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Giribawa tank renovation commences on President's directive

The renovation of the Giribawa tank commenced yesterday on a directive of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
The President made this directive following a request by the residents during the 13th "Discussion with the Village" programme held at the Maduragama grounds in the Weragala Grama Niladhari Division, Giribawa Divisional Secretariat in the Kurunegala District under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday, the Presidential Media Division said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



COVID-19 vaccination for over 60's commences

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The COVID-19 vaccination drive for those aged 60 and above was started yesterday with the arrival of vaccines under the COVAX facility.
The first consignment of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines received through the COVAX facility of the World Health Organization (WHO) will be administered to those above 60-years of age, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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GOVT. WILL DEFEND MILITARY PERSONNEL AGAINST UNHRC ALLEGATIONS - ARMY COMMANDER

'COUNTRY HAS MANAGED TO CONTROL COVID-19 SPREAD'

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The Government is doing everything in its capacity to defend the military personnel against the UNHRC allegations on war crimes, said Army Commander General Shavendra Silva.
Responding to questions raised by the media, when he attended the wedding of a disabled soldier yesterday, the Army

Commander said, "As soldiers engaged in our duties, we can be happy at the efforts taken by the present Government to stand up for us against the allegations made against us at the UNHRC sessions currently in progress. As you are aware there are certain things which the UNHRC can and cannot do. But, we know how much we

have done during the humanitarian operation.
"Had we not safeguarded the ordinary people, we could have ended the war much earlier than May 18, 2009," the Army Commander said.
"At a time when the terrorists were using innocent Tamil civilians as a human shield, we acted with so much restraint

in order to minimise casualties and that is why we were able to save so many lives. We know that eventually the truth will prevail. We hope that even in the future, those organizations working against us for financial gain, will realise what we have done and eventually commend us for the sacrifices we have made," he added. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Women Parliamentarians' Caucus website launch today

The launch of the official website of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in line with International Women's Day is scheduled to take place today (9) at the Parliament Complex.
This website is to be launched under the patronage of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena at the invitation of the Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID-19 Disease Control Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Based on complaints made by women: Two blackmailers arrested

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Based on complaints made to Hotline 118 by women who were being blackmailed, two persons have been arrested by the Police, Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekera said,

adding the women need not fear in the future and called on them to provide information on any person who tries to blackmail them. He assured that the law would be strictly enforced against such perpetrators. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



The People's Bank yesterday launched the Vanitha Vasana Bank Card at a ceremony at Independence Square themed "Ammawarune" held under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to mark International Women's Day. Picture shows the Prime Minister, Mrs Shiranthi Rajapaksa, People's Bank Chairman Sujeewa Rajapaksa and State Minister Piyal Nishantha with the card. Education Minister Professor G.L. Peiris is also in the picture. **Picture by Sulochana Gamage**

All schools except those in WP to reopen on Monday

DINULI FRANCISCO

All schools across the island for all grades will reopen on Monday except for schools in the Western Province (WP), Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said.
He added that WP schools will be reopened only after the health recommendations are received. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

No diplomat in Sri Lanka under surveillance - Police Spokesman

Responding to concerns raised by a Canadian diplomat on whether he is under surveillance after details of some visitors to his official residence were exposed in the media, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said no diplomat in Sri Lanka is under surveillance.
Speaking to the *Daily News*, he refuted these concerns raised by the Canadian diplomat, adding that in no way was the Canadian High Commissioner being put under surveillance. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Mahanayake Theras urged to study Easter Sunday PCol report

- Ven. Gnanasara Thera

ASELA KURULUWANSA

General Secretary of Bodu Bala Sena Organization, Ven. Galagoda Aththe Gnanasara Thera said a request had been made to Most Ven Mahanayake Theras to formally study the distortions caused by the recommendations of the report of the Presidential Commission of Investigations (PCol) on the Easter Sunday terror attacks and to issue a joint statement in this regard. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Twelve FR petitions filed over Easter Sunday attacks re-fixed for argument

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Twelve Fundamental Rights petitions filed over Easter Sunday terror attacks were yesterday re-fixed for argument by the Supreme Court.
The Supreme Court three-judge-Bench headed by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya re-fixed the petitions for argument on June 7, 8 and 9. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

PCol recommendations on Easter terror attacks

Cabinet Sub Committee to present report on March 15

IRANGIKA RANGE

The Cabinet Sub Committee appointed to review the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) to investigate the Easter Sunday terror attacks will hand over its report to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on March 15. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Accident case against Patali fixed for trial

DILSHAN THARAKA

The case filed against former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka in connection with an alleged motor accident that took place in 2016 at Rajagiriya was yesterday fixed for trial on May 31 by the Colombo High Court. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Tamil People's Alliance registered as a political party

RASUL DILHARA GAMAGE

Northern Province Special Corr.

The National Election Commission (NEC) has granted permission to register the Tamil People's Alliance (TPA) which was established by former Northern Provincial Council Chief Minister C.V. Wigneswaran, as a political party. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

CID probe on SJB MP's speech

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Based on a complaint lodged by several Members of Parliament regarding a speech made by SJB MP Ashok Abeysinghe regarding the Easter Sunday terror attacks, the CID is scheduled to conduct a full investigation. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



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Bangladesh HC commemorates historic 7th March Speech of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

The Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo commemorated the historic 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Tareq Mohammed Ariful Islam inaugurated the observance by hoisting the National Flag of Bangladesh at the High Commission premises on Sunday. Subsequently, a floral wreath was placed at the portrait of the Father of the Nation and a minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the late leader.

A special prayer for the Father of the Nation and for the continued peace, harmony and prosperity of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was conducted in the presence of the officials of the High Commission.

As part of the commemoration of the day, the Mission hosted a Webinar presided over by the High Commissioner. It started with the reading out of messages on the occasion given by the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. A documentary on the historic 7th March Speech was also screened.

Speaking to the *Daily News*, High Commissioner Islam said that his nation paid a fitting tribute to this late leader who fought for the country's independence successfully and finally sacrificed his life to brutal hands in his own mansion. "We are happy his daughter follows his footsteps to make a Golden Bangla and we are positive we are on the right road to achieve the late leader's goal for a 'Sonar Bangla'".

During a virtual commemorative meeting on Sunday, eminent



Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Tareq Mohammed Ariful Islam participating in a Webinar to commemorate the historic 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Sri Lankan scholar and Professor Emeritus of Colombo University Jaya Deva Uyagoda delivered the keynote speech. Among others, a young representative from Sri Lanka Ms. Sayuri Jayawardena and expatriate

Bangladeshi Farzana Hoq spoke at the discussion segment. The speakers shared their perspectives on the historic 7th March Speech and recognized it as the key to Bangladesh's independence. They recommended

to include the speech in international curriculum for study and research purposes. The speakers also dwell on the work and political life of Bangabandhu and recalled his singular contribution to the nation-hood of Bangladesh. In his closing remarks, High Commissioner Tareq Islam is hopeful of achieving a Sonar Bangla as envisaged by the Father of the Nation towards the progress and prosperous of Bangladesh. He also analyzed some important aspects of the historic 7th March Speech.

A good number of Sri Lankan dignitaries and expatriate Bangladeshi nationals joined the Webinar. The Webinar was live-streamed on the High Commissioner's Facebook page which was watched by a significant number of people in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

CMC introduces Automated Appointment Booking System

DINULI FRANCISCO

The Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) introduced an Automated Appointment Booking System for CMC to obtain its services.

The introduction of the Automated Appointment Booking System was held at the Colombo Municipal Council premises under the patronage of CMC Mayor Rosy Senanayake yesterday.

"In order to provide CMC services efficiently and effectively, the telephone number 0112208208 has been introduced to make an appointment before meeting the relevant officer for the services that are needed to be obtained," Senanayake said.

These activities are carried out in collaboration with Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) and appointments can be made by calling the above number on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Those who wish to avail themselves of this automated service should call 0112208208.

After selecting the relevant section, the NIC number must be added along with the telephone number to confirm your identity. This will enable the user to meet the designated officer on a designated day to resolve their issue. The CMC Mayor also said steps are being taken to introduce an e-channeling system to enable the public to book an advance time and date for the forthcoming COVID-19 Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccination programme in the Colombo area.

Women Parliamentarians'

From page 01

Subsequently, a press conference will be held with the participation of all Members of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus.

Thereafter, the motion by the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus to establish a Select Committee to look into and make its recommendations to ensure gender equity and equality with special emphasis on looking into gender-based discrimination and violations of women's rights in Sri Lanka is also scheduled to be presented to the Parliament by the Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus, State Minister Dr. Fernando Palle.

Then, with the aim of empowering women in this country, the panel discussion "Are you ready for the challenge" will be conducted with the participation of the chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernando Palle, Deputy Chairperson of the Caucus MP Rohini Kumari Wijeratne, MPs Thalatha Athukorala, Geetha Kumarasinghe, Manjula Dissanayake and Diana Gamage.

Deputy Chairperson of the Women Parliamentarians Caucus, State Minister of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation Dr. Seetha Arambepola, Minister of Health Pavithra Wanniarachchi, MPs Kokila Gunawardena, Muditha Prishantha, Rajika Wickramasinghe and Dr. Harini Amarasinghe will participate in the second panel discussion.

Tamil People's Alliance registered...

From page 01

C.V. Vigneswaran contested the Northern Provincial Council through the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) and became the Chief Minister obtaining the highest number of votes. He formed the TPA in 2019, due to a dispute with the TNA.

He established the new party by changing the name of the Tamil National Assembly.

As the Vigneswaran-formed TPA was not registered as a recognized political party at the time of the 2020 General Elections, he contested the election through the Tamil Makkal Theesiya Kutani Party (TMTK) formed with the EPRLF and became a Parliamentarian.

Vigneswaran handed over the documents required to register his newly formed party to the NEC after he became a Parliamentarian.

Govt. will defend military...

From page 01

Commenting on the COVID-19 efforts, General Shavendra Silva said that over 720,000 people have already been vaccinated and efforts are continuing to arrest the spread of the

virus. He said in comparison to many developed countries, Sri Lanka has managed to control the spread of the virus and maintain a relatively low death rate.

The Commander said that

the Government would continue with the vaccination drive and together with all other health precautions in place, the Government is confident of controlling the pandemic.

Giribawa tank renovation...

From page 01

The Land Reclamation and Development Corporation commenced the renovation project. The tank which is 64 hectares in extent cultivates lands belonging to 250 families.

The farmers could cultivate their lands only for two seasons due to the lack of water. They hope to bring their lands under cultivation for three seasons after the tank is renovated.



Mahanayake Theras urged to...

From page 01

The Mahanayake Theras, who lead the 70% of the Buddhist population in the country, have done their part to alleviate the national, religious and social problems that arise in the country. Therefore, the report on the Easter Sunday terror attacks will also be studied by the Mahanayake Theras.

Ven. Gnanasara Thera made this statement after briefing the Asgiriya Mahanayake Most Venerable Warakagoda Sri Gnanarathana Thera on the report of the Presidential Commission on the Easter Sunday terror attacks yesterday (08).

He said this report has brought

great misfortune to the victims of the Easter Sunday terror attacks as well as to the entire Buddhist community.

Secretary of the Bodu Bala Sena Ven. Gnanasara Thera said that as a matter of duty, they will go to every district and inform about the calamity caused to the country due to Islamic extremism.

Ven. Gnanasara Thera said that racism, extremism and separatism have existed in this country since Independence and if there was extremist or racist frenzy in the Buddhist com-



munity, other places of worship would not have been formed.

The Thera emphasized that it is time to defeat all those who degrade humanity.

He added that Christian fundamentalists as well as Islamic extremists were operating from two sides. Speaking at the event, Ven. Ulapane Sumangala Thera said that the Bhikkhu Association will hold a protest at Independence Square on March 11 at 2 p.m. to protest the Easter Commission Report and seek justice for the victims of the attack.

Based on complaints...

From page 01

The Public Security Minister said this at the ceremony organised to establish Public Security Committees in the Southern Province.

He said the three main factors that contribute to the increase in crime in Sri Lanka are the lack of discipline, restraint and a feeling towards the country. He said that the main reason he had proposed military training for the youth was to instill that sense of discipline, restraint and sense of patriotism. How-

ever, he said that some people misunderstood his proposal and thought he wanted to militarise the country.

Minister Weerasekera also noted that some elements in the Opposition in order to gain political advantage are trying to point fingers at the Government over the Easter Sunday terror attacks which took place during the previous regime. He said that everyone connected with the previous regime should take respon-

sibility for destabilizing the intelligence units of this country.

"The authorities have arrested almost 7,600 in connection with the Easter Sunday terror attacks and upon interrogation, almost 300 of them have been identified as having had direct and indirect connections to the Easter Sunday attacks. Of them conspiracy and murder charges have already been filed against 32 suspects while 241 are detained under detention orders for their indirect

involvement in the attacks. Filing charges against those connected with the Easter attacks was delayed as we had to wait for the Presidential Commission report. However, now that we have received the report, charges will be filed against those responsible without delay."

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma and Matara District Coordinating Chairman MP Nipuna Ranawaka were also present.

Accident case against...

From page 01

Former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka, his driver Dilum Thushitha Kumara and former Welikada Police OIC Sudath Asmadala appeared in Court when the case was taken up before Colombo High Court Judge Damith Thotawatta and the Judge issued summons to 1st to 5th witnesses and the Secretary to the Finance Ministry, who has been named as the 20th witness in the case to appear before the Court on the next hearing.

Deputy Solicitor General Dileepa Peiris appearing on behalf of the Attorney General sought from the Court to issue an order to the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance to produce the vehicle bearing No WP KT 7545 which was involved in the accident, which was under the Ministry of Power and Energy at the time of the accident in 2016 and which is now under the Ministry of Finance, to the Court as a case production item in the next hearing.

Accordingly, the judge issued an order to the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance to take steps to produce the vehicle in Court at the next hearing.

The 'B' Report of the Colombo Additional Magistrate's Court related to this case was presented to the Court by the prosecution

yesterday and the Deputy Solicitor General informed the Court that steps will be taken to provide copies to the defense as well.

The Colombo High Court Judge ordered the prosecution to keep the 'B' Report submitted to the Court as it is in the custody of the prosecution and to present it before the Court if necessary.

Attorney-at-Law Rajika Kodithuwakku appearing for Former Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka informed the Court that a preliminary objection will be filed on behalf of the accused Ranawaka in the future regarding the continuation of this case.

The Deputy Solicitor General stated that if the accused intends to file a preliminary objection before the Court, the prosecution should be informed beforehand.

Accordingly, the Colombo High Court Judge ordered the defence to give advance notice if there was a preliminary objection and fixed the trial on May 31.

On July 10, the Attorney General had filed two separate indictments before the High Court against former MP Patali Champika, his driver Thushith Dilum Kumara and ASP Sudath Asmadala over the hit-and-run accident at Rajagiriya in 2016.

Accordingly, the first indictment was filed against former MP

Patali Champika on charges of causing grievous injury to a youth named Sandeep Sampath while driving a vehicle in a reckless manner.

The second indictment comprising 16 charges was filed against all three accused on charges of fabricating false evidence, conspiracy of fabricating evidence and submitting false reports to the Court.

The main charge relates to conspiring and fabricating false evidence to claim that it was Dilum Thushith Kumara who was driving the vehicle which caused the accident and another charge relates to him allegedly conspiring to conceal evidence in order to protect MP Patali Champika from legal penalty.

ASP Sudath Asmadala was charged with producing a false report to the Colombo Magistrate's Court in order to protect former MP Patali Champika from legal penalty.

On previous occasions, indictments were served on all three accused who were released on a cash bail of Rs.10,000 and two sureties of Rs.500,000.

President's Counsel Anuja Premaratne, President's Counsel Anil Silva, Attorneys Shalika Gunawardena, Rajika Kodithuwakku and Dhanaraj Samarakoon appeared for the defence.

were passed to the relevant Sri Lankan authorities about possible attacks on 333 occasions. But, no one has acted to prevent the attacks. Today, these people are trying to escape from the responsibility for the attacks. However, it is our responsibility to prosecute those responsible for the attacks," he added.

The Minister said the Committee will meet on March 12, 13 and 14.

Several senior Police officers also participated in the Committee

meeting held under the patronage of Minister Chamal Rajapaksa who heads the Cabinet Sub-Committee.

"The DIG in-charge of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Director of the CID, the Director in-charge of the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID) and several other senior and retired Police Officers were called to discuss how the recommendations of the Presidential Commission can be practically implemented," the Minister added.

Cabinet Sub Committee to...

From page 01

The Committee has so far met three times and wide-ranging discussions were held on how to implement the recommendations of the final report of the Presidential Commission.

The Cabinet Sub Committee comprises Ministers Johnston Fernando, Udaya Gammanpila, Ramesh Pathirana, Prasanna Ranatunga and Rohitha Abeysunwardena.

According to Minister Prasanna Ranatunga, information from foreign intelligence agencies had

All schools except those...

From page 01

The Minister further said that health recommendations pertaining to the WP will be submitted by the health officials within two days.

Accordingly, schools in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara will be reopened afterwards.

Minister Peiris said the decision on reopening WP schools will be determined based on the approval of the Director General of Health Services.

"The Ministry of Education is committed to providing the necessary facilities and educational environment for children to continue their activities without wasting their valuable time. The GCE Ordinary Level Examination is currently underway, with 622,000 students sitting for it. We were able to successfully conduct and complete the GCE Advanced Level

Examination and the Grade Five Scholarship Examination in the same manner," he added.

The Minister also said that during the examination period, 56 infected students were identified and they were directed to the relevant centres.

"There are 40 such centres throughout the country. A special classroom had been set up at each examination centre and 321 quarantined students sat for the examination," he said.

He also said that the Government and the Education Ministry have planned all these very successfully with foresight. He added that answer sheets of the first three days of the G.C.E O/L Examination are ready to be evaluated with the aim of releasing the results in June. Advanced Level classes will start in July.

CID probe on...

From page 01

Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said a couple of days ago Kurunegala District MP Ashok Abeysinghe had made a speech regarding the perpetrators of the Easter Sunday attacks and mentioned about the funding received by the perpetrators of the attacks.

He said that several MPs had lodged a complaint with the CID regarding the speech made by MP Ashok Abeysinghe.

"According to the complaint they said that the statement made by the MP is totally false and apart from that they had made a request to conduct a full scale investigation. Accordingly, the CID had notified MP Abeysinghe to report to the CID yesterday, but he had failed to show up. Therefore, he was again notified as per the provisions of the criminal procedure code to appear before the CID today."

Further, Nissanka Senadhipathi had also lodged a complaint with the CID urging a full investigation into the speech made by MP Abeysinghe which he alleges is based on false information.

Twelve FR petitions filed...

From page 01

Additional Solicitor General Priyantha Nawana appearing for the Attorney General sought further time to decide whether they will continue to appear on behalf of several respondents who were implicated through the report of the Presidential Commission appointed to probe Easter Sunday attacks.

These petitions are to be heard before a Supreme Court seven-judge Bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, Justice Sisira de Abrew, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya, Justice Murdu Fernando and Justice Preethi Padman Sarasena on the next hearing date.

On a previous occasion, the Attorney General had informed the Supreme Court that he would no longer represent two respondents former President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe since they do not hold such positions.

On October 2, 2019, the Supreme Court decided to grant leave to proceed in terms of Article 12(1) of the Constitution in respect of former President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and for-

mer Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

Through these petitions, petitioners including the Sri Lanka Bar Association are pleading an order to prosecute those who were directly or indirectly responsible for terrorist attacks.

The Chief Justice had nominated a fuller Bench comprising seven judges of the Supreme Court to hear several Fundamental Rights petitions filed over the Easter Sunday attacks.

Through these petitions, petitioners are pleading an order to prosecute those who are directly or indirectly responsible for terrorist attacks.

They are also claiming compensation for the victims of the terrorist attacks.

President's Counsel Faiz Mustapha, Manohara de Silva PC, Saliya Peiris PC, Sanjeeva Jayawardena PC, Senior Counsel Gamini Perera, Darshana Weraduwage and Chirshmal Warnasuriya appeared for the petitioners.

Additional Solicitor General Priyantha Nawana appeared for the Attorney General.

Senior Counsel Viran Corea appeared for the former IGP. President's Counsel Anuja Premaratne appeared for former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando.

USAID, Samurdhi Dept. celebrate women's entrepreneurs

Expands training to another 7,500 participants in six districts

Twenty women from Matara celebrated International Women's Day yesterday by participating in an innovative entrepreneurship training programme supported by the U.S. Government in partnership with Sri Lanka's Department of Samurdhi Development.

Representatives from the U.S. and Sri Lankan Governments welcomed the women and announced the expansion of the programme to an additional 7,500 participants in six districts in Sri Lanka.

"On International Women's Day and every day, we celebrate the inspirational Sri Lankan women who are forging their own paths to success," said Reed Aeschliman, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director for Sri Lanka

and Maldives. "The American people are proud to support thousands of Sri Lankan women as they establish micro-enterprises, improve their livelihoods, and contribute to the economy."

The U.S. Government-sponsored activity builds entrepreneurship skills among rural women and youth to help them become financially independent micro-entrepreneurs. Through a pilot project with the Department of Samurdhi, USAID provided training for 1,250 people in Matara that resulted in the establishment of 410 businesses -- 343 of which are women-owned.

Phase two of the project will provide training for another 1,500 women in Matara and will be rolled out to 6,000 trainees in five additional districts. The project,

called YouLead, will also launch free online entrepreneurship training modules that are accessible to anyone with entrepreneurship aspirations via www.youlead.lk.

"We are pleased to continue our partnership with USAID's YouLead project to build the capacity of women entrepreneurs in rural communities," said State Minister for Samurdhi Minister Shehan Semasinghe. "This partnership has proven highly effective and will empower women across the country over the next two years through training workshops. It will increase female participation in our economy."

At the kickoff event today, the participants exchanged ideas with successful women entrepreneurs, including keynote

speaker Janaki Kathiriarachchi, Chairman of Ranbath Organic Food and Catering Services (Pvt) Ltd., who spoke of her journey to success.

The event, attended by R.P.B. Thilakasiri, Director General, Department of Samurdhi Development while Division Secretary Deepika Gunarathne showcased four video case studies on local entrepreneurs and will be releasing 12 more case studies in March.

Through its YouLead programme, USAID improves vocational education, builds a more skilled workforce, and links youth to

productive careers. It's one component of the longstanding partnership between the American and Sri Lankan people to support self-reliance, strengthen stability, and promote economic growth. USAID's programme in Sri Lanka, totaling more than 350 billion Sri Lankan rupees since 1956, promotes a healthy, educated, and employed population. To find out more about USAID's work, please see usaid.gov/sri-lanka.



US Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director for Sri Lanka and Maldives Reed Aeschliman, Chairman of Ranbath Organic Food and Catering Services (Pvt) Ltd Janaki Kathiriarachchi, Department of Samurdhi Development R.P.B. Thilakasiri and Division Secretary Deepika Gunarathne at the USAID's YouLead project entrepreneurship training programme.

Special Officer to investigate illegal mineral mining

A Special Investigation Officer has been appointed to the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GS&MB) to investigate illegal mineral mining on the directive of Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera.

The appointment has been made in view of the increasing number of reports regarding illegal sand, soil mining and rock quarrying. Retired Major S.C.S. Dahanayake, who has served in the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and the Sri Lanka National Security Force, has been appointed as the Special Investigation Officer.

This official met the Minister of Environment Mahinda Amaraweera at the Ministry last week and held discussions with the Minister.

The Minister instructed that information on illegal sand, soil and rock smuggling be obtained immediately and that Security Forces members be deployed to conduct raids to curb such smuggling.



The paddy purchasing programme commenced on Sunday in the Galle District.

PMB buys dried paddy at Galle farmers' door-steps

MAHINDA P. LIYANGE, Galle Central Special Corr.

The purchase of dried paddy from farmers in the Galle District commenced on Sunday (7) at the Baswatta, Kapuhempala and Karanwila Grama Niladhari Divisions belonging to the Labuduwa Agrarian Services Centre.

Under the programme, a kilo of dry paddy is purchased at Rs.55 per kilo by the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB). The PMB officials visited the farmers' homes for the purchase of paddy. The PMB's Southern Province Zonal Manager Susantha Senanayake, Agricultural Diploma holder Wasantha Senanayake, Labuduwa Agrarian Development Divisional Officer K.H.J. Sandamali and a group of Agricultural Research Production Assistants also joined the inauguration of the paddy purchasing initiative.

Galle District Paddy Procurement Operation is being carried out on instructions of Galle District Agrarian Development Assistant Commissioner (Administrative) K.W.S. Priyanjan under the guidance of Galle District Agrarian Development Assistant Commissioner Hemapala Warushavithana with the cooperation of Agricultural Research Production Assistants of the district.

Too early to comment on UNHRC Resolution - TELO

Northern Province Special Corr. RASUL DILHARA GAMAGE

The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) claimed that the statement made by the Leader of the Tamil National Alliance R. Sampanthan that the Tamil political parties should accept the Resolution submitted by several leading countries to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva could not be accepted.

TELO leader Selvam Adaikalanathan said that Tamil political parties should not comment on the full resolution until it is presented to the session. He stated this on Sunday in Vavuniya.

"In the dilemma of not knowing what the final outcome of the resolution will be, the call for co-sponsorship countries to successfully implement the current draft resolution will weaken our efforts and create confusion and weaken the Tamil people's struggle for justice and the ability of the oppressed to do justice," he said. He said that Tamil political parties had not responded favourably to Minister Dinesh Gunawardena's remarks at the UNHRC and the TELO leader called on the member states of the UNHRC to pass a resolution with strong conditions to do justice to the injustice done to the Tamil people.

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JAYATILLEKE DE SILVA

– the perennial quest for the truth

SACHITRA MAHENDRA

Jayatilleke de Silva, who passed away two years ago (February 2019), was the quintessential journalist. He brought his vast experience in education, politics, academia, literature and wider society into the journalistic world. This versatility enabled him to embellish his work as the Editor of both the Daily News and the Sunday Observer. He was widely read, always well-informed and in touch with reality.

Although his primary focus was politics, which he reflected through his editorials, columns and features, he had an ear to the ground with regard to all contemporary issues. As the editor, he advised his journalists to give priority to human interest stories, instead of always hunting for politically-oriented stories.

He knew the power of words and excelled in combining words in a superlative manner, be it Sinhala or English. Thus, his columns in both languages were eagerly awaited by the readers and sometimes loathed by politicians and other bigwigs, as he reserved his sharpest words for them. But fear was not a word found in his vocabulary. He fought for what he believed was right – once when a superior found fault with him for running a copy which angered a big advertiser, he stood his ground, stood by his reporter and resigned.

Journalism was in his very veins. Even a few hours before his death, he asked a nurse to bring him the day's newspapers to keep up to date with the day's events. In fact, he continued to write columns to newspapers until a few weeks before his demise.

Although he was not in the Editor's seat of the Daily News when it celebrated its centenary in 2018, it was a very happy moment for him. Despite his illness, he came to the celebrations and made it a point to talk to everyone at the Daily News where he once mentored them. He invited me to his home to discuss about

the 100th anniversary of the Daily News and journalism in general. The following were gleaned from some of his observations.

That Ceylon Daily News enjoys a prominent standing as an established, respected and much-revered flagship newspaper in the industry is a fact. The newspaper provides the official standpoint of the incumbent Government without distorting the state of affairs. Jayatilleke de Silva deemed it a privilege to be Editor-in-Chief of a newspaper of that calibre on three occasions.

"I enjoyed all the three periods as the paper's Editor-in-Chief. That is simply because of the team I had to work with. They carried on well with me."

De Silva, however, was quick to point out the limitations naturally imposed on the paper because of its government stakeholders. The political interference reached a hegemonic state at times, based on the personality of whoever calls the shots.

"Defending diverse opinions was not much welcome at times. That made it difficult to relay proper information to the reader." The political interference to a greater extent served as a hurdle in maintaining the readership trust. What was the solution to that?

"I wanted to make the paper a wide-ranging platform. So I introduced various

light-reading materials to kindle the readership."

Jayatilleke de Silva occupied the Editor's chair in 2000, 2003 and 2009. He fought tooth and nail to uphold the journalistic integrity while his contemporaries sought the rosy path of being 'too friendly' with the political masters. While others chose to toe the line, he dared not to. And the result: he was the cornered one among 'chosen editors'.

"As a government newspaper, we are supposed to present the government opinion. There is no question about that. But I was not ready to go over the top."

A Parliamentarian once made use of Parliamentary time to criticise another person on a certain wrongdoing. The news appeared on page one of Lake House newspapers, except for the Daily News. On the Daily News, it was in the Lobby column. The following day, de Silva was summoned to offer an explanation as to why he failed to give it page one publicity. It was not page one material, de Silva had explained.

During another different political period, a media advisor to a VVIP wanted his write-up to appear as an editorial in the Daily News. "If I am the editor, it's my responsibility to decide which story should go in which section. That said, I have the final say in the editorial as well. So I published the media advisor's story elsewhere bylined as 'a special correspondent'."

That seemingly brash conduct developed into an unsavoury relationship between de Silva and the political bosses of the day. They grew furious when he was not ready to play to their whims and fancies.

"The thing with the political apparatus is that they see everything in black and white. They fail to notice the grey areas. They do not want us to produce the truth all the time."

Jayatilleke de Silva had to pull out all the stops to keep the paper from losing its esteem. But the job before him was not that easy. Restricted terminology was an added hurdle to the editor's sovereignty.

The editorship posed him quite a challenge, yet Jayatilleke de Silva braved the odds all the time upholding the integrity of the Fourth Estate.

Born in Ambalangoda in 1938, De Silva was a graduate of the Colombo University. His first profession was teaching. After a brief stint as the Principal of Deniyaya Central College, he left the teaching to pursue a full time career in politics from the Sri Lanka Communist Party,

of which he was an active member for a few decades.

His first foray into journalism was from the Aththa newspaper of the Communist Party. He soon earned a reputation as an author and translator of several seminal works on socialism and other trends in politics. His most well-known work is the massive three-volume Sinhala translation of Karl Marx' definitive treatise on the socialist model "Das Kapital".

The entire print run of the three volumes was sold out. After retiring from politics, he re-entered journalism, joining the Daily News in the late 1990s and becoming its Editor-in-Chief in 2001. He was appointed Editor of the Daily News again from 2003-2004 and also held the post of Chief Editor, Sunday Observer for a few years. He was well known for his sharp editorials and journalistic acumen.

After leaving Lake House, he continued to write political columns to both English and Sinhala newspapers. A fearless writer and a critical analyst of contemporary politics, his Cross Currents column in the Daily News was eagerly awaited by readers.

He also spoke regularly at political forums and discussions on current issues. There are plans to issue some of his yet unpublished works.



He knew the power of words and excelled in combining words in a superlative manner, be it Sinhala or English. Thus, his columns in both languages were eagerly awaited by the readers and sometimes loathed by politicians and other bigwigs, as he reserved his sharpest words for them. But fear was not a word found in his vocabulary. He fought for what he believed was right – once when a superior found fault with him for running a copy which angered a big advertiser, he stood his ground, stood by his reporter and resigned

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DR. MOHAN JAYATILAKE
Consultant Cardiologist

This tribute is in remembrance of my father-in-law, the late Dr. Neville Fernando who would have celebrated his 90th birthday today (9). He passed away unexpectedly on February 4, this year due to the deadly COVID-19 virus.

His birthday will be remembered with an almsgiving to the priests at a temple in Kotikawatta to invoke merit on him to attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana. Religious observances on his birthday were an annual occurrence even during his lifetime.

As I ponder about his memories, being 'no more' is the saddest thought that crosses my mind. I believe you also understand what I mean. Death means that our loved ones never grow a year older, although logic does little to clear up our confusion when the birthday continues to happen every year.

His memories and good deeds done by him throughout the life brought back towards the day I joined his family, when I was just a medical house-officer at the Nawalapitiya Hospital in 1982, through marriage to his only daughter. Even then, he was known to be a real legend and an honest politician. Today I am in this position as a cardiologist due to his encouragement, loving care and continuous assistance in whatever means. My mind is full of memories of those loving moments shared together. He was a loving, kind and straight gentleman. I may also use the words "handsome" and "charismatic" leader. He will inspire us throughout our lives though he is no longer with us. His pleasant disposition would charm anyone and uplift everyone's mood.

He led a good life and now has left a good legacy of four children (three boys and a girl) whom any father would be proud of, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren loved by everyone. He is no more and no one can fill the void nor bring back the warmth and love he exuded.

We all have the courage and we have our convictions, but rarely have the courage of our conviction. Kindness and compassion were the key attributes that made him so special. He had been a good general practitioner before coming to Parliament defeating a formidable Leftist politician Leslie Goonewardene who represented Panadura for decades. It was a landmark victory for the United National Party (UNP) in 1977. He was a kind and compassionate doctor who served the rich and the poor alike in Panadura for many years and was sought after by his patients for his well-known 'ath gune' (healing hands). This is where he earned his loyal fan base to enter into politics.

