copies as "Original" and "Duplic sent by registered post addressed to; C Road Development Department, No. 29 closing time. Or else, it can be placed in the Bid Box clearly and correctly marked the name representatives are permitted to be prese The Procurement Committee retains the decision of the Procurement Committee Further details can be obtained either fro Regional Engineer's Offices. hone Nos: Road Development Department Regional Engineer's Office, Badulla Perional Engineer's Office, Badulla	Chairman, Depart 12/1, 1-1, Keppeti (a kept at the offic (b of work at the ent at the bid oper (c) full right to eithe in this regard sha (m) the Uva Province (c) 055-222 (c) 055-222	ment Procuremen pola Mawatha, Bad e at the above add left side top corne- ning. r accept or reject a ll be the final. cial Road Developm 29626, 055-222557 23234	nt Committee, I dulla" to be rece dress and the co er. Bidders or th any or all bids re nent Department	Uva Provin eived before overs should neir authori eceived and
B P . T is	losing date and time for acceptance of l id opening date and time lace of acceptance of bids and place of l he refundable deposit amount can be p to be submitted in lieu, it should be sul commercial bank approved by the Cent	bid opening aid by cash to the bmitted only by a	- at 2.00 p.m. o - As per the ad e Regional Enginee n Unconditional E	er's Office and if Bank Guarantee	f a Bid Security obtained from		Regional Engineer's Office, Welimada Regional Engineer's Office, Diyathalawa Regional Engineer's Office, Mahiyangar Regional Engineer's Office, Wellawaya Regional Engineer's Office, Moneragala	naya - 055-225 - 055-227	29059 57083 74422		

Ministry/Department Procurement Committee,

Provincial Road Development Department,

No. 292/1, 1-1,

Badulla.

04.03.2021.

Keppetipola Mawatha,

7. A pre-bid meeting relevant to this is scheduled to be held at **10.00 a.m. on 17.03.2021** at the meeting hall of the Provincial Road Development Department at No. 292/1, 1-1, Keppetipola Mawatha, Badulla. Prospective bidders can request for any classifications required relevant to this work at this meeting.

8. Bids should only be submitted on forms purchased on making the relevant payment. Bids should be prepared



Postgraduate Institute of Medicine

University of Colombo

Procurement Notice

PROVISION OF CLEANING AND JANITORIAL SERVICES

Bid No. 01. Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Main Premises (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/01) Bid No. 02. Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Academic Center (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/02)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo invites sealed bids for **Provision of Cleaning and Janitorial Services** up to **2.30 p.m. on 30.03.2021**. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration of the PGIM, via telephone or e-mail (Mobile No. 0704702867/ E-mail : **saradmin@pgim.cmb. ac.lk**) from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. from 08.03.2021.

A complete set of bidding documents in English (PDF) may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application with a scanned copy of the payment receipt to the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine via e-mail (**saradmin@pgim.cmb.ac.lk**) upon payment of a non–refundable fee of Rupees 2,500/- separately to each bid to PGIM Account, Bank of Ceylon, Borella, Super Grade Branch, AC No. 193413.

All bids should be accompanied by a Bid Security of the value Rs.60,000/- for Bid No.01 and Rs. 90,000/- for Bid No 02. Bid Security must be deposited to the PGIM Account No. 193413, Bank of Ceylon, Super Grade Branch Borella and attached to the bidding document.

Duly filled sealed bids in duplicate marked as "**Provision of Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Main Premises Bid No. 01 (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/01)**" or "**Cleaning & Janitorial Service for PGIM Academic Center Bid No. 02 (PGIM/GA/CS/2021/02)**" at the top left hand corner of the envelope must be put into the tender box kept at the General Administration Branch, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, No. 160, Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha, Colombo 7 from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on 30.03.2021 (If there is any change in the final date of submission of bids due to COVID – 19 situation in the country, will be notified in the PGIM web site.(https://pgim.cmb.ac.lk).

Bids will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 30.03.2021 at the Boardroom 3 of the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Late & incomplete bids will be rejected.

Chairman

Department Procurement Committee Postgraduate Institute of Medicine University of Colombo No. 160, Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda Mawatha, Colombo-07. 06.03.2021



GALLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS FOR SERVICING OF VEHICLES

Sealed quotations are hereby invited for servicing the undermentioned Vehicles and Machinery belonging to the Galle Municipal Council for the year 2021. Vehicle Service Institutions in the Galle District could apply for this purpose.

Serial No.	Category		Serial Category			Serial No.	Vehicle Category and Quantity		
1	Jeep	1		10	Tipper Trucks	6	19	Compactor Trailer	1
2	Van	1		11	Dump Trucks	2	20	Water Bowser Trailer	1
3	Bus	1		12	Small Lorries	2	21	Hand Tractors	2
4	Motor Vehicles	2		13	Water Bowser	1	22	Backhoe Loaders	2
5	Double Cabs	5		14	Gully Bowsers	2	23	Excavator Machines	4
6	Crew Cabs	6		15	Fire Brigade Vehicles	6	24	Skid Steer Rollers	3
7	Three-Wheeler	1		16	Compactor Vehicles	12	25	Vibration Roller	1
8	Motor Cycles	5		17	Tractors	17	26	Wheel Dumper	1
9	Ambulances	4		18	Tractor Trailers	24	27	Road Roller	1

Last Date and Time for Issuing Applications Last Date and Time for Accepting Quotations Opening Date and Time of Quotations 31.03.2021 at 3.00 p.m. 01.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m. 01.04.2021 at 10.30 a.m.

