



The *Sisu Daru Yathra* a programme to distribute school equipment to children entering the first year of school from the Kalutara District was launched under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees yesterday. This is a social care programme initiated by Ports and Shipping Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena where nearly 20,000 schoolchildren in the Kalutara District are recipients. Under the first phase, 106 children were provided with school equipment yesterday. (Picture by Prime Minister's Media Division).

PM on two day official visit to Bangladesh

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will leave for Bangladesh today on a two-day state visit, on an invitation extended by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The visit will coincide with the celebration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

NO GAS PRICE HIKE - PM

ADEQUATE STOCKS AVAILABLE

RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS DURING FESTIVE SEASON

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa stated yesterday that there is no shortage of LP Gas in the country and there is no need to increase the price of gas during the festive season. Prime Minister Rajapaksa emphasised this

while participating in a review discussion on the current economic and market situation at Temple Trees. The Prime Minister stressed the importance of providing relief to consumers for rice, coconut, milk powder, fish, meat, eggs, lentils and grains, big onions and red onions, potatoes, vegetables and fruits as well as gas. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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Two PS members arrested for assault, another absconding

DILSHAN THARAKA

Two Pradeshiya Sabha members have been arrested by the police in two separate incidents while police are looking for another Pradeshiya Sabha member in connection with the offence of felling trees in an irrigation reservation. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Revised guidelines for overseas returnees

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Health Ministry yesterday issued a revised quarantine guidelines for returnees from overseas. This revised procedure is for Sri Lankan citizens, dual citizens and foreign nationals. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

False claims by web journalist: Rajitha, son under CCD probe

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Former Minister Rajitha Senarathne and his son Chatura Senarathne will be questioned by the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD) regarding their connection with the false claims made by a web journal-

ist about being abducted and tortured. The web journalist Sujeeva Gamage in his statement to the Police had admitted that he had falsely made these claims. Addressing a media brief-

ing at the Police Headquarters yesterday, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that it was reported that on March 10th a 62-year-old web journalist for *Sivarama*, Sujeeva Gamage had been abducted. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Former CID chief files FR against PCol recommendations

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

Former chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) retired Senior DIG Ravi Seneviratne has filed a Fundamental Rights petition in Supreme Court challenging the

DNA to confirm death of Dubai based druglord

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Police are scheduled to conduct a DNA test and fingerprint scan to confirm the identity of underworld drug racketeer and gangster 'Keselwatte Dinuka' whose body was sent to Sri Lanka from Dubai yesterday, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana told a media briefing yesterday.



The body of the underworld figure 'Keselwatte Dinuka' who died in Dubai recently was brought to the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) yesterday. The cause of his death has been determined as a sudden heart attack during an event in Dubai. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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Deforestation Knuckles to boost Wallapatta racket

SIGIRIYA SPECIAL CORR.

A large-scale Wallapatta or Sri Lankan Agar tree felling racket is happening in some areas of the Knuckles Mountain Range, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, residents of the area said.

They said that large-scale deforestation of Wallapatta is taking place in the Gonamada, Puwakpitiya, Pathanagama, Kawudagama and other forest reserves on both sides of the Dunumadala Oya in the Knuckles Mountains.

According to the residents of the area, a Buddhist monk who lives in this high protected area belonging to the Forest Department has left the meditation



The trees felled in the forest.

centre and moved to another area because of the racket.

The Wallapatta trees had been cut down largely where the monk had been staying. Small and young trees have been cut down to separate the Wallapatta plants.

these valuable plants are being destroyed as the forest officials and many people who are there to protect the forest are not fulfilling their responsibilities.

Wallapatta or Sri Lankan Agar tree felling racket is active in a large number of areas including the Dunumadala Oya Knuckles Range, Gona Mada, Puwakpitiya, Pathana Gama and Kawuda.

Wallapatta is an indigenous plant. It is being used to produce some of the best perfumes and cosmetics in the world.

This plant is unique to Sri Lanka and felling down, selling or importing without authorization is strictly prohibited.

People of the Puwakpitiya, Gangula said that groups from outside are coming there to fell Wallapatta plants.

Puwakpitiya Gangula Gangarama Chief Incumbent Ven.Welimada Dhammarathana Thera said that

Legendary monument to be sent to India

The sacred stone monument found from where legendary Seetha was kept in captive by legendary king Ravana in Sri Lanka was handed over to High Commissioner Designate to New Delhi, India Milinda Moragoda by Parliamentarian V. Radhakrishnan.

Trustee, Nuwara Eliya, Seetha Amman Temple S. Sundaralingam, Trustee - Mayurapathi Amman Temple, Mayura Place, Colombo 6 and E. Muthukrishnan, a leading Businessmen in Colombo were also participated in the handing over in the presence of High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka Gopal

Baglay at the Mayurapathi Amman Temple yesterday.

The High Commissioner said that he was very pleased with this endeavour and assured the fullest cooperation to ensure the monument would reach Ayodhya.

P. P. Devaraj thanked Milinda Moragoda for having volunteering to undertake the delivery of the monument to the Trustees of Ram Mandir, Ayodhya through the Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi. P. P. Devaraj explained the long relationship India and Sri Lanka had and wish that relationship should be strengthened



High Commissioner Designate to New Delhi, India Milinda Moragoda receiving the sacred monument from Parliamentarian V. Radhakrishnan.

by this task. MP V. Radhakrishnan - Trustee, Seetha Amman Temple, Nuwara Eliya, said that Sri Lanka had historic relationship with India even during the days of

Ramayana, for more than 3000 years, and he is privileged to send the Sacred Monument from his temple to Ram Mandir, Ayodhya, India.

Be careful of COVID during festive season - PHIU

PRASAD PURNAMAL, Puttalam District Corr.

The Public Health Inspectors' Union (PHIU) said that although the number of people who tested positive for COVID is declining in the country, it can increase again if public do not adhere to quarantine rules and health guidelines during the upcoming festive season.