Among many things he achieved in Panadura, establishing the Kethumathi Maternity Hospital, the only one of its kind outside Colombo, helping Sri Sumangala Girls School Expansion Programme, starting the Agamathi Balika Vidyalaya and Janadhipathi Boys School and self-funding the Sri Saugatha Vidyalaya Pirivena building at Rankoth Viharaya in Panadura are a few.

He also started an industrial zone on an abandoned marshy area in Modarawila, Panadura. He provided the

90th birth anniversary of
Dr. Neville Fernando today

A Gentleman Par Excellence

first computer laboratory and two acres of additional land to expand the Sri Sumangala School which is still spoken with gratitude by the students of his Alma Mater.

He was a fearless, principled and honest man who opposed former President J.R. Jayewardene's motion to strip former Premier Sirimavo Bandaranaike of her civil rights, as he never wanted to compromise his basic human qualities over politics. Very soon he left the Government before any attempt to expel him and formed a small party with a few other honest politicians. Later, he joined the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) at the invitation of Sirimavo Bandaranaike and worked in the party as an assistant secretary for the progress of the country.

He was a maverick par excellence, an entrepreneur, extraordinary and a businessman with a foresight. As one of the pioneers in the hospitality industry, he built the Hotel Swanee, subsequently, he started JR&I, one of the most modern printing and packaging factories in the country to date. He also pioneered the porcelain factory, Royal Fernwood Porcelain, in Kosgama, Avissawella which provided many employment opportunities and helped to economically develop the area.

Continuing his political career, he entered Parliament again as an SLFP opposition member. In 1994, he decided to give up politics. His divestments in the porcelain factory enabled him to purchase the Asha Central Hospital which was developed with the latest equipment and brought to international standards. This is the time I had

He was a kind and compassionate doctor who served the rich and the poor alike in Panadura for many years and was sought after by his patients for his well-known 'ath gune' (healing hands). This is where he earned his loyal fan base to enter into politics

to make a difficult decision to leave the Government as a consultant cardiologist and join the Asha Central Hospital in 1998 to help him in his endeavour. He developed and managed this hospital till 2007 and subsequently sold it to start his new venture, the South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM) with the encouragement of the then Higher Education Minister Vishwa Warnapala.

I was very much concerned about the new development because of the past experience in the country with the North Colombo Medical College. He always used to tell, "Every child should have the right for a decent education either in a government or non-government organization." His main vision was to give a higher education opportunity for students. Therefore, apart from medicine, he also established nursing, engineering, IT and management programmes with the help of esteemed academics who believed in his vision. He established Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital (NFTH) in Malabe to provide clinical training for his students at the medical faculty. It was an impressive state-of-the-art hospital with 1,002 beds and the latest medical equipment. All these achievements were made during his 80s which is remarkable.

The SAITM gave him

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immense pride and a lot of pain at the same time. He was very proud of the fact that he was able to give so many scholarships to deserving students (close to Rs. 600 million scholarships during his time). In addition to saving a tremendous amount of foreign exchange, he was also able to give an opportunity to students to study in Sri Lanka, without going overseas for their education.

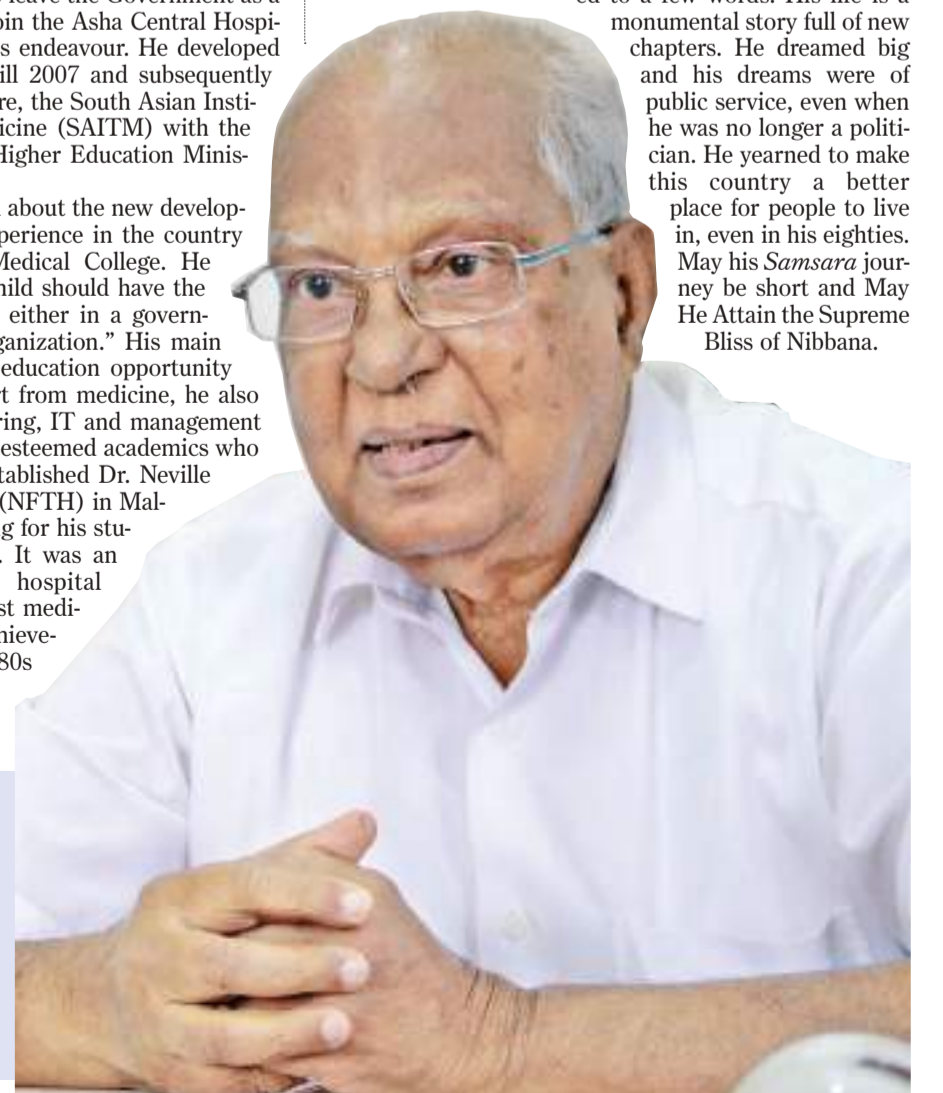
However, he had to face many obstacles during this period and was socially and politically crushed due to the SAITM.

With time, he made a decision to give the NFTH to the Government in return for the clinical training of the medical students of the SAITM. In 2017, the SAITM was closed down by President Maithripala Sirisena, who gave in due to the heavy opposition made by the unions against private medical education.

At 89 years of age, he was an avid Facebook warrior and used to keep abreast of what was going on in the social media. He was a big cricket fan and never missed watching a cricket match day or night.

Writing about this unique personality cannot be limited to a few words. His life is a monumental story full of new chapters. He dreamed big and his dreams were of public service, even when he was no longer a politician. He yearned to make this country a better place for people to live in, even in his eighties.

May his Samsara journey be short and May He Attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.



Women warriors taking



Wing Commander Sneha (IAF)

DISHAN JOSEPH

The ancient Greek General Thucydides once said, "The secret to happiness is freedom. The secret to freedom is courage." This has been proven by some talented and dynamic military women in the present day who have soared to success.

During the spectacular Air Show organized by the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) to celebrate their 70th anniversary, I was able to meet four female officers of the Indian Armed Forces. Wing Commander Sneha Kulkarni represents the Indian Air Force (IAF) as a member of the Sarang Helicopter Team. Her fellow officer is Squadron Leader Arpita Mukherjee who as the team's commentator surprised the Sri Lankan audience by opening her narrative in Sinhalese before moving on to English. The other lady officer is Lieutenant Commander Yamini Dalal of the Indian Navy who works as an observer in the IAF

"I encourage all women to dream high, live their dreams and have a well disciplined life"

Dornier aircraft. Squadron Leader Anjali Rai is the vibrant commentator for the IAF Surya Kiran team which kept audiences spellbound for three days at Galle Face, with their awesome Hawk 132 jets. As we celebrated International Women's Day yesterday, it is refreshing to note that these women have been able to engage with dignity and military decorum in the same job roles, once dominated by males. They have duly enhanced the image of their respective flying squadrons.

The Sri Lanka Air Force has also proudly trained and produced two young women pilots for the first time in SLAF history. These diligent women are Pilot Officer Rangana Weerawardana and Pilot Officer Pavithra Gunarathne. Interestingly, both Sri Lankan women completed part of their basic flying training at Air Force Academy, Hyderabad, India. The two SLAF officers did their training in India flying the Pilatus PC-7 aircraft and then proceeded for advanced training to the No. 8 Squadron of SLAF in Ratmalana, logging in their flying hours on the Y-12 aircraft. These two Sri Lankan women are a glowing example of facing challenges and achieving professional targets. They have made their families proud by graduating with distinction, with one woman officer winning the traditional Sword of Honour at the Sri Lanka Air Force passing-out parade.

The amiable Indian Navy Officer, Lieutenant Commander Yamini said, "I was inspired to join the military as we had three generations of Army personnel from my family,



SLAF Pilots Pavithra and Rangana

These two Sri Lankan women are a glowing example of facing challenges and achieving professional targets. They have made their families proud by graduating with distinction, with one woman officer winning the traditional Sword of Honour at the SLAF passing-out parade

including my father. I enlisted as a direct entry officer in 2014. I underwent six months of basic training at the Naval Academy in Kerala. A further one year of naval training was followed. I presently work as a maritime observer on a Dornier aircraft. I have 1100 hours of flying time on these aerial reconnaissance flights. I represent the No 550 Squad-

ron and we are known as the Flying Fish. Our Dornier aircraft has an endurance of three plus hours and we can fly 250 nautical miles from shore on our routine patrols. During my leisure time, I like to engage in sailing. I also enjoy reading." Yamini is married to an officer of the Indian Navy and they have much in common coming from the same mili-



Lieutenant Commander Yamini (IAF)

"It is a great opportunity to serve your country. I encourage all women to follow their dreams with passion"

tary arm. Yamini added, "It is a great opportunity to serve your country. I encourage all women to follow their dreams with passion."

Wing Commander Sneha has also drawn inspiration from her family, following in the footsteps of an elder brother in the Army. She was commissioned in 2007 as an IAF pilot, doing her training on fixed wing aircraft. She became the first woman officer to be included in an IAF aerobatic formation flying team, namely the Sarang Helicopter Team. She said, "I joined the helicopter aerobatic team in 2015. It was beautiful to perform in Sri Lanka at the air show. Our team motto is 'Inspire through Excellence', and in this backdrop I encourage all women to dream high, live their dreams and have a well disciplined life." The lady pilot is married to an IAF officer.

Winston Churchill once stated that fear is a reaction, and courage is a decision. These women decided to encounter every challenge boldly to reach the top. All of these women have been transformed by their professional military training. They continue to inspire other young women. They have redefined what it means to be an empowered woman and set the mark for other aspiring women to follow. We wish them success.

Share of Women Parliamentarians Reaches 'All-Time High'

JAMSHED BARUAH

There is a long way to go to achieve gender parity. But a new report reveals that the share of women parliamentarians worldwide reached more than 25 percent in 2020 marking a historic step.

Women in Parliament report was launched on March 5 ahead of the International Women's Day on March 8.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that for the first time, women now account for more than a quarter of parliamentarians world-

wide," Secretary-General of UN partner the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Martin Chungong said at the UN Office in Geneva. "The global average of women in Parliament has now reached 25.5 percent."

"While we celebrate and welcome this all-time high, we feel that progress is painstakingly or even excruciatingly slow," Chungong said. "At the current rate, it will take another 50 years before we can achieve gender parity in Parliament. And of course, we all agree that this is not tenable, it's not acceptable."

The global organization of national Parliaments, the IPU, has been tracking women's participation in Parliament for decades, enabling it to measure progress and setbacks.

The global proportion of women in Parliament increased by 0.6 points following the elections in 2020 compared to the previous year.

The IPU chief singled out Rwanda, Cuba and the United Arab Emirates for having achieved gender parity, with women accounting for 50 percent or more parliamentary seats.

Mentioning Rwanda as a role model for women's participation in government, Chungong said, "we have seen evidence that countries have come out of conflict and have

had the opportunity to re-found the foundations of society, the legal framework of society, there is a greater chance of promoting gender equality because this is something that has been articulated at the international level and it's an opportunity for the society as a whole to sit down and say 'this is what we want in the Constitution'."

The IPU considers quotas as the key to progress, as evidenced by elections held in 2020. Electoral gender quotas were applied in 25 of the 57 countries that had parliamentary renewals last year. On average, Parliaments with quotas elected nearly 12 percent more women to single and lower chambers and 7.4 percent more women to upper chambers.

The IPU Secretary-General said, "Where women are involved in law-making on specific issues, the outcomes are better in terms of healthcare, in terms of the way even Parliaments are functioning, making Parliaments more gender-sensitive."

The Women in Parliament report shows that the COVID-19 pandemic also influenced elections and campaigning last year.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on elections, in

"Where women are involved in law-making on specific issues, the outcomes are better in terms of healthcare, in terms of the way even Parliaments are functioning, making Parliaments more gender-sensitive."

some countries, those elections were postponed," Chungong said. "In others, in some 50 countries where elections took place, we saw that women faced all manners of impediments as a result of the pandemic that exacerbated existing gender imbalances in politics."

According to the IPU, online vio-

lence against women has become even more widespread, threatening women's participation in public life. However, the shift to remote, technology-driven parliamentary practices may have a potentially positive long-term impact on women in Parliament.

[IDN-DepthNews]



New Zealand Parliament



Women in Parliament 2020
 >25% of parliamentarians worldwide are women
 58 hold speaker positions
 Women occupy 259/934 chairs of five types of parliamentary committees

The IPU chief singled out Rwanda, Cuba and the United Arab Emirates for having achieved gender parity, with women accounting for 50 percent or more parliamentary seats



Rwanda Parliament



Cuban Parliament



UAE Parliament

MASSIVE VEHICLES AUCTION SALE

12th of March

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On View - 08th to 11th March 2021
 Between 9.00 am - 5.00 pm (Vehicles cannot be inspected on the day of Auction)

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NO. 98/1, AVISSAWELLA RD, MAHABUTHGAMUWA, WELLPITIYA JAYANTHA - 0773242324
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(Please refer the Daily News On 05th of March 2021 For the Full List Of Vehicles)

14th of March

GALWETIYAYA ROAD, SAMPATH WATTA, DAMBULLA

HOTEL GOLDEN RAY

On View - 09th to 13th March 2021
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NO 223, KANDY ROAD, AMPARA - SAMANTHA 063-5780880/881
NO 363, MANNAR ROAD, VEPPANKULLAM, WUVUNYA - THIMOTHY 0766582329
NO. 161 A, KEPPETIPOLA ROAD, RADULLA - LAHIRU 0554549948

(Please refer the Daily News On 08th of March 2021 For the Full List Of Vehicles)

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 City Office & Showroom: No. 6A, Fairfield Gardens, Colombo 8. Tel: 011 2651485, 011 2671485 Fax: 011 2671489 Email: schokman@schokman.lk
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A Bodhi Pooja organised by the Women's Wing of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna was held at the Kelaniya Raja Maha Viharaya yesterday evening. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister's wife Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Ministers Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Prasanna Ranatunga, Prof. G.L. Peris, and State Minister Prasanna Ranaweera were also present. Pictures by Hirantha Gunathilake.

1st YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY



RUWANTHI BERNADETTE THILAKARATNE

*You are near, even when we don't see you,
You are with us, even when you are far away,
You are in our thoughts and in our lives,
Always and forever more.*

*May her Soul Rest in Peace
All your loved ones*

LOVING BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE OF MY DARLING SON ESHAN



*You were God's,
Best Gift to me,
With Deepest Love,
I treasure those
beautiful memories of you.
I Love you and miss you darling
Eshan
Your ever sorrowing Amma, Aiya
and all your loved ones.*



Women Parliamentarians' Caucus celebrates Women's Day

PRIYAN DE SILVA

Speaking at the International Women's Day Celebrations organised by the female councillors of Matala District Local Government institutions, SJB MP and Women Parliamentarians' Caucus Member Rohini Kavirathne said that a male counterpart at Diyawanna had called for a boycott of the ceremony held at Pallepola in Matala, last Sunday.

MPs Manjula Dissanayaka and Rohini Kavirathne attended the event, while MPs Dr. Sita Arambepola and Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle addressed the event via Zoom. The theme of the event was 'Campaign to Eliminate Sexual Harassment in the World of Work'. The event also commemorated national heroine Ehelepola Kumarihamy. MP Manjula Dissanayaka said



MP Manjula Dissanayaka addressing the crowd. Pictures by Priyan de Silva.

that even though 52% of Sri Lanka's population is female, there are only 12 female MPs among the 225 Members of Parliament. She added that proportionately, the figure should be at least at 112. She said she hoped

that the number would increase at future elections.

Ehelepola Purana Viharaya Chief Incumbent Ven. Palawathay Sonuthara Thera said that it may have been more beneficial to the country



if all 225 members of Parliament were females. Delivering the keynote speech at the event, National Coordinator of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence Manjula Gajanayaka said that although there

were 1,926 female councillors in local government bodies, due to the 25% quota granted to females, female representation in Parliament was under par.

He said that from 1947 to 2021, 2,899 MPs had been elected to Parliament, but of that only 133 were females. Gajanayaka added that only a handful of women had been appointed to decision-making positions in Parliament, as well as in other public bodies. He added that so far, no women have been appointed to the Election Commission.

Gajanayaka pointed out that there were no allegations of corruption levelled against female MPs or councillors. He added they also did not have the opportunity to stand against corruption in those institutions.

13th YEAR REMEMBRANCE



W.P.M. PADMALA
09.03.2008
Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by Wife Kamani & Daughter Sankha.

Wedding bells for disabled Commando

A disabled War Hero of the Commando Regiment (CR) who lost his right leg in the 30-year conflict tied nuptial knots at the Senethma Reception Hall in Belummahara during a military wedding attested by Chief of Defence Staff General Shavendra Silva, yesterday.

The wedding of the War Hero, Corporal W.P.T Sampath, who is a resident of Udugama, took place at Belummahara Senethma Reception Hall following arrangements made by the 'Siyaneve Api' organisation and the Directorate of Rehabilitation.

Having joined the Army in 2007, Sampath sustained serious injuries when an antipersonnel mine was triggered on April 24, 2009. After amputation, he was confined to the Military Hospital for recuperation and rehabilitation, where he came



Chief of Defence Staff General Shavendra Silva wishing the newly-weds. across his girlfriend two years ago. He had also taken part in the Sri Lanka in Para Athletes' Rowing Meet in Italy in the year 2017.

Senior DIG Roshan Fernando retires



Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police Roshan Fernando joined the Sri Lanka Police as a Probationary Sub-Inspector on April 26, 1982, and is due to retire after an unblemished career of nearly 39 years on March 10, upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 60 years.

He has served in all ranks, from Sub-Inspector to Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police and has served in of six provinces as the latter. Senior DIG Fernando has received IGP Commendations on seven occasions for his services.

He was awarded the Northern Humanitarian Medal for his services during the 30-year conflict, first serving as an officer in the Special Task Force and later as the Jaffna Divisional Officer.

He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law and Criminology by the British American University of Florida, USA, in recognition of his services.

Man arrested for sexual assault on niece

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

Rathgama Police arrested a man who had sexually assaulted his niece yesterday. The man was said to have threatened the victim before committing the crime.

The victim, aged 18, had been living with her aunt and uncle for a while as her father works in Colombo. However, the suspect had sexually assaulted the girl on several occasions after her aunt left for employment in Dubai.

Rathgama Police were later informed about the incident by a relative of the girl whom she had confided in. The suspect was arrested in Mahawela, Katudampe. Investigations are continuing.

All schools to re-open

Permission has been granted to re-open schools in the Western Province next Monday, Health Ministry sources said.

Accordingly, permission has been granted to open all Grade Five, Ordinary Level (O/L), and Advanced Level (A/L) classes

in the Province. Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, at a press conference in Colombo yesterday morning, said that schools in the Western Province would be reopened only after the health recommendations are received.



A project to renovate the Kudawewa Pond in Mullipothana was inaugurated by Parliamentarian Kapila Nuwan Athukorala, last Friday. The programme is estimated to cost Rs.4.89 million. Mullipothana Agrarian Development Officer K.G. Amaravamsa was also present. Picture by M.S. Abdul Haleem, Mullipothana Group Corr.

Wimala Amaradeva passes away



Wimala Amaradeva, veteran musician and wife of the late maestro Dr. Pandit Amaradeva, passed away at the Cardiology Unit of the Colombo National Hospital, yesterday. She was 86.

Wimala Amaradeva was a tower of strength to the late Dr. Amaradeva. The couple had a married life spanning 53 years and have three children devoted to the Arts.

Wimala Amaradeva was a past pupil of Musaeus College, Colombo. Funeral arrangements will be notified later.

Talia Pieris

*"The dew of God"
On her Birthday*



*We never need a special day
to bring you to our mind,
for days without a thought of you
are very hard to find.
We cannot send a birthday card,
your hand we cannot touch.
We send all our love up to Heaven,
to our daughter we love so much.*

Amma and Thatththa

Obituaries

SENEVIRATNE MITHRA (BERTY) - Beloved husband of late Nanda Karawita, loving father of Anuradha, Savitri, Jalini and Sevanti, father-in-law of Hasanthi, Anura, Rajan and Senaka, loving grandfather of Rohan, Vipra, Sayuri, Sachith, Sashin, Vaneer and Umayanga and loving great grandfather of Samaya, Theo and Shavein. Remains lie at No. 130, Subadrarama Road, Nugegoda. Cortege leaves the residence at 3 p.m. for Cremation at Borella Cemetery Old Crematorium at 4.15 p.m.

President provides grants to homeless families

Families who had been in possession of government lands without clear ownership started receiving grants under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat, yesterday, the President's Media Division stated yesterday.

The government's objective is to ensure that every family owns a land with undisputed ownership as envisioned in the National Policy Framework 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour'. Under the provisions of the Land Development Ordinance and the State Land Ordinance, grants will be awarded to 20,000 persons based on legal criteria covering the island during the first phase of the programme, the statement read.

The programme prioritises low-income families whose livelihood is cultivation. The government intends to empower and encourage them by providing with ownership rights to their lands in order to increase their level of income, the press release added.

The recipients of these lands can use them to build a house, for agricultural purposes, and business activities. It is expected to strengthen the national economy with the contributions made by the recipients of these lands as well, the statement read.

The grant, awarded by the President, is considered a deed, indicating undisputed ownership of specific lands. The beneficiaries of this grant can obtain a bank loan plac-

ing them as collateral. The President stated that he expects to issue 100,000 ownership grants before the end of this year, the President's Media Division added.

President Rajapaksa provided grants to 19 persons from different provinces to symbolise the launch of the programme yesterday. It is jointly carried out by the Presidential Secretariat, the Ministry of Lands, and the Ministry of Mahaweli. Minister S.M. Chandrasena, State Ministers Siripala Gamalath and Anuradha Jayaratne, Secretary to the President P.B. Jayasundera, Principal Adviser to the President Lalith Weeraratna, as well as secretaries and officials of line ministries were also present at the event.



Customs officials seized illicit cigarettes worth over Rs.90 million from a container which was declared as a stock of scaffolding sets imported from China on Friday. The cartons were concealed in the scaffolding sets.

Provide kerosene oil without irregularities: PM

SHAVINI MADHARA

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday instructed the relevant officials to provide kerosene oil to beneficiaries without misuse or irregularities.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed on kerosene oil concessional reimbursement and recommending the port and airport development tax on crude oil convened for the first time at the Ministry of Finance, yesterday. The Prime Minister also

directed the officials to look into the possibility of providing farmers and fishermen direct benefits and requested that a proper procedure be prepared regarding the matter.

The Prime Minister further instructed State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal to hold a discussion with state banks and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka regarding the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation obtaining loans in Rupees instead of Dollars from state banks.

President will win country's 'development battle': Jayaratne

LAHIRU FERNANDO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the only leader who is capable of changing the country, State Minister Anuradha Jayaratne said.

He said it is certain that the President, who successfully defeated the 30-year conflict, would win the country's development battle within the next few years.

The state minister stated this while addressing a ceremony held to commence the renovation and widening of the road from the Hindagala Junction to Gampola via Doluwa in Kandy under the

patronage of State Minister Nimal Lanza, last Sunday.

The 13.1-kilometre road with a width of 5.5 metres would be widened to 6.05 metres as a two-way road. It would be carpeted at a cost of Rs.333.97 million under the government's programme to carpet 100,000 kilometres of roads. Another two roads in the area would also be renovated at a cost of Rs.188 million, parallel to this project, he said.

A project to provide water to 90 percent of the population in Gampola has also been planned, the state minister added.

Mihindu Maha Stupa will return to former glory soon: Defence Secretary

The Mihindu Maha Seya, one of the oldest stupas in the country, will be returned to its former glory by October, Defence Secretary Gen. (Rtd.) Kamal Gunaratne said last Saturday.

While recalling the inauguration of the Mihindu Maha Stupa Restoration Project held recently under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the Defence Secretary said the Sri Lanka Navy has been entrusted with its work.

He expressed these remarks while paying homage to the Mihindu Maha Seya at the Mihintale Monastery during his visit to several sacred places of worship in Anuradhapura. The restoration



Defence Secretary Gen. (Rtd.) Kamal Gunaratne and other officials inspecting one of the construction sites. Picture by Rukmal Gamage.

would be completed in October to coincide with the 'Mihindu Pura Atawaka Poya', which commemorates the day of Arahant Mahinda's passing, he added.

Mihintale Raja Maha Vihara Chief Prelate Ven. Walawhangunawewe Dharmaratna Thera was also present at the event. Meanwhile, citing the on-going 'Sandahiru Stupa'

construction, inaugurated by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in 2010, the Defence Secretary said, "This stupa will be renovated by November."

The Defence Secretary inspected the ongoing work at the Sandahiru Stupa as well. He discussed several key steps to be taken, including the crest gem for the stupa. Apart from these two places of worship, referring to the renovations of the Deegawapiya Stupa, he said, "Since the restoration work was commenced recently, it would take another three years to witness the accomplishment."

The depositing of treasures beneath the proposed Arched

Gateway of Sandahiru Stupa took place during the visit as well. The Maha Sanga, Mahamaevnawa Sangha Council Secretary and Shradha Media Network Chief Adviser Ven. Aludeniye Subodhi Thera, Ven. Polpithimukalane Pagnasiri Thera, Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, Director General of the Civil Security Department Maj. Gen. Nan-

Major General Hemantha Bandara, 21 Division General Officer Commanding Maj. Gen. Vikum Liyanage, North-Central Naval Area Commander Rear Admiral Sanjewa Dias, Ministry of Defence Military Liaison Officer Brig. Dinesh Nanayakkara, senior military officers, project officers, engineers, architects, artists, and donors were also present.

Indian Coast Guard seizes three Lankan boats with narcotics

Twelve persons detained

Three Sri Lankan boats carrying narcotics were seized by the Indian Coast Guard off Kerala's Vizinjam coast and 12 people were detained on Sunday, a senior official said.

Two hundred kilograms of cocaine, 60kg of hashish, and other equipment were seized from the boats, a senior official of the Coast Guard said. He said details would be known only after questioning the detainees. The Indian Coast Guard did not reveal the market value of the seized drugs.


According to initial reports, large quantities of drugs were dumped into the sea when the Coast Guard encircled the three boats. The boats were carrying 19 people at the time, but seven of them had jumped into the sea.

A search is ongoing with the help of local fishermen to locate them. Preliminary reports suggest that the vessels were bound for the Karnataka and Goa coasts.

(Hindustan Times)

No longer by our side, But always in our hearts.

**90th Birthday of the late
Dr. Neville Fernando**
Founder Chairman of
JF&I Packaging (Pvt) Ltd,
South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM),
Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital (NFTH).



(09/03/1931 - 04/02/2021)

May he attain the supreme bliss of nibbana.

JF&I Packaging (Pvt) Ltd, JF&I Packaging (Pvt) Ltd - Dubai,
South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine (SAITM),
Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital (NFTH),
J.F.I Consolidated (Pvt) Ltd.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Tuesday
Draw No. 1217 Colour: Light Blue
Date: 09.03.2021

Today's Jackpot
Rs. 115,461,250/-

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 09
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1019
SMS: DLB.kotipathi.DT-ujpoc-09 A send to 999
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

SUPER BALL
Draw Number: 1389 Colour: Red
Draw Date: 07.03.2021 Date: Sunday

Winning English Letter and Numbers
W 13 25 48 64

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 09
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1019
SMS: DLB.kotipathi.DT-ujpoc-09 A send to 999
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

English Letter & Winning Numbers
Draw No: 699 Colour: Yellow
Date: 07.03.2021 Sunday

K 22 38 55 63

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,563,360/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 76,892,385/-

Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively.
Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

Date: 07-03-2021
Draw Number: 3096
Colour: Purple

Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 2,454,571.40

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Winning Numbers
08 20 57 62

Capricorn

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 09
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776 or 1019
SMS: DLB.kotipathi.DT-ujpoc-09 A send to 999
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 11,614,691.40

SUNDAY
Date: 07.03.2021
Draw No.: 3545
Colour: Pink

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,510,200/-

Winning Numbers
14 53 59 71

English Letter **U**

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

ADA KOTIPATHI
Sunday
Date: 07.03.2021
Draw No.: 1215
Colour: Green

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,156,440/-

Winning Numbers
05 34 37 54

English Letter **U**

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Daily News



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How far away is 'normal'?

Global behaviour patterns have been dictated to a great extent by the Covid pandemic, and we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg of changed pandemic induced trends. For example, though many people would have suspected that there is a tendency to squirrel away money during a pandemic, few thought there would be a record breaking increase in the number of savings deposits. This trend was also replicated in the large companies that were able to stash money for a rainy day — even though smaller businesses did not have that choice.

The question then is, how long will these tendencies remain — and how salutary is it for the economy to have people resort to this trend of stashing cash, if the country is to recover from the Covid ravages?

Behaviour patterns that have been entrenched during the pandemic have to change in all areas of civic life — and not only in the area of business and economy. With the vaccine programme now in full swing, people are more confident than they used to be in public spaces. Of course there is a danger inherent in that situation, because the health authorities say the vaccine *per se* will not spell an end to Covid related dangers — at least not in the short term.

In the long term, behaviours such as the wearing of masks, social distancing etc. will have to change, and there should be adequate preparation for such a return to the pre-Covid normal, which seems a distant memory now. Would people have to be retaught the fundamentals of social intercourse? This may sound a rather absurd query, but decisions will have to be made about how people would interact in society, particularly in work related contexts. Will there be a continuing trend to conduct business remotely, or are individual businesses poised to return to the pre-Covid normal of an office based working environment?

There would be many who would retort, saying that such considerations would be the least of our problems. There are issues that are of an entirely different league — such as the overall economic security of the people, and health related issues such as whether the level of herd immunity is safe enough at some point to officially declare that the pandemic is over, and that life can return to normal.

At the moment, these questions are almost academic, as this is the first phase of the vaccination programme and there is much to be done before we reach a comfort level that allows for decision making on such matters. Yet, there are certain issues with regard to which people cannot wait much longer.

People cannot wait for the economy to improve — they need that aspect of their lives to transform into pre-Covid levels at least in a few months. Considering the level of urgency, the practice of stashing money in banks should probably give way to freer spending as the economy gradually picks up.

The resultant increasing money circulation is not something that we should desire as a matter of choice — it is something that society should collectively demand as mandatory. In other words, people should encourage each other to spend more, and that means to spend reasonably, as opposed to stashing away money in banks with unseemly miserliness, that the circumstances in fact do not warrant. The markets have not exactly started moving after the Covid induced stall and that is a matter of great concern. If Real Estate values are considered, it is reported that prices have shot up in that market, but it doesn't appear that there is much movement in the land sale and resale business. People are slow in making purchases, and the newly-formed Covid induced habit of stashing away money in banks may be a reason for such caution.

There is however, little that can be done in terms of messaging that will change people's minds. The confidence that would induce people to return to normal levels of transacting business has to come from within the system, and that is something that can be prodded on, but not carried out on command.

It requires a determined collective effort to bring everything back to normality, not just the economy, and a return to normal lifestyles — in everyday human interactions — is the surest way to ensure that life comes back to business as usual, particularly for businesses and their customers. To this end, the 70th Anniversary Show by the Sri Lanka Air Force was a happy augur. It was a healthy signal that the Government is keen on a return to normal, but within the parameters of specific controls. The Air Show was in the skies, but the spectators were gathered on the vast Galle Face esplanade, where the threat of virus spread is not acute as to be considered dangerous. It is a different story altogether in closed-door environments, and the phased return to normal closed-door events would accordingly be much more gradual. But already, in all aspects of life, we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel, and that is what matters.