- 1. Further details could be obtained during office hours on working days of the week from the Municipal Engineers (Mechanical) Department of the Galle Municipal Council. Telephone Nos. 0915703530 / 0912222009.
- 2. The prices quoted by you should be valid for a period of one year ahead from the date of opening of quotations.
- 3. Relevant documents and specimen forms for submitting quotations could be obtained after depositing a non-refundable sum of Rs. 1000/= at the Galle Municipal Council. (Cash could be handed over every working day of the week between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
- 4. Quotations will be accepted up to 10.00 a.m. on 01.04.2021 and quotations received thereafter will be rejected.
- 5. Sealed Bids should be sent to the Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Council, Galle by registered post to be received at or before 10.00 a.m. on 01.04.2021 or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Municipal Commissioner's Office of the Galle Municipal Council. The words **"Servicing of Vehicles for the year 2021"** should be clearly marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Quotation.
- 6. Quotations will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 01.04.2021 and owners of institutions or their authorized representatives could participate on this occasion.
- 7. Incomplete quotations will be rejected and the decision of the Tender Board is deemed final. Further, the right to accept or reject quotations lies with the Tender Board of the Galle Municipal Council.

At the Office of the Galle Municipal Council on 04.03.2021

Ranil Wickramasekera
Municipal Commissioner,
Galle Municipal Council



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

TENDER FOR DRY DOCKING OF DREDGER HANSAKAWA FOR DOCKING, SPECIAL AND SCREW SHAFT SURVEYS, HULL CLEANING, PAINTING AND REPLACEMENT OF SHAFT SEALS

Tender No. : EW/04/PT/2020/MA/13 - 4

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority invites sealed bids from interested parties for **Dry docking of dredger Hansakawa (IMO No. 9240500) for docking, special and screw shaft surveys, hull cleaning, painting and replacement of shaft seals** at a shipyard where necessary facilities are available for dry docking more than 70 m length, 13 m width and 1500 GRT vessels.



CALLING FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

SRI LANKA CRICKET

TERRESTRIAL TV BROADCASTING RIGHTS - Bangladesh Tour of Sri Lanka 2021



Television Broadcasting Rights

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), being the Governing Body of Cricket in Sri Lanka hereby invites and seeks "Expressions of Interest" from reputed Local Broadcasters who are interested in acquiring Terrestrial TV Broadcasting Rights of Sri Lanka Cricket for the Bangladesh Tour of Sri Lanka scheduled to be held on 21st of April 2021 which consist of Two Test Matches.

- 2. Bidders are hereby informed that the provisions of the public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 are applicable for tender exceeding Rs. 05 million. Accordingly all parties involved in each tender are required to strictly abide by the said act throughout the duration of contract and submit the duly completed registration certificate along with his bid documents.
- 3. Bidders should have been in the business of similar service at least during the last Five years where should have proven experience in dry docking of vessels or dredger not less than 1500 GRT.
- 4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Marine), Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 and may inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.
- 5. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders from Engineering Works Branch, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01, on submission of a written application addressed to the Chief Engineer (Marine) to the address given below, from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on working days from 08.03.2021 to 24.03.2021 upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 10,500.00 (Inclusive of 8% VAT) by cash.
- 6. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 442,025.00 and "Dry docking of Dredger Hansakawa for docking, special and screw shaft surveys, hull cleaning, painting and replacement of shaft seals EW/04/PT/2020/MA/13-4" should be clearly indicated on top of the left comer of the envelope of the sealed Bid.
- 7. Sealed Bids may either be sent by the registered post addressed to Chief Engineer (Marine), Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or deposited in the Bid Box kept in same address **at or before 14.00 hrs. on 25.03.2021**. Late bids shall not be accepted.
- 8. Bids will be opened at the same address immediately after the closing of bids and the bidders or their authorized representatives may be present at the time of bid opening.

Chief Engineer (Marine) Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01. Telephone:- 011-2482330, 011-2342537 Fax No: 011-2342537

Details of the Rights:

A document detailing the Rights for which SLC will be floating an Invitation to Tender indicating SLC's Requirements and Guidelines in relation to the submission of Bids will be notified to the firms / organizations that show interest.

EOI Submission Procedure:

Interested firms/organizations are called upon to submit their letters of Expression of Interest [EOI] together with a summary of credentials, and Corporate profile of the firm/Organization via e-mail to SLC on sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk, to reach on or before 1:00 p.m. [Sri Lankan Time] on 11th March 2021. If further information is required in relation to this EOI, please contact Manager Sales - SLC via 0764 127 253.

SLC reserves the right to cancel, amend or vary this EOI at any time at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SRI LANKA CRICKET





Invitation for Bid (2021/01) PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES NORTHERN PROVINCE

- 1. The **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee,** on behalf of the Provincial Department of Health Services, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction work described in the table below.
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding procedure (NCB).**
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- 4. Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the **Bidding Data and Contract Data** (Section 5).
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **address given below in 6**, and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 9.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the -

Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna. (T.P: 021-222 0819, Fax: 021-222 0818)

From 08.03.2021 until 28.03.2021 from 9.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.10,000.00. The method of payment should be by cash.

- 7. Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna at or before 10.30 A.M on 29.03.2021. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- 8. Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna** commencing at **2.30 P.M on 16.03.2021.**
- 9. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.

		Estimated Cost	Contract	Deguined	Required Bid Security		
Bid No.	Description of Work	/ (Rs in Millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Security Amount	Valid Period	
NP/B/KI/02/2021	Construction of Staff Quarters at DH Pallai	30.3	217 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	303,000.00	Till 25.07.2021	
NP/B/KI/03/2021	Medical Officers Chummary Quarters at BH Mulankavil, Kilinochchi.	30.4	217 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	304,000.00	Till 25.07.2021	
NP/B/KI/04/2021	Construction of OPD Block at DH Veravil, Kilinochchil	39.6	224 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	396,000.00	Till 25.07.2021	
NP/B/MU/01/2021	Construction Medical Officers Quarters with 10 Rooms (2 storey) at Base Hospital, Mallavi.	42.8	231 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	428,000.00	Till 25.07.2021	

"Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of Work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs. 50 Mn., regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii)" and Public Finance Circulars No 03/2020 and 03/2020(i) dated 09.10.2020 and 11.01.2021 respectively will also be adopted.