PHIU Chairman Upul Rohana said that random PCR tests should be conducted to understand the real situation in the country.

"The number of patients in the world is increasing in countries like Brazil and Italy. Therefore, the situation in our country cannot be expected to continue in this way. With the festive season in April and May, there may be an increase in the number of patients. People have to be very careful in this regard," he said.

"As Sri Lanka is not getting the expected number of vaccines, it is being given to people in high-risk areas and to those over 60. The World Health Organization (WHO) says 12 countries have suspended the vaccine," he said.

"If there is any problem with the vaccine and if the Government issues an announcement, we will immediately inform the public and stop the vaccination programme or take an appropriate action," Upul Rohana said.

He said that factory workers should be vaccinated immediately as they could be easily infected with the disease. "The situation could be controlled to some extent by giving private sector the opportunity to import vaccines if the Government does not have sufficient stock and facilities to do so," he said.

Defaulting Provident Fund Payments

Legal action against tea factory owner

A SELA KURULUWANSA

The Kandy Labour Department will initiate legal action against a millionaire businessman, an owner of a tea factory in the Gampola, Elpitiya, for violating labour laws.

The premises of the businessman was raided yesterday and it was found that the owner had not paid Provident Funds for 145 employees for a long time.

The Labour Department said that a large number of workers are employed on the estates of the tea factory and that investigations are underway to find out how many of them are being paid Provident Funds.

The Investigations Division of the Kandy Labour Department has received information that a number of business establishments have not been crediting Provident Funds to employees. A spokesman said these locations will be raided in future.

'Over 35,000 Sri Lankans abroad waiting to return'

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

About 45,000 Sri Lankans employed abroad for years had returned to Sri Lanka this year because of the COVID pandemic. Another 35,000 are waiting to come back, Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau (SLFEB) Additional General Manager W.M.T.Wansekara, said

"However, about 11,800 Sri Lankans have gone for foreign jobs this year, too," he said.

"If the quarantine regulations are to be relaxed by the Government in the near future, bringing in Sri Lankans from abroad will be easier," he said.

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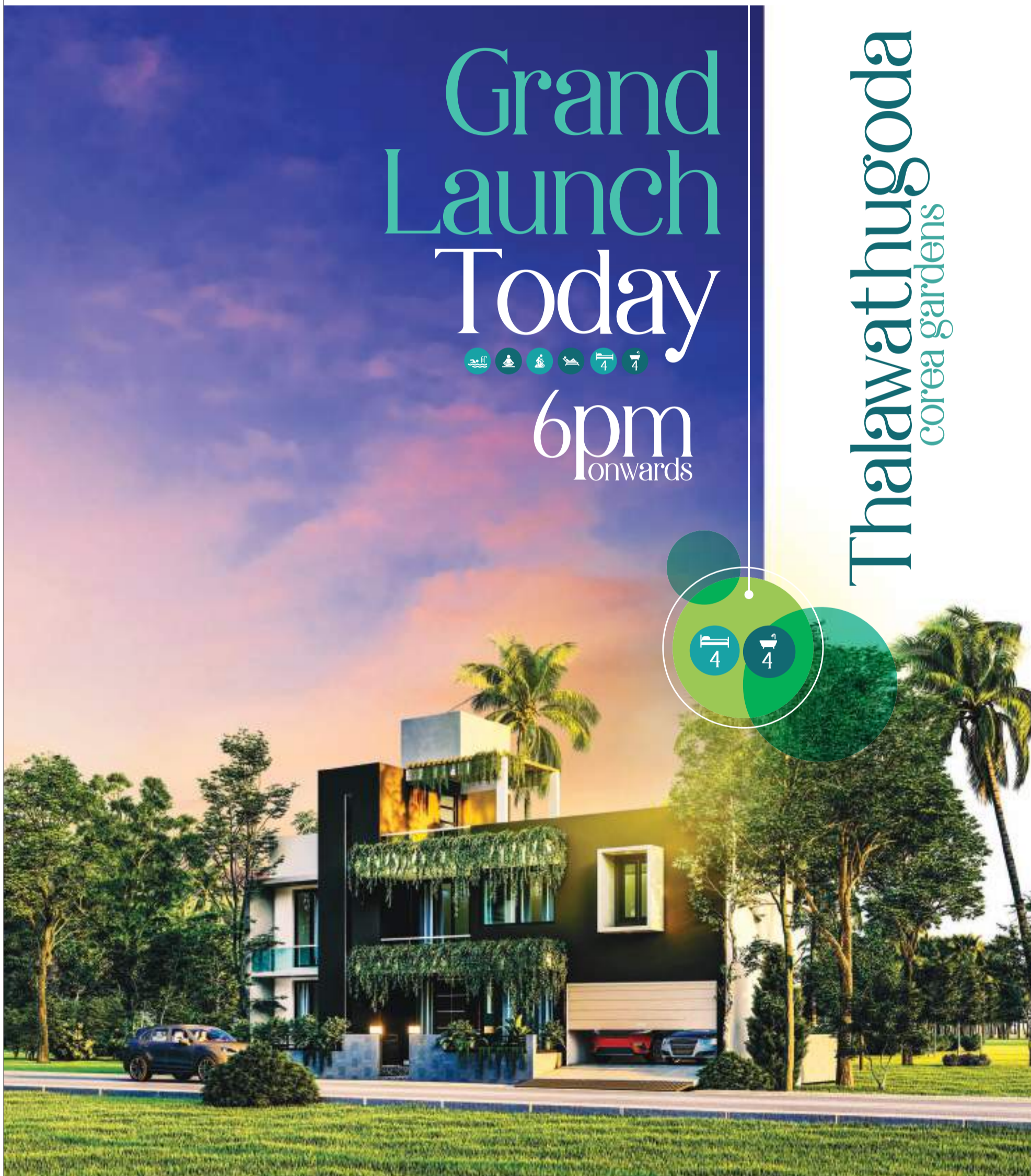


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THE ZOOM-AGE: IS IT SUITABLE FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS ?