Indian Air Force jets perform in Colombo

INDIA, SRI LANKA: STRATEGIC REALISM IN BILATERAL TIES

N. SATHIYA MOORTHY

By reciprocating Sri Lanka's past declaration of following an 'India First' foreign policy, New Delhi has now said that the southern neighbour is the nation's 'Priority One' defence partner. This should clarify the Governmental-level approach to the strategic community and the local media in the two countries.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo employed the 'Priority One' terminology while announcing the participation of the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan counterpart, Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). A section of the Tamil media in the island-nation sought to precipitate the issue by claiming that the IAF aircraft doing acclimatisation sorties over the nation's near skies was New Delhi's way of 'telling Colombo to behave.' They did not have the guts to apologise.

IAF boss, Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhaduria, was on hand for the inaugural ceremony. He also met Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Defence Secretary, Gen. Kamal Gunaratne. As could be anticipated, a Sinhala-Buddhist 'nationalist' group questioned the need for involving foreigners in a Sri Lankan celebration. They had forgotten that in the early years of the LTTE war, Israeli pilots had reportedly participated in SLAF operations and British mercenaries trained army commandos.

In context, the High Commission statement also recalled how visiting National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Kumar Doval had reiterated the Indian assurance of fullest cooperation in the field of defence and security during his Sri Lanka visit. Doval was in Colombo to co-chair the meeting of the tri-nation maritime cooperation discussions, also involving common neighbour Maldives. They decided to upgrade the three-nation 'Maritime Security Agreement' into 'Maritime and Security Agreement,' encompassing all aspects of trilateral security.

Significantly, Colombo was chosen for locating the secretariat for the new arrangement. This meant that implied Indian concerns about a greater Chinese role in Sri Lanka was being addressed effectively on the security front. This was one aspect that did not get adequately highlighted by either the Indian strategic community or their media counterparts.

From ECT to WCT

New Delhi's 'Priority One' statement comes at a time when critics of China in India and elsewhere were overwrought with the Rajapaksa dispensation in Colombo withdrawing earlier consent for a tri-nation MoC (memorandum of cooperation), also involving Japan, for developing the Colombo Port's Eastern Container Terminal (ECT). Sri Lanka has since announced that the Cabinet of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has cleared a proposal from the Adani Group — the Indian partner identified by New Delhi — and a Japanese firm — to be proposed by Tokyo — for trilateral development of the Western Container Terminal (WCT) in the same port-front. However, adding a new twist to the tale,



Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar with Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena

India has now clarified that Sri Lanka's claim of Indian approval for WCT was 'factually incorrect.' Colombo had claimed Indian High Commission attestation to the 35-year pact between the Adani Group and the nation's Special Economic Zone company. "Our High Commission in Colombo has already conveyed to the Government of Sri Lanka that their media release insofar as the reference to the approval of the High Commission was concerned, is factually incorrect," Anurag Srivastava, Spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said in New Delhi. He clarified that the WCT arrangement was the "Government of Sri Lanka [who] has engaged directly with investors on this project."

Indications are that India, along with Japan, will press Sri Lanka for living up to its ECT commitment, which was an international agreement. Yet, the perceived confusion attending New Delhi distancing itself from the chosen ECT nominee purportedly doing the WCT business behind the Government's back, with the very same party, is not unlikely to cast a shadow, if not as much as the earlier cancellation.

As may be recalled, the Rajapaksa's regime had repeatedly claimed that the cancellation of the ECT deal owed (also) to the Indian partner's request/position. Translated, it could refer to the Adanis, along with a Japanese entity, ipso facto being denied a majority stake in the ECT deal, and had to share 49-per cent share between them. Against this, in the WCT deal, the overseas partners would get 85-per cent stake as was with China in the Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), which is already in operation — and confer freedom of decision-making on the overseas entities.

Security concerns

Notwithstanding the ECT front, Colombo has held back approval for a Chinese firm to set up renewable

energy projects in three islands off the Jaffna Peninsula in the North, closer to the Indian coast. Now, it has seemingly accepted a US\$ 12-million Indian grant (against an ADB loan), when offered, but only after the Beijing decision became known.

Through this decision, Colombo seemingly wanted to send home the message that it really appreciated Indian security concerns flowing from China and/or Pakistan, from Sri Lankan soil. This has been the Rajapaksa position, too, on 'non-regional powers' playing their strategic games in the shared Indian Ocean waters. Hence, also the continuing Sri Lankan decision, along with that of Maldives, to stick to India on the security sphere.

There were apprehensions that Sri Lanka may go the China way, especially after India signed into the US-promoted Quad and the Maldives recently signed its first overseas defence pact with the US in September last year. The US defence deal entails military-level cooperation and training, possibly also on Maldivian soil. In comparison, the Indian pact, signed during the recent Male visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, is limited to a US\$ 50 million grant for building a dockyard for use by the Maldivian Coast Guard.

Friend and relative

However, all of this has not dissuaded Sri Lanka from declaring China as its 'closest friend.' Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena made the statement in a telephone conversation with his Chinese counterpart. It was not an occasion for him to reiterate the oft-repeated statement of Mahinda Rajapaksa, as war-time President, that "India is a relative, and all others are friends."

As only one of the two P-5 members in the UN Security Council (UNSC) supporting Sri Lanka, the other being

Russia, China especially is said to be overworking its diplomatic machinery to garner support for Colombo, against the Core Group resolution on the 'war crimes probe,' coming up for vote later this month. China's Permanent Representative at Geneva defended Sri Lanka and its human rights record.

In contrast, the Indian statement at the UNHRC has at best been neutral. It did not side with the West-led Core Group to condemn Sri Lanka on human rights violations and war crimes. Nor has it sided with the Rajapaksa, and backed them blindfolded. It abstained from a discussion on the Sri Lanka resolution draft, along with Japan.

The current Indian position has added an element of suspense to the final Indian vote, later this month. Sri Lankan leaders, both governmental and of Tamils, have been seeking a clear Indian vote in their favour, eschewing 'abstain' as a choice. In a loaded statement, meant to recall India's past engagement with the LTTE in particular, Foreign Secretary, ex-Navy chief, Admiral Jayantha Colombage told *The Hindu*, "India cannot abandon us."

China extended unqualified support to and defence of the human rights record of Sri Lanka at the UNHRC. Instead, India has carefully calibrated its entire statement on the inevitability of a political solution, centred on and flowing from the 13th Amendment, facilitated by the slain Rajiv Gandhi dispensation as far back as 1987. Coming from the incumbent Narendra Modi dispensation, such a stand should also send out a clear message that ruling parties at the Centre do not take their domestic political rivalries, overseas.

For all this, however, Sri Lanka — even while approaching China for a further US\$ 2.2 billion credit to try and tide over the deep economic crisis facing the nation — has outright rejected the "closest friend's" Sinopharm vaccine to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, it preferred the India-gifted vaccine, and has also ordered Covishield — the AstraZeneca vaccine — for large-scale purchase from elsewhere. Colombo has also cleared Russia's Sputnik-V vaccine that had undergone a third trial, for Emergency Use.

China, for its part, lost no time in denying Minister Gunawardena's claim that it had a 199-year lien on Hambantota port, and not just 99 years as believed. No Sri Lankan political party or leader has thus far questioned the government on the contradiction.

To conclude, India and Sri Lanka have injected pragmatism into bilateral relations, which began disappearing after China's entry through the Hambantota port deal a decade ago. Now, there is a greater understanding of India's strategic concerns and what Sri Lanka seems to perceive as 'commercial transaction'. This could mean that after a brief hiccup, if it came to that, the two nations would be able to take forward bilateral relations, independent of the Indian decision on the UNHRC vote, and Sri Lanka's greater reliance on China for the purpose.

- Observer Research Foundation



The East Container Terminal



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We are living in a world that has been changed by COVID. - Jeff Van Drew

HOW DO WE ACQUIRE A LANGUAGE?



Dr. THARANGA WEERASOORIYA

In the last article we discussed what is referred to as the 'problem of language acquisition/learning'. We discussed two of the dominant approaches to language acquisition/learning, namely behaviourism and innatism. We reached the conclusion that neither approach on its own is able to account for the full range of facts pertaining to language acquisition/learning. I hope this discussion served to understand the nature of the processes involved in language acquisition/learning in a better manner. Another notion related to language acquisition is language competence. What actually happens in the acquisition/learning of a particular language is that we gain competence of that language. However, Noam Chomsky marked a difference between competence and performance of a language. We are going to discuss this in detail now.

Competence of a language

Competence of a language refers to what we know about our language. In other words, it refers to our tacit and subconscious knowledge of the sounds, words, phrases, sentences, meaning and contextual use of our language. It also refers to our tacit and subconscious knowledge of the grammatical rules, patterns and structures of the sounds, words, phrases, sentences, meaning and contextual use of the language. For instance, it is my competence of the English language that enables me to produce (speak or write) a sentence like the



following. It is also your competence of the English language that enables you to understand this sentence. Your competence of the English language also enables you to speak or write a sentence like this.

Mary enjoys reading novels.

At the same time, my competence of the Sinhala and Tamil languages enables me to produce sentences like the following. In fact, I know that some of the speakers of Sinhala are not able to understand the sentence in Tamil and some of the speakers of Tamil are not able to understand the sentence in Sinhala. This is due to the lack of competence in one of the languages. Some of you are also not able to produce similar sentences in Sinhala or Tamil. This is also due to your lack of competence in one of the languages.

Saman igena gaththe ganithaya

Gita padi-th-athu vingnaanam-aa
Most of all, it is the competence of a particular language that enables us to make judgements about the grammaticality of a certain sentence or utterance. For instance, if you are able to say whether the following sentence in Sinhala is grammatical or not, you have the competence in the Sinhala language.

Kamal gedara-da giya?

At the same time, if you are able to

say whether the following sentence in Tamil is grammatical or not, you have the competence in the Tamil language.

Unakkupadam pidikkuma

Thus, competence refers to our tacit and subconscious knowledge of the form, grammatical rules, patterns and structures of the sounds, words, phrases, sentences, meaning and contextual use of the language. It is the competence of a particular language that enables us to produce and comprehend sentences or utterances in that particular language.

Performance of a language

Performance of a language refers to the actual use of language in speaking or listening. For instance, the actual production of the following sentence by me is an instance of performance



in the English language. The actual comprehension of the following sentence by you is also an instance of performance in the English language.

Mary enjoys reading novels.

Thus, when we use language, we are actually performing in that language.

The performance of a particular language may be hindered by external factors such as physical impairments like loss of teeth or illness or external conditions like fatigue or boredom. For example, the following is an instance that relates to the performance of a language by a speaker. In this scenario, Mary is not able to produce grammatically correct sen-

tences as her performance is hindered by the damage in the brain. However, even though her brain is damaged, we cannot assume that she has lost her competence in Sinhala. Once, she recovers she might perform in Sinhala building on her competence in Sinhala.

Mary who is 20-years-old is a speaker of Sinhala and recently had an accident and damaged her head. She is not able to produce grammatically correct sentences now.

However, competence is not affected by extraneous factors such as the ones mentioned above. For example, the following is an instance that relates to the competence of a language by a speaker. In this scenario, Ranjith is not able to produce grammatically correct sentences in English yet as he lacks competence in the English language.

Ranjith is a native speaker of Sinhala. He is learning English and is not able to produce grammatically correct sentences in English yet.

This also shows that the performance of a speaker in a particular language depends on his/her competence in that particular language.

In today's article we discussed the difference between the competence and performance of a particular language by a speaker. I hope this discussion served to understand the nature of language ability and production by a speaker in a better manner. In today's article, we also discussed that part of what is involved in the competence of a particular language is our subconscious knowledge of the grammatical structures/patterns/rules associated with sounds, words, phrases and sentences of the language. Now, with respect to the grammar of a language we mark a difference

Competence refers to our tacit and subconscious knowledge of the form, grammatical rules, patterns and structures of the sounds, words, phrases, sentences, meaning and contextual use of the language. It is the competence of a particular language that enables us to produce and comprehend sentences or utterances in that particular language.

between two types of grammar, namely prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar. A knowledge of this demarcation is very crucial in our understanding of what really constitutes language. We will discuss this next week.

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(The writer is a Senior Lecturer, Department of English and Linguistics, University of Sri Jayawardenepura)



CHALLENGING THE ANTHROPOCENE EXTINCTION

DAYA DISSANAYAKE

World Wildlife Day is celebrated on March 3rd, and International Women's Day on March 8th. It is ironic that Wildlife Day and Women's Day fall within seven days of each other. If we accept the comment by Courtney Love, "I'm not a woman. I'm a force of nature", and expand it to say "Woman is to Nature what Man is to Culture", we can consider 'Woman is Nature.' She is a life-giver. As a girl-child, daughter, mother and grandmother, she belongs to nature, as a daughter of Mother Earth.

It is also ironic that these two significant days fall in March. March is the month named after the Roman God of War. A God who blessed destruction, not only of human beings, but even plants and the environment. A God who blessed violence, development and use of weapons of mass destruction, (chemical, biological and nuclear), including nerve gas like Sarin and defoliant like Agent Orange.

The British used Agent Orange in 1948 in Malaya, the Americans, during the Vietnam War, to destroy over eight million acres of vegetation and murder over three million innocent men and women.

Fresh opportunities

For us here in Sri Lanka, March is significant not because it is linked to a God of War, but because Medin Full Moon day falls in March as do Maha Shivaratri and Lailat al Miraj. Often Good Friday and Easter Sunday too fall during the month of March.

When we consider March as the end of the cold dark season of the old year, bringing us light and warmth of a new year, always giving us fresh hope,

fresh opportunities for a better life for all, it is appropriate that the two days devoted to women and wildlife fall in this month.

'Wildlife' in Sinhala is *vanajivi*. The term includes all life on earth, both the flora and fauna that live in a natural environment. The term 'wild' on the other hand, reminds us of the untamed, the uncontrolled and sometimes less intelligent and thus dispensable beings. Forests as 'Vana,' reminds us that we had three types of forests mentioned in ancient writings. Shrivana, Tapovana and Mahavana. Today we think that it is manmade plantations that give us wealth and prosperity, and we do not find Shrivana around our villages to give us sustenance. We destroyed our ancient Tapovana and built concrete ashrams for meditation or eco-tourism. Mahavana has been replaced by Mahanagara (Big Cities), in the name of development.

The threat of extinction, of all life on Earth, and perhaps Earth herself, is looming before us. We have started talking about the Anthropocene Extinction, yet no significant efforts have been made to delay



the inevitable. It is the arrogance of the male human which is reflected in the term Anthropocene. According to new research published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* the ongoing sixth mass extinction may be one of the most serious environmental threats to the persistence of civilisation.

The research claims that this extinction is human-caused and is more immediate than climate destruction. Led by this revelation the Post Graduate Department of English, Berhampur University, Odisha in collaboration with the Guild of Indian English Writers, Editors and Critics (GIEWEC) organised

an International Conference on Environment and Culture in the Anthropocene. The proceedings of the conference have been published as 'Environment and Culture in the Anthropocene' edited by Dr. Shruti Das. Let us consider this conference as an example, and continue to find ways and means to save Mother Earth from extinction.

It is not only wildlife that is destroyed by Man. In many ways Man destroys the opposite gender of his own species. Yet, in pre-historic cultures and in our own culture, women always had an equal or a dominant position. The myth about a hunter-gatherer and provider of the family has now been exposed and there is evidence to believe that the woman was the provider of all food as well as the one who took care of the family. The men were only there for protection and to provide an occasional supply of meat from a hunted animal.

Women's role

In later years, however, the conventional androcentric

expectation that the woman be subservient and subordinated to men left the woman helpless. She dared not fight back to claim her rightful place in the household or in society. She drew the Lakshman Rekha around herself.

The woman got used to acting her role as a being who is delicate, helpless, and even less intelligent than her counterpart. We have a saying that the intelligence of a woman is about the length of a traditional spoon made of a coconut shell. Under this gender identification she began to make herself more attractive to the male, while it is the male animal that has to attract the female among other creatures. It is for the woman to accept the challenge now to regain her past stature, without moving to the other extreme of a gynocentric society.

Simone de Beauvoir called women 'The Second Sex' in 1949, Elizabeth Gold Davis called them 'The First Sex' in 1971. She quotes Lester Frank Ward, the first President of the American Sociological Association, "...life begins as female, the female is not only the primary and original sex but continues throughout as the main trunk..." Anthropologist Helen Fisher claims Women are better than men at contextual, "holistic" thinking and long-term planning; they are better at working cooperatively; they see and hear better, have a keener sense of smell and are more "in touch" with their emotions."

If Gyna sapiens had not surrendered herself to Homo, this world would have been a really wonderful place for all life forms, not just human beings. Gyna is more sensitive, more concerned about nature, about Mother Earth and all her children.

There would have been fewer wars, and less demand for weapons of destruction. She



would have a greater respect for commonly shared resources and wealth and would be frugal in her use, knowing she has to leave it for her children and their children.

If Gyna sapiens takes over the world once again, some day, or if cloning becomes the means of procreation, the issue of gender and sexuality will disappear in our culture and our literature.

I have always believed that there is a lot we can learn from king Ashoka. Asoka's concern about Nature, the environment and natural resources is seen in the Delhi-Topra Pillar Edict. *"dave anathayq va vihisaye va no jhapetaviye"* forests must not be burnt either uselessly or in order to destroy (living beings).

Our ancestors worshiped Nature. They worshiped Mother Earth, and treated Nature and natural elements and forces as sacred. It has now been accepted by many scientists, that Mother Earth is a living goddess, Gaia. When we look at Gaia as a living organism, and as a tiny planet in a multiverse, man is probably like a single celled creature in the mighty ocean. Then we can learn to be humble.

To save ourselves, to save all life on Mother Earth, and to save Mother Earth herself, women should take the lead, to respect and worship nature, and that is one simple way to bring back peace and happiness to all of us.

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China's export growth highest in over two decades

CHINA: China's export growth jumped to the highest in over two decades, official data showed Sunday, with imports also surging in a sharp bounceback from the coronavirus outbreak that had brought activity to a near halt. Electronics and textile exports such as masks contributed to the spike in outbound shipments, as demand for work-from-home supplies and protective gear against the virus outbreak soared during the pandemic. Exports spiked 60.6 percent on-year in the January-February period, well above analysts' expectations, while imports rose 22.2 percent, official data showed Sunday.

The latest figures stand in stark contrast to last year's fall of around 17 percent in exports and 4 percent drop in imports. The country struggled to contain the spread of COVID-19 early on, with consumers staying home and businesses seeing a slow return to operations. The customs administration said comparison to last year is also likely to have bolstered the latest figures, saying in a statement that the "low base is one of the reasons for the larger increase this year." On Sunday, official data showed that electronics exports rose 54.1 percent, while textiles including masks rose 50.2 percent. China's overall trade sur-



This aerial photo shows a view of the Free Trade Zone in Shanghai, China.

plus came in at \$103.3 billion, its customs administration said. Meanwhile, the country's trade surplus with the US - a key point of contention

during the trade war pursued by former president Donald Trump - doubled from the same period last year to \$51.3 billion. Chinese authorities

started combining January and February trade data last year, while it battled the coronavirus outbreak. This is in line with how

some other indicators are released, to smooth over distortions from the Lunar New Year holiday, which can fall in either month. China's foreign trade data remained strong despite the "off-season", the customs authority said Sunday. Trade was also high due to a recovery in production and consumption in major economies such as Europe and the United States amid the coronavirus pandemic, as well as improvements in domestic consumption. Meanwhile, the strong import growth also reflected a "normalisation of consumer spending" in China, he told AFP, after a severe slump due to lockdowns. - AFP



Senate clears Biden's COVID rescue plan

US: The US Senate on Saturday voted to approve a \$1.9 trillion relief package in what President Joe Biden called a "giant step" towards reviving the pandemic-stricken American economy, capping frenzied negotiations and a marathon overnight voting session.

Passed by 50 votes to 49 in a strict party line vote, the sweeping legislation now heads back to the Democratic-majority House of Representatives, where it is expected to be adopted, barring a last-minute setback.

"I promised the American people help was on the way," said Biden in an address from the White House, after the plan was approved along strict party lines.

"Today, I can say we've taken one more giant step forward in delivering on that promise," he said. "It obviously wasn't easy. It wasn't always pretty. But it was so desperately needed."

Even without the progressive priority of a minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour, the stimulus bill marks a victory for Biden's Democrats as they put their stamp on the recovery from a pandemic that has killed more than 500,000 people in the United States and hobbled its economy.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer vowed that the bill "will deliver more help to more people than anything the federal government has done in decades."

The legislation would send out \$1,400 stimulus checks to most Americans and allocates \$350 billion to state and local governments and \$130 billion to schools.

It would also provide \$49 billion for expanded COVID testing, tracing and research, and \$14 billion for vaccine distribution.

Steny Hoyer, the Democratic majority leader in the House, said the Chamber would take up the amended bill on Tuesday, with a view to sending it to Biden for his signature early next week. - AFP

Myanmar protesters gather after general strike call

MYANMAR: Anti-coup protesters gathered across Myanmar on Monday, answering a trade union call for a general strike following a weekend of night raids and arrests.

The country has been in turmoil since a February 1 coup ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi from power and triggered mass protests against the new military junta.

The police and military have responded with an increasingly brutal crackdown on demonstrators, with more than 50 people killed and nearly 1,800 arrested.

Despite the risk, protesters rallied in parts of the com-

mercial capital Yangon, the second-largest city Mandalay and other towns around the country.

Monday's demonstrations followed an appeal by trade unions for mass walkouts to bring the economy to a standstill.

"To continue economic and business activities as usual... will only benefit the military as they repress the energy of the Myanmar people," 18 unions said in a statement.

"The time to take action in defence of our democracy is now."

Unions are seeking to extend the impact of an ongoing "Civil Disobedience

Movement" - a campaign urging civil servants to boycott working under military rule - which has already hit state machinery hard.

The impact has been felt at every level of the national infrastructure, with shuttered hospitals, empty ministry offices, and banks unable to operate.

The junta has warned that civil servants "will be fired" with immediate effect Monday if they continued to strike.

After a restless night with security forces deployed to multiple neighbourhoods and shots heard in some areas, parts of Yangon woke to a heavy Police presence. - AFP



Women hang a collection of longyi, a traditional clothing widely worn in Myanmar, across a road during a demonstration against the military coup in Yangon on Monday. - AFP

Iranian dailies hail Pope-Sistani meeting

IRAN: The Iraq meeting of Pope Francis and Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, one of Shiite Islam's top clerics, was front-page news in Iran Sunday, with some media declaring it a chance for peace in the neighbouring country.

Officials in Iran, a Shiite-majority country like Iraq, have not yet commented on the pontiff's historic visit to Iraq that began on Friday.

Tehran, with its allies within Baghdad's state-sponsored Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force, helped Iraqi troops defeat the Sunni jihadist Islamic State (IS) group at the end of 2017.

Iran's reformist Sazandegi daily

said the two religious leaders are now "the standard-bearers of world peace" and called their meetings "the most effective event (in the history of) dialogue between religions".

Another reformist daily, Shargh, said it was "a symbolic spectacle showing the importance of cooperation between followers of different religions".

"Victory for Shiism and Christianity," wrote the government-run Iran daily in a front-page column, saying that the pope's visit showed that "Christianity is alive in Iraq" despite the "suffering" caused by the IS.

Iran's conservative dailies noted

that the return of security to Iraq was the result of efforts by "resistance" forces, recalling Sistani's call in 2014 for Iraqis to take up arms against the jihadists.

"Pope Francis and many western countries must be aware that this freedom (to travel to Iraq) owes much to the blood of the courageous youth of the resistance axis and the wisdom of the Shiite authority," said the ultraconservative Resalat.

It added that the meeting could be "a valuable opportunity for peace and to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people, especially the Christians affected by the Islamic State's invasion". - AFP



Pope Francis meeting with Iraq's influential Shia Muslim cleric, the Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani on March 7.



Pope Francis (C), accompanied by the President of the autonomous Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani (R), greets people dressed in traditional outfits upon his arrival at Arbil airport on March 7, 2021, in the capital of the northern Iraqi Kurdish autonomous region. - AFP

Francis frenzy trumps pandemic fears in Iraq

IRAQ: Amid the excitement to see Pope Francis as he held his last public mass in Iraq on Sunday, the hopes of the faithful outdid the coronavirus precautions of the prudent.

"I don't know why people don't wear masks," said Bayda Saffo, an Iraqi woman attending the Pope's largest mass of his trip to Iraq, gripped by a resurgence of COVID-19.

Authorities in the Kurdistan regional capital of Arbil had feared the open-air liturgy at the Franso Hariri Stadium would become a "super-spreader" event for

the virus. They restricted attendance by issuing a limited number of tickets that meant the stadium was half full, with around 10,000 people attending.

Saffo and her teenage daughter wanted to take extra precautions - each wore a double-layer of medical masks, a plastic face shield and gloves.

As excited as they were to see the Pope, it was better to be safe than sorry, Saffo told AFP.

Francis and his entourage have been vaccinated, but Iraq only began its modest inoculation cam-

paign days ago, with 50,000 jobs distributed to medical staff.

Iraq has documented more than 720,000 infections and more than 13,500 deaths - making it one of the nations hardest hit by the coronavirus in the Middle East.

Many observers had expected worse in a country, whose health infrastructure has been hit by decades of war and little investment.

Some believed that its overwhelmingly young population - with 60 percent of its 40 million people aged

under 25 - had perhaps helped keep cases down.

Following a long lockdown last year, the numbers of new cases dropped to around 800 per day in late 2020. But they skyrocketed this year, with 5,000 daily infections in the days leading up to the papal trip.

To stop the spread, authorities imposed overnight curfews and weekend lockdowns, extended to include the entirety of the Pope's visit, which lasts until Monday. It's not Iraq's first religious occasion under COVID-19. - AFP

GEORGE FLOYD'S UNCLE WANTS JUSTICE

US: Deeply wounded and forever changed by the death of his nephew George Floyd, Selwyn Jones is apprehensive about the trial starting Monday of the police officer charged with his murder, his doubts fueled by a legal system that historically has been friendly to law enforcement.

"I want justice to prevail," said Jones, a maternal uncle to the Black man whose death under the knee of white Minneapolis officer

Derek Chauvin sparked outraged protests around the world. "I obviously want conviction," Jones told AFP. But he said he worries about "the system."

Chauvin, who kept his knee on the neck of the prostrate Floyd for nearly nine minutes on May 25, 2020, faces murder and manslaughter charges in the trial in a Hennepin County district court, where jury selection begins Monday. The 55-year-old Jones, who

lives in the small town of Gettysburg, South Dakota, hundreds of miles to the west, said he hopes to attend part of the trial, though social distancing rules imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic mean only one family member can attend at a time.

To him, the video of the fateful episode - filmed by a passerby and now seen by millions around the world - left no doubt: Chauvin is "guilty as hell." When

Jones first saw the video on television, he didn't know who the Black man was lying facedown under a police officer's knee. "Damn," he said he thought at the time, "that gonna kill this dude!"

When his distraught sister called him with the news, Jones said, it was as if someone had "put their hands through my chest and ripped my heart out." - AFP



Two youths pass a wall painting of George Floyd who died on May 25, 2020.

RANJIT MERVIN FERNANDO

He was steadfast and loyal

Ranjit Mervin Fernando, who passed away on June 29, 2020, was the son of W. Reginald Fernando and Mercy Joan Fernando, and a scion of the late W. Hendrick Fernando of the 'Moratu Sangamaya'.



Ranjit then followed a Chartered Accountancy Course and passed its intermediate examination. This qualification enabled him to become an accountant of the Ceylon Fertiliser Corporation. After some time, he was promoted to Shipping Manager. He left the corporation after rising in ranks to become its General Manager.

Ranjit was admitted to the kindergarten of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia. As his father was on paramedical duty at Kurunagala, Ranjit was left in the care of his mother's cousin Lydia de Silva at Lunawa. Later, he was placed in the care of his father's siblings at Lakshapathiya. I took him and my faithful aide Andiris by train from Angulana to Mount Lavinia and then to S. Thomas' College. Andiris used to take him home after school until Ranjit was old enough to look after himself. When Ranjit's father was transferred to Colombo, he took Ranjit to school.

second Moratuwite to captain the college's cricket team and was also Head Prefect at that time.

From his early days at S. Thomas' College, Ranjit showed prowess in both studies and cricket. He was made the captain of the Under 12 and Under 14 teams. In 1959, Ranjit was selected for the First XI cricket team and played in the Royal-Thomian Tournament under A.D. Fernandes.

While Ranjit was living in Lakshapathiya, he attended St. Matthias' Sunday School and won several prizes at the annual prize-giving. He later became a Sunday school teacher, was elected as a warden of the church, and also served as a treasurer of the church. As a treasurer, his accounting background enabled him to make prudent decisions. At the recently-held Annual General Meeting of the St. Matthias' Church, Ranjit was remembered for the wise decisions

he took when he was the treasurer/warden.

At the end of his school career, Ranjit, his father, and I went to meet a paternal uncle of mine to enquire whether he could accept Ranjit as a creeper on one of his estates. He went through Ranjit's credentials and suggested that it was better for him to become an accountant than become a planter.

Ranjit then followed a Chartered Accountancy Course and passed its intermediate examination. This qualification enabled him to become an accountant of the Ceylon Fertiliser

Corporation. After some time, he was promoted to Shipping Manager. He left the corporation after rising in ranks to become its General Manager. Thereafter, Ranjit joined CIC Holdings PLC as its Human Resources Manager and later continued as a Human Resources Consultant. He captained the respective cricket teams at both places and played cricket for Moratuwa SC under D.D. Jayasinghe. He later captained Moratuwa SC.

Ranjit was a prominent member of S. Thomas' College Old Boys' Association. He helped them with their

payroll work for 10 years. He was also a guest of honour at the 136th 'Battle of the Blues', which was held on March 15, 2015. He had a long and close association with his alma mater from 1950 until his demise.

Ranjit married Preetha, daughter of J.H.L. de Silva and Julie de Silva. They became an exemplary and loving Christian couple. He was a devoted father to his two daughters Rammika and Shehara, as well as to his two sons-in-law Mandana Abeywardena and Samitha Fernando.

Ranjit was also an adoring grandfather to Devishka, Ramishka, and Shenura. They all knew how much he loved them. They were a united and closely-knit family. His sudden passing was painful to all his family and friends. It was especially heartbreaking for Rammika and Shehara and their families as they could not say their final goodbyes to him due to COVID-19 restrictions; they are liv-

ing in South Africa and the UK, respectively.

On June 29, Ranjit and Preetha attended the 7:00 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Matthias' Church and returned home after the service was over. He had later collapsed while giving his dog a bath. He was admitted to the Kalubowila Hospital and was later pronounced dead. A physician had said that even if he had recovered, he would not have been able to lead a normal life. Therefore, God, in his mercy, called him home.

Ranjit had implicit faith in the Lord. With all his achievements and talents, he was a humble person who lived a simple life. He was also a very considerate and upright, and stood up for what was right. He always maintained cordial relations with his relatives and neighbours.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

N.T.B FERNANDO



LEWELLYN SINNOTT BERTUS

APPRECIATIONS

A versatile policeman

Lewellyn Sinnott Bertus was a pioneer in the formation of a Police Dog Division in Sri Lanka. It was Sir Richard Aluvihare who initially established the police dog kennels in Colombo in 1948 with only three police constables under him, one of whom was Lewellyn Sinnott Bertus. Two of them left after a few months, but Bertus stayed until his retirement from the Police Department, serving for over 37 years.



In 1949, the police dog kennels were moved to Asgiriya in Kandy under Bertus' directions, as the climate there was deemed more suitable for dogs. Another factor was the availability of a Veterinary Faculty and Department at the University of Peradeniya.

Bertus was initially trained in Scotland Yard in 1967 on a Colombo Plan Scholarship; he spent six months of intensive training under the programme and was subsequently appointed Officer-in-Charge of the Police Canine Division.

Bertus was instrumental in training handlers and dogs for locating narcotics, which was slowly growing in the country. He was instrumental in deploying police dogs at the Talaimannar Pier, which was an important transit point for tourists arriving in the country from India.

It was Bertus who formed the Police Canine Division and expanded it to various parts of the island, including Jaffna, Trincomalee, Nittambuwa, Kalutara, Gampaha, and Ambalangoda.

He was later appointed the division's Assistant Superintendent of Police. Bertus underwent further training in the use of

dogs for explosives and narcotics detection in Germany and Austria in 1983.

He retired from the Police Force to take up a posting in the Royal Oman Police Canine Division.

He served there for five years and was honoured for his services by Sultan Qaboos on November 18, 1985, who bestowed on him the Order of the Special Royal Emblem.

Bertus passed away on December 2, 2016, and was buried with full Police Honours in Kandy.

If he were alive today, he would have been happy about how much progress the Sri Lanka Police Canine Division has seen over the years.

HIS LOVED ONES



Bertus was instrumental in training handlers and dogs for locating narcotics, which was slowly growing in the country. He was also the one who deployed police dogs at the Talaimannar Pier, which was an important transit point for tourists arriving in the country from India. It was Bertus who formed the Police Canine Division and expanded it to various parts of the island, including Jaffna, Trincomalee, Nittambuwa, Kalutara, Gampaha, and Ambalangoda.