> Chairman Department Procurement Committee Provincial Department of Health Services Northern Province

Invitation for Bids (IFB) BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA (BOI)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following works.

- (i) Clearing jungle of phase -1 of proposed pharmaceutical zone at Arabokka Hambantota (Contract No. BOI/TS/Pharma/Ham/2021/03/09.014)
- (ii) Supplying and laying of internal water distribution network at Bingiriya Export Processing Zone (Contract No. BOI/TS/BgEPZ/2020/08/02.002)

Details of the works are as follows

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION MORAGAHAKANDA - KALUGANGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REMOVAL OF DAMAGED MATERIAL 2020-II

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SALE OF DAMAGED MATERIAL

- 1. Bids will be received for the sale of discarded damaged material belonging to Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project. These goods could be inspected at the Wellewela Stores and Moragahakanda Stores of Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.
- 2. A bidder could forward bids for one item or several items or for all items through one form.
- 3. Relevant application forms could be obtained from the Accountant on submission of the receipt obtained from the Cashier of Moragahakanda Kaluganga Development Project for the payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/- from 9.00 a.m. on 08.03.2021 up to 3.00 p.m. on 09.03.2021.
- 4. Details of items to be sold will be issued with each application form.
- 5. Interested applicants should contact Telephone Nos 066-2057854 / 066-2053605 / 066-2053606 for further details, if required.
- 6. Duly perfected applications should be submitted along with a refundable deposit of Rs. 10,000/-.
- 7. Bids will be closed at 9.30 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bids received late will be rejected.
- 8. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and bidders or one of their representatives could participate at the time.
- 9. All matters related to the sale of discarded damaged material will be carried out under Covid-19 health protection provisions and only the bidder or his representative should take part.

Eng. D.B. Wijayaratne Project Director, Moragahakanda-Kaluganga Development Project Koongahawela.

The Housewives' companion Classifieds on Daily Actus

Right to Information Commission

Information Technology Assistant

Applications are hereby invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka for the following post, described hereunder.

Qualifications:

Should have obtained Information Technology Competency certificate, not less than level five (05) of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) obtained from an institution recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Commission.

Contract No/ Project Description / Location	Construction Period (days)	Eligibility/ Qualification	Bid Security (Rs) Valid upto	Issuing Bidding Document Non refundable Fee (Rs.)	Pre Bid Meeting / Date / Time / Venue	Date & Time of Submission of Bid (Closing Bid)
BOI/TS/Pharma/ Ham/2021/03/09.014) Clearing jungle of phase - 1 of proposed pharmaceutical zone Arabokka	45	CIDA Registration Grade - C5, C6, C7, C8 & C9 Specialty - Highway Construction / Irrigation & Drainage Canals.	50,000/= 27.07.2021	from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 2,500/= + VAT	Date - 19.03.2021 Time - 11.00 hrs. Venue - Technical Services Dep., Colombo 01 (Site visit can be organized)	30.03.2021 at 14.00 hrs.
BOI/TS/BgE- PZ/2020/08/02.002 Supplying and laying of internal water distribution network Export Processing Zone Bingiriya.	75	CIDA Registration Grade - C4 & C5 Specialty - Water Supply & Sewerage	500,000/= 27.07.2021	from 08.03.2021 to 29.03.2021 5,000/= + VAT	Date - 18.03.2021 Time - 10.00 hrs. Venue - Zone Office, Bingiriya.	30.03.2021 at 11.00 hrs.

- 1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 2. The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted.
- 3. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
- Experience as a main Contractor for at least one work of a similar nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works over the period of last 5 years.
- 4 Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 on Tel. 0112432549 or fax. 0112441826 and inspect the bidding documents from the same address between 0900 hrs and 1600 hrs during weekdays.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application on a business letter head to the Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01 between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs upon payment of a non refundable fee. The method of payment will be by cash.
- 6. Sealed Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the "The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, C/o Director (Technical Services), Technical Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 5, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, Colombo 01. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

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Age : Not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age.

Salary Scale : MA 2-1 Rs. (30,310 - 10 x 300 - 7 x 350 - 4 x 495 - 20 x 660 - 50,940)

General Conditions:

- 1. Those candidates who are already employed in the public/Govt. sector or in the state corporations/ statutory boards etc. should channel their applications through the heads of the institutions they serve for.
- 2. Selected applicants should adhere and subject to the rules and regulations enacted under the Public State Language Policies, of No. 22 of 1956.
- 3. Selected candidates should have to contribute to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), from the date of the appointment.
- 4. The Government approved allowances are entitled to all the posts relevant.

Applications, together with the complete CV (Bio-Data) prepared by the applicants themselves should be sent by registered post to the following address to be received on or before 19.03.2021 and the envelopes enclosing applications, should be clearly marked with the post applied for on the top-left hand corner of the said envelope.

Director General Right to Information Commission Room No. 203-204 Block No. 02 BMICH Colombo 07



SPORT

page 19 DN

Duminda de Silva the cager and rugby star

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Some top sportsmen started their careers from lesser known schools from the rural areas in the country. While they matured gradually, coinciding with their academic studies and sports they got openings from some top schools which enrolled them. Duminda de Silva was one of them who started his schooling from schools in Ratnapura and finally completed his career at Trinity College, Kandy, which led him to become a prominent figure in the field of education and sports.

Duminda de Silva was born in 1973 in Ratnapura and his father is Walter an advocate while Mallika his mother is a housewife. His two siblings are Dinuka and Dushan. He started his Primary and Secondary Education from 1978 to 1981 at Gangabada Seevali Vidyalaya in Ratnapura. He then moved to Baptist College, Ratnapura from 1981 to 1984.

He was then enrolled at St.Thomas' College, Gurutalawa in 1984 and continued his studies for one year there



Trinity College, Kandy in 1985 where he studied until 1992, completing his G.C.E. Ordinary and Advanced Level studies there. While he was schooling in Ratnapura, he engaged in athletics and his basketball career was influenced by one of his friends Indika who encouraged and motivated him to take up that sport.