Educators consider the pros and cons of online learning for the very young

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

The COVID-19 outbreak closed schools across Sri Lanka, leaving preschoolers suddenly separated from their teachers and classmates. However, teachers are still working and trying to connect with students, even toddlers as young as two years old, via Zoom.

This modern video communication app seems like a great solution for preschool teachers to reach out virtually to their students and reassert some normalcy in their lives. Remote learning has been a necessary replacement for schools across the world and in Sri Lanka, as Coronavirus quarantines have ravaged nations.

For older children, a combination of live Zoom classes, digital videos and virtual homework has been a reasonable replacement product for school. In certain cases, remote learning has enhanced the educational experience by bringing parents and educators closer together to form a home life-school nexus that's previously been impossible. But remote learning has also become a major burden on parents who are working from home or travelling to office, simultaneously conducting their own conference calls and trying to maximize their professional production. This is especially true for parents of small children who are too young to operate technology or even sit still for more than a few minutes at a time.

As virus cases surge, and schools yo-yo between in-person and remote models, educators are confronting a perplexing dilemma: can a quality preschool education be conducted online when overwhelming evidence suggests that face-to-face learning is the best option for this age group?

ONLINE VERSUS FACE-TO-FACE

"Online lessons have adverse consequences on young children's power of imagination, mental and physical activities and skill development. The eyes and immature minds of the preschoolers are directed to a computer or phone screen for long spans. Too much screen time can impact on language and brain development and has even been linked to obesity and sleep disorders, even in very young children," says Western Province Preschool and Non-Formal Education (Authority) Director Mahinda Kodituwakku.

He notes that virtual teaching has become a fad now rather than a necessity. Though older children may benefit from online learning to a certain extent, it is questionable whether this teaching method is for preschoolers as well.

"Montessori teaching aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning. Preschools provide an environment for children to explore, gain a sense of self, play with peers and build a sense of self-confidence. Children also learn that they can accomplish tasks and make decisions without the help of their parents," he said.

He notes that social etiquette and good health habits too are not taught without the physical presence of a teacher. The 'work from home' norm came to existence due to the pandemic. However if society intends to extend this notion unnecessarily, then these tiny tots are in the danger of coming into society as a totally different set of individuals. This impact will not be visible at the moment but will appear in around a decade.

"We might not be able to find individuals who respect their elders and traditions in this group. This will impact their intelligence as well. They would be like robots. We need to question if there is still a need to keep them under restrictions. The foundation of a child is built during their preschool years. It needs to be strong enough to weather whatever situations the child has to face during his or her adulthood. Therefore a lot of care and effort needs to be put to ensure that a child has a good foundation during this stage. Correct teaching methods need to be practised to reach this goal rather than conducting online sessions as a person pleases," Kodituwakku stressed.

He notes that though the latest technology needs to be used to enhance a child's knowledge, these devices should not be overused. They are highly addictive and can be the tools of one's destruction.

"Face-to-face interaction shapes the personality of a child. Therefore, if someone wishes to continue with online classes for preschoolers, it would result in more disadvantages rather than benefits," he opined.

He notes that many parents possess the false idea that preschoolers need to be trained to read and write. Rather than teaching them the alphabet, training them to write them and teaching them mathematics, preschool teachers are trained to focus on building the mind-set of a child.

"Since parents are so concerned about this matter, some teachers try to get these children



"Too much screen time can impact on language and brain development and has even been linked to obesity and sleep disorders, even in very young children," says Kodituwakku.



Western Province Preschool and Non-Formal Education (Authority) Director **Mahinda Kodituwakku**

to read and write. Activity-based teaching methods need to be practised at this stage. Children are naturally curious during this age. They enjoy new experiences, exploring things and engaging in things which they consider as heroic deeds. If a child is given the freedom to engage in such activities at this age, it enhances his or her self-confidence," Kodituwakku said.

PRE-SCHOOLERS AND DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance learning is difficult. It is not the same as the beloved classroom environment. Though they do communicate verbally, the speciality of the relationships were non-verbal. That came from all the collaborative games, group singing, lap sitting and toy sharing.

While young children do learn from interactions in video chat, they may not always transfer that learning to real-world situations. In physical classrooms that's less of a problem, as teachers can show students pictures and objects to facilitate those connections. But in the online world, it often requires an extra step.

There is also the issue of how long a preschooler can stay focused on any given lesson or activity, especially on a screen. Attention spans vary by age and temperament, but generally they're no longer than 15 minutes for older preschoolers, and even shorter for younger ones.

Zoom calls degrade quickly as toddlers wave at friends, ignore teacher instruction and inevitably get bored within a couple of minutes while parents try to corral them from running off screen and cajole them to participate.

"Virtual programming is not a substitute for school, but it is a good stand-in for connection. Just being able to see someone they know, and do normal things with them, can become a really nice ritual. It's not the same as being together, but it is a bridge until the time comes when we can be together," said Mampe Primary School, Piliyandala, Grade Five Sectional Head P.G. Dilani Menike said.

Also, while there is no question that this is less than ideal, they can still learn.

"We would all love to be back in special learning environments with our students, but that may not happen soon. The Covid-19 pandemic is a unique crisis in that we cannot

physically comfort our young students. All the emotional benefits of nonverbal communication – the affirmation of eye contact, the reassurance of holding hands, the warmth of a lap – are lost. We are separated from our students, and they from each other, unable to learn through communal play," she said.

Don't expect them to sit still, but do expect them to share. The challenge for educators is how to structure the limited amounts of screen time they do get with young students to maximize learning.

THE PHYSICAL CLASSROOM

Supervisory Headmistress of Lyceum International Schools Network, Sri Lanka and Pre-Primary Headmistress of Lyceum, Kurunegala, Hishana Martinez notes that preschoolers learn through play, movement and a lot of interaction is involved in their learning process.