07.03.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 620,237
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 25,859,360.00
Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES 01 Rs.1,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES 24

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA
 DATE: 07-03-2021
 WINNING LETTER: **J** WINNING NUMBERS: **7 7 0 3 7 2**
 Prize structure - from right to left:
 1st Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 2 (Rs. 2,000,000/-) 01
 2nd Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 2 (Rs. 100,000/-) 12
 3rd Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 2 (Rs. 10,000/-) 114
 4th Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 2 (Rs. 1,000/-) 1,089
 5th Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 2 (Rs. 100/-) 10,937
 6th Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 2 (Rs. 20/-) 108,187
 Prize structure - from left to right:
 7th Prize: 7 7 0 3 7 (Rs. 10,000/-) 13
 8th Prize: 7 7 0 3 (Rs. 1,000/-) 109
 9th Prize: 7 7 0 (Rs. 100/-) 1,145
 10th Prize: 7 7 (Rs. 50/-) 19,756
 11th Prize: J (Rs. 20/-) 43,270
 Value of prizes won in this draw - **Rs. 10,443,140.00**
 The Super Prize of next draw **Rs. 12,123,026.00**

ඳරු දිරි සමපත
 DATE: 07.03.2021
 WINNING LETTER: **C** WINNING NUMBERS: **08 40 83 92**
 Official Results
 Draw No. 29
 Date 07.03.2021
 Prize Structure:
 01 Prize: Four Numbers are correct (Rs. 500,000/-) 01
 02 Prize: Three Numbers and English Letter are correct (Rs. 100,000/-) 03
 03 Prize: Four Numbers are correct (Rs. 1,000/-) 57
 04 Prize: Three Numbers and English Letter are correct (Rs. 200/-) 127
 05 Prize: Four Numbers are correct (Rs. 100/-) 3,826
 06 Prize: Three Numbers and English Letter are correct (Rs. 40/-) 3,051
 07 Prize: Four Numbers are correct (Rs. 20/-) 78,153
 08 Prize: Four English Letters are correct (Rs. 20/-) 17,288
 Total prize money won in this Draw **Rs. 2,805,860.00**
 Next Super Prize **Rs. 7,171,321.20**

DHANA NIDHANAYA Official Results
 Date - 07/03/2021
 Draw Number - 456
 WINNING LETTER: **E** WINNING NUMBERS: **11 27 35 69**
 SAHAS WARAMA: **0192**
 COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS:
 1st Prize: If all numbers are correct (Rs. 1,000,000.00) 01
 2nd Prize: If English Letter and 1 number are correct (Rs. 100,000.00) 03
 3rd Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct (Rs. 3,000.00) 79
 4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct (Rs. 1,000.00) 191
 5th Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct (Rs. 100.00) 4,396
 6th Prize: If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct (Rs. 60.00) 3,068
 7th Prize: If 1 number is correct (Rs. 20.00) 76,695
 8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct (Rs. 20.00) 14,197
 Total prize money won in this draw **Rs. 3,281,520.00**
 Number of Prize Winners in this draw, **98,741**
 Next Draw Super Prize **86,573,976.80**

SEVANA
 Date: 07/03/2021
 Draw Number: 320
 WINNING LETTER: **F** WINNING NUMBERS: **31 46 51 61**
 COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS:
 1st Prize: If all numbers are correct (Rs. 1,000,000/-) 01
 2nd Prize: If English Letter and 3 numbers are correct (Rs. 100,000/-) 02
 3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers are correct (Rs. 1,000/-) 56
 4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct (Rs. 200/-) 139
 5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct (Rs. 100/-) 3,556
 6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct (Rs. 50/-) 2,010
 7th Prize: If 1 number is correct (Rs. 20/-) 49,581
 8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct (Rs. 20/-) 7,731
 Total Prize Won in this Draw **Rs. 2,886,140/-**
 Super Prize for the Next Draw **Rs. 14,000,000/-**

Govisetha
 DRAW NUMBER: 2714 DRAW DATE: 07/03/2021
 ENGLISH LETTER: **M** WINNING NUMBERS: **09 20 38 40**
 COMBINATION PRIZE NO. OF WINNERS:
 1st Prize: If all 4 numbers correct (Rs. 1,000,000.00) 01
 2nd Prize: If Letter & any 3 numbers correct (Rs. 100,000.00) 04
 3rd Prize: If any 3 numbers correct (Rs. 2,000.00) 156
 4th Prize: If Letter & any 2 numbers correct (Rs. 1,000.00) 343
 5th Prize: If any 2 numbers correct (Rs. 100.00) 8,563
 6th Prize: If Letter & any number correct (Rs. 60.00) 5,957
 7th Prize: If any number correct (Rs. 20.00) 139,618
 8th Prize: If only the letter is correct (Rs. 20.00) 25,438
 TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW **179,782**
 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 6,442,700.00**
 SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 71,409,478.40**
 Winning tickets are valid for a period of six months from the date of the draw. Prizes over Rs. 500,000/- are liable to government taxes. To obtain prizes, presenting National Identity Card is a must.

GLOBAL PLAYERS TO BOOST COVID VACCINE OUTPUT

SWITZERLAND: Global players are gathering online from Monday to brainstorm ways to rapidly boost vaccine production and fight a still-virulent coronavirus that has hobbled the world for 14 months.

Giving impetus to the meeting is a warning from the Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) that the pandemic will not end unless poor countries can keep up with accelerating mass vaccination campaigns in rich nations.

Partners of the Covax vaccine distribution initiative, led by the Gavi vaccine alliance and backed by research arm the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations as well as the WHO will meet online.

Government delegates, scientists and representatives of

the pharmaceutical giants as well as smaller drug makers from developing countries will also participate.

The aim is "to shine the light on the gaps that we have currently in the supply chain, of reagents, of raw material, of products that you need to make vaccines", WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan told a news conference on Friday. The pharmaceutical industry aims to produce 10 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses this year, which is double the 2019 manufacturing capacity for all kinds of vaccines.

Manufacturing these jabs requires not just an unprecedented quantity of ingredients, but also items such as glass for the vials and plastic for their caps - at a time when global

supply chains have been disrupted by the pandemic, Swaminathan said.

"So the summit is really focusing on that upstream area, the gaps, how they can be filled and for solutions to be found."

Such interventions "can make a difference in the short term" even as WHO and others are already eyeing the longer-term course of the pandemic, she added.

Pressure from governments and public opinion has helped push the pharma groups, who usually jockey for a competitive advantage, into deals to produce more vaccine doses.

With its own vaccine development lagging, France's Sanofi will produce both the Pfizer-BioNTech and the John-

son & Johnson versions.

Merck will also turn out the J&J shots, Switzerland's Novartis will make doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Curevac vaccine, while Germany's Bayer is also set to help Curevac.

Such deals are "very welcome", Swaminathan said. Efforts at boosting vaccine production should help the worst-off nations - who lack the cash to buy direct from pharma companies - get their people immunised.

The ambitious Covax initiative is aiming to supply vaccines to dozens of countries in the first 100 days of 2021. It



An employee unloads boxes of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines, delivered as a part of the UN-led Covax initiative which is working to facilitate vaccine access for poorer countries, at Addis Ababa international airport, Ethiopia on Sunday. - AFP

hopes to distribute enough doses - around 1.3 billion - to vaccinate up to 27 percent of the population in the 92 poorest participating economies by the end of the year.

But the first Covax shots have only been distributed in recent days, with around 20 million reaching 20 different

countries. Wealthy nations meanwhile, have been vaccinating since December.

With more than 14 million more doses to be delivered next week, "this is encouraging progress", said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "But the volume of doses being distributed through

Covax is still relatively small." Covax will supply enough shots for just 2-3 percent of recipient countries' populations by June, "even as other countries make rapid progress towards vaccinating their entire population within the next few months", he added. - AFP

Virus reaches previously COVID-free New Caledonia

NEW CALEDONIA:

The remote Pacific territory of New Caledonia, one of the few places on the planet to have avoided COVID-19, is to go into strict lockdown after detecting nine cases, local officials said Sunday.

The outbreak on the French archipelago was detected after a school headteacher fell ill on the Wallis and Futuna islands - another French territory in the Pacific - leading authorities to screen for cases.

"According to the first indications, the patient developed symptoms in mid-February and could have been infectious in Wallis and Futuna from the end of January," the head of the local government in New Caledonia, Thierry Santa, told



reporters. Travel between the two French territories had previously been unrestricted, while anyone arriving from elsewhere had to undergo a strict 14-day quarantine in a hotel.

Santa announced a two-week lockdown for New Caledonia starting from Monday evening, to "break the transmission of the virus while there is still time".

The islands had previously succeeded in stopping community transmission of the novel coronavirus, which has reached almost all corners of the globe.

New Caledonia, which lies off the northwest coast of Australia, was once used as a penal colony by French authorities owing to its remote location. - AFP

Oral COVID treatment yields promising trial data - Drugmakers

US: German pharmaceutical giant Merck and a US partner reported promising results Saturday in trials of a drug administered orally to fight Covid-19, saying it helps reduce patients' viral load.

"At a time where there is unmet need for antiviral treatments against SARS-CoV-2, we are encouraged by these preliminary data," said Wendy Painter, chief medical officer of the US firm, Ridgeback Biotherapeutics.

In January, Merck halted work on two COVID vaccine candidates but has pressed on with research into two products to treat the disease, including a pill-based one called molnupiravir, which it has developed with Ridgeback Biotherapeutics.



Anti-viral oral drugs are sometimes prescribed for seasonal flu but researchers have yet to come up with something similar to fight the coronavirus.

This drug caused a significant drop in patients' viral load after five days of treatment with it, Merck said at a meeting with infectious disease experts.

This Phase 2a test - drug trials have three stages before a product can be approved - was carried out among 202 non-hospitalized people with symptoms of COVID-19.

There was no alert in terms of safety, and of four serious adverse events that were reported, none were considered to be related to taking this drug, Ridgeback said.

Anti-viral oral drugs such as oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) are sometimes prescribed for seasonal flu but researchers have yet to come up with something similar to fight the coronavirus.

The findings of this study - a quicker decrease in viral load among individuals with early-stage COVID-19

who are treated with molnupiravir - are promising, said William Fischer, lead investigator of the study and a professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina.

"If supported by additional studies, (they) could have important public health implications, particularly as the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to spread and evolve globally," Fischer added.

Merck is also working on another oral Covid treatment called MK-711.

Preliminary results from clinical trials with it show a more than 50 percent reduction in risk of death or respiratory trouble in patients hospitalized with moderate to severe COVID-19, the company said in January. - AFP

Danish Navy transports COVID vaccines to remote Greenland areas

DENMARK: Denmark's military has started delivering Covid vaccines to remote settlements along Greenland's west coast, part of efforts to vaccinate isolated communities in the vast territory where logistics are complicated by extreme cold weather.

A naval patrol ship set out in mid-February to visit two settlements, fitted with a specialised refrigerator to store doses of the vaccine and transporting civilian

medical staff to administer them at the request of Greenland's health authorities.

The autonomous Danish territory's 56,000 inhabitants are spread over some 772,000 square miles (two million square kilometres), with a limited road network and the Arctic weather throwing up hurdles to air travel.

Greenland's health authorities have barred entry to the territory until April 18, with 31 cases of the infection

and no deaths reported since the beginning of the pandemic.

Vaccinations started on January 4 and Greenland's authorities asked the Danish military's Joint Arctic command in the capital Nuuk to help with settlements unreachable by air or due to the weather.

Six percent of the territory's population has been vaccinated so far, the head of Greenland's health authority told broadcaster KNR. - AFP



Remote settlements along Greenland's west coast.

Over 800,000 attend Modi rally before key state poll

INDIA: A crowd of up to 800,000 turned out for a state election rally by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he sought to unseat one of his fiercest critics in a campaign hit by violence.

Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been seeking to expand its power at the state level, and is eyeing the eastern state of West Bengal where the larger-than-life Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has ruled for a decade.

The state, home to more than 90 million people with some 73 million eligible to vote in the staggered polling that kicks off on March 27, has so far eluded the BJP.

"The next 25 years of development are very important for West Bengal.

We want it to lead India when it celebrates 100 years of its independence," Modi told the rally at the Brigade Parade Ground in the capital Kolkata, which can hold up to a million people.

Supporters held up life-size cardboard cutouts of Modi's image under the blazing sun. Hundreds also watched the rally from the rooftops of high-rise buildings overlooking the site.

"Our (state) Government will work to re-establish the public's belief in government systems, police and administration... We are here for change, a change that brings economic prosperity, jobs and development for all sections of the society," Modi added. - AFP



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses supporters of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during a mass rally at the Brigade Parade ground in Kolkata on Sunday. - AFP

Boyfriend of Myanmar protest 'martyr' vows resistance

MYANMAR: Hein Yar Zar graced as a tattoo artist etched onto his chest the features of his first love, a young protester whose death has become a symbol of resistance against Myanmar's junta.

Mya Thwate Thwate Khaing was shot in the head during a demonstration in the capital Naypyidaw, becoming one of the coup's first fatalities on February 19 after 10 days in hospital.

Her image has since become synonymous with the bloody fight to wrest power from the military, which toppled Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and knocked the country off the path for democracy last month.

For 21-year-old Hein Yar Zar, the abrupt end to his girlfriend's young life has filled him with resolve to keep protesting, even as he grieves.

"We had so many plans for this year. She died when her birthday

was so near," he told AFP. "I got a tattoo of her portrait as I'm missing her - it's a memory for us."

Two days after she was shot, Mya Thwate Thwate Khaing turned 20 while unconscious in a hospital bed



Protesters hold posters of slain Myanmar activist Mya Thwate Thwate Khaing.

- an image shared by anti-coup demonstrators as they rallied on the streets. "There was nobody like her," said Hein Yar Zar.

He showed off an inking he had done years ago on his arm - "Together forever" - a poignant reminder of their youthful optimism. On February 9, the couple were both on the front lines of a massive Naypyidaw demonstration, although separated by the crowd of protesters.

"I sent her a message, 'Please call me back', because I had no credit on my phone, but she never did," said Hein Yar Zar, who heard the news of her shooting from her sister. Showing an earlier tattoo - "17.11.2015", which commemorates their first date five years ago - he vowed to never forget her. "She gave her life for this revolution - as her boyfriend, I will keep doing it for her," he said. "I will keep fighting for this revolution to win." - AFP

MINISTRY OF PLANTATIONS INDUSTRY
SRI LANKA STATE PLANTATIONS CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited for the Sale of 952 Timber trees to be removed in the Alakolla, Rangala and Cottaganga Plantations coming under the Sri Lanka State Plantation Corporation.

Tender forms containing conditions for submitting quotations could be obtained from the SLPC Regional Office Galpihilla up to 3.00 p.m. on 22.03.2021. These documents could also be purchased from the State Plantations Corporation Head Office located in Colombo up to 12.30 p.m. on 22.03.2021. These tenders should be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Head Office to be received before 1.30 p.m. on 23.03.2021 and tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the same day.

Tender forms will not be issued after 12.30 p.m. on 23.03.2021 for whatever reason and the Procurement Board of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation retains the right to accept a certain quotation or a part of quotations or to accept or reject quotations and this decision is deemed final.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation,
No. 21, Meeraniya Street,
Colombo 12.
08.03.2021.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 incorporation of a company.
Company Name: **BETA E COM (PVT) LTD**
Registered No.: **PV 00204275**
Incorporation Date: **15.09.2018**
Company Address: **No. 2/5A, Nagahawatte Road, Maharagama.**
Company Secretary

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 67 of the Companies Act No 09(1) 2007
Name: **Elegant Food Products (Private) Limited**
PV No: **0029276**
Date: **19-10-2020**
Address: **No. 306, Yatmalagala, Yakkalamulla, Galle.**

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MINISTRY OF POWER
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD
SRI LANKA

EXTENSION OF MANNAR WIND POWER PROJECT

Capacity Enhancement of Mannar Wind Power Project – Phase 1 of 20 MW with Additional 06 WTGs in Mannar Island of Sri Lanka

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : **March 09, 2021**

Loan No. and Title : **ADB 3585-SRI: Wind Power Generation Project**

Bid No. and Title : **ICB/CEB/PD-MWPP/2021/1 Extension of Mannar Wind Power Project Capacity Enhancement of Mannar Wind Power Project – Phase 1 of 20 MW with Additional 06 WTGs in Mannar Island of Sri Lanka**

Deadline for submission of Bids : **June, 09 2021 at 10.00 hrs. local time**

- The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Wind Power Generation Project in Mannar. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above.
- The Ceylon Electricity Board ("the Employer") requests eligible Bidders to submit sealed Bids for the **Capacity Enhancement of Mannar Wind Power Project – Phase 1 of 20 MW with Additional 06 WTGs in Mannar Island of Sri Lanka** on Procurement of Plant, Design, Supply and Install basis.
- International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with **ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure** and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Bidders shall have satisfactory experience in substantially completion of at least two (02) similar type of Contracts with a value more than 64 Million USD and each having with 40 MW or more in capacity and within last five (05) years period, as at the date of submission of the Bid. The similarity shall be based on the physical size, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirement) of the Bidding document. The Bidder may consider the experiences by its parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies, subject to conditions detailed in the Bid documents. The Bidder shall have minimum annual average turnover of forty (40) Million USD within the last three years.

(Note: Only the important eligibility criteria are mentioned above. The bid documents and the details are available in Ceylon Electricity Board website www.ceb.lk)

- To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, Bidders should contact:

Project Director
Mannar Wind Power Project,
Ceylon Electricity Board,
No. 754, New Parliament Road,
Pelawatta, Battaramulla 10120,
Sri Lanka.
Tel: +94 11 2889640 Fax: +94 11 2869631

- Email: pdmwpp@ceb.lk Eligible bidders who wish to purchase the amended bidding documents in English, should:

visit the office of the Project Director (MWPP) at the address indicated above between 9.00 hrs. and 15.00 hrs. on working days from March 09, 2021 to June, 08 2021 and pay nonrefundable fee of LKR 100,000.00 or USD 600.00 by cash or bank draft drawn in favour of General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Lanka.

OR

- Request for delivery by sending a written application to the address above requesting the bidding document for the Extension of Mannar Wind Power Project: Capacity Enhancement of Mannar Wind Power Project – Phase 1 With Additional 06 WTGs in Mannar Island of Sri Lanka.
 - The application must include a bank draft drawn in favour of General Manager, Ceylon Electricity Board, for the amount of LKR 150,000.00 (domestic delivery) or USD 800.00 (overseas delivery). The document will be sent by courier. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at Auditorium of Distribution Division 04 Head Quarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, 25 Council Lane, Dehiwala-Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka on 06 April 2021 at 1000 hrs. local time. A site visit will be arranged on the following day.
 - The Bidders are advised to deliver their Bids to the address below.

The Chairman,
Standing Cabinet Appointed Procurement Committee (SCAPC) for Capacity Enhancement of Mannar Wind Power Project – Phase 1 of 20 MW with Additional 06 WTGs in Mannar Island of Sri Lanka
c/o Additional General Manager (Projects)
Ceylon Electricity Board,
Office of the Additional General Manager (Projects),
No 385, 4th Floor,
Landmark Building
Colombo 00300
Sri Lanka.

- on or before the deadline 1000 hours on June, 09 2021
- together with a Bid Security in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document

Bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of Bidders' representatives or their authorized representatives who choose to attend at the Bid opening, at the same location as above (Office of the Additional General Manager (Projects), No 385, 4th Floor, Landmark Building, Colombo 00300, Sri Lanka).

Late Bids shall be rejected without any reason.

- When comparing Bids, ADB Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.

- CEB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation, attending pre-bid meeting, site visits and delivery of bids.

THE CHAIRMAN
STANDING CABINET APPOINTED PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE.
MINISTRY OF POWER



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Clerical/Secretarial

WP CAR-2973
Mazda, 2003, car for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0714-542958. 017418

119
Buses & Lorries
For sale

NP-LC-1149 - Tata-SE1613 - motor lorry - 2006 for highest offer. CBC Finance Ltd. 187, Katugastota Rd. Kandy. 018481

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ABO-1955	BAJAJ	2016	KURUNEGALA
ABJ-9058	BAJAJ	2016	AMPARA
AAZ-2166	BAJAJ	2015	CHILAW
ABB-1397	BAJAJ	2015	RAGAMA
AAT-4889	BAJAJ	2014	RAGAMA
AAT-0908	BAJAJ	2014	KANDY
AAJ-0935	BAJAJ	2013	KANDY
AAL-2680	BAJAJ	2013	NUWARAELIYA
AAD-0156	BAJAJ	2012	RAGAMA
AAC-0939	BAJAJ	2012	MATARA
AAF-3472	BAJAJ	2012	EMBLIPIYIYA
YJ-5820	BAJAJ	2011	KURUNEGALA
YK-5699	BAJAJ	2011	EMBLIPIYIYA
YK-6574	BAJAJ	2011	KURUNEGALA
YN-0808	TVS / KING	2011	RAGAMA
QX-6773	BAJAJ	2010	EMBLIPIYIYA
YA-2657	BAJAJ	2010	RATNAPURA
QK-7340	BAJAJ	2007	RAGAMA
QG 5411	BAJAJ	2006	RAGAMA
QA-8972	BAJAJ	2005	RAGAMA

MOTOR CAR	YEAR	YARD	
CBC-9993	SUZUKI	2018	RAGAMA
CAY-4399	HONDA	2017	RAGAMA
CAN-7796	SUZUKI	2015	RAGAMA
CAC-2974	TOYOTA	2014	RAGAMA
CAK-7655	SUZUKI	2014	PANADURA
CAA-2672	HONDA	2014	PANADURA
KP-8798	TATA	2011	RAGAMA
CAA-5554	TOYOTA	2011	RAGAMA
KP-6799	CHEVROLET	2011	RAGAMA
KF-9175	NISSAN	2007	RAGAMA
KC-3510	TATA	2005	KANDY
HS-0813	TOYOTA/COROLLA	2003	RAGAMA
HC-6065	MAHINDRA	2003	RAGAMA
64-0152	MITSUBISHI	1991	RAGAMA

DUAL PURPOSE	YEAR	YARD	
PV-3939	DFSK	2012	MATARA
PS-4837	MAHINDRA	2011	RATNAPURA
PS-3894	CABSTAR	2007	RAGAMA
HR-8344	NISSAN	1998	RAGAMA
53-3357	TOYOTA	1988	RAGAMA

MASSEY FERGUSON	YEAR	YARD	
RA-4448	MASSEY FERGUSON	2005	ANURADHAPURA

MOTOR LORRY	YEAR	YARD	
HV-7516	TOYOTA	1999	EMBLIPIYIYA
GB-9382	HINO	1995	RAGAMA
42-8407	ISUZU	1987	PANADURA

The above vehicles can be inspected at the yards and that will be on Auction basis

RAGAMA 0113 288 893	NUWARAELIYA 0114 346 723	AMPARA 0634 925 696
RATHNAPURA 0454 928 635	KANDY 0812 051 010	KURUNEGALA 0374 943 738
MATARA 0414 935 734	PANADURA 0773 610 142 Cint	ANURADHAPURA 0772 385 714 Chami
CHILAW 0777 289 182 Sachitha	EMBLIPIYIYA 0773 038 137 Hiran	

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Sri Lanka Ports Authority dominate Air Force Cycle Tour



The Men's race was held from Colombo to Katunayake



Action from the Men's race (Pix by Ranjith Asanka)



Sonal de Silva (centre) flanked by Chamod de Silva (right) and Prabash Madushanka (left)

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) dominated the 22nd Sri Lanka Air Force Cycle Tour, which was worked off from Colombo to Katunayake on Sunday.

SLPA took major honours in the men's race as they won the first two places after a close contest which covered a good 148km from Colombo to Katunayake.

Experienced rider Sonal de Silva finished in front while his teammate Chamod de Silva powered his way to secure the runner-up position. "We participated in this race as a team and we had a very good set plan which we executed during the latter stages," Sonal told the Daily News shortly after the race.

"We had some tough competition from Army and Air Force cyclists initially but we maximised our strength during the last three kilometres to turn things in our favour," he added.

Meanwhile, the runner-up Chamod de Silva said he was really pleased to be part of the winning team and to secure a podium finish after a very tough competition. The South Asian Games Bronze Medallist said his goal is to win more medals for Sri Lanka and to compete beyond the South Asian level in this sport.

"We had two months of training to focus on this race and I am grateful to Minister Rohitha Abeysunwardena and former Army Commander Major Gen-

eral Daya Ratnayake for their assistance." Prabash Madushanka, who finished the race in third place, said he was initially in the second group but managed to move forward and join the first group of riders during the last eight kilometres.

"I made a desperate attempt to keep up the pace with the rest of the competitors but the pressure was too much and had to settle with the third place," Madushanka said after the race.

Meanwhile, Udeshani Niranjani from Army retained the Women's title for the second successive year while pushing two Air Force cyclists Panchali Sulochana and Dinesh Dilrukshi into second and third place respectively.



Action from the Women's race

Dian Gomes, vice chairman of AIBA Marketing Commission

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Dian Gomes, who is an executive committee member of the world boxing governing body AIBA, was appointed as the vice chairman of the AIBA Marketing Commission out of 33 candidates. Out of the five members elected by the 200-member federation of AIBA, Gomes was chosen as the deputy to Cezary Jedlinski of Poland.

Over the years he has also held successful tenures in AIBA as a member of the Finance Commission, the



marketing commission and the women's commission as well.

As president of the Boxing Association of Sri Lanka, he

has been a strong advocate and supporter in building high-performing athletes, especially from rural areas. He became the first Sri Lankan to be appointed to the Commonwealth Advisory Board of Sports in 2014 and is also the first Sri Lankan to be appointed to the Executive Committee of the Asian Boxing Federation last year.

Dian is always a good motivator for all the boxers and his vision is to popularise this sport all over the country. A former Sri Lankan

junior flyweight boxing champion, Gomes has been a leading corporate personality for the better part of three decades.

A former president of CIMA Sri Lankan Division, he was the Group Director of MAS Holdings and later Chairman of Hela Clothing.

He currently serves as the Honorary Consul of Georgia in Sri Lanka and on the Board of Nestle Lanka PLC. He was also appointed to the Public Service Commis-

JAT Holdings boost for Sri Lanka Cricket

JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. got on board with Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) as their Official Overseas Team Sponsor for the 2020/2021 cricket season, commencing with immediate effect until 31 May 2021. This was announced at a press briefing held recently.

Having sponsored the Sri Lanka tour of South Africa and Sri Lanka's teams home series against England earlier this year, the completely and exclusive Sri Lankan brand is also empowering the ongoing Sri Lanka tour of West Indies and the upcoming Bangladesh Tour of Sri Lanka which will take place in April - May this year.

As the "Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket", JAT has always been a patriot of the sport. This stands evident in the organization's involvement in the LPL, Australia tour in 2017, Bangladesh's BPL and many more tours.

Despite the current economic situation, where most organizations in Sri Lanka have readjusted their sights and shied away from game-changing management decisions, JAT Holdings stood firmly and stepped forward to help and support the most popular sport of the nation by sponsoring Sri Lanka Cricket. With the recent launch of "WHITE by JAT", a range of brilliant white interior and exterior emulsion paints, JAT Holdings evidently proves its innovation, organizational confidence, financial stability and consistency to help give back to the community.

Voicing his thoughts in relation to the sponsorship, Aelian Gunawardene,

Managing Director of JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd commented, "We are extremely honoured, as a privately owned Sri Lankan company, to be the Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket and this has given all of us at JAT a feeling of great pride and we wish the team every success in their upcoming series. JAT Holdings constantly seeks for channels to give back to

our community, and sports has always been an area of focus. This was even more evident when JAT became the only Sri Lankan company to sponsor the Kandy Tuskers cricket team at the LPL 2020."

"True sportsmanship is a unifying language. It is undeniable that sporting events create complete individuals and bring together nations, ethnicities and religions despite their differences. We know currently the National Cricket team is passing through a lean period. As a sports loving nation, we should join hands to encourage them. When the team is top form there are

many people to rally around them. We believe that as a top performer in us to extend our fullest support to them who will definitely bounce back in the near future." Concluded Aelian Gunawardene.

JAT Holdings has continually sponsored major sporting events on home soil and abroad, from

standing tall as the main sponsor of the Sri Lanka vs. Australia Test series while co-sponsoring the ODI's and several other Sri Lankan Cricket Tournaments. As a socially responsible organization which seeks to bring communities together through sports and being Official

Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket during the 2020/2021 cricket season, until 31st May 2021 will only pave the way for more ventures similar to this. They have also supported Rugby, Golf and Basketball apart from their involvement with cricket.

"We are honoured to be associated as SLC headed by Shammi Silva officially

announce the great partnership we have begun with JAT Holdings. We are indeed Privileged and happy that JAT becomes our official overseas team sponsor. They also sponsored our National team's tour of South Africa, the concluded home series against England, the current West Indies tour and the Bangladesh tour of Sri Lanka in April.

As a home grown brand, we join hands particularly at a time when we are trying to rejuvenate the game of cricket after the outbreak of covid-19 pandemic. Our cricketers should be proud of carrying the JAT logo which is a home grown brand with an excellent reputation behind it." said Mohan de Silva, General Secretary of SLC.

(AN)

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear Winston Van Cuylenberg was a threat to reputed boxers

Boxer Winston Van Cuylenberg who participated in the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 in the flyweight contest was popularly known as the 'Little Cat'.

While a student at St. Michael's College, Polwatte, his coach was Anton Jones. Under Jones' guidance Winston took part in the Stubbs Shield and Indo-Ceylon Schools Boxing Meets and showed his capabilities becoming a threat to competent local boxers.

It was a morale boost for him to have his brothers Ernest, Hans and Bunty too as boxers.

Their house was fully committed to boxing. It was a common sight the house to be seen scattered with punching bags, weight sets and gloves.

It was a tradition for the brothers to box each other while at home. Their mother apart from keeping the house tidy found it most difficult to control her children. At the time of winning the flyweight National Championship, Winston was yet at school going age.

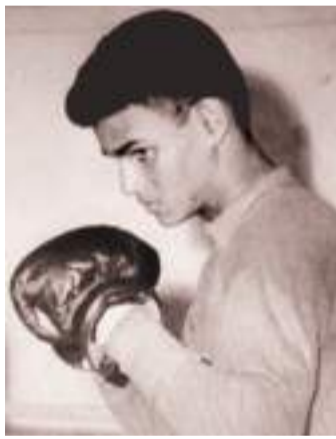
In 1963, at a boxing meet in Pakistan,

he won the Best Boxers award. In the local scene Winston defeated P. G. Neil, Farook and others of equal repute. Since there were enough boxers in flyweight class, Winston always fought in heavy-weight classes.

At the Tokyo Olympics in 1964, 19-year-old Winston lost to Constantin Ciyuka of Romania on points. In the Layton Cup events in 1965 he won the trophy awarded to the champion boxer.

In August, 1965 at a boxing meet in Singapore, he

defeated the British Army and Security Service bantamweight champion Bruce Woodcock while knocking him out. At this event, he won the trophy for the Best Boxer. Everyone thought that Winston would win a Gold Medal at the Second Asian Boxing Championships held in



Winston van Cuylenberg

South Korea. He lost on points to Korea's Fun I. Hawang but went on to win a Silver Medal. He resigned from the Army in 1965 and left for England to obtain training prior to competing in the ommonwealth Boxing Meet in 1966. In England, in the face of financial constraints he gave up amateur boxing and became a professional boxer.

One of his brothers Geoff was also by then a professional boxer in England. The 'Ring' Magazine, which is considered as the Boxers Bible in its 1967 edition, carried Winston's name in the 10th position.

In 1967 he participated in seven boxing meets in the bantamweight class and won four of the games losing three. (C.D)

Rowing Nationals on March 12 and 13

The National Rowing championship will be held on March 12 and 13 at Diyavanna Rowing Centre. SLT-Mobitel, the national ICT and telecommunications service provider has come to power this Championships as the Principal Sponsor, The Championship is being held in collaboration with the Amateur Rowing Association of Sri Lanka (ARASL).

Rowing heats usually are held under categories of Under-14, Under-16, Under-18, Intermediate and Open categories. The Open championship is one of the most anticipated segments, for seniors who take part. SLT-Mobi-



From left: SLT Deputy Chief Marketing Officer Rohana Ellawala, Mobitel Acting CEO Chandika Vitharana, Amateur Rowing Association of Sri Lanka (ARASL) President Dimuth Gunawardena, ARASL Vice President Sithira Wickramasekera, ARASL Secretary Pasan Ranaweera

tel is committed to empowering young athletes from across a range of categories such as schools, clubs and at national

level initiatives. Rowing has been known as amongst the oldest water sport activities in Sri Lanka, which is usually

confined to a number of leading institutions in the Western Province. However, growing enthusiasm for the sport and a committed focus by the organisers to elevate the sport even more and integrate it into more schools across the country, is enabling more young people to take to the sport.