While he was a hosteller at Trinity,

shana Munasinghe and Dimuth Silva who were involved in rugby had encouraged him in handling the oval shaped ball from the under-13 age group. His under-13 coach at school was Asoka Weerasinghe and the under-15 coach was Bimal Fernando and K Saravanan. The under-17 team was coached by CH. Seneviratne in his first year and in the second year was under the watchful eyes of Devapriya Perera when he captained the team in 1990, which remained unbeaten. The under-19 team was coached by Ashan Ratwatte in 1991 led by Ayaz Deen while in 1992 was under the coaching of Devapriya Perera ably captained by Hamish Gunathilake.

The 1992 season under Hamish's captaincy was a very productive one, where they remained as an unbeaten team drawing four matches, which included Isipathana 13-all at Bogambara against Thomians nil-all at Bogambara and in the 'Bradby Shield' first leg held Royal to a three all draw at Sugathadasa Stadium and second leg ending in a nil-all draw at Nitbefore he got an opportunity to join his close associates Ayaz Deen, Dar- tawela respectively. In 1991 Trinity

was able to score an aggregate of 37 points against Royal in Bradby (12-4 and 25 -10) which turned out to be a unique achievement,. Apart from rugby, he was an active member of the College Basketball teams from under-13 to under-19 where he captained in all age groups.

They held the record in basketball from 1985 to 1992 remaining as the undisputed schools champions in all age groups during the said period. Athletics was another sport he was fond of from his younger days and participated from under-13 to under-19 age categories winning many events at different age groups. (won the 100M, 200M, and long jump events in under16 at the Junior Nationals), which later earned him the National School Games Colours. His belligerent performance in basketball assured him a slot in the Sri Lanka squad and captained the youth team in 1992.

His first appearance in Rugby was with Kandy Sports Club from 1993 to 1996 which won the League, Clifford Cup and Presidents Trophy and the

Triple Crown for the first time in 1995. He then opted to move to CR and FC from 1997 to 1999 went on to win the League in 1998 ever since then CR has not won the League (runner up in 1997, 1999 and 2010). Then he moved to CH and FC in 2000 and played till 2005.

(won the league in 2000 ever since then CH had not won a league). Finally, he played for Havelocks in the year 2011 and was a member of the Clifford Cup runner up team. He has the rare feat of being the first and only player in history to win the League title for three clubs. His coaches at club level were Tony Amit, Nimal Lewke, Ana Saranapala, M.D. Ifthikar, and Laga (Tavitha Thulagaesi).

With his body structure, he played in the 'Pack' either as a second rower or flanker throughout his illustrious career. He donned the National jersey in Rugby from 1993 to 2003 playing in both the sevens and the XV-a-side formats. He also spared little time playing in the mixed Netball becoming the first ever player to captain Sri Lanka in 2002.

He started his Mercantile career at Sampath Bank where he captained the rugby and Basketball teams winning many championships from 1996 to 2004. He moved to DFCC Bank from 2005 and employed up to date in the capacity of Vice President Retail Asset and Liability Sales. He owns the Total Fitness Bay Rugby Academy for kids. In his coaching tenure, he holds a Level-two rugby coaching in XV-a-side and sevens while being a Rugby Educator and Rugby and Basketball strength and conditioning coach.

Like in sports, he has several career academic qualifications with CMA(Australia), ICFAI(India), CIMA(UK). He was adjudged as the Best Employee of the year 2019 (DFCC Bank), Mr. Sri Lanka in 1999 (personality contest), represented Sri Lanka at Mr. International contest and won the award for the best physique, represented Sri Lanka at the Mr. World contest (personality) and modelled for CK in the USA. He has a child Ayden who is12 years old.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

Boxer Dharmasiri Weerakoon won the National title from 1958-1961

Boxer Dharmasiri Weerakoon who participated at the Olympics in Rome in 1960, was born on September 28, 1938 in Colombo. Dharmasiri, who was educated at Christian College, Kotte took to boxing at the age of 12 years. His first boxing instructor was Mervyn Peiris.

Later, he joined the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and received instructions and training from two competent Olympic Boxers, Albert Perera and Alex Obeyesekera. During the period from 1952 to 1956 Dharmasiri represented his school at the Stubbs Shield boxing events and recorded victories without much effort.

He also recorded victories in the



Dharmasiri Weerakoon

Weightlifter Divya Nethmi Wedarachchi does her school proud

DILWIN MENDIS Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Sri Lanka Weightlifter and Gold Medalist and first ever female to win a medal for Sri Lanka in Weightlifting in Asian Youth Games and a member of the World Youth and Commonwealth Games Squad for the year 2021 Divya Nethmi Sanjana Wedarachchi has brought honour and glory to her school Ruhunu Vijayaba Vidyalaya, Beliatta and to her motherland.

Divya was born on 9th January 2004 and was admitted one of the prestigious educational institutions in Hambantota District Ruhunu Vijayaba Vidyalaya Beliatta in 2010 when A. H. P. K. Jayantha was coach. at the helm of the school. When Divya was in the Priness to weightlifting her parents Bhathiya Wedarachchi and Ruvini Wedarachchi weightlifting and handed over Chathuranga in 2016 and she



came under Asanga Aravinda her school weightlifting

Her first attempt was in 2017 and at the National ticipate in sports and as she the Ministry of Sports and under 81kgs category she under her belt she was select- ing and preparing for the showed an interest and keen-representing the Southern won a Gold Medal and in the ed to represent Sri Lanka Province in the under 13 age group she won a Bronze Medal in the under 75 age encouraged her to take up to category. Her second medal was in 2018 in the National their daughter to the Prefect Novices All Island Meet of Games of the school Dinidu when she won a Gold Medal in the under 75 weight cate-



Divya Nethmi Sanjana Wedarachchi posed for a photograph in the airport after winning the first ever medal for Sri Lanka in a Youth Tournament. Divya Nethmi Sanjana Wedaarachchi standing fifth from left in the photograph.

(Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

gory and in the same weight National Meet 81kgs categoin 2018 at the All Island inter ry she grabbed a Gold Medal school games she won a Siland at the 2020 National Festival Southern Province Meet In 2019 at the Southern she won another gold and mary Section she did not par- Sports Festival organized by Province Open Meet in the with all these performances

Asian Games and 56 countries participated. This tour and the achieve-

ments was a fine exposure for Divya and presently she is undergoing strenuous train-2021 World Youth Games and for the Commonwealth Games under her coach Chanaka Subasinghe she had a word of praise for her two Principals Athula Hemantha Ediriwickrama and K. S. Abeyratne for helping her to come up the ladder.

National Boxing Meets conducted by the Ceylon Amateur Boxing Association in 1955 and 1956. In 1955, he won the Amateur, Intermediate and National Championships defeating his more experienced opponents.

For Dharmasiri, it was a simple task winning the National Boxing Championships continuously, during the period from 1958 to 1961. He won these championships in the lightweight and light welterweight classes while proving himself to be a talented boxer with International prospects.

In 1958, he won the William Manning Challenge Cup awarded to the Best Boxer at the National Boxing Meet.

In 1959, he won the Caltex Trophy as the Years Boxing Star. In 1958, he toured Calcutta, Banapur, and Bombay representing the YMCA and returned to Sri Lanka defeating all his Indian opponents at different meets.

The Sri Lanka Boxing Federation unanimously selected Dharmasiri to participate in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Although at the Olympics, his first contest ended in a close tie, he lost to the Australian Boxer in the second round.

On his return after participating in the Olympics in Rome, he continuously participated in the Clifford Cup, Layton Cup and National Championship Meets until he bade farewell to boxing in 1961. After retirement from the ring, Dharmasiri did not quit boxing as he was so attached to the sport. He held the office of Secretary of the National Boxing Federation for a continuous period from 1985 to 1989 and rendered a devoted and dedicated service to the sport. He was elected Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka and served as a Referee/Judge at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

He also held the International Boxing Trainers' Certificate. Dharmasiri joined the Police as a Sub Inspector and later became the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP). (C.D)

All Island Festival in the same category she won a Silver Medal and in the All Island School Games in the under 17 age group and 81kgs weight category she won a Gold Medal and in the same year at the Junior

ver Medal.

under 17 youth team for Asian Games held in Uzbekistan and at the 81kgs weight category she won three bronze medals in three separate events and became the first ever girl from Sri Lanka to win a medal at the Youth

Akkaraipattu Royal SC limited over cricket champs

(Text and Pictures by: I.L.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Corr)

Akkaraipattu Royal Sports Club beat No-Name Sports Club, Akkaraipattu by 21 runs in the final to emerge champions and bagged the FSC Champion Trophy-2021 of the limited over cricket tournament conducted by Akkaraipattu FSC Sports Club at the Public Grounds, Akkaraipattu recently.

Akkaraipattu Royal Sports Club team batting first scored 172 runs for the loss of six wickets in their allot-



The Champion Akkaraipattu Royal SC team

ted 20 overs (Ubaith -69, (Sajeer -58, Fowshan - 31, Niyas -58, Imras Khan -Niyas -5/19, Janoos -3/28). 3/33. Akkaraipattu No-Name

Man of the match award Sports Club team in reply was secured by Niyas of the scored 151 runs for the loss Akkaraipattu Royal SC of ten wickets in 18.2 overs team.

Colombo HA knock-out semis and finals today and tomorrow

M.H.YAKEEM

On March 6 in the

"C" Division final, Old

Ananda Hockey Wing

will meet Old Wesleyites

and BRC "A" will take on The Colombo Hockey CH & FC "A" in the "A" Association knock-out Division Semi final at tournament semi-finals 4.00 pm and final will be conducted at the Astro Turf ,Reid Avenue on the 6 &7 March commencing at 2.30 pm .

Sports Club at 2.30 pm Championship.

On March7 Old Senanayakians will meet Old Zahira Sports Club in the "B" Division final at 2.30 pm while winners of BRC "A" Vs CH & FC " A" will take on Old Nalandians Hockey Club for the "A" division

Kandy Sports Club has reigned supreme in club rugby



Kandy Sports Club has been the most successful rugby club, winning 21 league titles in the last twenty six years, which is the most wins by any club since the expanded competition commenced in 1950. The club has also won 21 Clifford Cups in the period between 1992 to 2019. In 1998 there was no tournament and in 2006 the club withdrew from the tournament.. Since the inception of the inter club competition in 1950, the game has been very popular in Kandy. . Rugby players who represent this club give their best.

,For the first time Kandy Sports Club entered the final in 1954 under the captaincy of S.B. Pilapitiya but lost to CR & FC in the final,, and once again the following year 1955 under

the captaincy of Jeff Macpherson, too they went down to CR & FC in the final. Then the next final was after 14 years in 1969 under Denzil Kobbekaduwa here too they went down to CR & FC, The next was after nine years in 1978 under Irwin Howie and lost to Havelock SC. Then in 1991, Kandy SC's fortunes changed with the arrival of former Royal College, CR & FC and Sri Lanka linkman Malik Samarawickrema, the major figure who helped to establish the game and motivated the Kandy Sports Club side with the support of the then committee to win the first trophy in 1992 the Clifford Cup under stand in captain Maurice Joachim, That year, the league tournament captain was Ananda Kasthuriarachchi, in which they finished in second place, but had to give way for Maurice to lead them to win the Clifford Cup, in the knockout tourna-

ment for the first time in their

history. This was followed by an outstanding performance in the 1994 league in which they won the title for the first time.