"Online teaching was a whole new experience for students, teachers and parents. Of the many challenges, a few were significant. Getting used to the new software was one of them. Even though many teachers use smart phones and certain applications in them, presenting in front of a screen and to grab the children's attention was indeed one of the major challenges faced by teachers," Martinez said.

"Designing lessons to suit the virtual plat-



Kodituwakku notes that though the latest technology needs to be used to enhance a child's knowledge, these devices should not be overused. They are highly addictive and can be the tools of one's destruction.



Supervisory Headmistress of Lyceum International Schools' Network, Sri Lanka and Pre-Primary Headmistress of Lyceum, Kurunegala, **Hishana Martinez**. Pictures by Shan Rambukwella



Mampe Primary School, Piliyandala, Grade Five Sectional Head **P.G. Dilani Menike**.

form was also a new experience for teachers as pre-school is all about developing skills and is mostly play based and activity oriented. Therefore, activities needed to be specified to meet those objectives via the virtual platform. Hence parents' cooperation was vital. Time allocation for sessions was another challenge as small children cannot manipulate devices by themselves thus requires parental guidance," she said.

"As most of the lessons are hands-on activities, the teachers did require the parent or guardian to work hand in hand during learning sessions. Apart from this, getting a good network coverage, a suitable device and data cost were some areas of concern for most parents and teachers. However, challenges of any form help individuals to learn and eventually overcome them. We as a school analyzed the possible challenges we would face. Then as a first step we educated the parents of pre-primary children on how to teach their kids. We conducted many awareness sessions on the importance of pre-school education for parents via webinars and weekly on social media platforms," she explained.

In a pre-primary or primary setting, a physical classroom is always more productive as these students need to interact, use movements and thus many activities are play based and hands-on.

"Children in the preschool learn with all their senses and therefore a physical setting is more appropriate. However, considering the prevailing situation and keeping kids at home with no such activities will definitely have repercussions in the future when they go to upper classes in the mainstream school as it is in the early years that the foundation of education is laid. Not only in terms of cognitive development, but also in social, personal and emotional development a physical classroom is much better. Therefore keeping them engaged in school activities for a certain period of time is important."

"While most skills can be easily learnt at home, there are areas where a teacher can be much more important in terms of the academic aspect. If both parents are working, then it will be difficult for the parent to set a routine for kids, or if kids are with grandparents or other caregivers, then engaging in school work online would be helpful. As kids grow, certain skills will not be fully developed as they will spend more time on other academic work. Skills like fine motor coordination require constant practice. A child who has good fine motor, gross motor, and hand and eye coordination will definitely have better handwriting and therefore the early years are important. In terms of developing emotional, personal, and social skills, the child needs to interact with his peers. To learn to role play is another important aspect in early childhood as it is a good method to transit from their egocentric stage to the next," she said.

Martinez stressed that considering these aspects of early childhood education, it is more productive to have physical sessions.

"However as mentioned before, having some online sessions are also very useful if parents are finding it difficult to allocate time to work with kids of this age group."

"Taking into consideration of all above areas, we at Lyceum will continue to teach both in physical classrooms and on the virtual platform. This facility is given so that the children who are at home will not only get to be involved in the school activities, but also have the opportunity to interact with their teachers and friends. Being able to talk to the teachers is a good way to make them feel connected and make them feel as a part of the school. For this purpose, we have an individual talk time with our students at a convenient time. The students freely talk to the teachers expressing their emotions which is healthy as some students can be the only child in the family. Sometimes they may have working parents thus have less interaction at home," she said.

"It is always better to make use of technology in times of need, but it is also important to understand the age group we teach and design activities to suit the virtual platform and to make sure that these online sessions don't drag on for long hours which will not be healthy in the long run. Do give frequent breaks even on the virtual platform."

"As preschool educators, we must let the world know of the importance of early childhood education and how well we can redesign the activities and find new methods of teaching to meet the objectives of early childhood education through an online platform," she said.

"Parents emphasized that teachers are trying to preserve children's routines, which can be especially important for toddlers, who can't fully understand what's going on right now. They sing the same welcome song, they make sure to mention each kid by name, and they ask how each child is doing," Christina, a mother of three, said. She said that both her toddlers enjoy having part of their 'normal' life back, like seeing familiar faces of teachers and friends and hearing the same songs every day.

Udeshika has two preschool-age daughters who are two and four. For this age group, she said that parents must be heavily involved in the process, and it seemed somewhat difficult for kids to follow what was happening, although she noted that can often be the case for adults too.

Kodituwakku highlights the challenges of maintaining good health habits and safety measures once preschools open islandwide. He says that their department or the Government cannot take matters into their hands during this stage.

"The administration needs to make decisions based on the safety of their students. For example, they need to draw the line on matters like holding birthday parties or training children for concerts. If the teachers make sure that health guidelines are followed, I am sure we will face no problems in keeping preschools open in the future," he said.

Rs.20 bn allocated to modernise Court houses - Justice Minister

Rs. 20 billion has been allocated this year for the development of infrastructure in courts, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC said.

He said that in improving the infrastructure of the judiciary, the judges of the relevant courts should also discuss with the members of the Bar Association and seek their views until the end of the development process.

The Minister said that a programme has been launched to digitise the entire judicial system in the country within four years and that modern technology should be used to further develop the capacity of judges as well as the judiciary in the future.

The Minister made these remarks during a discussion with attorneys and the Judicial Staff and Judges of Mount Lavinia Courts Complex. The minister visited the courts to inspect its

facilities on Wednesday, the ministry media unit said.

The Minister of Justice said that everyone has a great responsibility to reduce the delays in cases and make the judiciary more efficient and that the construction of court buildings should be planned for at least the next 30 years and the end result of all this should be passed on to the public.