Over the years, rowing has rapidly grown into a well-established sporting activity which is already being held through regattas conducted both nationally and at school levels. Most rowing enthusiasts and participants hail from schools, universities, sports clubs and the armed forces. (D.R)



JAT Holdings (Pvt) Ltd. signed a MoU as the Official Overseas Team Sponsor of Sri Lanka Cricket at a ceremony held at their premises recently. Picture shows SLC and JAT Holding officials displaying the players' T-shirts. From left to right: Nishal Ferdinando (CEO, JAT Holdings), Mohan de Silva (Honorary Secretary, SLC), Aelian Gunawardene (Managing Director, JAT Holdings), Ashley de Silva (CEO, SLC), Dilshan Rodrigo (General Manager, Marketing, JAT Holdings)

B.M.Dharmapala the boxer turned ruggerite

ALTHAF NAWAZ

It is rare to witness a player occupying several positions in the pack, in the game of rugby, unless he has some extraordinary talent with well-maintained fitness levels, to play for quite a long time. Brahakmana Mudiyansele Dharmapala was one of them who never held a rugby ball in his school career but later turned out to be an exceptional player during a career spanning almost two decades including clubs and at National level.

Dharmapala was born in 1967, in a remote village in the outskirts of Wariyapola in Kurunegala district. He was called as 'Dharma' in the sporting circles and his father was Appuhami Brahakmana and mother was Ukkamma. He was born with eight other siblings which included five sisters and three brothers. Due to his living area, he was admitted to Horrombuwa College,

Wariyapola until grade five and was later enrolled at Sri Sumangala College, Wariyapola, where he ended up completing his G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination. He was unable to continue further studies due to the burden of his family where he was forced to hunt for a job to take care of them. One of

his elder brothers was already in the Sri Lanka Police, and at the age of 18 years, he decided to join the Sri Lanka Army Singha Regiment.

Dharmapala engaged in Putt Shot and Discus throw in the under-15 and was also active in the game of volleyball in the under-17 age categories. He finally joined the Army in 1987 and was included to the Boxing team of the Army in Heavy weight category. He became a highly skilled boxer and was called to the National Boxing pool which he refused to join due to various reasons. In 1987, Major Jaliya Nammuni serving as the commanding officer had observed him closely and entrusted him to another colleague, Captain Wickremasinghe in his regiment, who was in charge of rugger to include Dharmapala to the Army rugger pool. As a novice in handling the oval shaped ball, he was a bit reluctant to play due to lack of knowledge of the game. He was initially coached by Colonel Kalu Weerasinghe and subsequently, P.G. Gunawardena, a well-known figure in the rugger arena was instrumental in transforming him into a top player. Brigadier Japana Jayawardena and General Sarath Foneska played a pivotal role in mak-

ing him comfortable and gave the necessary support to continue his career, which was interrupted on various occasions due to the civil war, where the Army kept away from playing competitive rugger. From 1987 to 2004, he donned the Army jersey playing in all positions in the pack which was a unique achievement.

During the disturbances in the country, he was released to play for Havelocks from 1989 to 1994 at his peak. Then he was requested by then Army Commander to cross over to the hill capital to lock horns for Kandy in the 1995/96 season while he was in the Army. He captained the Army rugger team for two years in 1996 and 1997 seasons. Ajith Abeyratne and Asanga Seneviratne also coached him in the Army. In 1990, he got the National call to represent the country and occupied all the positions as a utility player in the pack, and played for the Sri Lanka team for 13 years with distinction.

He played for 'Bridge/Ends' club in Wales in 1997 and continued to play in all tournaments which the National team took part in his tenure as a player. The other unique feature of his career was playing for Sri Lanka in five Rugby Asiads consecutively starting

from 1998. Jeff Matheson, Ajith Abeyratne, Tony Amit, retired senior DIG Nimal Lewke, Ana Saranapala and Late George Simpkin were his coaches in the Sri Lanka team.

After his retirement he started his coaching career with the Army sevens rugby team and coached in 1992/1993 seasons, coached several schools like Prince of Wales (1996 - 1997), Maliyadewa (2005 - 2008), St. Anne's (2008 - 2010 and 2014 - 2016), St. Anthony's forward coach (2017 - 2018), Air Force forwards coach (2009), Sri Lanka team supporting coach (2009 - 2010), Sri Sumangala College Kandy head coach (2016 - 2019).

Under his coaching he started rugger at Wariyapola Rugby and Sports Club in 2013. At present he is coaching St. Sylvester's and Singha Regiment in the Army. He worked as Wayamba rugger development officer (2005 - 2015). He followed a IRB level -2 coaching course in Australia 2002, a high performance and rugger sevens level-1 and level -2 coaching course in Malaysia while completing a referring course in 2004. His wife is Kumari and has two sons, Bawantha playing rugger for Trinity and Nimnada while Vishmi is the elder daughter who has graduated in Australia while Nishadini is the other daughter.



B.M.Dharmapala

Vajira Srimal outstanding athlete and weightlifter

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Nineteen year old athlete and weightlifter K. B. Vajira Srimal brought honour and glory to his Alma Mater Vijiya Maha Vidyalaya in Niyagama, Hiniduma and to his motherland.

Vajira was admitted to this school when he was in Grade Five he commenced athletics and continued upto Grade Eight and initially at the Inter House Athletic Meet he did Long Jump and won places. In 2015 he started to do field events and at the Inter House Meets in the Under 15 category he won in Discuss, Putt Shot and Javelin and became the Champion Athlete of the school. In the Divisional Meet too he swept the board and became the under 15 Champion Athlete and continued to become the School Champion Athlete in the under 16, 18 and 19 and won places in the Divisional, Zonal, District and Provincial Meets. Though he did Athletics his forte is Weightlifting and in the mean time in addition to Athletics in 2015 he took to Weightlifting and his parents Lionel Ranjith and K. B. Ranjani encouraged him to pursue Weightlifting.

His first attempt in Weightlifting



Vajira Srimal

was in 2015 and at the All Island Inter Schools Meet in the under 85kgs Category he came fourth and in the Youth Provincial Meet too he was placed fourth and in the All Island under 15 over 77kgs he won a Gold Medal with three records and in 2016 at the youth National Meet under 85kgs category he came fourth.

In 2017 in the All Island 85kgs under 17 he won another Gold and in the same weight category at the youth National Meet he won a Gold and with these performances under his belt he was selected for



The Youth Weightlifting Team which participated at the 19th Asian Tournament held in Uzbekistan in 2020.

Standing L/R - Supun Dilhara, Vajira Srimal, Chanaka Subasinghe (Coach), Divya Vedaarachchi, Deshan Kapila (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

Uzbekistan tour in the under 85kgs category and he came sixth where 10 members participated and after returning with foreign exposure in 2018 National Championship he came fourth.

Then in 2018 at the National Schools Meet he won a Gold in the 84kgs and in the Inter Schools Meet in the 89kgs event he won a Gold with a record and in the same year in the All Island Festival Meet in the under 89kgs category he came fourth and All Island Youth Meet under 89kgs he won a

Gold and in 2020 he participated in the Junior Asian Championship in Uzbekistan in the 89 kgs event where 12 members participated and he came eighth and at present he is in the National Squad.

His first Principal was Anura Opatha while the first class teacher was Ranjani Kanthilatha and the present Principal is. Sumith Dayaratne. His Athletic Coach was Mrs. Shiromi Lakmali and the weight lifting coach was Chanaka Subasinghe.

Chathuranga, Chamod and Kabeesharan the gymnastic stars



R.Kabeesharan.

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Vishwa Chathuranga, a Grade 10 student of St.Sylvester's College who started gymnastics in the year 2013 registered his first win by securing the third place at the Kandy District Gymnastic Championship in 2014 and Vishwa has won 12 District Medals from the year 2014 to date. He started to win Provincial Medals since 2016 and so far he has secured 19 Central Province Medals. In the same year he took part in Sony International Invitational Gymnastic Championship and secured four Medals and at the All Island level

he won the first Sri Lanka Schools Gymnastic Bronze Medal for Vault event in the year 2017.

Again in the same year he secured the third place in the Floor event at the Sri Lanka Junior Schools Gymnastic Championship. In 2019 Vishwa won a Silver medal in the Pommel Horse event at the Sri Lanka Schools Gymnastic Championship and in the same year he won a Bronze medal in the Vault event.

Chamod Jayawardena is another outstanding gymnast of St.Sylvester's who is a Grade nine Student and he registered his first victory in the Pommel



Chamod Jayawardena. Pictures Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl corr.



Vishwa Chathuranga.

Horse event at the Kandy District Gymnastic Championship in the Under 12 age category. Chamod has won nine District Medals upto date and he won his first Provincial Gold Medal in the year 2017 in the Under 12 age category.

Chamod has won nine District Gymnastic Medals from 2016 upto date He secured his first National Roman Rings Gold Medal in 2019 at the Junior National Artistic Gymnastic Championship and he was also fifth in High-bar and eighth in Vault events.

R.Kabeesharan is the third up and coming gymnast of St.Sylvester's who is in Grade 9 and He started gymnastics in the year 2013 and he won his first Central Province Silver Medal in Vault event.

So far he has won 12 District Medals and has secured six Provincial Medals from 2013 to date. Kabeesharan won his first Sri Lanka Schools Junior Gymnastic Parallel Bar Silver Medal in 2019 and in the same year at Sri Lanka Schools Games a Bronze Medal in Parallel Bar event.

All three of them are thankful to their Coach Amal Rasanga for the encouragement and assistance given to them to become talented gymnasts.

Aluthkade Youth holds football fiesta for the eighth time

Ratnam Playground was buzzing with activity on Sunday the 28th February, when Aluthkade Youth in collaboration with Alliance for Muslim Rights conducted the 8th Annual football tournament for the China-Sri Lanka Friendship Trophy. Battaramulla Veterans clinched the handsome trophy with prize money of rupees one and half lakhs. Super Stars emerged runners up and took away Rs.75,000 as

prize money. Maligawatte Veterans and Old Petersons were placed third and fourth respectively with prize money of Rs.40,000 and Rs.20,000

Krishantha of Super Stars was adjudged the Man of the Tournament, Best Goal Keeper's Award went to Anthony of Super Stars and Man of the Match was the Cricketer turned football player Graham Labrooy of Battaramulla Veterans.



The opening ceremony was attended by the Superintendent of Police Kotahena and the football legend Rummy. The Awards Presenta-

tion ceremony was handled by distinguished guest namely Deputy Mayor Iqbal, US Tiles Chairman Jauffer, President of Organising Com-

mittee M Mifal, General Secretary Rhythmy Amith, MMC Muzammil, Sports Committee Chairman MMC Naufel, and MMC Kaleel Rahuman.

Sri Rahula, Katugastota cricketers out to give of their best this year

HAFIZ MARIKAR

Dilshan Arambegedera is the cricket captain of Sri Rahula College Katugastota under 19 team this year. He is a fine all-rounder and is sure to give of his best with the support of the rest of the players. This year they are in the tournament with fixtures against PDS Kularatne College Ambalangoda in Kandy, and the second game is with Royal College Panadura away, third game with Henegama MMV away, fourth game with Kegala Vidyalaya in Kandy followed by the big match with Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College Kandy. They will be playing the first game on Friday, which is a friendly against Maliyadeva College Kurunegala. They had a fine season last year including an outright win over the more fancied Kingswood College by five runs

The side is coached by experienced D. Madushanka Damakage, a person with 20 years experience in cricket coaching. He was their one-time junior coach and helped many players to do well, and learnt his cricket at this school, played for the senior side from 1998 to 2001 as a right arm paceman and middle order batsman. Damakage is going all-out to make the side a match winning team. He played for Saracens Cricket Club for over fifteen years. He is well supported by the MIC M.J.S. Ariyasinghe a fine boxer during his school days at Peradeniya MV, sporting Principal S.M.C. Weerakoon lends them a big hand. The Old boys too give the best possible backing to keep the game alive in the school.

This year squad is made out of players like Dilshan Arambegedera. (Cap-

tain), Kushan Senarath the stumper, Vichintha Heshan, Sayuru Prabash, Janith Maitipe, Tharindu Fonseka, Thilanka Dasun, Akash Gardiwasam, Dananjaya Madushanka, Malitha Nethmal, Kalana Thaveesha, Dulanjana Bandara, Kalana Wedika, Yasitha Wijeratne, Dismika Ratnayaka, Athikshaya Ratnayaka, Bashitha Amarawansa, Theekshana Dineth, Vishal Gardiwasam, Maleesha Dilshan, Sureda Prasad, Kavishka Madumal (Coach) Madushanka Damakage and M.I.C - M.J.S. Ariyasinghe.

Sri Rahula College is a school with a history of over 130 years and one of the famous mixed schools in the country. It was established in 1890, by the Buddhist Theosophical Society led by Colonel Henry Steel Olcott. They were founded as Kandy High school on a piece of land at Katugastota.

Later it was renamed Sri Rahula College, and at one time was well known for athletics, football and hockey and later in the field of mini rugby and today they are a major force in cricket too. Thanks to the efforts of their old boys, who have turned them into a top sporting school.

Sri Rahula College is one of Kandy's oldest cricket playing schools, started the game of cricket in 1890's but gave it up a few years. However, in the 1970's they came back into cricket. One of their best products was Asela Gunaratne who played in the years 2002-4. He became the first Rahula cricketer to represent the country when he was selected for the tour of Zimbabwe. He was guided correctly by one of the top school coaches late Aubrey Kuruppu, a well-known player in the coaching field. Asela

joined the Army and improved his cricket and went onto represent the country. Some of the cricketers learnt their finer points at this school and later crossed over to other schools to gain more recognition in their cricketing careers, and they never say they started the game at this school.

Sri Rahula College should be proud of Ishara Rangana Hewage who was selected as the "Most Popular Cricketer of the Year" by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association. In 2019 they qualified to play in the semi-final of the under 19 Singer division III level one cricket tournament.

The Rahula cricketers beat St. Mary's College Matugama in the quarter finals on first innings. The players who excelled and helped the team win were Dilshan Arambegedera, Tharindu Fonseka, Thushan Senarath, Lahi-

ru Wijeratne, Krishantha Dilshan, Shairi Ranatunga, Janith Maitipe and Akash Ghariyawasiri.

In the early years late T.M. A. Cooray coached the Sri Rahula cricketers and gave his best for the game and produced some knowledgeable players.

A few years back late Aubrey Kuruppu gave a big hand and helped the school in a big way in cricket coaching.

Today Sri Rahula cricketers play their matches at Prisons Grounds Pallekelle and Police Grounds. Asgiriya their own ground at Katugastota is only fit for practices, because the length and breadth of the ground is short.

The players right now are handicapped without a turf wicket. This school has a rich cricketing history.

WORLD OF SPORTS

(March 9)
LOCAL EVENTS
CRICKET
(SLC T20 Tournament):
Kandy Customs CC vs BRC at SSC Grounds
Ace Capital CC vs Bloomfield at P. Sara Oval
Chilaw Marians CC vs Moors SC at Colts Grounds
Saracens SC vs Sebastianites CC at NCC Grounds
Badureliya SC vs Negombo CC at SSC Grounds
NCC vs Air Force SC at P. Sara Oval
SSC vs Kurunegala Youth CC at Colts Grounds
Ragama CC vs Panadura SC at NCC Grounds
TENNIS
SSC Open Tournament at Maitland Place
FOREIGN EVENTS
CRICKET
India Women vs South Africa Women (2nd ODI) at Lucknow (Sheffield Shield):
South Australia vs New South Wales at Adelaide
Queensland vs Western Australia at Brisbane
TENNIS
Chile Open at San Carlos de Apoquindo
Open 13 Provence at Marseille, France
Dubai Duty Free Championship in Dubai
FOOTBALL
(Champions League):
Borussia Dortmund vs Sevilla
Juventus vs FC Porto
CYCLING
Paris-Nice Tour (Stage-3)

Allen leads Windies to three-wicket win, T20 series triumph over SL

ST. JOHN'S, MONDAY: All-rounder Fabian Allen clobbered three sixes off the penultimate over to lead West Indies to a nervy three-wicket win against Sri Lanka in the final Twenty20 International on Sunday.

Chasing a modest target of just 132, the two-time world champions struggled in the run chase as their star trio of Chris Gayle, skipper Kieron Pollard and Dwayne Bravo all flopped.

Allen's three sixes came off spinner Akila Dananjaya as the 25-year-old Jamaican smashed a desperately needed 21 off just six balls faced at Coolidge Cricket Ground. West Indies finished on 134-7, clinching the three-game series 2-1 after a four-wicket win in the first match followed by Sri Lanka's 43-run victory in the second.

Dananjaya was again the victim of some explosive West Indies batting after Pollard hit six sixes off one of his overs in the first game on Wednesday.

"I prepare for everything, including bowling in the powerplay," said Allen, who earlier took 1-13 opening the bowling.

"When I look in the dressing room we have a lot of batting power.

"I told (batting partner) Jason Holder that I'm not comfortable batting against (Wanindu) Hasaranga, so I told him to bat him out and I'll be finishing. I just backed myself in the end. It was a good performance overall."

The home side were cruising after limiting Sri Lanka to 131-4. Openers Evin Lewis (21) and Lendl Simmons (26) gave them a solid start before Sri Lanka leg spinner Hasaranga (2-13) dismissed them both for a series haul of eight wickets.

Wrist spinner Lakshan Sandakan clean-bowled Gayle for 13, completing a poor international return for the 41-year-old who made just nought and 16 in the first two games. Gayle has now gone five years without a fifty in T20 internationals.

Pollard, who became only the third man to hit six sixes in an international over on Wednesday, was bowled by seamer Dushmantha Chameera for nought.

Bravo too went for a duck, a second wicket in two balls for Sandakan having also sent back Rovman Powell.

Sandakan finished with 3-29 to follow his 3-10 from Friday's game. But with 20 runs required



Dinesh Chandimal (L) of Sri Lanka watch as Fabian Allen (C) and Jason Holder (R) of West Indies celebrate winning the 3rd and final T20i match between Sri Lanka and West Indies at Coolidge Cricket Ground in Osborn, Antigua and Barbuda on March 7. AFP

off the last 12 balls, Allen smashed Dananjaya for 20 runs off the penultimate over for the victory.

It was a topsy-turvy series for Dananjaya, who was the fall-guy for Pollard's pyrotechnics last Wednesday having taken a hat-trick in the same game.

Earlier, former skipper Dinesh Chandimal hit his fifth Twenty20 International half-century

as he and promising youngster Ashen Bandara took Sri Lanka to a modest 131-4. Chandimal carved out an undefeated 54 with three boundaries to finish four runs short of his best of 58 in the format made against Australia at Pallekele in 2016.

The 31-year-old, playing in his 57th T20 International, had contributed just 11 and three in the first two games.

Bandara, 22 and on his debut tour, hit an unbeaten 44 with three fours and his team's only two sixes.

Sri Lanka were in desperate trouble early in their innings, reaching 10 overs with just 47 on the board for the loss of four wickets having won the toss and deciding to bat first.

On their way to winning the second game on Friday at the

same venue by 43 runs, they had amassed 94-0 at the halfway point.

On Sunday, they managed just two boundaries in the first 10 overs with opener Danusha Gunathilaka, who top-scored Friday with 56, out this time for just nine, caught and bowled by Allen.

The two sides will now play three ODIs and two Tests, all in Antigua. AFP

SRI LANKA		WEST INDIES	
D. Gunathilaka	c & b Allen 9	L. Simmons	st Dickwella b Hasaranga . 26
P. Nissanka	c Sinclair b Holder 5	E. Lewis	lbw b Hasaranga 21
N. Dickwella	c Holder b Sinclair 4	C. Gayle	b Sandakan 13
D. Chandimal	not out 54	K. Pollard	c Dickwella b Chameera.... 0
A. Mathews	c Pooran b McCoy 11	N. Pooran	b Chameera 23
A. Bandara	not out 44	J. Holder	not out 14
Extras (lb1, w3) 4	R. Powell	b Sandakan 7
Total (20 overs, 4 wickets)	131	D. Bravo	c Dananjaya b Sandakan... 0
Did not bat: T. Perera, W. Hasaranga, A. Dananjaya, D. Chameera, L. Sandakan		F. Allen	not out 21
Fall of wickets: 1-10 (Gunathilaka), 2-15 (Dickwella), 3-27 (Nissanka), 4-46 (Mathews)		Extras (lb5, nb1, w3) 9
Bowling: Allen 4-0-13-1, Sinclair 2-0-19-1, Holder 4-0-27-1, Pollard 2-0-11-0, McCoy 4-0-29-1 (w2), Bravo 4-0-31-0 (w1)		Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Lewis), 2-54 (Simmons), 3-61 (Pollard), 4-75 (Gayle), 5-95 (Pooran), 6-105 (Powell), 7-105 (Bravo)	

Ashton Agar breaks Rangana Herath's seven year-old record



Ashton Agar

INDIKA WELAGEDARA

The seven-year T20 International cricket bowling record belonging to Sri Lankan left arm spinner Rangana Herath was broken during the T20 international match between Australia and New Zealand in Wellington this week.

During the third T20 international match of the series, Australian left arm spinner Ashton Agar (Son of a Sri Lankan mother - Sonia Hewawissa) took six wickets for 30 runs thus helping his team to a consolation win. With that, he became the first left arm spinner to take six wickets in a T20 international innings.

Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath held the record for the most wickets taken by a left arm spinner in a T20i innings, when he took five wickets for just three runs during Sri Lanka's famous win against New Zealand in the quarter-finals of the 2014 - T20 World Cup.

Akeesha and Movindi win U-14 Doubles title

The pair of Akeesha Silva and Movindi Fernando combined effectively to clinch the Girls' Under-14 Doubles title at the SSC Open Tennis Tournament, which continued at the SSC Courts in Maitland Place yesterday.

Akeesha and Movindi staged a superb late rally to clinch the final encounter in an exciting three-setter while overcoming Inuki Jayaweera and Melesha Randini 1-4, 4-2, 11-9.

The results:
Girls' Under-14 Doubles final:

Akeesha Silva and Movindi Fernando beat Inuki Jayaweera and Melesha Randini 1-4, 4-2, 11-9.

Men's Over-45 Doubles final: Arjun Fernando and Chamika de Silva beat Samuel Balasinghe and Danusha De Lanerolle 6-0 and retired.

Boys' Under-18 Singles semi-finals: Ransath Peiris beat Anujaya Abeywickrama 5-7, 6-3, 10-5. Hasal Ahangama beat Matheesh Nettasinghe 6-2, 6-2.

Girls' Under-18 Singles semi-finals: Vishmi Serasinghe beat Ruvi Lewkebandara 6-3, 3-6, 10-5.



Akeesha Silva and Movindi Fernando celebrate with the trophy

Veteran Sports Journalist Palitha Senarath no more



Palitha Senarath Yapa

ANURADHA ABEYSEKARA

The head of Sports, Sri Lanka Rupawahini Corporation, Palitha Senarath Yapa passed away after a prolonged illness on March 7 at the age of 57. His funeral was held yesterday (March 8) at the Thalawathugoda general cemetery amidst a large gathering.

Palitha is an Old Boy of Ananda College, Colombo and has entered the big screen as a child cinema actor with the guidance of his grandmother, late veteran actress Denawaka Hamine.

He was cast in few local films during his school days before he stepped into Media world in 1983 by joining Sri Lanka Rupawahini Corporation (SLRC) as a member of its first batch of Trainee Production Assistants.

He was one of the long standing senior Media personalities at the SLRC. During his 38-year tenure at SLRC he has served in many capacities. He was wounded by a LTTE gun shot while on a coverage of the Katunayake LTTE attack in 2002 when he was attached to the News Section. Palitha also has served as the Acting Director of the SLRC Programme Section for a short stint.

His contribution to Sports Journalism has been remarkable and Palitha's journalism career was studied with many elite local and international coverages including South Asian Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympics and Cricket World Cup. SLRC won the Presidential Sports Award in 2015 with his leadership.

His commitment towards duty, experience and humanity made him an exemplary senior journalist who was always willing to help his fellow journalists.

Palitha was more focused on his duty at SLRC after his wife Sagarika Herath passed away about an year ago and rendered a great service to Sports Media by serving as the Senior Vice President of the Sri Lanka Professional Sports Journalists Association until his demise.

Western Province clinches U-23 netball title

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Western Province emerged champions at the Dialog Netball Rising Star Under-23 Inter-Provincial Tournament when they beat North Western Province 23-9 in the final encounter played at the Sports Ministry Grounds in Torrington yesterday.

Western Province captained by Chamudi Dilrukshi took an 8-3 lead at the end of the first quarter and they kept the same momentum and added 11 points to their tally in the second quarter.

However, the third quarter turned out to be more competitive as Western Province took a slender 4-3 lead.

In the fourth and final quarter, North Western Province led by

Chandumini Gayanthika collected three points and did not concede any points to their opponents.

But Western Province, by virtue of their early lead managed to clinch the title with an easy victory in the end.

Western Province Goal shooter Rasanthika Weerakoon and Goal-Keeper Chenuri Kithnara had a good game.

The winning team received the championship trophy from Sports Ministry Secretary Anuradha Wijekoon and Dialog Axiata Group Chief Marketing Officer Amali Nanayakkara.

Tharushi Satharani of Uva Province was named Best Shooter of the Tournament.

Djokovic sets all-time record for weeks at world No. 1

PARIS, MONDAY: Novak Djokovic set a new landmark of 311 weeks as world number one on Monday, one week longer than Roger Federer whose tally of a record 20 Grand Slam titles is now firmly in the Serb's sights.

"Big day today", tennis superstar wrote on Twitter.

Djokovic, 33, won his 18th major at the Australian Open in February.

With Federer turning 40 in August, the Serb has time on his side. He is also a year younger than Rafael Nadal who also has 20 majors.

"It really excites me to walk the path of legends and giants of this sport," said Djokovic, in a statement released by the ATP.

"To know that I earned my place among them by following my childhood dream is a beautiful confirmation that when you do things out of love and passion, everything is possible."

He has spent 88 weeks at number one, across two different stints.

Djokovic reclaimed the top ranking from Nadal in February 2020 and finished as year-end number one for the sixth time, tying the record set by Pete Sampras.

ATP Chairman Andrea Gaudenzi said: "Novak's many achievements in tennis are nothing short of extraordinary. Among them this record may stand as his single most impressive. AFP

Reha Steel Nuwara Eliya Premier League 2021

Kotmale Kings emerges Champions

Kotmale Kings defeated Maskeliya Sunrisers by five wickets in the final of the inaugural Reha Steel NPL 2021, which was organized by the Nuwara Eliya District Cricket Association with the assistance of Sri Lanka Cricket and played at the Radella Cricket ground, during the weekend.

Five teams namely the Kotmale Kings, Maskeliya Sunrisers, Hanguranketha Tuskers, Nuwara Eliya Gladiators and Walapane Night Riders comprising players of Nuwara Eliya district cricket clubs participated in the tournament.

Minister of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, C. B. Rathnayake who is also the president of the

Nuwara Eliya District Cricket Association was the chief guest at the final.

Shammi Silva, President of Sri Lanka Cricket, Dr. Jayantha Dhamadasa, Vice President of Sri Lanka Cricket, Ravin Wickramaratne, Vice President of Sri Lanka Cricket, Mohan De Silva, Secretary of Sri Lanka Cricket, Lasantha Wickremesinghe, Treasurer of Sri Lanka Cricket and Jagath Jayasundera, Secretary of the Nuwara Eliya District Cricket Association were also present on the occasion. S. Thirichelvam, the owner of the Reha Steel Firm, which is the title sponsor of the tournament was also present.

Maskeliya Sunrisers taking the first lease of the bat scored 106 runs in 18.2 balls. In reply Kotmale Kings reached the victory target in 19 overs for the loss of five wickets.

The Champions were awarded a sum of Rs. 150,000 along with the trophy and the runner-up team was offered Rs. 100,000.

Brief scores of the Final:
Maskeliya Sunrisers: 106 (18.2) (Sivaganasundaram Janathan 29, Thulitha Wijesinghe 14, Kumaraswami Dhayalan 14, Kumaran Krishanthan 11, Shantha Nawarathne 11, Chandana Wasantha Bandara 3/14, S. Arun

Prasad 3/30, Nuwan Wasana Bandara 2/19)

Kotmale Kings: 108/5 (19) (Selvaraj Naveenan 39 n.o., Chandana Wasantha 22, Chathura Gayan 14, Jeganathan Sridharan 11, Shantha Nawarathna 4/27)

Special awards: Man of the final - Chandana Wasantha Bandara (Kotmale Kings), Player of the tournament - Jeganathan Samithan (Kotmale Kings), Best bowler of the tournament - Gayan Bopitiya (Nuwara Eliya Gladiators), Best batsman of the tournament - Mayura Wijesinghe (Maskeliya Sunrisers), Emerging player - Dinuka Sandaruwan (Nuwara Eliya Gladiators). YK



Champion Kotmale Kings team with their trophies

Daily News Business

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Govt. to encourage skilled labour migration

ANANDA KANNANGARA

Justice Minister Mohamed Ali Sabry focused attention towards improving working conditions of Sri Lankan women and highlighted certain barriers posed by Labour laws that restrict women's ability to enter and sustain themselves in the workforce.

The Minister made these comments during a high level panel discussion titled "Sri Lanka's Gender Discriminatory Labour Laws". The discussion was made both in Sinhala and English Languages.

The podium consisted of former Labour Commissioner Madhavie Gunawardena, Legal Research, Deputy Head Malsirini de Silva and Fonterra Brands Sri Lanka, HR Business Partner Kanishka Paternott. The discussion was moderated by Advocata Institute, Researcher Sathya Karunaratne. Members from policy circles, respective government departments,



Minister Ali Sabry flanked by other panelists at the event

social activists and members of the public also attended.

Opening the session Minister Ali Sabry said during the 1950's governments in Sri Lanka brought very important laws and regulations to protect the employment conditions of Sri Lankan women.

"Although laws were implemented to sustenance of females in the workforce we should see how they were carried out in a proper way."

He said some existing laws and regulations should also be changed in order to protect the rights of females in the country.

"As we are aware currently females are playing a major role in the country's development activities and 65 percent of our student's population in universities is also females."

The Minister further said some legal and policy issues which disproportionately affect females in the

workforce should be amended. Responding to questions raised by the media about hardships faced by certain Sri Lankan female employees in the Middle Eastern countries and whether the existing laws are sufficient to protect them Minister Ali Sabry said rather than laws practical realities should be there to save our female workers who face hardships.

He said they also look into the services provided by Sri Lankan embas-

sies in the Middle Eastern countries and the Sri Lanka Bureau of foreign Employment also looks into S female migrant workers issues.

Minister Ali Sabry said Sri Lanka should send more and skilled female workers such as nurses and trained workers for the hospitality industry to avoid problems faced by the country's workers.

Minister Ali Sabry further said that he doesn't like Lankan women seeking employment as domestic workers unless they are trained in certain other important employment fields.

The audience also directed several questions to the panel about Sri Lankan females, especially domestic workers who face hardships when working during night shifts.

This discussion also focused towards understanding discriminatory laws for women in Labour Laws, Land laws and tariffs.



"DEMAND FOR HIGH END FURNITURE..." PAGE 19

Female Board appointments promoted

CSE, IFC ring the bell for gender equality



CSE, IFC members at the Bell ringing ceremony yesterday

DINESH PERERA

The Colombo Stock Exchange and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) rang the opening bell of the stock exchange yesterday to 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality.' The event hoped to increase the number of females appointed to the board level.

The event comes as part of the Australian Aid and IFC strategy to influence appointments in favour of women on boards in Sri Lanka. The event is currently in its sixth iteration.

Chairman CSE Dumith Fernando said, "We encourage corporate to capitalize on the skills of women in the workforce. Overcoming the gender gap is a moral and economic imperative."

Fernando added that events like this were the means by which the UN Sustainable Development Goal Agenda could be achieved. He noted that the private sector was pivotal to the success of this global movement.

IFC Corporate Governance Officer Lopa Rahman noted that her organization was already suc-

cessful in pushing female board appointments in Sri Lanka. In 2018 Sri Lanka had 8.2% female membership on boards which was well below the global average of 17%. In 2021 the figure has now improved to 9.5%.

The IFC includes gender in their due diligence processes. When the IFC makes an investment they have control over board appointments. In December 2020 the IFC nominees to board appointments were 50% female. The IFC celebrated the appointment of Dr Roshan Perera as a director of Senkadagala Finance.

Australian High Commissioner David Holly noted that the Australian Aid agenda in Sri Lanka was focused on increasing gender parity. Australian Aid sponsors the Women in Management Awards and has helped formulate the Financial Inclusion Strategy recently announced by the Central Bank.

Chairperson of Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID) Rasakantha Rasaiah noted that his organi-

zation was working behind the scenes with the finance ministry to push females to board positions. Rasaiah said, "In time to come there will be a quota."

SLID has already been able through compulsion to increase the representation of females on boards.

CEO Hemas Katsuri Wilson delivering the keynote address said, "I stand here because women generations before us paved the way for us to aspire."

Wilson noted that her mother pushed her to achieve a qualification in order to ensure financial independence. Wilson called on companies to foster a familial culture at the workplace and to recognize that child-rearing activity can be split between both parents.

IFC's 'Women on Boards' program in Sri Lanka is part of the broader efforts to increase women's private sector participation and leadership by promoting the adoption of corporate governance practices among Sri Lankan companies.

Equity sees highest intra-day gain nearly after 1 month

The bourse started the week reverting the direction back to positive, recording a near 1-week high, while experiencing the highest intraday gain almost after one month.