Kandy Sports Club the present holders of the league championship, have won the league in 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001,2002, 2003, 2004,2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2017,2018, 2019, and 2020. Then the knockouts from 1992,1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008,2009, 2010, 2011, 2012,2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and in the year 2019 they didn't take part . The home town club's triumphs ignited new enthusiasm among the schools and this is reflected in the composition of the all-conquering outfit. Kandy SC's untroubled journey to success in all three major tournaments can be simply put down to the capacity of rugby development and promotion. . Kandy rugby is today the

number one glamour sport and whenever Kandy SC is involved the fans flock to the venues in their thousands to enjoy the thrills and spills that the players provide. Rugby is also known as king in the Kandy's sports calendar and none can forget the services rendered to the sport by people like Stanley Martin, Colonel Stanley Ratwatte, Oswin Silva, Chandra Wijenayake, YC Chang, EW Balasuriya, Dr. C D L Fernando, Dr. S.. Dr. Nadesen, John Karunaratne, Dr. Dago Gunawardene, Anuruudha Ratwatte, Dharmasiri Madugalle, Maurice Perera, Malik Samarawickrema, Kishin Butani, Dr Sarath Kapuwatte, Iswan Omar, Siva Subramanium, Nimal Malagamuwa, Dr. S.Jayakuru, Col. Allen Nugawela, Nimal Lewke, Priyantha Ekanayake, William Gal Weerasinghe, Meryl "Ford" Gunatlake, Sarath Perera, C.H. Seneviratne, Sarath Zoysa, Hassan Sinhawansa, Malath Fernando, Hemaka Amarasuriya, Hemantha Yatawara, Maurice Joachim, Milroy Mendis, Leslie Soysa, Dudley Gunatilake, Ananda Kasthuriachchi to name a few.

All in all the man behind the success was none other than 'Mr. Rugby' Malik Samarawickrema. everyone who supports Kandy SC are proud of the contribution made by him. From the day he chose to promote rugby at Kandy SC the game has flourished. He is the man who helped the club win the first ever trophy . Sans Malik Kandy rugby would have been like a carnival without lights. When the history of rugby is recorded at Nittawela, the name of Malik Samarawickrema will stand out as one of the greatest administrators of this sport. . . .

From the cup winning years Kandy Sports Club has had some notable players Some of them wereSri Lanka skipper

dynamic Antonian Priyantha Ekanayake, his brother Lakshman Ekanayake, Indrajith Bandaranayake, Leroy Fonseka, Manjula Pathirana, Maurice-Joachim, Shyam Sideek, Anil Jayasinghe, Rizvi Suhaib, Inthi Marikar, Lasantha Wijesuriya, Fijians Kitioni Ratrudradra, Bati Penaia, Apisai Nagata, Tony Greanny and Viliame Satala, AchalaPerera, Amila Bandara, Ananda Kasthuriarachchi, Anuranga Walpola, AravindaUdangamuwa, Buddhi Talagampola, Chamara Withanage, Dharshana Ettipola, Dilip-Selvam, Erande Swarnatillake, Fazil Marija, Gayan Ratnage, Nalaka Weerakkody, Gayan and Roshan Weeraratne brothers, Haris Omar, Kavinda Jayasena, Imran Bisthamin, Kasun Silva, KasunJayasuriya, Kishore Jehan, Krishantha Rajapakse, Kusal Rankothge, Lalantha Karunatilake, Malinga Godigamuwa, Shehan Pathirana, M. Jabbar, M. Sabry, M. Sheriff,

NavindaPullukuttiarachchi, Niranjan Ranasinghe, Pradeep Basnayake, Pradeep Liyanage, Prasad Chathuranga, Radhika Hettiarachchi, Sajith Saranga, Saliva Kumara, Sameera Silva, Sanjeewa Jayasinghe, Sean Wijesinghe, Senaka Bandara, Shashika Jayawardene, Nigel Ratwatte, Srinath Sooriyabandara, Tharindu Ratwatte, Arshad Jamaldeen, Lavanga Perera, Kanchana Ramanayake, Richard Dharmapala, Danushka Ranjan, Oshan Perera, Vishwamithra Jayasinghe, Danush Dayan, Asitha Ratnayake, Anruddha Wilwara, Eranda Weerakkody, Thilina Wijesinghe. And some of the coaches who gave a big hand to win trophies were MauricePerera, Alex Lazarus, Priyantha Ekanayake, John Taylor, Tavit-Tulagese, Neil Foote, Johan Taylor, Sean . Wijesinghe, Fazil Marija, Saliya Kumara and Nalaka Weerakody.



Daily Acws SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021 Sports Editor : 011 242 9223 Fax : +941122343694 e mail : **sports.dailynews@lakehouse.lk www.dailynews.lk**

Royal claim major honours

WORLD OF

(March 6) LOCAL EVENTS CRICKET

BRC vs Galle CC at SSC

CCC vs Nugegoda SC at SSC Katunayake

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

FOOTBALL

Burnley vs Arsena Sheffield United vs Brighton and Hove vs Real Valladolid vs Getafe Elche vs Sevilla

CYCLING

LOCAL EVENTS TENNIS

Courts, Maitland Place **FOREIGN EVENTS**

CRICKET

India vs England (4th <u>Test) at</u> Ahmedabad (3rd and 4th (Australian Sheffield Shield):

victoria vs Tasmania at

TENNIS

after Trinity follow on honours in their Inter-Schools Under-19 cricket fixture against Trinity College, which ended in a draw at Reid Avenue yesterday. Royal declared their first innings at the overnight score of 403 for two and the

Trinitians were bowled out for 133 in reply. The visitors, trailing by 270 runs on the first innings,

were asked to follow on and they ended the day scoring 115 for six wickets at close.

Royal leg-spinner Gishan Balasooriya was the chief wreaker as he ended with fine figures of five for 41 from his 21 overs, while paceman Kavinduu Pathiratne provided good support with two for 18.