The Minister said that the necessary renovation work of the buildings of the Mount Lavinia Courts Complex will be expedited under the first phase and steps will be taken to construct a new court complex within the Mount Lavinia Courts Complex in the future.

Justice Ministry Secretary M.M.P.K. Mayadunne, Justice Ministry officials and members of the Mount Lavinia Bar Association were also present.



Justice Minister Ali Sabry at the Mount Lavinia Courts Complex yesterday.

Applications called for 12,000 teacher vacancies

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

The Education Ministry has called for applications from graduates for teaching English at National and Provincial schools including IT, Aesthetic Studies and Home Science at schools in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces. Those who are experienced in teaching those subjects could also apply.

About 12,000 teachers will be recruited this year and the closing date for applying online is March 31.

Details in this regard are available on <https://applications.doenents.lk/exam>.

A ministry circular has been sent to school heads in this regard, Kurunegala District Senior Education Director W.M. Balasooriya yesterday said.

Historic forts, railway stations to be made tourist attractions

- Minister Prasanna

IRANGIKA RANGE

Historic forts and identified railway stations will be developed as tourist attractions at a cost of Rs.162 million, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said.

He said that railway stations in Bandarawela, Nanuoya, Mannar, Kalpitya and the Batticaloa historic fort will be developed this year.

Renovating railway stations in Kalutara, Unawatuna, Bentota, Kandy and Negambo has already commenced.

The Minister has advised



the relevant authorities to protect the archaeological value when developing them.

Pakistan-Sri Lanka military exercise 'Shake Hands -1' begins

The Sri Lanka Army inducting its multifaceted skills into a new state-of-the-art Exercise on 'Internal Security (IS) and Counter Revolutionary Warfare (CRW)' tactics on Wednesday morning, began its newest bilateral Exercise - 'Shake Hands - 1' with soldiers of the Pakistan Army at the Saliyapura Gajaba Regiment Regimental Headquarters on the guidance by General Shavendra Silva, Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander.



The formal and colourful opening ceremony at the Gajaba Regiment (GR) HQ parade ground saw Commanding Officers of the Pakistan Army and the Sri Lanka Army participating in the Field Training Exercise (FTX) exchange respective National Flags symbolising long-standing bilateral and friendly relations between the two countries and military organisations at the beginning of procedures. Recital of the National Anthem of the two countries followed introductory presentations of the

two organisations, objective of the FTX, introduction of Officers and a documentary on the Gajaba Regiment HQ. Group photographs taken on the occasion added memory to the newest FTX of the Army.

The FTX 'Shake Hands' poised to provide fairly realistic scenarios and situations with special focus on tactical level military operations, internal security (IS) and counter revo-

lutionary warfare (CRW) tactics, joint military offensives against terrorism/extremism, survival and tracking, mock attacks on terrorist hideouts, identification of suicide bombers and explosives, intelligence collection in counter terrorist environment, reconnaissance on insurgents, execution of attacks, etc is joined by Gajaba Regiment troops, along with Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment

troops as observers and the FTX will continue till March 31.

Six officers and 35 Other Ranks of the Pakistan Army and four Officers and 40 Other Ranks of the Sri Lanka Army constitute the 'Ex-Shake Hands', organised by the Directorate of Infantry in close collaboration with the GR Regimental Centre. The Exercise is led under the command of the Ex-Director, together with Deputy Ex-Director, two control-

lers, two observers, two evaluators and one logistic officer.

The Pakistan Army team will present briefings on their organisational structure, civil-military cooperation roles, counter terrorist tactics, Pakistan Army's experience in terrorist attacks and counter attacks, disaster-related operations, raids on terrorist hide-outs and intelligence collection process before the Exercise proper gets underway from Thursday.

Brigadier Sanjeeva Fernando functions as the overall Ex-Director while Colonel W.S.L Hemaratne, Deputy Exercise Director works as the Ex-Director-designate for the next FTX 'Shake Hands'.

The inaugural ceremony at GR Regimental Centre was graced by Major General Thilak Hangilipola, Director General Infantry as the Chief Guest representing the Army Commander.

The Pakistan Army personnel will visit the Minneriya Infantry Training Centre and a few other places of tourist interest.

Investigation being carried out on clearing land in Sinharaja - Minister

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said that the media reports about an attempt to clear seven acres in the Sinharaja Forest for a hotel, have been taken into account by the Ministry and an investigation is being carried out in this regard.

The Minister said that the ownership of the land will be ascertained. The Central Environmental Authority (CEA)

reportedly has not given permission to fell valuable trees there.

The Ratnapura District Secretariat had not given an approval either. The Minister said that the Divisional Secretary and the Grama Niladhari are responsible for not carrying out their duties properly in this regard.

The claimants of this land said that they are building houses here. Construction of houses

on their own lands does not require the CEA approval.

However, the land is being cleared allegedly to construct a tourist hotel. Building a hotel in the guise of building houses is a misleading of officials and relevant institutions, the Minister said. However, the land will be taken to the Sinharaja forest.

It is the Government stand on the issue. The Government,

therefore, is focusing on acquiring the land and another 1,500 acres as well. The Minister said that the Government will have to protect the rights of the 135 families living there.

The final decision will be made next week, the Minister said. The Minister said that the law will be enforced against the persons who are claiming ownership of the land irrespective of



their rank, if they have committed any illegal acts.

The Minister said that an investigation is carried out into felling valuable trees belonging to the land and a case will be filed against them.

Chinese cities donate anti-pandemic materials to Sri Lanka

Anti-pandemic materials donated by the local governments of Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu have been handed over to the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) at an official ceremony.

Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong handed over the anti-pandemic materials to Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake at the Colombo City Hall on Wednesday.

"I'm fully confident that the collaboration, exchanges and friendship between different cities in China and Sri Lanka will be greatly enhanced after the COVID-19 pandemic," Qi said.