The index witnessed a strong uptrend since the beginning of the session and closed at 7,318 gaining a massive 264 points. The capital goods sector led the turnover for the session followed by Mate-

rials sector making a joint contribution of 48%.

The market experienced low foreign participation dominated by the selling side resulting in a net outflow.

On the fixed-income front, the secondary bond market experienced limited activities in the short to mid-tenor of the yield curve while the overall market witnessed low volumes.

Export earnings top US\$ 908.07 mn in January

The exports which started to grow since last July continued the positive performance till September 2020 with minor contractions with reduced figures from October to December 2020. However, growth in exports in January 2021 is still modest compared to last five years The Export Development Board said.

Export earnings from Apparel and Textiles declined by 10.76% to US\$ 421.28 Mn during the month of January 2021 compared with US\$ 472.07 Mn recorded in January 2020. In parallel, 6.94% decline recorded in January 2021 in comparison to December 2020. Despite the decline in the sector, earnings from exports of other textiles increased by 25.21% in January 2021 in comparison to January 2020.

Export earnings from tea in January 2021 which made up 12% of merchandise exports, increased by 1.25% y-o-y to US\$ 100.99 Mn. Although export of bulk tea increased by 15.86% in January 2021 compared to January 2020, export of tea packets and tea bags were declined by 12.31% and 15.86% respectively.

In addition, Export earnings from Rubber & Rubber finished products have increased by 5.46% y-o-y to US\$ 84.16 Mn in January 2020 due to the better performance in exports of Pneumatic & Retreated Rubber Tyres & Tubes (10.97%), Industrial & Surgical Gloves of Rubber (40.43%), and Hygienic or Pharmaceutical Articles (133.33%). However, exports of Rubber Plates, Sheets Rods of Vulcanized or Unhardened Rubber and Gaskets, Washers,

Seals etc. of Hard Rubber and have decreased by 17.5% and 28.37% respectively in January 2021 in comparison to January 2020.

Earnings from all the major categories of Coconut based products increased in January 2021 compared with January 2020. Earnings from Coconut Milk Powder, Coconut Cream, Liquid Coconut Milk and Coconut Flour categorized under the Coconut Kernel Products increased by 64.85%, 8.19%, 38.97% and 88.24% respectively in January 2021 compared with January 2020. Being the largest contributor to Coconut based sector, Coco Peat, Fiber Pith and Moulded products which categorized under the Coconut fibre products increased by 27.65% to US\$ 11.82 Mn in January 2021 in comparison to January 2020.

Export earnings from Spices and Essential Oils have increased by 115.96% to US\$ 42.22 Mn in January 2021 compared with the value of US\$ 19.55 Mn recorded in January 2020 due to the better performance recorded in exports of cinnamon (82.28%), pepper (432.93%), cloves (184.73%), nutmeg and mace (50.62%), essential oils (142.22%).

In addition, earnings from export of Electrical and Electronic Components (EEC) increased by 12.86% to US\$ 31.85 Mn in January 2021 in comparison to January 2020 due to the better performance recorded in other electrical and electronic products (23.65%).

Trade Minister calls on stakeholders to assist exporters



Dr Bandula Gunawardana, Minister of Trade urged all stakeholders to actively engage in assisting all exporters of the country in every possible manner during this turbulent period enabling exporters to strengthen our economy.

After observing the export performance of January, he further stated that it is encouraging to see important export sectors such as Tea, Spices & Essential Oils, Coconut and Rubber-based products are doing well despite the global recession created by the pandemic.

CSE gives positive hearing to Broker concerns

The Colombo Stock Exchange had been in discussions with the Stock broking community with regards to the concerns they expressed pertaining to practical challenges in complying with Regulatory Measures on Monitoring Credit Exposure Undertaken by Stockbrokers/Dealers.

Following discussions held today between the Stock broking communi-

ty, The Colombo Stock Exchange and The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka it was decided to withdraw the requirements applied on the Stockbroker Firms via the latest Circulars bearing number 04-03-2021 dated March 8, 2021 due to the system limitations and practical constraints regarding the submission of certain information.



National Chamber, NEDA hosts WP Entrepreneur Awards on Wednesday

The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka has joined hands again with the National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) for the fifth year in succession to conduct the Entrepreneur Awards 2020 - Western Province for the Micro, Small, Medium and Large sectors on March 10, 3 p.m. onwards at BMICH. There will be around 25 awards

to be presented to winners in the categories of Industry/Manufacturing, Agriculture/Livestock & Fisheries and Hospitality/Tourism and other services including Overall Excellence Winners of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

In addition two special awards will be given out for Best Entrepreneur Recovered during COVID period and Best Entre-

preneur survived during the COVID pandemic.

This award scheme is designed to distinguish, reward and motivate Sri Lanka's very own entrepreneurs to reach the mantle of achievement and encourage the business community in the Western Province to improve their standards of business practices and achieve a high level of entrepreneurship.

Tender floated for Sri Lanka LNG floater

Sri Lanka is yet again trying to advance its liquefied natural gas import plans, with the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) inviting bids for a leased floating storage and regasification unit to be deployed at Kerawalapitiya.

CEB is in the market for an FRSU on a build-own-operate basis, while the associated mooring system — mooring, flowline and umbilical to the pipeline end manifold (PLEM) control system — is being sought on a build-own-operate-transfer basis. The request for proposal (RFP) calls for a vessel with regasification capacity of 380 million cubic feet per day of gas and minimum storage capacity of 156,000 cubic meters at "100% filling level".

Regasified volumes are intended for power plants in Kerawalapitiya and the vicinity of the capital Colombo.

The successful bidder would be required to design, finance, procure, construct, deliver commission, operate and maintain the PSRU and mooring system, the latter being transferred to the CEB at the end of the 10-year contractual term. This decade-long period can be extended by the CEB.

The contractor will also be tasked with securing all the necessary environmental clearances, governmental approvals and statutory licences for the proposed LNG import project.

The deadline for proposals is 18 June and bidders will have to provide a \$2.5 million proposal security. The CEB intends to award the contract around year-end. Sri Lanka is now eyeing a transition to a gas-based power generation by tapping the liquefied natural gas market and any potential domestic gas production, which could be developed in the medium-term.

"The state-run Ceylon Electricity Board has decided to convert power plants that are run on furnace oil and diesel to natural gas and has recently floated a tender for the construction of a gas pipeline to distribute it to the plants," said Sri Lanka's Minister of Energy, Udaya Gammanpila. (Upstream Online)

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NEWS

“Demand for high end furniture to rise with more FDI”

FIZEL JABIR

The government is very keen to bring in FDI and when the high end business society is here they will need high-end facilities and new innovative office, interior solutions and products, WIDAC Commercial Interiors, Chairman Primal Wijayanayake told the media in Colombo last Friday.

He however said exchange fluctuation and rupee depreciation and high duties were major challenges the interior industry had to face and they hoped the government would recognize the need for high end furniture and offer some concessions by reducing import taxes on such products.

“The general economic downturn had an effect on us but for high end products such as Steelcase, it had a positive impact because a lot of people are working from home and homeschooling activities have made them realize that longer time seated on a proper



The WIDAC Commercial Interiors team with Chairman Primal Wijayanayake and Managing Director Chandni Alles at centre. Picture by Saliya Rupasinghe

chair makes the comfort level a lot better and economically designed chairs will give long time health benefits.

Wijayanayake said they were

pleased that the government has allowed the importation of high end furniture realizing that such furniture cannot be manufactured locally because the country did not

have an industry that is doing this kind of furniture. “So the government has allowed us to import furniture on a 90 day credit,” he said. “WIDAC does complete interior

design and fit out and we do mostly commercial office interiors’. On the interior side we have the products and the projects and we represent lots of international brands in Sri Lanka, on the interior side Steelcase is one of the key brands.”

The WIDAC Chairman also noted that the government should recognize the need for economical designed good chairs and new innovative office solutions and products which has good benefits for the users and make them more affordable and by getting more volume generate more revenue to the coffers, he said. WIDAC is now in its 33rd year of business offering Turnkey solutions in the field of design build and fit out for all commercial organizations. In 2018, WIDAC had the opportunity of being selected as the local partner in Sri Lanka for Steelcase, the world’s leading office furniture manufacturer and celebrated its third anniversary in March.

Arpico Insurance appoints Kelum Senanayake as CEO

Arpico Insurance PLC, has appointed industry veteran Kelum Senanayake as their Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from March 1.

Senanayake brings to the table a wealth of experience and exposure spanning almost forty years, from both local as well as international Insurance industries.

Senanayake started his career in 1982 at Mercantile Credit, which was the principal agent for the National Insurance Corporation prior to privatization. Thereafter he joined Union Assurance and rose to the rank of Assistant General Manager where he served until 2009, after which he joined Eagle Insurance as General Manager – Life Operations. In 2013 he was promoted to Director – Operations, where he was put in charge of an extensive repertoire of functions & responsibilities including Operations, Life Underwriting, Life Servicing, Claims, Product Development, Re-Insurance, Branch Operations, Corporate Solutions Distribution, Contact Centers and Logistics.

A product of Ananda College Colombo, Senanayake holds a Diploma in Business Management from Worldview Institute and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Syd-



Kelum Senanayake

ney, Australia. He makes history becoming the first and only CEO in the Sri Lankan Insurance industry to hold the coveted Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) status earned in an impressive 133 days.

Commenting on the new posting, Group Chairman of Richard Peiris and Company PLC Dr. Sena Yaddhegige added, “I am delighted to have Kelum coming on board as the CEO of Arpico Insurance. With a distinguished career spanning over several decades and his proven track record of ethics, excellence and innovation in the industry, I am confident that he will take the Company to the next level while remaining committed to our core values of trust and stability”.

Arpico Insurance PLC was incorporated in 2011 and is a regulated Insurance Company under the Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.

CEB bags top honours at National ICT Awards

Ceylon Electricity Board succeeded in winning the Public Sector Most Outstanding ICT Achievement award along with a Silver award for CEBAssist Solutions during the NBQSA – National ICT awards ceremony held at the BMICH.

Committed to engaging and empowering its nearly 6 million consumers, Ceylon Electricity Board shifted their focus towards digitally transforming its business process in a bid to place users and customers at the center. As a result, CEB embarked on a cultural and process transformation journey since early 2018 that went hand-in-hand with innovation and digitali-

zation. CEB vigorously developed its in-house business solution which is CEBAssist – a tightly integrated single solution for Consumer Relation Management (CRM), Outage Management System (OMS), Workforce Management (WFM), Asset Maintenance Management (AMM) Customer Information System (CIS) and Advanced Analysis. CEBAssist Solutions comprises 12 core web modules and 4 mobile apps for the use of CEB internal staff and customers.

Due to its customer centric approach CEBAssist Solutions provide numbers of self-service channels for customers, such as CEB-Care App, CEBCare Web, Voice



CEB IT team lead by Eng. Jagath Samarawickrama receiving the award for Most Outstanding ICT Achievement from Public Sector at the event

Automated Service, Interactive Voice Response, SMS and Email to make the journey easier both for the customer and the utility.

CEB Care app which was launched in 2019 has been receiving a large number of positive feedbacks from users. It has revolutionized the utility leader’s ability to

provide a truly digital experience to its customers by incorporating the facilities to lodge complaints, be informed of the interruption schedules, view billing and consumption information and pay electricity bills.

It even has the facility to manage more than one electricity user

account. CEBAssist solution also provides real time information of the breakdown repairing crew mobilization using GPS location information while enabling live tracking of the complaint status.

It stands out from other solutions due to its accessibility via any device from any part of the world.

Dr. Sir. Clarence Kumarage presented ‘Award of Excellence’ by Human Rights Organisation

JAYANTHI COORAY

Chairman of Charith Group of Companies, Dr Sir. Clarence Kumarage added another feather to his cap when the Human Rights Organization presented an ‘Award of Excellence’ recently.

This is taking into account the prominence of Dr. Sir. Kumarage plays in the field of human rights.

One of his key initiatives by him was to assist employees who were shunned from their workplaces due to the employee stuffing financial losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Firstly we offered them financial assistance and dry rations to keep tier home fires burning. Secondly, we spoke to their employee and got them reemployed.”

In addition, “I spent around Rs. 1.7 million from my personal funds to provide dry rations to families in lockdown areas and provided them with medical supplies and also protective gear.”

Another initiative I under-



Chairman of Charith Group, Dr Sir. Clarence Kumarage receiving the award from Susil Premajayantha State Minister for Education Reforms.

took was to provide my transport to employees who were stuck in Colombo to get back to their native places especially in the South and Uva provinces.

“Armed with the Human Rights Organization presented ‘Award of Excellence’ I want to get involved in discourse for Sri Lanka in Geneva and remain the world of the great humanitarian operation as our security

forces led towards the end of the war to save the peoples from the clutches of the LTTE.”

He said that while the government is battling from the diplomatic angle he is keen to rally some international business leaders, especially from the UK to speak on behalf of Sri Lanka.

Dr Sir. Kumarage was earlier presented with a Knighthood at the 56th World Con-

gress of Integrated Medicines, organized by Medicina Alternativa and Open International University for Complementary Medicines, (OIUCM). He is also the only Knight Commander of Asia Pacific from Sri Lanka.

Dr Kumarage, who represented Sri Lanka, was honoured with Knighthood at the event. Dr Kumarage was the only Sri Lankan to receive this prestigious recognition and he would now represent the ‘Honourable Society of Knights.’

He holds a PhD from the UK, B.Sc (Hons), and was also honoured with the Deshamanya, Desha Bandu, Keerthi Sri Lanka Abhimani, Viyapara Vibushana, Awards earlier.

Since I have many business links with the UK I want to use this to portray a positive Human rights image of Sri Lanka through UK business circles.”

The Charith Group of Companies, based at the World Trade Center is a diversified family-owned



venture, has several divisions such as Charith Enterprises, (Import and Export Arm) Charith Cosmetics (Importers and Distributors of Amin’s and Gold Herbal Black Henna, Royal Black Hair Shampoo) Charith Filling Station, (Operates at Ratanapitiya, Baddegama and Ambalangoda), Charith Empire (Importers of the branded hotel and household items) and Charith Holiday Resort Nuwara Eliya.

Jayani Nilushika Kumarage is the Managing Director of Charith Group, while his two children Charith Kumarage and Jini

Kumarage are Director Marketing and Director Business Development respectively.

The Company is the importer of “AMINS HERBAL BLACK HENNA” for over 20 years. The company was awarded the Best Importers for the last 18 years from among 17 countries and won the President Flame Award three times successfully.

Kumarage is also a Lion advisor to the Governor PMJF, MAF and was also awarded the Best Businessmen of Sri Lanka award for the year 2018.

Lak Cinnamon Planters and Exporters bags NCE Silver award

Lak Cinnamon Planters and Exporters (Pvt) Ltd, one of the leading exporters of finest Cinnamon in Sri Lanka, was the recipient of Silver Award in Spices and Spice Associated Products sector, (medium category) at the Annual NCE Export Awards - 2020 hosted by the National Chamber of Exporters, specially designed to recognize and reward outstanding performance of exporters of Sri Lanka at Shangri La Hotel recently.

In its successful journey, Lak Cinnamon has received many awards and accolades previously, including NCE Awards too. Having started in 2016, Lak Cinnamon Planters & Exporters has come a long way as a trail blazer in the spice business with securing a strong identity. Today the company marches forward successfully with managing a cinnamon plantation spanning over 7 acres and generating direct employments to over 50 persons.

“I consider it a pride to have engaged in a business that brings foreign revenue to our motherland. We had to conquer many obstacles and challenges in this journey. If not for my staff

whose tireless and wholehearted dedication was the driving force of success, this feat would have been impossible. We are determined to work hard in



Roshan Wickramasinghe, MD, Lak Cinnamon Planters and Exporters

order to present high quality products at international markets and make Sri Lanka proud,” Roshan Wickramasinghe, Managing Director, Lak Cinnamon Planters and Exporters said. The company presently exports cinnamon products to Latin American countries at large while plans are ahead to explore the European and North American markets as well.

According to Roshan Wickramasinghe, the priority being quality, the company intends to obtain organic certifications and international standards certifications from recognized agencies before venturing in to new markets.”

“My dream is to promote ‘Sri Lankan Cinnamon’ as the most sought after brand in the world’s cinnamon market with Lak Cinnamon Planters and Exporters playing a significant role in that.”

Evergreen Tea Factory bags three Entrepreneurship Excellence awards

Evergreen Tea Factory triumphed with three awards at ‘Entrepreneurship Excellence - 2020’ award ceremony of Southern Province.

Southern Province Enterprise Excellence, Best Export Enterprise and the Best Company in the Industry/Manufacturing Sector, Large Category were the three awards they won at the 5th ‘Entrepreneurship Excellence’ ceremony of Southern Province held at Golden Pearl Hotel, Tangalle.

With a successful history over 35 years, Evergreen Group thrives in tea industry with 12 factories producing Orthodox and CTC tea. More than 30,000 tea small holders are supplying green leaves to Evergreen factories. In addition, the Group owns Lavish Tea Company which targets export tea market. “Perseverance, dedication and the guidance of Directors of Evergreen Group Indika Nalla-



Deshashakthi Aruna de Silva, Chairman, Evergreen Group receiving the award from the Chief Guest Minister of Industries, Wimal Weerawansa

peruma, Senal De Silva and General Manager Lasantha Alwis contributed greatly to the success the company,” he said.

Meanwhile Brombil Tea Factory, Kalutara owned by Evergreen Group has made history by recording the highest quantity of production and sale of tea for a factory in Sri Lanka in 2020.

It has sold 4,067,279Kgs of tea. Brombil, a factory with ISO

and RA quality certifications, produces CTC and Orthodox teas with around 4500 small holders supplying green leaves.

Evergreen Group have won a number of provincial, national and international accolades to its pride including 16 awards at the Black Tea Quality Assessment Competition organized by the Chinese Tea Marketing Association in 2019 in China.

In the same year Brombil CTC and Orthodox Tea Factories secured the third place in large scale environment friendly category at the President’s Environmental Awards Ceremony. Evergreen Tea Factory became third at National Productivity Awards 2018. At the same awards ceremony five tea factories of Evergreen Group won merit and special merit awards.

Having entered to tea industry in 1983, Aruna de Silva started his first own tea factory, Evergreen, at Horangalle, Galle in 1985. Today the group has ten tea factories and two more are to be opened in this year. Proving the high quality of their products the evergreen group has received a number of quality certificates including ETP, RA and ISO. Evergreen group has created thousands of direct and indirect employment while contributing to several welfare and religious programs.

Silk Republic wins Best Woman Entrepreneur of Southern Province award

Silk Republic, a leading Sari Manufacturing Trading Company in Matara was awarded the Best Woman Entrepreneur of the year at the Entrepreneurship Excellence-2020 of Southern Province organized by the National Enterprise Development Authority in collaboration with Hambantota Chamber of Commerce and supported by Chambers of Commerce in Galle and Matara held recently at Golden Pearl Hotel, Tangalle.

Poornima Abeykoon, Chairperson, Silk Republic received the coveted from the Minister of Industries, Wimal Weerawansa who was the chief

guest at the event. Silk Republic has received many other awards in its successful history. “Having started with a small step this business has come a long way because we supply high quality, elegantly designed saris at a reasonable price that pleases customers. The secret behind our success is none other than maintaining a high standard and superb creativity blended with reliable service. I must thank all the members of my staff who contributed in this achievement,” said Poornima Abeykoon. “Variety of colorful saris in latest designs stamped with a guarantee of quality



Poornima Abeykoon, Chairperson, Silk Republic receiving the award

ty at affordable price is what makes customers love Silk Republic.”

Silk Republic’s facebook page is very informative and often updated with their latest collections of saris. Republic

Bathiks is a subsidiary of Silk Republic that manufactures high quality batik saris in latest designs.

The company plans to open Silk Republic showrooms in major town all over the country.

People's Bank enables Sri Lanka Insurance premiums via Cash Deposit Machines

A facility has been provided by the People's Bank to pay Sri Lanka Insurance Life and General insurance premiums via Cash Deposit Machines (CDM) at People's Bank Self-banking units (SBU).

This is yet another step in the bank's endeavor to strengthen institutional connections to efficiently facilitate financial services and operations.

The official launch of this service was held at People's Bank Head Office in Colombo 02 by Sujeewa Rajapakse, Chairman of People's Bank, Jagath Wellawatta, Chairman of Sri Lanka Insurance, Ranjith Kodituwakku, CEO and GM of People's Bank and Chandana L. Aluthgama CEO of Sri Lanka Insurance.

People's Bank Senior Deputy General Manager Payment and Digital K.B. Rajapaksa, Deputy General Manager Channel Management Mahinda Premanath, Head of IT Dhammika Dasa, Head of Marketing Nalaka Wijayawardana, SLIC Chief Officer Business Development Rukman Weeraratne, SLIC Chief Information Officer Aloka Jayawardena were present at this occasion.



People's Bank Senior officials and SLIC officials at the launch

Siyapatha Finance reiterates service excellence and stability



Sumith Cumararatunga Chairman, Siyapatha Finance and Ananda Seneviratne Managing Director, Siyapatha Finance

With the accumulation of over 15 years of industry experience, Siyapatha Finance PLC maintains its profile as a fully owned subsidiary of Sampath Bank PLC and a Company that is 100% owned by a licensed commercial bank in Sri Lanka.

Headed by a well reputed and senior group of professionals as the Board of Directors along with the Chairman Sumith Cumararatunga, Siyapatha Finance is known for its assurance of trust to its customers and the consistent resilience with which it tackles the hurdles faced by the organization.

Upholding values of loyalty, openness, trust, unity and service excellence, Siyapatha Finance PLC strives to be the most innovative and trusted premier financial services provider. Siyapatha Finance similarly aims at providing flexible and creative solutions to customers, generating greater values for stakeholders while assuring corporate governance through an empowered professional team as their mission.

Among their many services, the Company is able to cater to the financial needs of any customer, in the areas of Vehicle Leasing, Gold Loan, Business Loan, Personal Loan, Fixed Deposits, Savings Accounts, Factoring and so on. With a strong capital base of over Rs.4 billion which is well above the CBSL minimum capital requirement of Rs.2.5 Billion by 1st January 2021, the Company continues to maintain the value of its services and executes a strategy that enables financial inclusivity of targeted customer groups, including small and medium clientele while inculcating saving habits among the rural mass.

The above mentioned is achieved by geographical expansion through branch networking and market penetration.

The conviction and ability to develop and open new branches during the pandemic indicates their intention to be of maximum service to their customer base. The Company also went above and beyond to ensure that their staff members are well supported during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Staff reductions or salary reductions were not made during year 2020 and the Company continued to recognize and reward those that worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth operations of a well-oiled machine that is Siyapatha Finance PLC. Even with the current volatility of the economic and business environment, the Siyapatha Team strived amidst the tough conditions to steer the Company towards its goals, contributing to the best of their capacity and were able to propel themselves towards surviving the crisis.

Siyapatha Finance has also continuously improved effectiveness by responding faster to ensure a healthy course of progress for the customers and all other stakeholders. The continuous operation of their branches via both virtual and physical platforms helped the existing customers. As the pandemic affected the lives of many stakeholders and customers, Siyapatha Finance was able to offer maximum benefits under the moratorium scheme during the first and second waves.

"The Siyapatha Finance Team understood the gravity of the situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. It became our priority to support our customers and the members of the Siyapatha family by devising a suitable strategy that would ensure security for all stakeholders involved. Together, we rose to the challenge and were able to follow up with our expansion to be able to support the customer base across the country. Personally, the level of commitment and determination displayed by the team has amazed me and I am proud of their overall of attitude, resilience and performance", stated Ananda Seneviratne, Managing Director, Siyapatha Finance.

OPPO to launch F-series in March

OPPO is set to unveil the latest addition to their range, the F19 Series in early March 2021.

A rectangular camera module with four lenses, LED flash, and AI support adorns the rear design of the F19 Pro whilst a smart band which may get launched simultaneously - is seen alongside, in a post revealing the series.

OPPO F19 Pro looks quite elegant its design & features a button on the right side which is believed to be the power on/off button.

As per the poster image, there is no physical fingerprint sensor at the back panel, which suggests the phone might come with an in-display fingerprint sensor.

Whilst OPPO might be working on



the low-light camera performance, it is also suggested that it will have features like AI Colour Portrait Video, and Dual-View Video, which allow recording videos from both front and rear cameras.

Wrapped in Ultra Slim Body, the device is tipped to come in at least two shades. The OPPO Smart Band could also be expected in Sri Lanka alongside the launch of the new F19 Series, similar to the OPPO watch

which was released with OPPO F17 Pro. The Smart Band is said to handle message notifications which will include incoming call notification and call rejection, apart from having whole host of other features. Both products are expected to be in stores from mid-March 2021. In the backdrop of the successful market performance of the F17 series, OPPO F19 series is something to look forward to according to market sources.

Sri Lanka Insurance Life launches 'Speed Investment'

Identifying the dynamic customer needs in today's competitive market environment Sri Lanka Insurance Life is introducing new life insurance solution to cater to the long term investment needs of customers while providing protection to the policyholders.

Sri Lanka Insurance 'Speed Investment' is the latest additions for the Sri Lanka Insurance Life product portfolio which gives higher returns for the policyholders. The new 'Speed Investment' insurance is a long term plan in which sum assured will be increased annually by 5% while the premium remains the same and in 20 years, policyholder will receive doubled basic sum assured in return with unmatched bonus amount making it an unparalleled insurance solution in the market.

The insurance plan can be further customized with additional covers for enhanced protection such as Critical Illness Cover, Hospitalization Cover, Additional Life Cover, Permanent Disability Benefit, Accidental Death Cover and Spouse Cover.

In the event of the death of the policyholder, the basic sum assured plus the increased amount added to the basic sum assured based on 5% interest rate will be doubled and paid with bonus to the dependent as a lump sum payment.



'Harpic Mission Wellbeing' supports to manage sanitation at BIA

With the Bandaranaika International Airport, Katunayake being re-opened to welcome foreign tourists, the airport management had to act fast and implement a host of changes at the Arrivals Section.

The new situation required to manage arrivals through the mandatory processes whilst adhering to the new safety protocols and processes. Procuring the means for providing safe, toilet facilities for arriving tourists, within a short time was a major challenge faced by the airport management. 'Harpic Mission Wellbeing' stepped into to fulfill this requirement instantly at the request of the Airport and Aviation Services Pvt. Ltd by placing their Mobile Toilet Units at the Arrivals Section of the airport. The Chairman of Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Pvt. Ltd, Major General (Rtd) G.A. Chandrasiri, commenting on



this said, "With the airport re-opening to tourists, we had to work swiftly to implement necessary changes to the system and the premises. This required elaborate planning and quick action to procure necessary resources. One area where we had a major challenge in this regard was providing proper and safe sanitation facilities to arriving guests. We are grateful to Harpic for their prompt and generous response to install their high-end mobile toilet units at the Arrivals-Section. Harpic, as a socially conscious brand,

deserves praise for their ever-willingness to shoulder a new responsibility'.

As part of 'Harpic Mission Wellbeing' CSR programme, Harpic made a substantial investment into building these state-of-the-art mobile toilet facilities with the objective of providing relief to the public long term. These units have served thousands of Sri Lankans over the years, being present at all of the nation's major religious/cultural events such as Kandy Esala Perahera, Sri Pada pilgrimage season, Kataragama and Mihinthale dur-

ing Posen season. "Harpic Mission Wellbeing is a CSR programme that works all around the year, uplifting the sanitation standards of the country and benefitting people. During the last few months, our focus shifted towards supporting the authorities battling Covid 19 pandemic and we directed our funds and resources towards that purpose. Placement of our mobile toilet units at the BIA was another initiative under our new approach during these challenging times. We are happy to be of service to the people and the authorities in this hour of need" commented Chaturika Fonseka, Product Group Manager Hygiene/Homecare Category, Reckitt Benckiser Lanka Ltd.

Harpic Mission Wellbeing is the flagship CSR programme by Harpic which aims to uplift the sanitation standards of Sri Lankan people in a sustainable manner.

Lakmee Exports Lanka introduces six salt products

Establishes Lakmee Lagoon Salt Company

Lakmee Exports Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a trusted name in the consumer products sector themed as 'Ape Kamai - Ape Rasai' (Our kind of style and our kind of taste) and dedicated to provide healthy and tasty products, launches six high quality salt products establishing Lakmee Lagoon Salt Company.

Branded as 'Lakmee Lagoon Salt', these products are introduced in a move to make locally processed high quality salt available to Sri Lankan consumers at an affordable price.



Lakmee management celebrates the establishment of Lakmee Lagoon Salt Company

"Until recent past, Indian imports were the cheap salt products available in our markets. Having purchased shares from a salt company in Puttalam and establishing

a new company named 'Lakmee Lagoon Salt', we decided to introduce a locally processed, pure, high quality salt with no artificial additives for a rea-

sonable price as Lakmee Lagoon Salt. As a company pursuing a dream of becoming the leading food processing entity in the country, we introduced 'Dadayam Batta' soya meat with no artificial flavours or added colourings," said Ushan Udumulla, the founding chairman of Lakmee Exports Lanka. Having started as a small business of consumer products with just 5Kgs of Soya meat in 2008 at Thalawa in Anuradhapura district Lakmee Exports Lanka saw a tremendous progress within a short span of time.

Sampath Bank launches Visa Business Debit Card

Sampath Bank recently announced the launch of Sri Lanka's first Visa powered business debit card linked to a corporate account, the Sampath Bank Visa Business Debit Card to help businesses of all sizes gain more control over their expenses.

The Bank's business customers will now be able to move away from cash and provide separate Debit Cards to their employees for day-to-day expenditure.

They can set monthly transaction limits to each individual card and link

the cards to their preferred company account with Sampath Bank.

The chosen account will be directly debited each time an employee makes a payment using the card. Businesses can consolidate all spending information using the detailed electronic reports it offers and simplify their payments, bookkeeping, reporting and monitoring processes.

Offering greater convenience and security, this new business debit card from Sampath Bank is set to encourage more businesses to go digital with their expenses, in line with the Government and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka's efforts to drive the adoption of cashless payments in the country.

Commenting on this, Tharaka Ranwala, Senior Deputy General Manager

Operations and Group Chief Marketing Officer, Sampath Bank PLC, said, "We are delighted to help businesses of all sizes go digital with their daily expenses with the launch of the Sampath Bank Visa Business Debit Card.

Moving away from cumbersome cash transactions, businesses can now provide staff members with individual debit cards to be used for company

expenses. The cards are linked to the customers' preferred Sampath Bank accounts which get debited every time a transaction is made using these cards."

The Sampath Bank Visa Business Debit Card joins an extensive suite of corporate cash management solutions offered by Sampath Bank aimed at helping businesses around the island



manage their cash flows more efficiently, reduce processing costs and save time.

TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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At the Papare Basketball Tournament

TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Hebrews 11:1 says – 'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen' and Head Girl of Methodist College, Colombo 3, Amanda Siriwardena knows this well. Perfect Prefects features Siriwardena, who walks by faith. Always be humble and grateful because all your achievements are simply rewards from God she says. Love comes to her from above when she says that she worships a god who she can always rely on. Parents who keep supporting her and teachers who keep guiding her have given her an excellent foundation for life.

Mother Teresa certainly made an impact on history and some of her most famous quotations are – 'God doesn't require us to succeed, he only requires that you try' and 'I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'

"I believe Mother Teresa was and will be one of the greatest leaders ever known. She herself showed us the importance of sacrificial leadership. Many of us only think about the benefits and fame that we receive as leaders and often forget about the sacrifices we must make. True leaders like Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela sacrificed a great deal and to this date they are remembered and spoken about," explained Siriwardena.

Darkness in the world is due to many reasons. Misuse of government power for so many purposes is one of the oldest sins committed by men. However, the true nature of sin and darkness has been a topic of endless debate by theologians and scholars. Laymen have been baffled. Some attribute it to an invisible hand. 1 Peter 5:8 – 9 – 'Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.' Others say it is of our own making. However, Siriwardena points out that in a world of sin and darkness we must never despair.

The Methodist College logo is a picture of a 'lamp that is lit' which is in relation to our school motto 'We Scatter Light'. It means that in a world full of sin and darkness our goal is to be a source of light, providing redemption to those who seek it," pointed out Siriwardena.

She adds that success is the realization of a predetermined goal. She strongly believes that the principles she follows in her life and the Christian values she tries her best to practice have played a major role in her successful school career.

"You don't have to be the best at everything rather be consistently good. Setting targets way above your

IN GOOD FAITH

METHODIST COLLEGE, COLOMBO 3



With her parents at the Annual Prize Giving

capacity and failing to meet them will only demoralize you. But climbing each step at a time will be an unflinching way to rise to the top.