Trinity opener Thewin Amarasinghe was the only batsman to offer some resistance to the Royal 115/6 (Pawan Pathiraja 76 bowlers with a fighting n.o, Gishan Balasooriya knock of 44 runs. Trinity, in their second 2/29). - D.R

Royal College took major innings, once again failed to get a good start with the openers Thewin Amarasinghe and Umier Raizan back in the pavilion with just two runs on the board inside the first two overs.

However, Skipper Abhishek Anandakumar (13) and Pawan Pathiraja (76) helped Trinity to force a draw while adding 74 runs for the third wicket.

Leg-spinner Balasooriya once again was among the wickets and finished with three for 44 to end with a match-bag of eight wickets. Left-hander Pathiraja struck 11 fours and collected his runs from 106 balls.

Chief scores: Royal: 403/2 declared

Trinity: 133 (Thewin Amarasinghe 44, Kavindu Pathirathna 2/18, Gishan Balasooriya 5/41) and 3/44, Prashan Kalhara



Royal College's Gishan Balasooriya bowls against Trinity College during the second day of their Inter-Schools Under-19 match on Friday. Picture by Hirantha Gunathilaka.

Shanaka set to leave for WI on Sunday

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) yesterday announced that T20 Skipper Dasun Shanaka will travel to the West Indies on Sunday.

Shanaka will travel via France and is expected to join the National Team during the ODI segment of the tour against the

West Indies. Shanaka could not travel with the team due to a visa issue he confronted, USA stamped on it.

Dasun Shanaka pursuant to the loss of his previous passport, which had a valid visa for the

page 20

Renown SC favourites to beat Red Star SC



presence for the first time against Red Star SC, while Up-country Lions Eagles SC in their Pre-League Football Tournament matches to be worked out at the Sugathadasa Stadium today.

Renown SC, after their coach and two players, tested positive for COVID-19, will play their curtainraiser match today.

favourites of today's game over Red Star SC, who are

Renown will make their struggling to get into their rhythm. In the second game, the Up-country Lions SC will make their their curtain-raiser match

> striving hard to get into form as a unit and to post their first win before they embark on the main Super

1-3 to Colombo FC.

much needed win.

Renown SC are the

Off-spinner Rosco Thattil took an impressive five for 23 to help Negombo CC beat BRC by 47 runs in their SLC Inter-Club T20 Cricket Tournament fixture played at Katunayake yesterday.

Chief scores: • At

runs)

20

Katunayake (Negombo CC won by 47

Negombo CC: 172/6 in 17.1 overs (Sameera de overs (Dilshan Soyza 30, Madawa Nimesh

Munaweera 39, Ashen 37). Silva 40, Madawa War-(Saracens SC won by napura 42) eight wickets) BRC: 125/9 in 20 overs Panadura SC: 115 in overs.

(Rosco Thattil 5/23). 19.3 overs (Chaminda •At CCC Grounds (Air Bandara 3/22) Force SC won by six Saracens SC: 119/2 in wickets)

19.2 overs (Charitha Lankan CC: 137/6 in 20 Kumarasighe 61 n.o, overs (Harsha Cooray 59, Hashan Dumindu 52). • At NCC Grounds Lasanda Lukmal 3/34) Air Force SC: 138/4 in

(Moors SC won by six wickets) Police SC: 98/9 in 20

Netball Rising Stars

•At P. Sara Oval overs (Jeewan Mendis Moors SC: 99/4 in 14.3

•At P. Sara Oval (Ragama CC won by eight wickets) Sebastianites SC: 69 in

3/13)

16 overs Ragama CC: 70/2 in 9.5 overs.

• At NCC Grounds (Chilaw Marians CC won by three wickets)

HAFIZ MARIKAR

defeated their hometown

rivals St. Sylvester's Col-

lege by 135 runs in a

friendly

limited-over

St. Anthony's College

Negombo down BRC at Katunayake Kalutara TC: 111/9 in 20 overs (Geshan Wimalad-

harma 53) Chilaw Marians: 112/7 in 16.1 overs (Lasith Coosepulle 33, Thikshila

de Silva 38). •At CCC Grounds (NCC won by eight wickets) Port Authority CC: 115/8 in 20 over (Yohan de

Silva 33) NCC: 119/2 in 15.1 overs (Lahiru Udara 65 n.o). **D.R**

cricket match played at

St. Anthony's: 258/8 in

45 overs (Asitha Wanni-

Katugastota, yesterday.

Chief scores:

SC will take on Blue second outing after losing

League Tournament. (AN)

They are likely to field the same line-up, which played in their curtain-raiser match to notch-up a Blue Eagles SC are also

Argentina Open at Buenos Badminton

GOLF

Bay Hill Golf Club, Florida Golden Ocala Golf and ATHLETICS Championship at Torun, Poland

LOCAL EVENTS CYCLING

Air Force Cycling Race from Oval NCC vs Lankan CC at CCC Grounds Sara Oval Moors SC vs SSC at NCC Ground NETBALL

Rising Stars Tournament at Torrington

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

T20I) at Wellington England Women (3rd T20l) at

FOOTBALL

United Tottenham Hotspur vs Crystal

to identify new talent

The Netball Federation Over nine teams and of Sri Lanka (NFSL) and 150 players from the nine the Department of Sports provinces are expected to Development will concompete for supremacy duct a Provincial Netball at this Dialog Netball Rising Stars 2021 Tourna-Tournament on March 7 and 8 at the Torrington ment. Grounds, Colombo. "Sri

Lanka has the This event will be sponsored by Dialog Axiata PLC and will be potential to perform well beyond the Asian circuit with the new talent pool conducted to identify and we have been developing develop new talent to be over the past few years, champions of tomorrow and this tourney is an on international court. extent to that progres-

sion," Victoria Lakshmi, President of NFSL said yesterday. "The National Team

has been making steady progress in the past few years, especially with the new talent coming in and we are excited to see the best our finest young women will achieve in the international arena,' Ashani Senaratne, Head of Marketing of Dialog Axiata PLC, said. (AN)



(From left): Padma Siriwardana, Director Admin, Department of Sports Development, Amal Edirisooriya, Director General, Department of Sports Development, Anuradha Wijekoon, Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ashani Senaratne, Head of Marketing - Brand Management, Dialog and Victoria Lakshmi, President, NFSL.

who failed to score.

six at one stage.