Ambassador Qi emphasised that Shanghai and Colombo have been sister cities since 2003, while Beijing and Colombo also maintain close communication and cooperation.

"Shanghai was the first foreign city to reach out to Colombo in the early days of last year's outbreak," Mayor Senanayake said.

On behalf of the nearly a million people in the city of Colombo, Senanayake thanked the governments of Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu for their donations.

The donations included anti-pandemic materials such as ventilators, testing reagents, masks and protective clothing.

'Drug menace has invaded rural areas'

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

The drug menace has invaded villages from urban areas. Therefore, rural people must take every precaution to protect their loved ones from drugs, Batticaloa Deputy Inspector Laksiri Wijesena said.



Batticaloa Deputy Inspector Laksiri Wijesena speaking at the meeting.

He was addressing a meeting at the Eravur Urban Council (UC) yesterday in this regard. UC Chairman M.S.Naleem, OIC A.K.A. Shavahir, MOH Shabira Wazeem, Dr. D. Soundararajan and UC Secretary M.R.Shiyagul Huk were present.

He said that the network of drug smuggling and peddling must be broken and the public should support the Police and other law enforcement units to realise that goal.

Drug addicts have become heavy burdens on their families and society. Therefore, the public must not hesitate to inform the police about drug addicts and drug related activities whenever they come across them, he said.

The public could call 0652224426 in this regard and the informants will not be revealed, he said.

Resting units for Madhu pilgrims

IRANGIKA RANGE

Constructing 140 housing units at a cost of Rs. 300 million for pilgrims at the Madhu Shrine began recently. The Indian Government is funding the construc-

tion. Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga, Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and Mannar Bishop Emmanuel Fernando laid the foundation stones.

Suspect in harassment case granted bail

A driver who was in remand custody for sexually harassing an Assistant Secretary's daughter was released on bail yesterday by the Nawalapitiya Magistrate.

The suspect, Sendil Thangavelu, was arrested and produced before the Nawalapitiya Magistrate's Court by the Dematagoda Police Women and Children's Bureau for allegedly harassing the Assistant Secretary's daughter during a journey.

Senior Counsel Ian Fernando, who appeared for the suspect, told

court that the suspect, the official driver of the Assistant Secretary, had driven his daughter and son to Welimada.

The Counsel told that the driver had initially refused to drive them since it was a private journey. But he was ordered by the Assistant Secretary to carry out the task as a duty.

The Defence Counsel told that on the way to Welimada, the daughter who was in front had asked the driver to fix the seat belt as she did not know how to put it and the

driver had conceded. Later, the Secretary had lodged a complaint that the driver had harassed her daughter while assisting her to wear the seat belt.

Dematagoda Police Women and Children Bureau IP Manoj Samarakoon produced the suspect before the Nawalapitiya Magistrate's Court.

The Defence Counsel denied the allegation citing that it was a fabricated complaint.

Police was ordered to file a charge sheet on April 23.



The Ampara District Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) in collaboration with the National Council for Road Safety (NCRS) conducted an awareness programme on Consumer Rights to mark the World Consumer Rights Day in Ampara and Kalmunai recently. Ampara District CAA Officer In-Charge D.Sudarshan initiated the programme.

Picture by I.L.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Corr

Details of private sector employees who lost jobs in pandemic gathered

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva has requested the Labour Department to provide information on those who lost jobs in the private sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister said that the census will be conducted to gather

information and data on the impact of the pandemic on private sector employees and relief will be provided.

Those who have lost their jobs should provide information such as their names, addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment,

dates of dismissal, periods of service and the last basic salary they received.

According to Commissioner General of Labour, Attorney-at-Law Prabhath Chandrakeerthi, the relevant details should be sent to Commissioner of labour (Industrial Rela-

tions Division), 11th floor, Mehewara Piyasa, Colombo 5 before April 1.

Further details could be obtained by calling 011-2368502. The Commissioner General said that information could be sent via irlabur456@gmail.com.

Sri Lanka to become net-Carbon Zero nation by 2050

Sri Lanka is confident of becoming a net-Carbon Zero nation by 2050, and requests the global scientific and investor community to work with the country to shape a transition to a net-zero world that is practical for Sri Lanka in her development context, yet consistent with all common long-term sustainability goals, Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila said on Wednesday.

The Minister was virtually addressing the annual Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, an opportunity for high-level policymakers, industry, science and civil society to come together, share their experiences and ideas on a safe, affordable and environmentally responsible global energy transition.

"Sri Lanka's approach to the Energy Transition requires us to navigate several potentially conflicting pressures in the short term, while putting in place, diverse sustainability strategies, for the future. Although Sri Lanka has not been affected by the pandemic, as severely as some countries, it has been crippling to an economy that derives a substantial part of the GDP from tourism and foreign direct investment," the Minister said.

The Minister said that notwithstanding these pressures, Sri Lanka does have plans to decarbonise the country's energy mix. "We began with a 100 per cent hydropower grid, but in the mid-1990s, power demand started outstripping our ability to scale up major hydro, and the renewa-

ble energy percentage in our grid has declined over the years since then".

The said that while Sri Lanka has a very large renewable energy potential, as a tropical island nation, the country has struggled to bring this forward, due to challenges and delays in planning, feasibility, financing and project execution issues.

"In addition, certain improvements to the grid and grid management system need to be implemented to efficiently integrate a higher component of renewable energy," he added.

"Because of the latter, we are encouraging distributed RE, with rooftop solar, showing continued growth through supportive government policies, including the introduction of very low interest loans to support homeowners introduced in the last budget. We are also adding larger solar energy content to the grid through 7,000 small scale solar projects at local level that will support local economies, and will soon introduce steps such as new energy efficient building codes, appliance ratings and standards and funds for organisations to improve energy efficiency."