Each new level will bring with it new opportunities for you. Do not miss these opportunities. That is something I frequently remind myself," said Siriwardena. She further added that pressure is something that comes to you most often at crucial

times in your life and the key is facing pressure with a positive mindset. Conflict and violence affects us all in so many ways. Siriwardena believes that the main cause of conflict and violence in society is mainly due to our attitude. If each of us can adjust our own style of thinking and focus on our own mistakes and how to correct our own faults then we can make a significant change in society. She fur-



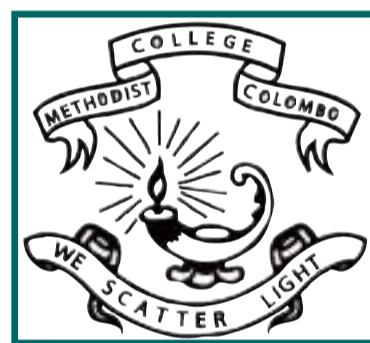
At a prefect's team building event

ther elaborated saying that one main difference she would like to see in society is how people treat each other. You should treat people nicely without needlessly hurting their feelings.

She finds joy in simplicity. This is something that she believes in. She says that what we own is temporary and we often tend to forget that. Living a simple lifestyle allows us to appreciate reality more easily and so we are always thankful for everything we receive. This allows us to lead a peaceful and hassle-free lifestyle.

"My advice to the youth is to focus on your dreams. Be honest with yourself when it comes to what you value in life. Assess your strengths. Set yourself goals. Aim high. Be disciplined and give it all you've got! You do not need to imitate others. Remember that efficiency is the foundation for survival and effectiveness is the foundation for success. Someone once told me that a smile is the best thing you can wear. One of my main aims in life is to spread happiness and laughter, leaving everyone I come across with a smile on their face. Leading a simple, god fearing, and exemplary life is a dream of mine. Clearing every hurdle and exploring new chapters with an open mind is my ambitions," added Siriwardena.

At the end-of-term committee outing



For her sports has always been a big part of her life. Her favorite is basketball. She also enjoys volunteering for projects and loves to spend quality time with her loved ones. Her biggest inspiration in life is of course her brother.

"I've always looked up to him and admired the way he faced challenges in life. He is ever willing to help anyone in need and often puts others priorities before his. I feel school life gives us so many opportunities. It molds us into disciplined young men and women prepared to face the future. At school we dress alike. Why? Because it shows everyone that we are equal and at the

end of the day we are one family. We are all equally important. It helps us empathize and reminds us of who we are. I've been told life is like a carousel - sometimes you're up and sometimes you're down and sometimes you go round and round. I have also been told that life is like a ten-speed bicycle with gears we never use. Some have told me that life is like a game of cards. You have to play the hand you are dealt with. But I believe life is how you look at things. You should prioritize and value your relationships," said Siriwardena.



Head Girl Amanda Siriwardena



HARD TO SWALLOW!



A talented art and design student recently stunned Japanese social media with his collection of delicious-looking sushi made exclusively of stone.

Hama, a student of the Joshibi University of Art and Design, in Kanagawa, Japan, has been exhibiting his stunning stone sushi at various universities across his country, to great success. And it's easy to see why; his work is absolutely amazing, with some bite-sized pieces looking so realistic that you can hardly tell them apart from the real thing.

The stone-shaping enthusiast told Japanese magazine J-town that he got into making stone sushi completely by mistake.

He was messing with a piece of red granite in class a few years back, and he thought that it looked like a piece of tuna.



After shaping it into a piece of sushi, Hama realized that it had turned out a lot better than he had anticipated, so that inspired him to continue experimenting.

Hama also had a part-time job relating to fish when he first got into stone sushi, which helped him better observe the qualities of the fish he was trying to emulate in his unique art. Even so, putting together such an impressive collection of inedible delicacies was far from easy.

For example, it took the artist a year just to find the stone that became the pink Dotoro sushi, and another year to shape it into the realistic masterpiece it is today. Hama uses fine dremels and polishing tools to mold the hard stones into delicious-looking

treats, but relies solely on their natural colours.

The green "leaves" on one of his sushi pieces is naturally green stone, as are the pink, red, and grey stones in his collection. Finding the right coloration wasn't easy, but doing so was a big part of what made this project so fulfilling.

Asked what he was hoping to convey to viewers with his stone sushi collection, Hama said that he hoped people would notice and appreciate the different patterns of the stones he used.

"Each stone has a different texture and pattern, so I want you to take a closer look at the expression of the stone," the college student said.

Oddity Central



FAIRYTALE PHOTOBOMB!

Butterflies don't often interact with people, but one particular insect recently got up, close, and personal to a couple named Brooke and Drew during their wedding photoshoot. Photographer Laurenda Marie and the newlyweds headed out to Grand Ravines Park in Jenison, Michigan for the bride and groom portraits, but it wasn't long before the unlikely guest joined them.

"The monarch showed up about the same time we did, first taking a liking to the groom, landing on his pant leg, arm, hand, and diving into his face at one point during photos with his groomsmen," Marie tells My Modern Met. "For about an hour, the butterfly would land, fly gracefully in circles around the couple before landing yet again, usually on an arm or a hand."

Marie got her camera ready and asked Brooke and Drew to pose. She waited patiently for the monarch to spread its wings, eager to capture its beauty in detail. The resulting photos show the pretty insect playfully interacting with both the bride and groom and happily perching on their hands. "The butterfly was far from camera shy, allowing me to get in close on several occasions," recalls Marie. "Never spooked, and seemingly enjoying its time with my couple."

This was the third time Marie worked with Brooke and Drew, as she previously photographed their proposal and engagement session. The couple initially planned an elaborate celebration for their wedding, but - due to COVID-19 - they had to cut their guest list into a small, intimate affair of just immediate family and a few friends. Whether it received an invite or not, the butterfly showed up anyway and was pretty adamant about getting in the couple's shots. However, the pretty photobomber might be more than just a random encounter. "Brooke mentioned it must be her late Grandmother, who passed just before their engagement and had a love for monarchs," says Marie. "Whether one believes in this or not, there is no denying this little creature took a unique liking to the newlyweds."

Bored Panda



'Tree house' resort

If you were lucky enough to experience a treehouse as a child, you know that these whimsical structures can be the coziest place to spend the day. For those who never got their own treehouse, WH Studio's Tree House Cabins may be your chance to experience the rustic beauty of treehouses in the mountainous landscape of Hangzhou, China. The resort is designed to blend into the surrounding landscape with clusters of units combined as if built on a single tree.

The firm says that they had to spend time understanding the site and how their project would interact with the natural world. "After careful consideration, we gradually clarified the concept," explains WH Studio. "It is not the solitary living but the state of gregariousness on the tree that can strengthen the characteristics of nesting the most—a group of cabins landing on the branches emerged as the initial image." This design iteration led the firm to develop its three main elements: path, platform, and cabin.

WH Studio uses these three tools to create a vertical landscape that makes the guest feel as if they are literally climbing a tree. Cabins



and platforms are rotated and connected through staircases in the same way someone climbing a tree would take turns to find the easiest climbing path. This also allows the studio to create a range of cabin options that serve different groups of tourists and provide different views of the terrain depending on rotation. While the cabins are dramatically rotated in their respective

clusters, these moves are not random. The studio describes that balance and duality were important considerations both for the final composition and for the aesthetics of natural versus geometric forms. "Based on the commercial character of the project and the mountain environment, we focused on the balance between abstraction and image, indoor and

outdoor, geometry and nature," says WH Studio. The firm found this balance in the narrative of a whimsical treehouse that is now open to all visitors who want to enjoy the natural beauty of Hangzhou, China.

Play Junkie



What does a dry nose really mean?

In today's world many misconceptions have been perpetuated—becoming modern day "facts"—when, in reality, myths and hearsay have taken over. Sorry to burst your bubble, but in this weekly column, Ripley's puts those delusions to the test, turning your world upside down, because you can't always...Believe It!

Dogs eat grass if they're sick

According to researchers, dogs just like to eat grass. Their original craving for the plant may have to do with the prey they ate as early wolves, but dogs will eat grass just for the taste of it. Some vets have observed that a dog will eat a lot of grass in order to induce vomiting, but this isn't normal behavior.

A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's

While a human's mouth is a veritable cesspool of microorganisms, a dog spends its day sticking its tongue into all sorts of questionable places. Some rumors have even been floated that dog saliva can ward off infection, but dog saliva is just as dirty as human saliva. The culprit for being "cleaner" is simply due to different types of bacteria being present—the germs that affect you are more likely to be in your mouth already.

Dogs are colourblind

Though some dogs rely heavily on their senses of smell and hearing, some have excellent eyesight

DOG MYTHS WE ALL FALL FOR



as well. Though they can't see colors as vividly as people, most dogs can see blues, yellows, greens, and shades of gray.

Dog years

The popular rule of thumb may be to multiply your dog's age by

seven to get their age in "dog years," but veterinarians use a very different formula to equate your pup's maturity with your own. Puppies develop quickly, but that accelerated aging doesn't carry into their later years. Instead, the first two years are more akin to 12 years each. After that, just add four years for each human year.

A dry nose means your dog is sick

A dog's nose can go from wet to dry in a matter of seconds. The temperature, humidity, or excitement of your dog can all affect how moist it is.

A wagging tail means a happy dog

A tail in motion can mean all sorts of things for a dog. While a dog will typically wag its tail when happy or excited, it can also wag when it feels afraid or threatened. Instead of just looking at the tail, read the whole dog's body language to gauge how it feels.

Ripley's





Beyond religion



Text and pictures by RUSAIK FAROOK

The Ministry of Education presented appointment letters to the Religious Advisors Board at the Ministry of Education recently. Minister of Education Prof G L Pieris presented appointment letters to the Shri Rohana Chapter Ven Omare Kassapa Nayake thera, Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister and Prime Ministers Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Shiva Shri Dr Babu Sharma Ramachandran Kurukkal, Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister and Prime Ministers Mus-

lim Religious and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Ash Seyed Dr Hassan Moulana, Director of Education and Western Province Private Schools Coordinator Rev Gemunu Dias and Sri Lanka National Christian Council General Secretary Rev Maxwell Doss. Shiva Shri Dr Babu Sharma Ramachandran Kurukkal draped the golden shawl on the Minister of Education at this ceremony. Additional Secretary to the Ministry Hemantha Premathilake, Commissioner of Examination Sarath Pujitha, Muslim Schools Unit Director Z Thajudeen, and Ministry officials were also present.



GREEN WARRIORS!

Students of SMAN 3 School, Padang Panjang in Indonesia and Girls Secondary School, Sialkot in Pakistan sent their blessings to Sri Lanka for the country's 73rd Independence Day celebrations. Parallel to this event a Tree Planting Project to plant 100,000 trees in collaboration with the Global Social Leaders of Lyceum International School, Kurunegala, was held. This is the first time in the history that a foreign country has launched a tree planting project to commemorate the Independence Day of Sri Lanka.



Banking on goodwill



Text and pictures by ASHRAFF A SAMAD

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa opened the oldest building of Thurstan College, Colombo, which was renovated to coincide with the 71st anniversary of the school recently.

This old building was renovated by the Sri Lanka Navy under the Defense Ministry.

Thurstan College's School Development Society spent Rs 13 million to buy the new equipment and materials needed for the project. Thurstan Principal Pramuditha Wickramasinghe and the Old Boys of the Thurstan College presented a memorial token to the Prime Minister at the ceremony which was launched to mark this event.

Minister of Education Professor G L Pieris, Trade Minister Minister Bandula Gunawardena and Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong gifted the Huawei Idea hub and handed over six sets of smart classroom technical equipment worth Rs. 10 million to the school.

Defense Secretary Retired General Kamal Gunarathne, Director General G V Ravipriya, Thurstan College Principal, School Development Society members, Alumni Association representatives and a group of school children were present.



STRENGTHENING THE IMMUNITY SYSTEM



Text and pictures by I L RIZAN,

Addalaichenai Central Corr

The Eastern Province Ayurvedic Department immunity booster against COVID-19 was distributed to the school children and the public in Sambunagar which falls under the purview of Addalaichenai DS division recently.

Coordinator for Kalmunai Regional Ayurvedic Hospitals and Nintavur Ayurvedic District Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. M A Nafeel distributed the booster at the function held under the Addalaichenai Al-Mina Vidyalaya Principal M I M Riyas.

The school and the public thanked the coordinator for Kalmunai Regional Ayurvedic Hospitals and Nintavur Ayurvedic District Hospital Medical Superintendent for selecting the school in this rural area to launch the project.

Alamkulam Rural Ayurvedic Hospital Medical Officer In-Charge Dr A L Hamza, In-service Adviser (ISA) N T Nazeer, Rahumaniya Vidyalaya Principal M A C Ubaihullah, Deputy Principal M I Jawfer, School Development Commit-



tee member A L M Arsath, teachers, parents and students were present on this occasion.



SURESHNI PILAPITIYA

On today's T&C, we have the pleasure of sitting down for a chat with another talented individual from Los Angeles in US who has made Sri Lanka proud. He has enhanced audiences all across the globe with his inborn talent, and his father was the main source of inspiration for our protagonist to pursue his music career.

His dad, Gmini Balasooriya was a professional Actor and a musician from Sri Lanka, and he also worked playing instrumentation for various artistes on Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation. So here we are, yet focusing on another international icon, and meet Mahesh Balasooriya!

A dad is a son's first hero, and his main source of inspiration, so it was the same for young Mahesh as well, and he was honoured to be blessed by his spirit in the world of music. His dad played many songs for him, Sri Lankan music, American music, and his own songs was a blessing to his ears and soul growing up. As a kid he was surrounded by music, being born to a musical background, and nevertheless, music was his first love which made him become what he is today. Mahesh always wanted to be like his father, and he guided him on a musical path filled with magical aspirations.

This as a result of his dad's inspiration and his dedication, he was able to perform in front of the world's best personalities in various fields, performing with Stevie Wonder in the Henry Mancini Orchestra with the famous John Williams conducting the first week opening Disney Hall, Performed for Ray Charles and Quincy Jones at a prestigious charity event for the blind at the Prestigious Beverly Hilton, for many prestigious personnel at major events, especially some major fundraising for a good cause. Oscar De La Hoya, Phil Ramone, President Clinton, Hilary Clinton, Richard Rodin, Al Gore, Gray Davis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Robert Deniro, James Brown, and many others. He has been quoted by jazz radio sponsor popular radio host Chuck Niles of 88.1 KLOS as "The Charlie Parker of Sri Lanka" on the radio station, at the age of 12 with just under one year of playing experi-



EXPLORE new POSSIBILITIES!



Q: You started acting at a very young age, performing in many TV shows, even attending classes in Beverly Hills and being a part of the SAG and afra acting guild. What made you switch to music?

My dad used to be an actor in Sri Lanka, so he pushed me in to that field at a very young age. I took some classes in Beverly Hills and joined SAG and Afra acting guild. I acted on many famous tv shows such as General Hospital, 7th Heaven, Boy Meets World, Parenthood, Nick Freno, Grace Under Fire, Sinbad, including some famous movies, Naked Gun 33 1/3, Face-Off, Matilda, so many other works. All the kids at my school loved to see me on TV every week, it was a few tv series that aired weekly. I really enjoyed acting, I was getting very busy with more work, but it was contradicting with my school schedule. So I decided to focus on my studies. But I would always love to do it again.

Q: You had the opportunity of performing at many prestigious events, and also performing in front of celebrities such as Robert DeNiro, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Ray Davis, to personalities like president Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, President Obama and many more. How would you reflect on that?

Yes, performing for the presidents was an absolutely exhilarating and honourable experience. It was ecstatic to meet the presidents and shake their hand. I was truly blessed to be a part of both experiences.

Q: Out of these experiences, what's the most memorable performance?

Playing with Stevie Wonder and John Williams was an unforgettable experience. I was 18 at the time playing with the Henry Mancini Orchestra, during the first week opening of the prestigious Disney Hall. It blew me away because I didn't know he was going to perform with us, he made his appearance during the soundcheck, and I was completely blown away I've performed the song Moon River, Stevie Wonder alongside with Take 6 conducted by John Williams.

Q: What was it like, working with famous artistes and directors, and also the famous Natalie Cole?

Performing with late great Natalie Cole was absolutely an incredible experience. We got to fly in a private jet, performed at the most prestigious venues around the world, work with some of the major symphonies around the world including Prague Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and got to explore all of the countries we visited. Most particularly in the musical sense, she was an absolute professional. We never had one rehearsal, 350 songs, and she would call the set list of tunes 10 minutes before the show! It kept me on my toes as a musician! Plus working with her taught me the art of being an accompanist in many different genres and expression, creatively. At one



moment, I would accompany her with like an orchestra or the Piano. Other times like a pop or Bruce Hornsby style, or keeping the pocket in the R&B setting. Next moments it's just me and her with no time at all, just spiritual Spontaneity, complimenting each other. It was an incredible position to be in as a pianist. She actually told me I reminded her of her father, the Great Nat King Cole! I was absolutely honored to be a part of the experience! May she rest in peace.

Q: How would you describe your amazing talent as a pianist and its benefits?

All of the performance opportunities and traveling I've done as a musician has deepened my spiritual horizons in my music. Meeting other people around the world of different cultures and ethnicities was beautiful. It was a privilege to share my music for every around the world, and will continue to do so for the rest of my life. It's also interesting tapping in to music from different parts of the globe and incorporating those influences in to my expression.

Q: Do you include Sinhala music too, when you perform?

Sri Lankan music is in my blood, I grew playing and listening to Sri Lankan music thanks to my dad. If I were to choose the greatest Sri Lankan musician who has inspired me the most - it's my dad's music. I also admired Pandit Amaradeva and I had the privilege of performing for him in LA just before he passed away. I'm looking forward to record many Sri Lankan songs, and would love to work with Sri Lankan artists in the future.

Q: How has the pandemic affected the international music industry?

COVID-19 has definitely impacted the entertainment industry around the world. For me, I had to postpone many tours due to COVID. But I still am working safely and providing healing through music as much as possible. During this time all musicians should stay safe and channel inspiration and positivity in preparation for giving healing to world through music.

Q: Looking back at your journey so far, how would you feel?

I am creating and innovating all the time 24/7, always exploring new possibilities and always traveling to infinite universes thanks to the blessing of music. I am in the process of working on series of albums consisting of many different projects.

It's an incredible healing and always an exhilarating journey.

ence for the saxophone! Even through high school with many AP classes and working as a professional musician outside of school, he maintained 4.0 GPA: and full scholarship to USC. University of Southern California, one of the best Universities in the country. He received his scholarship was from celebrity actor Richard Dreyfus.

Creativity flowed effortlessly through my veins throughout high school, he was in such deep inspiration with classical music, most especially with Composers Chopin and Rachmaninoff. As a result, he composed an entire PIANO CONCERTO written for 60-piece orchestra and piano. 15 minutes, 3 movements, a giant feat based solely off of pure inspiration, which drove motivation and execution. He composed this with no training with music or in composition, still self-taught to this day. 17 YEARS OF AGE, performed with the Hamilton Symphony, and

recorded with the Colburn school Chamber Orchestra. Adding more feathers to his cap, he also film scored the movie Shards at the age of 19 and wrote and conducted for the orchestra.

Mahesh was also the winner performer of the year all four years at Hamilton Music Academy where he received a baby grand piano, which up to this day he reflects on with much fondness. He was selected as one of two pianists, out of millions, worldwide competition for the Henry Mancini orchestra consisting of unforgettable historical concerts, with the some of the major legends in the industry, Christian Mc Bride, Vinnie Caliuota, Larry Goldings, Roy Hargrove, John Clayton, and many more. He has won numerous international accolades and achieved so many prestigious positions as an outstanding musician ever since he was a 12 year old. His list of accolades is endless, he has worked with all the

big names in the international scene, and of course this talented musician makes us proud to be Sri Lankan. On one hand, he can be named as an unofficial ambassador, or rather, a musical ambassador who spreads Sri Lanka's name all across the globe, and he has worked with the legendary Engelbert Humperdinck as pianist and music director, worked with numerous bands and symphonies, including the Prague Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Cleveland Symphony and Clayton /Hamilton big band, to performing in prestigious venues such as the Royal Albert concert hall in London.

He even performed a Sri Lankan song, 'Unmada wu Premadare' to the Dubai audience while he was at the Versace hotel residency working under Quincy Jones, and received a huge response by 340,000 views on Facebook, just a few months ago. He states that he has never felt the pressure when performing, and he's excited to share his spiritual healing and inspiration through music for all his audiences.

He is privileged and blessed to share his gift to the world, and takes the utmost pleasure in what he's sharing with his talent. We could go on about his amazing musician, but let's listen to Mahesh now to share his experiences, memories and his best moments as a musician with us on today's T&C.

Excerpts:
Q: Tell us a little about yourself?

I was born and raised in the US, Los Angeles, CA. Son to Gmini and Ayesha Balasooriya, brother to Shamen Balasooriya. I grew here with no extended family my whole life.



With former US President Barack Obama



Performing with renowned personalities

BEING HUMAN

The Human Rights Organization of Sri Lanka held the Human Rights Conference and Excellence Awards ceremony - 2021 on February 27 at Taj Samudra, Colombo, to honour the outstanding individuals who have done yeoman service to safeguard the dignity of all human being and to provide them with their most deserved rights at the right time. The conference also addressed the key issues regarding democratic values and the protection of Fundamental rights and freedoms, including the violent repression of democracy, institutional safeguards, freedom of expression and assembly.

This year's honorary awardees are:

- Dr. Sir. Clarence Kumaramage (Human Rights Award to Excellence for Ethical and Sustainable Trade Practices)
- Keerthi Pasquel (Human Rights Award of Excellence for music & Entertainment)
- Rohan de Silva (on Behalf) (Human Rights Award of Excellence for Global Logistics and Green Supply Chain Services)
- Dr. Kishu Gomes (Human Rights Award of Excellence for Sustainable Leadership)
- Apsari Singhabahu Thilakarathne (Human Right Award of Excellence for Women Empowerment)
- Arosha Kumara (Human Right Award of Excellence for Compassionate Health Care Services to the Community)
- Heinz A Reuters (Human Right Award of Excellence for Innovation in the Global Automotive Services)
- Dr. Ajith Kangara Arachchi (Human Right Award of Excellence for Humanitarian and Community Safety)
- Malith Fernando (Human Right Award of Excellence for Inclusive Primary and Secondary School Education Services)
- Kuvera De Soysa (Human Right Award of Excellence for Sus-



- K. A. C. Wickramaratne (Human Right Award of Excellence for Health Care Quality, Accreditation, Medical and Allied Health Science Education)
- Pubudu Chathurange (Human Right Award of Excellence for Arts and Entertainment)
- Manusath Derana (Human Right Award of Excellence for Sustainable Community Development)



- Krishna Mylvaganam (Human Right Award of Excellence for Transnational Higher Education and Innovative Instructional Delivery)
- K. A. C. Wickramaratne (Human Right Award of Excellence for Health Care Quality, Accreditation, Medical and Allied Health Science Education)
- Pubudu Chathurange (Human Right Award of Excellence for Arts and Entertainment)



MAF sings for a cause

MALATHI PERERA

A group of musicians, few members of the Moratuwa Arts Forum (MAF) recently sang some melodious lyrics composed by Priya Peiris aka Mr. Cock a Doodle Doo. The song related that it should be one world and one community.

They wanted to present a grandeur evening to all Moratuwa-wites and others. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic rules, they could not flock under one roof. They appeared on youtube channel under "Moratuwa Arts Forum" - to say - they had an on-line launch at the Sebastianite Hall, Moratuwa. The song was put on the global arena by Udara Fernando, the music provider.

Lucksiri Fernando, Treasurer of the MAF delivered a short speech explaining the value of the song "One World, One Community." He said it gave a message to the entire world to be healthy and be together to hold hands for unity.

As the MAF could not have a ceremonial launch, it became a technological launch. Two more



Sunil Perera



Chandanie



Lincoln

individual songs were connected after the grand finale. Fernando said that anyone from any corners of the globe can listen to this song by logging into the Youtube Channel of Moratuwa Arts Forum on Facebook. Winding up his short speech he said that the CD could be obtained through the MAF.

Priya Peiris thanked all who supported him of the MAF. It has taken only a week for him to write the lyrics and an year to organize 52 singers, skip-

ping off lockdown periods and all the other hurdles to make a successful song. This idea came to him when he was sitting doing nothing last year.

The singers who rendered their voices for the song were Rajiv, Lakmal, Rolinson, Pradeep, Priya, Chandral Fonseka, Dr Manela Joseph, Sureshni, Sureni, Chandanie, Kumar, Lankika, Shenyia, Naline, Shermila, Lucky, Viranjan, Eranjan, Sahani, Devin, Lucille, Anuradha, Hemaka, Melantha, Sachith, Tilak, Lakruwani, Brian, Erinton, Nihal, Sarath, Nipun, Roshelle, Sherantha, Pathum, Malathi, Stephanie, Shiraz, Pimal, Ramani, Sahan, Vindhya, Geethaka, Frankie, Sumangi, Lilanthi, Ruth, Sarana, Shiraz and Sunil Perera.



Preparing to launch 'One World, One Community'

LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)**Notice Under Section 39 (A) (1)**

My No: RBK/LAN/AQURE/A3/69
Land Min's Ref No: 4-3/7/2016/HW/57

The land mentioned in the following schedule is divesting under Section 39 (A) (1). For more details, please see the Gazette No. 2195/9 dated 28.09.2020 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

District : Kegalle
Divisional Secretariat Division : Rambukkana
Location : Within the No. 3G Kotawella Grama Niladhari Division
Village : Kotawella
Final Village Plan No. : FVP 142 Supplement No. 4 Sheet No. 4
Names of the Lands : SiyambalagahumulawataAha and Ambakotekumbura alias Kumbukgahumulakumbura
Total Extent : 0.0037 Hectare

L. W. R. Indika Liyanage,
Divisional Secretary,
Divisional Secretary's Division,
Rambukkana.

23.02.2021

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)**Notice Under Section 33**

My Ref. No: RBK/LAN/AQURE/A3/72/458

It is hereby notified that a sum of Rupees Four Thousand Three Hundred Two and Twenty Five Cents (Rs. 4302.25) has been deposited at Kegalle District Court, under Case No. LA/110/2020 as Compensation Value for the acquisition of the lands described in the Schedule below. For more details, please refer the Gazette No. 2211/62 dated 22.01.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Name of Land : Kundekumbura
Plan No. : FVP 96 Supplement No. 16
Lot No. : 458
Extent : For a 1/5 of 1/4 of 1/2 of 0.0395 Hectare
Location : North - Lot No. 454 and 459
East - Lot No. 459 and 460
South - Lot No. 461 and 462
West - Lot No. 457

L.R. Indika Liyanage,
Divisional Secretary,
Rambukkana

Land Division,
Divisional Secretariat - Rambukkana,
Date: 07th December 2020

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)**Notice Under Section 33**

My Ref. No: RBK/LAN/AQURE/A3/72/457

It is hereby notified that a sum of Rupees Three Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four and Seventy Five (Rs. 3154.75) has been deposited at Kegalle District Court, under Case No. LA/111/2020 as Compensation Value for the acquisition of the lands described in the Schedule below. For more details, please refer the Gazette No. 2211/62 dated 22.01.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Name of Land : Kundekumbura
Plan No. : FVP 96 Supplement No. 16
Lot No. : 457
Extent : For a 1/5 of 1/4 of 1/2 of 0.0258 Hectare
Location : North - Lot No. 454
East - Lot No. 458
South - Lot No. 462 and 463
West - Lot No. 463 and 456

L.R. Indika Liyanage,
Divisional Secretary,
Rambukkana

Land Division,
Divisional Secretariat - Rambukkana,
Date: 07th December 2020

SRI LANKA THRIPOSHA LIMITED**INVITATION FOR BIDS****Supply of 155,520 Kg Printed Polythene Reel (Packing Material PET/LLDPE) for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited 2021/2022**

Bid No. SLTL/TB/07/2021

- Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major) on behalf of the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of 155,520 Kg Printed Polythene Reel (Packing Material PET/LLDPE) for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited for year 2021/2022 for the period of 12 months commencing from the date of award.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Manager (Tel No. +94-0112236588) at the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below on working days between 9: 00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- Bid Documents will be issued only to the manufacturers or sole nominated representative/ accredited agent of manufacturers of the printed polythene reel offered for the Sri Lankan market, who are eligible to participate in this procurement. No bid will be accepted from foreign principals who do not have sole nominated representatives/ accredited agents in Sri Lanka.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Senior Manager at the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited, PO Box 17, Negombo Road, Kapuwatta, Ja-Ela on working days between 09:00 am. and 03:00 pm. up to **29.03.2021** on submission of a written request to the address below together with the **PCA3** issued by the Registrar of Contracts and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 17,750.00** by cash
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **30.03.2021 at 02.30 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids shall be valid for **91 days** from the date of bid opening **30.03.2021 up to 29.06.2021.**
- All bids must accompany a bid security issued by a commercial bank operated in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank, **amounting to Rs. 1,283,040.00.** The validity period of the bid security **shall be 119 days** from the date of bid opening from **30.03.2021 up to 27.07.2021.**
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives at the address below immediately after the time mentioned above (**30.03.2021 at 02.30 p.m.**)

The address referred to above is:

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee (Major)
Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited
P.O Box 17, Negombo Road,
Kapuwatta,
Ja Ela.

SRI LANKA THRIPOSHA LIMITED**INVITATION FOR BIDS****Supply of Printed Corrugated Boxes (750g Master Packing) - 150,000 Nos. for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited 2021/2022**

Bid No. SLTL/MKT/02/2021

- Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major) on behalf of the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Supply of Printed Corrugated Boxes (750g Master Packing) - 150,000 Nos. for Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited for year 2021/2022 for the period of 12 months commencing from the date of award.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Manager (Tel No. +94-0112236588) at the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below on working days between 9: 00 am and 3:00 pm
- Bid Documents will be issued only to the manufacturers or sole nominated representative/ accredited agent of manufacturers of the printed Corrugated Boxes offered for the Sri Lankan market, who are eligible to participate in this procurement. No bid will be accepted from foreign principals who do not have sole nominated representative/ accredited agents in Sri Lanka.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Senior Manager at the Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited, PO Box 17, Negombo Road, Kapuwatta, Ja-Ela on working days between 09:00 am. and 03:00 pm. up to **29.03.2021** on submission of a written request to the address below together with the **PCA3** issued by the Registrar of Contracts and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 4,700.00** by cash
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **30.03.2021 at 02.30 p.m.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids shall be valid for **91 days** from the date of bid opening from **30.03.2021 up to 29.06.2021.**
- All bids must accompany a bid security issued by a commercial bank operated in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank, **amounting to Rs.225,000.00.** The validity period of the bid security **shall be 119 days** from the date of bid opening from **30.03.2021 up to 27.07.2021.**
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives at the address below immediately after the time mentioned above (**30.03.2021 at 02.30 p.m.**)

The address referred to above is:

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee (Major)
Sri Lanka Thriposha Limited
PO Box 17, Negombo Road,
Kapuwatta,
Ja Ela.

Invitation for Bids (IFB)**DEPARTMENT OF SAMURDHI DEVELOPMENT****State Ministry of Samurdhi, Household Economy, Micro Finance, Self Employment, Business Development and Underutilized State Resources Development****Supply of Office Furniture**

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee on behalf of the Department of Samurdhi Development now invites sealed bids from reputed principal manufacturers / suppliers or their accredited local agents in Sri Lanka for the supply of office furniture as follows:

Item	Requirement
01 Steel Framed Glass Cupboards	356
02 Steel Writing Tables	356
03 Computer Chairs	356

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Department of Samurdhi Development Accountant Tel: 011-2889006 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10.00 a.m. on 09/03/2021 to 3.00 p.m. up to 07/04/2021 on working days.
- Qualification requirements include locally registered business entities having 5 years or more experience in sales supply of similar items; additional details are provided in the bidding documents. The supplier must be able to supply and distribute goods islandwide.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred Only). The method of payment will be made in cash to the Cashier, Account Section of Department of Samurdhi Development from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days up to 07/04/2021.
- Perfected bidding Documents should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee/ Bid bond of Rs. 200,000/= acceptable to the Department of Samurdhi Development for the value relevant to the tender as indicated above and issued by a commercial bank and valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the date of opening the tender.
- The bids must be delivered to the address given below at or before 2.00 p.m. on 08/04/2021. Late bids will be rejected. The envelope which contains the bidding documents should be marked as "Quotation for office furniture" on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given below at 2.15 p.m. on same day.
- The Department of Samurdhi Development reserves the right of rejecting any or all bids and the right of accepting any portion of a bid without adducing any reason.

Director General,
Department Procurement Committee,
Department of Samurdhi Development,
1st Step, 4th Floor,
Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla.

09/03/2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Ministry of Education**Procurement of Computers and Accessories for Teachers Education & NCOE's.**

Contract No: ED/07/101/10/CF/2021/G-09

The Chairman Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Education invites sealed bids for Procurement of **Computers and Accessories** mentioned in the table below for NCOE's and Teacher Centers located islandwide from eligible and qualified bidders possessing a minimum laid down experience. Complete details are included in the bidding document. Expected delivery period is 08 to 12 weeks from the date of letter of acceptance. Bidders must quote for the total Package and all bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated in the tab below.