Arushi secures Girls' U-14 tennis title

Promising tennis player Arushi Thomas won the Girls' Under-14 Singles title at the SSC Open Tournament, which continued at the SSC Courts in Maitland Place yesterday.

The schoolgirl from Newstead Girls' College, Negombo, completed a successful tournament by defeating Dulkini Ranasinghe 6-2, 6-2 in the final encounter.

Results: (Girls' Under-14 Singles final): Arushi Thomas beat Dulkini Ranasinghe 6-2, 6-2.

(Boys' Under-14 quarter-finals): Methwan Wijemanne beat Janava De Saram 6-3, 6-4. Tharuk Marasinghe beat Senuk



Arushi Thomas celebrates with the trophy

Herath 6-2, 2-6, 10-6. Lisal Goonethilleke beat Aweesh Ganegoda 6-3, 6-3. Sandas Usgodaarachchi beat Danushka Dias 6-2.6-3.

Antonians triumph by 135 runs Inter-School Under-19

nayake 70, Gihan Ebert 48, Chandimal Herath 39, 37 Yasiru Gamaarachchi 23, Divvesh Ramiah 22, Rukshan Razil 2/41, Maleesha de Silva 2/45) ka 2/22).

St. Sylvester's: 123 in overs (Kavishka Dilshan 33, Maleesha de Silva 21, Divvesh Ramiah 2/13, Nimnaka Jayathila-

son ended with the best

figures of three for 19, but

spinners Ashton Agar,

Adam Zampa and Glenn

Maxwell all contributed

Australia beat New Zealand to force T20 series decider

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY: Australia crushed New Zealand by 50 runs in a low-scoring fourth Twenty20 international in Wellington Friday to level the series at 2-2.

with two wickets each. The result sets up a win-Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi ner-takes-all blockbuster in was the pick of the New the final match at the same Zealand bowlers, claiming venue on Sunday, with Austhree for 32. tralia in red-hot form after The Black Caps made a struggling early in the slow start, with openers

Martin Guptill and Tim series. The Australians scored Seifert managing just one 156 for six in their 20 overs boundary apiece in the after winning the toss and opening three overs on a spin-friendly wicket. electing to bat. In reply, New Zealand

Guptill departed cheaply were all out for 106 after for seven but it was only the beginning of New Zealand's Captain Aaron Finch woes as they lost a further

anchored the tourists' six wickets for 30 runs. innings with a gritty 79, The collapse effectively making him Australia's ended the contest, despite most prolific T20 internasome tail-end resistance tional run scorer on 2,310, from Jamieson, who topahead of David Warner's scored for the Black Caps with 30. 2,265.

Finch chiselled out his New Zealand skipper 14th T20 half-century off Kane Williamson was frus-55 balls before cutting loose trated at a passive display with four sixes in the final that he said needed to over, in which Kyle Jamieimprove for Sunday's decidson conceded 26 runs. But er. he struggled for partners as "That was a pretty poor the Black Caps pinned back Australia's batters with

performance from us, particularly in the second half,' he said.

"We lacked a little bit of intent at times."

Chief scores:

Australia - 156/6 in 20 overs (A. Finch 79, M. Stoinis 19, Sodhi 3/32, Boult 2/27)

wicket that did noy play as New Zealand - 106 in "I thought we adapted 18.5 overs (K. Jamieson 30, really well, it was a really T. Seifert 19, D. Conway polished performance with 17, K. Richardson 3/19, Maxwell 2/14, Zampa

2/24) - AFP Paceman Kyle Richard-

accurate bowling and a

Despite his man-of-the-

match batting performance,

Finch singled out his bowl-

ing attack for praise, saying

they were outstanding on a

expected.

the ball." he said.

steady flow of wickets.

Pant's ton puts India on top in fourth Test

AHMEDABAD,

FRIDAY: Rishabh Pant hit a defiant 101 to put India in control of the fourth and final Test against England on Friday. India reached 294 for seven at the end of the second day in response to England's 205. Washington Sundar was at the crease on 60 with Axar Patel on

11. India, leading 2-1 in the said Pant. series, struggled to make runs and lost crucial wickets early in the day, includ-

ing skipper Virat Kohli many runs as possible." India made it work again in But Pant put on 113 for the Ahmedabad stadium the seventh wicket with where they crushed Eng-Sundar to hit back after land in two days in the the England bowlers third Test.

reduced India to 146 for James Anderson claimed three wickets while fellow "I like to play the situapace bowler Ben Stokes tion and I just see the ball and spinner Jack Leach took two each and England and react - that's the unique selling point of my game," seemed to be in contention for much of the day.

"The team plan was to But left-handed wicketget to 206, pass the Engkeeper batsman Pant made land total and then get as light of the tough condi-

Anderson for his 13th boundary with an audacious reverse hit over the slips, finally fell to the veteran quick and walked off to a standing ovation.

"In my opinion it was one of his finest knocks and it came under pressure as well. We weren't in a good position when he came to

who made 49. "He was quite cautious at the begin-

England 1st innings -

205 in 75.5 overs (B. Stokes 55; A. Patel 4-68)

(overnight 24-1) 294/7 in 94 overs (R. Pant 101, W. Sundar 60, R. Sharma 49, Anderson 3/40, Stokes 2/73, Leach 2/66) - AFP

Printed and Published by The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., at No. 35, D.R.Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10, on Saturday, March 6, 2021



India 1st innings -

bat," said Rohit Sharma,

tions and reached his third Test hundred with a six off Pant, who smacked

ning and then he flourished the way we know Rishabh Pant and put the team into a good position.'

Chief scores:

18.5 overs.