"To drive this at a policy level, we have set an aggressive target of 70 per cent RE power generation by 2030. We are, therefore, moving our thermal base from coal to natural gas as a transition measure, with the economics of this being supported by Sri Lanka's own domestic deposits of natural gas



Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila participating in the virtual summit.

offshore. When the balance tips to a stable, affordable Renewable Energy grid, the remaining natural gas will stay in the ground".

"Further, we are moving aggressively forward with plans to electrify public transport and encourage the use of personal Electrical Vehicles".

"Over the long-term, Sri Lanka has plans to green her energy systems, based primarily on two major initiatives. The first is to harness our abundant wind and solar potential to generate green hydrogen, for domestic use as well as export. We are in discussions with GreenStat of Norway in this regard, but we also welcome global innovators to work with us to develop with the correct technology," the Minister said.

"The second is a large-scale planned re-forestation programme designed to both increase our carbon capture capability and generate biofuels to blend with and make greener our refinery outputs," the Minister said.

Thundershowers forecast

Evening thundershowers may occur over most parts of the island during next few days, the Meteorology department said.

Showers or thundershowers will occur at several places over most parts of the island during evenings or nights. Fairly heavy rainfalls above 75 mm will occur at some places in the Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Western and Central Provinces.

Showers will occur in the Eastern and the Uva Provinces during the morning as well.

Mist will be at some places in the Central, Sabaragamuwa and Western Provinces during the morning.

The public is requested to take adequate precautions to minimise damages caused by strong winds and lightning during thundershowers.

The sea areas from Hambanthota to Pottuvil can be fairly rough at times.

Temporary gusty winds will occur and seas will be rough during thundershowers.

Rs. 10,000 fine for selling contaminated cheese

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE, Kurunegala Central Special Corr.

A Production Manager of a firm was fined Rs.10,000 and default of three months' Rigorous Imprisonment for selling a piece of cheese, which contained E.coli bacteria, by Kurunegala Chief Magistrate Sampath Hewawasam on Thursday.

Another milk food company Executive Officer was fined Rs.10,000 and in default three months' Rigorous Imprisonment for the same offence.

The third accused in the case, a

trader of Kurunegala, Yanthampalawa and two Sales Representatives have been discharged.

The Magistrate ordered to fine the accused after considering an official laboratory report from the analyst of the Kurunegala National Science Laboratory on the tests on samples of the piece of the cheese.

Kurunegala Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) carried out the raid on a pharmacy and forwarded the cheese product to the Kurunegala National Health Institute (NHI) for examination and report.

Three suspects arrested for stealing medicine

DILSHAN THARAKA

Three suspects were arrested for stealing medicine worth Rs. 748,000 from a company in Kotahena by Kotahena Police yesterday.

Two suspects are employees of

the same company and the other is an employee of a pharmacy.

The suspects are residents of Colombo.

They will be produced before the Colombo Magistrate's Court. Kotahena Police are investigating.

Minister reaches out to fire affected in Grandpass



A fire affected receiving a relief from Minister Ali Sabry, PC.

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC distributed Rs 50,000 each to 28 families who were affected by a massive fire on Monday in Colombo.

The fire had erupted in Kajimawatte, Furguson Road, Grandpass and damaged nearly 28 houses.

The Police said the fire had erupted around 2.40 am on Monday and nearly 28 temporary houses in the area had been either destroyed or partially damaged in the fire.

The fire was brought under control by fire fighters and the police said no casualties were reported.

"We were deeply saddened by this sudden fire, which destroyed houses of several poor families in the area," the Minister said.

He was informed of the incident by National Bhikku Front Secretary and Chief Incumbent of Kelaniya Nadhee Temple Akuressa Sagara Thera.

The Minister said that the funds were generated from well-wishers. He said that he contacted the authorities to find the affected a permanent solution.

Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake visited the site on the same day and provided relief to the affected.

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Bees sting man to death, child hospitalized

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE, Kurunegala Central Special Corr.

A man had died and his 9-year-old son was seriously injured when a swarm of bees stung them while

the man and daughter were returning from Mawathagama.

They were attacked in Mawathagama, Pitakanda Estate on Wednesday, Dasanayake said.

The deceased was identified as Subbramanian (42), a father of four children. He died after admission to the Mawathagama Hospital, Mawathagama Police said.

Parliament to convene for four days next week

The Committee on Parliamentary Business chaired by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena on Wednesday decided to convene Parliament for four days from March 23 to 26.

The Committee has decided to set aside March 25 and 26 for the adjournment debate on the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday attacks, that commenced on March 10, Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said.

Parliament will convene on March 23 at 10.00 am and time will be allotted for 10 Oral Questions of Members of Parliament until 11.00 am.

From 11.00 am to 4.30 pm, a resolution under Section 10 of the Customs Ordinance regarding

import duties, two regulations imposed by the Finance Minister under the Imports and Exports Act and an order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act will be taken up for debate.

The Motion at the Adjournment Time by the ruling party will be taken up for debate from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm on the same day, Dasanayake said.

On March 24, from 10.00 am to 11.00 am, time will be allotted for the Oral Questions of the Members of Parliament. The Secretary General said that two regulations under the Motor Traffic Act will be debated from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm on that day. Thereafter, the Motion at the Adjournment Time will be taken up by the Opposition from 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

March 25 and 26 are set aside

for the adjournment debate on the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday attacks.

Although time will be allotted for MPs' Oral Questions on March 25 from 10.00 am to 11.00 am, the Committee on Parliamentary Business has decided to hold the Adjournment Debate on March 26 from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm without oral questions, Dasanayake said.

Leader of the House and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena said that steps will be taken to set aside a day or two in the coming days to answer the MPs' Oral Questions, while responding to a question by the Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella regarding the Adjournment of Oral Questions.

The attention was also drawn

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

Chief Government Whip and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando, Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Mahinda Amaraweera and Prasanna Ranatunga, Parliamentarians Gayantha Karunatilake, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, M. A. Sumanthiran and Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, who is not a Member of the Committee, were, the Parliament Media Division said.