No.	Description of the Item	No. of Item	Bid Security Rs.
1	Computers with UPS	52	375,000.00
2	Laptops	18	
3	UPS	110	
4	Printers	29	
5	All in one Computers with UPS	106	

Bidders should provide bid securities along with the bid.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, Ministry of Education, 05th Floor, "Isurupaya" (Telephone: **0112785573** or **0112785141 - 50 Extn. 1530**) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from 09.00 am to 03.00 pm on working days until **30th March 2021.**
- A **Pre-Bid meeting** will be held on **17th March 2021 at 10.00 a.m.** at Procurement Division, 05th Floor, of the Ministry Education on the above Procurement.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Procurement Division upon submission of a written application on or before 3.00 p.m. **30th March 2021** and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 8,000/ for document (The payment method will be cash).
- Bids must be delivered to the Procurement Division, 05th Floor Ministry of Education, Isurupaya, Battaramulla on or before **31st March 2021 at 11.30 a.m.** Late bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given above after closing of bids.
- Duly filled and sealed Bids marked "**Procurement of Computers and Accessories for Teachers Education & NCOE's., IFB No: ED/07/101/10/CF/2021/G-09**" on top left corner of the envelope should be submitted.

Secretary,
Ministry of Education,
"Isurupaya",
Battaramulla.

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact

MANAGER FRONT OFFICE

Hotline: 1949



WCRB

INVITATION FOR BIDS - AMENDED
WAYAMBA CO-OPERATIVE RURAL BANK UNION LTD,
KURUNEGALA.

CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED COMMERCIAL BUILDING
(STAGE 1) FOR WAYAMBA CO-OPERATIVE RURAL BANK
UNION LTD AT KURUNEGALA
BID CODE: WCRB/CMA/D/02/13/2021

- This Invitation for Bids will supersede the previous Invitation for bids dated 03rd March 2021 published in this Newspaper for the above procurement.
- Under the eligibility criteria, the CIDA registration requirement is amended as per the table below.

Required CIDA Grade (Buildings)	
As per the previous Invitation for Bids dated 03 rd March 2021	As per the Amendment made by new Invitation for Bids
C1 or C2 only	C2 or above

- All other information contained in the invitation for bids dated 03rd March 2021 will remain unchanged.

The Chairman,
Wayamba Co-operative Rural Bank Union Ltd,
No. 107, Dambulla Road, Kurunegala.

Telephone : 037-2226191, 037-2234152
 Facsimile Number : 037-2234153
 E-mail address : info@wcrb.lk

09-03-2021

APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE COMPANIES ACT NO. 7 OF 2007 FROM THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

In pursuance of section 34 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 an application had been made to the Registrar of Companies for a license that an Association be formed under the name and style of **ABAYAM - FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION** to be registered with limited liability without the addition of the word **GUARANTEE LIMITED** at the end of its name.

i. The advancement of health or saving of lives for the public benefit by supporting the infrastructure, equipment needs and staff training / education of hospitals and other medical establishments in Sri Lanka.

ii. The advancement of education for the public benefit by supporting the infrastructure, equipment needs and staff training / education of the School in Sri Lanka.

The other provisions of the Association are set out in extensor in the Article of Association, a copy of which may be inspected at the office of the proposed company at No 268/ 9, Bar Road, Batticaloa

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person, company, or corporation objecting to this application, may lodge such objections within three weeks from the date of this advertisement by a letter to the Registrar of Companies, Samagam Madara, 400, D. R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10

PROMOTERS

06th of March 2021

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)

Notice Under Section 33

My Ref. No: RBK/LAN/AQURE/A3/72/461

It is hereby notified that a sum of Rupees Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three and Thirty Eight Cents (Rs. 2253.38) has been deposited at Kegalle District Court, under Case No. LA/113/2020 as Compensation Value for the acquisition of the lands described in the Schedule below. For more details, please refer the Gazette No. 2211/62 dated 22.01.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Province : Sabaragamuwa
 District : Kegalle
 Divisional Secretariat : Rambukkana
 Division : Rambukkana
 Name of Land : Kundekumbura
 Plan No. : FVP 96 Supplement No. 16
 Lot No. : 461
 Extent : For a 1/5 of 1/4 of 1/2 of 0.0150 Hectare
 Location : North - Lot No. 458, 45, 460, 109
 East - Lot No. 460, 109
 South - Lot No. 109
 West - Lot No. 462, 458

L.R. Indika Liyanage,
 Divisional Secretary,
 Rambukkana

Land Division,
 Divisional Secretariat - Rambukkana,
 Date: 07th December 2020

BIKES FAIR ANURADHAPURA

VEHICLE NO.	MODEL	TYPE
NC BGI - 94XX	WEGO	BIKE
NC BIC - 06XX	WEGO	BIKE
NC BGR - 18XX	WEGO	BIKE
NC BGH - 44XX	HEAVY DUTY	BIKE
NC BIA - 68XX	NAVI	BIKE
NC BFO - 29XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE
NC BGI - 23XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE
NC BGO - 74XX	METRO	BIKE
NP BGR - 32XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE
NP BGR - 85XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE
NC BGN - 98XX	METRO	BIKE
NC BFN - 74XX	CD 110 DREAM	BIKE
NC BIB - 67XX	NTORQ	BIKE
NC BCK - 68XX	HONDA	BIKE
NC BGY - 50XX	HD	BIKE
NC BFS - 34XX	MAESTRO EDGE	BIKE
NP BEB - 75XX	PULSAR 150	BIKE
NP BIR - 85XX	CT 100	BIKE
NP BFV - 17XX	RAY-ZR	BIKE

Inspections can be done at company vehicle yard, on 12th March 2021 from 9.00 am at Yapanaya Junction, Anuradhapura. (In front of United Motors)

The management of the company has the right to withdraw any vehicle from the fair without prior notice.

0712125664 / 0719919986 Entrance Fee RS.500/-
025-5622661-2

Date of vehicle fair: 12th March 2021
 Time 10.00 am

Head Office
 Arpico Finance Company PLC
 No. 146, Javelock Rd, Thimiriappaya, Colombo 05.
 Tel: 0115 553663

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

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION

Widening of bridge no. 3/1 on Orugodawatta - Ambatale road - B435
(Contract no. RDA/DC/WP/IR-GOSL/2021/05)

- The Invitation for Bids for "Widening of bridge no. 3/1 on Orugodawatta - Ambatale road - B435" under Contract No. RDA/DC/WP/IR- GOSL/2021/05, which were published on **10. 02. 2021** and **01. 03. 2021** is cancelled.
- The Invitation for Bids for other project appeared in the same paper advertisements remains unchanged.

The Chairman,
Road Development Authority Procurement Committee
Road Development Authority,
First Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Office of the District Director of Health Services
Kalutara

Washing of Soiled Linen - 2021

Bids are invited by the District Director of Health Services Kalutara from experienced, eligible and interested bidders in this matter, for washing of soiled linen for the year 2021 of hospitals in the Kalutara District belonging to the Western Provincial Department of Health Services.

Item	Bid Reference No.
Washing of Soiled Linen	RDHSK/FD/T/02/2021

1	Expected period of service	01.05.2021 - 30.04.2021																						
2	Fees for Bid documents	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of Hospital</th> <th>Fees Amount Rs.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Panadura Base Hospital</td><td>1500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Horana Base Hospital</td><td>2,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Kethumathi Women Hospital</td><td>2000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Matugama District Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Pimbura Base Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Ittepana District Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Bandaragama District Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Meegahatenna District Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Ingiriya District Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Baduraliya Regional Hospital</td><td>200.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of Hospital	Fees Amount Rs.	Panadura Base Hospital	1500.00	Horana Base Hospital	2,000.00	Kethumathi Women Hospital	2000.00	Matugama District Hospital	200.00	Pimbura Base Hospital	200.00	Ittepana District Hospital	200.00	Bandaragama District Hospital	200.00	Meegahatenna District Hospital	200.00	Ingiriya District Hospital	200.00	Baduraliya Regional Hospital	200.00
Name of Hospital	Fees Amount Rs.																							
Panadura Base Hospital	1500.00																							
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Bandaragama District Hospital	200.00																							
Meegahatenna District Hospital	200.00																							
Ingiriya District Hospital	200.00																							
Baduraliya Regional Hospital	200.00																							
3	Last Date and time for issuing bid documents and closing	from 09.03.2021 up to 30.03.2021 during working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.																						
4	Time of Bid Opening	Immediately after closing of accepting bids at 10.00 a.m. on 31.03.2021. ● Bidders or one of their authorized representatives with written approval could be present at the bid opening.																						
5	Bid Security	A bid security as shown in Schedule 1 issued along with the bid documents valid for 90 days from the last date of accepting bids, obtained from a Commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka drawn in favour of the District Director of Health Services should be submitted.																						
6	Procedure for submitting duly completed bids	Bids should be sent to the "District Director of Health Services, Office of the District Director of Health Services, P. O. Box 29, 4th Floor, Kachcheri Complex, Kalutara" by registered post to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 31.03.2021 or could be inserted in the bid box in the Accountant's room at the office of the Regional Director of Health Services located at the Kalutara District Secretariat Building.																						
7	Enclosing of bids in envelopes and sealing	Duly completed bids in two copies, marked as original and duplicate should be enclosed in separate envelopes and sealed and marked "Washing of Soiled Linen - 2021" on the top left hand corner of the all envelopes.																						

➤ Bid documents could be inspected free of charge on working days of the week from 09.03.2021 up to 30.03.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

➤ The Regional Procurement Committee retains the right of the final decision regarding awarding of bids or cancelling of bids.

➤ Further details relevant to bids could be obtained by calling over or by contacting on Tel No. 034-2222367.

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Office of the Regional Director of Health Services,
P.O. Box 29, 4th Floor, Kachcheri Complex,
Kalutara.

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Provincial Road Development Authority - (W.P.)
(Ministry of Provincial Roads, Transport, Co-operative Development and Trade, Housing and Constructions, Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Industry and Rural Development - Western Province)

Supply of CSS 1 Emulsion to the Divulapitiya Yard

Open quotations are invited from Suppliers for the purchase of CSS 1 Emulsion for the Divulapitiya Yard of this Authority.

Bid No.	Quantity of Supply	Value of Non-refundable Tender Form fee (Apart from registered suppliers)	Value of Bid Guarantee (Rs.) (Bank Draft)	Value of Bid Guarantee (Rs.) (By Cash)
	CSS 1			
PRDA/WA/PRO/2021/08	60,000	2160.00	20,900.00	41,800.00

- A set of Bid Documents for this purpose could be obtained from 10/03/2021 up to 24/03/2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. from the Procurement Division of this Authority, subject to payment of the Tender Form Fees. The Bid Guarantee to the value mentioned above should be paid by cash or Bank/Insurance guarantee according to the conditions in the Procurement Documents.
- When the value of the Bid exceeds Rs. 5.0 Million, the Public Contracts Registration Certificate issued by the Registrar of Companies under Para 8 of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 should be submitted by the bidder to qualify for the award of the contract.
- The last date for accepting bids is 10.30 a.m. on 25/03/2021 and bids will be opened in this office at this time.
- The supplier or his authorized representative could participate on this occasion.

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

KANDY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Sealed tenders will be received by me from the contractors having following qualifications till 9.45 a.m. on 01st of April 2021 for the following works.

Tenders will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 01.04.2021.

Tenders should be submitted in duplicate in separate covers marked "Original" and "Duplicate" and contract name and sent by registered post or be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the office of the Chief Accountant, Kandy Municipal Council.

Serial No.	Description of Work	Qualifications	Tender Document Charges / Without VAT
1	Construction of First Floor building for Library and Community Centre in Aruppola _Stage II	CIDA C8 or above	750.00
2	Construction of First Floor building for Community Centre at Madhabowale in Kandy	CIDA C7 or above	750.00
3	Construction of two storeyed building for Dheyyanewela (Community Hall and GYM)	CIDA C7 or above	750.00
4	Construction and Improvement of Wales Park at Kandy Municipal Council - Stage I	CIDA C6 or above	750.00

Tender forms will be issued from **09.03.2021 to 31.03.2021 up to 2.45 p.m.** Tender documents can be collected after paying the tender document charges and giving request letter with relevant qualifications. Further details could be obtained from the Chief Municipal Engineer, Kandy Municipal Council. Tender deposits of those who fail to submit tenders & those who fail to enter into the agreement after offering tenders will be forfeited and credited to the Council's Fund. The Kandy Municipal Council shall have the right to accept or refuse any tender.

Amila Nawarathna,
Municipal Commissioner,
08.03.2021

AMENDMENT TO INVITATIONS FOR BIDS

Design, Fabrication, Supply, and Installation of Proprietary Aluminium Door Systems and Fixed Glazing in Block 1,2,3 & 4 Excluding 6th Floor Peripheral Walls of Defence Headquarters Complex at Akuregoda

Contract Nos:

- DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 01/2020
- DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 02/2020
- DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 03/2020
- DHQC/FIX GLAZ EX 6FL 04/2020

1. This refers to the Invitations for Bids, published in Sunday Observer on 14th February 2021 in respect of the above mentioned contracts.
2. Following amendments are made to the above referred invitations for bids.
 - ▶ The Bid opening/closing time has been extended up to 1000 hrs on 22nd March 2021.
 - ▶ Bids shall valid up to 21st June 2021.
 - ▶ Bid Security shall be valid up to 19th July 2021.
 - ▶ Interested bidders may obtain further information, inspect and purchase the bidding documents from the Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Defence Headquarters Complex Project, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on working days during 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs from 15th February 2021 until 19th March 2021.
3. All other terms and conditions of the previous invitations for Bids remain unchanged.

**The Chairman,
Project Procurement Committee (PPC),
Defence Headquarters Complex Project,
Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

**Tel: 0094-011-2787047
Fax: 0094-011-4209885
Email: pmudhq@gmail.com**

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460)

Notice Under Section 33

My Ref. No: RBK/LAN/AQURE/A3/72/460

It is hereby notified that a sum of Rupees One Thousand Four Hundred One and Thirty Eight Cents (Rs. 1401.38) has been deposited at Kegalle District Court, under Case No. LA/112/2020 as Compensation Value for the acquisition of the lands described in the Schedule below. For more details, please refer the Gazette No. 2211/62 dated 22.01.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule

Name of Land : Kundekumbura
Plan No. : FVP 96 Supplement No. 16
Lot No. : 460
Extent : For a 1/5 of 1/4 of 1/2 of 0.0048 Hectare
Location : North - Lot No. 459 and 454
East - Lot No. 454 and 109
South - Lot No. 109 and 461
West - Lot No. 461 and 458

**L.R. Indika Liyanage,
Divisional Secretary,
Rambukkana**

**Land Division,
Divisional Secretariat - Rambukkana,
Date: 07th December 2020**

Employment Opportunities

**National Medicines Regulatory Authority
VACANCIES**

Applications are invited from qualified citizens of Sri Lanka for the following post at the National Medicine Regulatory Authority.

This post shall be for a period of three years according to section 15 and sub sections of National Medicines Regulatory Act No. 5 of 2015 and should contribute to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees Trust Fund (ETF).

**Post of Director General (Chief Executive Officer)
(No. of Vacancies 01)**

Qualifications:

External Applicants

Should have obtained a postgraduate degree from a recognized University in Medicine, Pharmacology, Pharmacy or any related discipline with at least five (05) years management experience at Senior Executive Level.

Internal Applicants

Should have obtained a postgraduate degree from a recognized University in Medicine, Pharmacology, Pharmacy or any other related discipline.

And

At least five (05) years satisfactory service experience in Senior Managerial Level related to the subject.

Age : Should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years. The age limit not apply to the internal applicants.

Salary Scale : Salary scale as per the Management Circular No. 02/2016 for category HM 2-1 2016 Rs. (91,645 - 12x2,700 - 124,045/-) and the salary entitled as at 01.01.2020 is Rs. 91,645/- and approved allowances.

Method of Recruitment: Through a structured interview conducted by a Board of interviewers appointed by the Competent Authority and the consultation with the Minister.

Others:

Every Applicant,

- i. Should be a Citizen of Sri Lanka
- ii. Should be Physically and Mentally fit to discharge the duties entrusted to the post and to serve in any part of the island.
- iii. Should have an excellent moral character.

Applicants serving in government or semi government institutions should forward their applications through the Heads of their Institutions.

Duly filled applications and the copies of certificates that prove educational and professional qualifications should be sent to the Chairman, National Medicines Regulatory Authority, No. 120, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10 by registered post to reach on or before 22.03.2021 with the post applied for written on top left-hand corner of the envelope.

**Chairman,
National Medicines Regulatory Authority**

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

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Highways, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified bidders for the project in Western Province which described below:-

Contract No	Contract Name	Engineer's Estimate exclud. Contingencies (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security (Rs.Mn)	Duration (Days)
RDA/DC/WP/IR-GOSL/2021/18	RECONSTRUCTION OF MADINNAGODA BRIDGE ON RAJAGIRIYA - MADINNAGODA ROAD (NON RDA)	345.8	4.5	546

2. The work consists of reconstruction of bridge including bored pile foundation, construction of approaches and incidental works.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
4. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall be currently registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in C1 or C2 grades in Bridges specialty.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following offices and inspect the bidding document via www.rda.gov.lk from **12.03.2021**.

- a) Project Director (Western Province), Road Development Authority, 1st floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla
T.P: 011 - 2876600 and Fax no.: 011 - 2877226
- b) Director (Construction), Road Development Authority, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
T.P: 011 - 2864388 and Fax No.: 011 - 2861821

6. The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at **10:00 hrs** on **19.03.2021** at the office of Project Director (Western Province), Road Development Authority, 1st floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla and a site visit will be arranged immediately thereafter if necessary.

7. A complete set of Bidding Document in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director (Construction), RDA, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla from **12.03.2021** until **02.04.2021** during **09:00 hrs** to **15:00 hrs** upon a payment of non - refundable tender fee.

Non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 37,800.00** (with VAT) can be paid by depositing cash to the following bank account.

- a. Account Name : Director General - RDA
- b. Account Number : 0000001943
- c. Bank Name : Bank of Ceylon - Corporate Branch

Bidder should submit the original/valid cash deposit slip for amount **Rs. 37,800.00 (with VAT)** to Director (Construction), RDA, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla in order to purchase the bidding document.

As per the Public Contract Act no. 3 of 1987, the Agent and successful winners of the tender shall be registered in the Department of Registrar of Companies.

8. Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid- Security for an amount given in the table. Bid Security shall be valid up to **29.08.2021**.
9. Bid shall be valid up to **01.08.2021**.

10. Bid shall be delivered in duplicate to the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Highways, Procurement Division, 7th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla on or before **14:00 hrs** on **05.04.2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

**The Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Highways, Procurement Division,
7th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura",
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.**

CORRECTION NOTICE

**Procurement Notice
Department of Ayurveda**

Invitation for Quotations for the supply of cleaning service, security service, dry drugs, raw drugs, raw/dry food items cooked meals, dry firewood laundry service and gas.

This refers to the above titled advertisement published on Page No. 30 of Daily News on 05th March 2021.

Please note that Para 02 of the said advertisement is amended as follows: Other information remains unchanged.

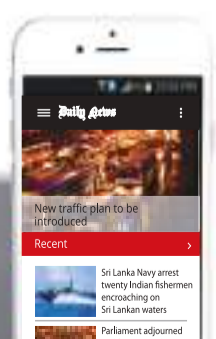
2. Supplies / Services and Institutions requiring the Supplies and Services.

- | | |
|--|---|
| I) Provision of Cleaning Services (except Kanneliya, Pallekelle, Pattipola Herbal Gardens) | 1.) Head Office, Nawinna, Maharagama. |
| II) Provision of Security Services | 2.) National Institute for Indigenous Medical Systems. |
| | 3.) Ayurveda Research Institute, Nawinna. |
| | 4.) Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Borella. |
| | 5.) Gampaha Wickremarachchi Ayurveda Hospital, Yakkala. |
| | 6.) Ayurveda Hospital, Kaithady. |
| | 7.) Siddhayurveda Teaching Hospital, Trincomalee. |
| | 8.) Ayurveda Hospital, Mananthoduwai. |
| | 9.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Ampara. |
| | 10.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Hambantota. |
| | 11.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Ninthavur. |
| | 12.) Ayurveda Hospital, Medawachchiya. |
| | 13.) Ayurveda Hospital, Mihintale. |
| | 14.) Ayurveda Herbal Garden, Pinnaduwa. |
| | 15.) Ayurveda Herbal Garden, Bathgoda. |
| | 16.) Ayurveda Herbal Garden, Girandurukotte. |
| | 17.) Ayurveda Herbal Garden, Kanneliya. |
| | 18.) Ayurveda Herbal Garden, Pallekke. |
| | 19.) Ayurveda Herbal Garden, Pattipola. |
| III) Supply of Raw Drugs (except Hambantota, Medawachchiya and Trincomalee Hospitals) | 1.) Ayurveda Research Institute, Nawinna. |
| IV) Supply of Dry Drugs (Except Ninthavur Hospital) | 2.) Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Borella. |
| V) Supply of Raw / Dry Food Items (Except Ninthavur, Ampara, Trincomalee Hospitals) | 3.) Gampaha Wickremarachchi Ayurveda Hospital, Yakkala. |
| | 4.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Ninthavur. |
| | 5.) Siddhayurveda Hospital, Trincomalee. |
| | 6.) Ayurveda Hospital, Kaithady. |
| | 7.) Ayurveda Hospital, Mananthoduwai. |
| | 8.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Ampara. |
| | 9.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Medawachchiya. |
| | 10.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Hambantota. |
| VI) Supply of Cooked Meals | 1.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Ampara. |
| VII) Supply of Dry Firewood | 1.) Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Borella. |
| | 2.) Ayurveda Hospital, Kaithady. |
| | 3.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Hambantota. |
| VIII) Laundry Service | 1.) National Institute of Indigenous Medicine, Nawinna. |
| IX) Supply of Gas (Except National Institute of Indigenous Medicine) | 2.) Ayurvedic Research Institute, Nawinna. |
| | 3.) Gampaha Wickremarachchi Ayurveda Hospital, Yakkala. |
| | 4.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Borella. |
| | 5.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Ampara. |
| | 6.) Ayurveda Hospital, Kaithady. |
| | 7.) Ayurveda Hospital, Mananthoduwai. |
| | 8.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Medawachchiya. |
| | 9.) Ayurveda Research Hospital, Hambantota. |
| | 10.) Siddha Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Trincomalee. |

**K.D.C.S. Kumaratunge
Commissioner of Ayurveda and Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Department of Ayurveda,
Old Kottawa Road,
Nawinna, Maharagama.**

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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids are invited from Bidders having ICTAD (CIDA) registration in the lowest grade or higher grade stated in the table below, to carry out the relevant construction work of the Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by Interested bidders after inspection of bidding documents and other relevant documents at Peradeniya from **09.03.2021 to 29.03.2021** until 14.00 hrs by making a non-refundable payment as stated below. (Inspection of documents at free of charge). Bids shall be deposited in the tender box kept at the Socio Economics & Planning Centre, after registering in the tender register book or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya to reach on or before 10.30 hrs on 30.03.2021 and Bids will be opened at 10.35 hrs on the same day at Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya in the presence of bidder or his authorized representative.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya and inspect the bidding documents without making any payment at the same address on any working day.

Tender name (Nature of work), Opening date and time should be shown in the left upper corner of the envelope. Late bids shall be rejected.

Nature of Work	Minimum ICTAD (CIDA) Registration	Bid Security		
		Non-refundable (Rs.)	By Cash (Rs.)	By Bank Guarantee (Rs.)
1. Renovation of Old Building Socio Economics and Planning Centre (Phase-2) (Rs. 6,514,728.50)	C-07	Rs. 3,500.00	Rs. 65,100.00	Rs. 130,200.00

**Director,
Chairman, Procurement Committee,
Socio Economics & Planning Centre's Office,
Department of Agriculture, Peradeniya.
Tel. No. 081-2388206 / Fax: 081-2388798**

Employment Opportunities



State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovations

CEYLON GERMAN TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE



VACANCIES

Applications are invited for the recruitment for following vacancies on permanent basis in the Ceylon German Technical Training Institute affiliated to the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovations.

01. Instructor – (MA 2-2)

Vocational –

Having successfully completed a Diploma Course not below the National Vocational Qualifications (N.V.Q.) Level 5, in the fields of Automobile/ Mechatronic / Millwright/ Power Electrical/ Air Conditioning and Refrigeration/ Tool Machinery/ Auto Electrical/ Diesel Pump/ Welding/Motor Vehicle Body Repair & Painting or any other fields relevant to the CGTTI, conducted by a recognized Institute of Technical Training with CGTTI full time certificate with a Division Pass (First Class or Second Class)

Or

Having obtained Ceylon German Technical Training Institute 04 / 3 ½ / 03 year full time certificate with a Division Pass (First Class or Second Class) at the final examination in the fields of Automobile/Mechatronic/Millwright/Power Electrical/ Air Conditioning and Refrigeration/Tool Machinery/ Auto Electrical/ Diesel Pump/ Welding/Motor Vehicle Body Repair & Painting and the experience in the Industry or teaching of relevant subjects for a minimum period of three (03) years in a recognized training Institute.

Salary Scale – MA 2-2 – 2016 - Rs. 30,310 - 300x10-350x07-600x04-710x20 – 52,360/-
(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance will be paid.)

Method of Recruitment - Selection by on the results of a written competitive examination and /or a Structured interview.

Age Limit - Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years as at closing date of applications. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

02. Instructor – Tamil Medium (MA 2-2)

Vocational –

Having successfully completed a Diploma Course not below the National Vocational Qualifications (N.V.Q.) Level 5, in the fields of Automobile/ Mechatronic / Millwright/ Power Electrical/ Air Conditioning and Refrigeration/ Tool Machinery/ Auto Electrical/ Diesel Pump/ Welding/Motor Vehicle Body Repair & Painting or any other fields relevant to the CGTTI, conducted by a recognized Institute of Technical Training with CGTTI full time certificate with a Division Pass (First Class or Second Class)

Or

Having obtained Ceylon German Technical Training Institute 04 / 3 ½ / 03 year full time certificate with a Division Pass (First Class or Second Class) at the final examination in the fields of Automobile/Mechatronic/Millwright/Power Electrical/ Air Conditioning and Refrigeration/Tool Machinery/ Auto Electrical/ Diesel Pump/ Welding/Motor Vehicle Body Repair & Painting and the experience in the Industry or teaching of relevant subjects for a minimum period of three (03) years in a recognized training Institute.

Salary Scale – MA 2-2 – 2016 - Rs. 30,310 - 300x10-350x07-600x04-710x20 – 52,360/-
(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance will be paid.)

Method of Recruitment - Selection by on the results of a written competitive examination and /or a Structured interview.

Age Limit - Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years as at closing date of applications. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates.

03. Security Inspector – (MA 1-2)

Qualifications :-

External :-

Having Passed the G.C.E. (O/L) examination in six subjects not more than in two sittings with Sinhala / Tamil and Mathematics.

And

Minimum of five year working experience in the relevant field in a Government Department/ Corporation/Board or in a reputed Mercantile Establishment.

Internal :-

The Employees of the CGTTI drawing salaries on PL 1 salary scale and PL 3 scale provided that they have passed G.C.E. (O/L) Examination in six subjects not more than in two sittings and having credit passes for Mathematics and a Language subject are eligible to apply.

Salary Scale – MA 1-2 – 2016 - Rs. 27,910 - 300x10-350x07-600x12-710x12 – 49,080/-
(In addition, government approved cost of living allowance will be paid.)

Method of Recruitment - Selection by on the results of a written competitive examination and /or a Structured interview.

Age Limit - Should be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years as at closing date of applications.

General conditions of All Positions -

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
- Should be of excellent moral character.
- The employees appointed to this category externally will be on probation for a period of three years. He/ She will be confirmed at the end of this period provided that his/ her performance and conduct have been satisfactory during the above period. The employees selected internally who are already confirmed in the previous post will be subjected to an acting period of one year.
- Recruitment to the above posts will be on the starting salary step.
- Employee's contribution towards Employees' Provident Fund will be 08% of the salary, while contribution of the Institution will be 12 % and 03 % towards the Employees' Trust Fund.

Applicants should attach Photostatcopies of following documents to their applications.

- Birth Certificate
- Certificates to confirm educational and professional qualifications
- Certificates relevant to service experience
- National Identity Card

Employees of State Corporations, Statutory Bodies and Government Departments should forward their applications through the heads of respective institutions and the Head of Institution should certify whether he/she could be released from service, if the applicant is selected. Applications with comprehensive Bio – data and contact details of Two Non related Referees and self certified copies of relevant certificates should be sent on or before **23.03.2021** to the **Manager – Administration & HR, Ceylon German Technical Training Institute, No. 582, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia** by Registered Post. The post applied for should be stated on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Only short-listed applications will be called for interview. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Canvassing for the recruitments will be a disqualification.

**Director -Principal
Ceylon German Technical Training Institute,
No. 582, Galle Road,
Mount Lavinia.**



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

VACANCIES



Applications are invited for the Post of Assistant Lecturer / Assistant Educationist from qualified Applicants. Please send the duly completed applications to reach the undersigned on or before 25th March 2021. Prescribed application can be downloaded from NIE website (www.nie.lk)

A Separate application should be forwarded for each subject area and indicate the post and subject area on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

A. Category :- Academic Research (AR 1)

- Salary Scale :-** Rs: 53150 – 1375 x 15 - 73775/= Monthly
- Age limit :-** Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years.
- Post :-** Assistant Lecturer / Assistant Educationist

IV. Qualifications & Experience :

A Bachelor's Degree with a 2nd class lower or above from a University / Institution recognized by the U.G.C. in the relevant subject area.

OR

B. Ed. Degree from a University / Institution recognized by the U.G.C. in the relevant subject area and a minimum of 03 years teaching experience.

OR

A Bachelor's Degree from a University / Institution recognized by the U.G.C. in the relevant subject area and a minimum of 05 years teaching experience.

OR

A Bachelor's Degree from a University / Institution recognized by the U.G.C. in the relevant subject area and Postgraduate Diploma in Education.

Note : Those who do not have teaching experience should obtain 03 years service in teaching as decided by the Institute.

V. Subject Areas :

1. Accountancy (Sinhala/Tamil/English)	2. Agricultural Science (Sinhala/Tamil)
3. Agro Food Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil)	4. Aquatic Bio Resource Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil)
5. Art & Craft (Sinhala/Tamil)	6. Art (Sinhala /Tamil)
7. Assessment & Evaluation	8. Bharatha Natyam
9. Bilingual Education	10. Bio System Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil /English)
11. Biology (Sinhala/Tamil/English)	12. Buddhism
13. Business Studies (Sinhala/ Tamil /English)	14. Character & Citizenship Education
15. Chemistry (Sinhala/Tamil/English)	16. Christianity
17. Civic Education (Sinhala/Tamil /English)	18. Classical / Foreign Languages
19. Combined Mathematics	20. Commerce (Sinhala/Tamil/English)
21. Curriculum Development	22. Dancing
23. Design & Construction Tech.(Sinhala/Tamil)	24. Design & Electri. Electro. Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil)
25. Design & Mechanical Tech.(Sinhala/Tamil)	26. Drama & Theatre (Sinhala /Tamil)
27. Early Childhood Education	28. Oriental Music
29. Economics (Sinhala/Tamil/English)	30. Edu. Management (Sinhala/Tamil /English)
31. Education Psychology (Sinhala/Tamil/English)	32. Engineering Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil /English)
33. English Language	34. English Literature
35. Geography (Sinhala/Tamil /English)	36. Health and Physical Edu. (Sinhala/Tamil / English)
37. Hinduism	38. History (Sinhala/Tamil /English)
39. Home Economics	40. Islam
41. IT (Sinhala/Tamil /English)	42. Karnatic Music
43. Language teaching and Bilingual Education	44. Linguistics (Sinhala/Tamil/English)
45. Logic	46. Management (Sinhala/Tamil /English)
47. Mathematics (Sinhala/Tamil/English)	48. Media & Communication
49. Pedagogy Teaching & Learning	50. Physics (Sinhala/Tamil/English)
51. Political Science (Sinhala/Tamil /English)	52. Practical & Technical Skills (Sinhala/Tamil)
53. Primary Education (Sinhala/ Tamil)	54. Roman Catholicism (Sinhala/ Tamil/English)
55. Science & Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil /English)	56. Science (Sinhala/Tamil/English)
57. Science for Tech. (Sinhala/Tamil /English)	58. Sinhala Language
59. Social & Emotional Education	60. Special Need Education
61. Speech & Audiology Therapy	62. Statistics (Sinhala/Tamil /English)
63. Tamil Language	64. Western Music
65. 21st Century Education	66. Any other Education & subject related to NIE Programmes

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- Preference will be given to qualified officers who are already working at N.I.E.
- The Institute will decide on the number of posts to be filled.
- The upper age limit does not apply to candidates from the Public Sector, Corporations, Statutory Boards, Government Departments and National Institute of Education.
- Applicants from the Public Sector, Corporations, Statutory Bodies and Government Departments should forward their applications through the respective Heads of Organizations.
- These Posts are permanent and the selected candidates will contribute 8% of their salary to EPF and the Institution will contribute 12% to EPF and a further 3% to ETF.

**Director General
National Institute of Education
Maharagama
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