'Foreign exchange worth Rs. 5,000m saved by producing drugs here'

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura District Additional District Group Corr.

The Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company (SPMC) is manufacturing one variety of drugs monthly for the last six months and saved foreign exchange worth Rs.5,000 million, Pharmaceuticals Production State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana said.

He said that various pharmaceutical accessories including face masks will be manufactured here before long. He said that only the masks imported in last December are available in the

market. The State Minister said that on the instructions of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, local industrialists have been encouraged to promote their products.

"We recently commissioned a company to produce face masks in Opatha, Kotugoda via Chinese technology. He said that the company was a public-private venture by the SPMC and Senstronics (Pvt.) Limited. A number of public-private pharmaceutical manufacturing ventures will be set up in near future in Anuradhapura, Oymaduwa and Horana Production Zones," he said.



State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana inspecting a machine at a newly opened pharmaceutical company.

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Halt this mayhem

That 60 percent of all hit and run fatalities on our roads are the victims of drink-driving must come as a shock to many. This calls for stepped up action by the country's law enforcement. Interestingly 60 percent is also the ratio mentioned by private bus union leader Gemunu Wijeratne as to the number of drug addicts who man private buses in the Western Province. It will be anybody's guess as to who inflicted the most of number of road deaths. The latest fatality of a hit and run drunk driver was a 77-year-old jogger who was doing his regular workout at the popular Marine Drive jogging strip. The suspect who was eventually arrested after a high speed chase by the police was a senior manager of a city hotel who had allegedly been liberally doing the rounds at several night clubs before hitting the road in the wee hours. According to police, more than 13,000 cases of drink driving have been reported so far this year.

A total of 95,000 cases have been filed against drunk drivers from July 2019 to December 31, 2020. Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said they have been observing an increasing trend of people driving Under the Influence of Liquor (DUI). According to him, the fine for DUI is up to Rs. 25,000 and in the case of a death of another road user, the driver will face both the fine and 10 years' RI.

Recently, a national cricketer, who knocked down and killed a cyclist while under the influence, had "shaped" things up, to use a local expression, with the family of the victim by opening up his considerable purse, following the intervention of the police. There have been other instances where famous sportsmen, politicians and celebrities had taken this easy route without having to face the law. Leave aside 10 years' RI, they were not even brought before a Court. No wonder drink driving fatalities are showing an upward spiral with the obviously well heeled culprits fully aware that they could get away with blue murder. Law enforcement authorities should henceforth not permit drunk driving culprits to take the easy way out via a generous pay off to the victims and any police officer who intervenes in this connection should be severely dealt with.

The culprits, whoever they may be, should be made to face the full force of the law in addition to providing the means for the maintenance of the poor families of the victims. Kid glove treatment to the wealthy should stop if we are to arrest the disturbing trend of the steep rise of road fatalities resulting from drunk-driving.

Perhaps the nation's preoccupation with the Coronavirus has blinded us to the equally dire phenomenal rise in road accidents. Last week 20 deaths were reported on a single day caused by road accidents, including that of a young mother with twins. According to Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana, the number of road accidents has risen to 120 per day from which an average of 10 to 11 deaths and 40 injuries are reported.

It is said that the cumulative death toll from road accidents in this country has now exceeded the number of deaths during the war period. The authorities need to do something about this.

Among the reasons attributed to road accidents are speeding, drunk driving and ignoring traffic signs, according to DIG Rohana. One also has to a large extent lay the blame on the Traffic Police for failing to be firm on errant drivers. Speeding over the prescribed limits continues while traffic cops remain mere bystanders. There is also reluctance on the part of the traffic police to book drivers of luxury and super-luxury vehicles violating speed limits obviously for fear of getting on the wrong side of some politico.

Television is full of chilling scenes of road accidents captured via CCTV cameras where callous driving and also carelessness on the part of pedestrians are evident. There is also the recent harrowing incident where a youth barely out of his teens knocked down and killed a mother and her three-month-old infant while participating in a drag race. Not much publicity is given to the aftermath of fatal road accidents and the fate of the suspects involved as with the same intensity the original accident is reported. This too may have contributed to the road fiends getting emboldened. Hence, the spotlight should be focused on the legal action that follows a fatal road accident so that any punishment would act as an effective deterrent to would be offenders.

What is needed is stepped up policing and rounding up of all errant motorists without fear or favour before more deaths are caused. Ideally an age limit should also be imposed for driving particularly heavy vehicles since unlike in the past with a vast number of vehicles on the road today one will need sharp reflexes and an alert mind to avoid mishaps. The sooner we take stock of these issues, the better it will be for the overall health of all road users.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If we could do away with traffic accidents, it would be wonderful. More than a million people will be saved every year on this planet. - Sebastian Thrun

BURQA BAN AND EUROPEAN DOUBLE TALK



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa



Former President Maithripala Sirisena



Former PM Ranil Wickremesinghe



Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera



UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet



Sugeeswara Senadhira

At a time when Sri Lanka commenced a serious dialogue on the need for banning the burqa (face veil) and the nikab (overall body garment) and closing down Islamic madrasas breeding religious extremism, former colonial rulers and their henchmen started to raise it as a violation of human rights. They took exception to Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera's statement that the burka is 'a sign of religious extremism', and many Islamic schools are flouting the nation's education policy and propagating religious extremism leading to terrorism.

Reacting to the announcement, British Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva, said, "I am concerned about the reports of a proposal before the Cabinet of Ministers to ban face veils, which would stigmatise marginalised Muslim women. On the question of allowing space for accountability processes at national level as an alternative to international efforts, we fully support the High Commissioner's conclusions that this is just no longer a viable or responsible approach."

Among others, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed also raised his voice. He tweeted, "Burka bans are incompatible with int'l law guarantees of the right to manifest one's religion or belief and of freedom of expression. Sri Lanka to ban burqas, shut Islamic schools for 'national security'."

Is Sri Lanka the first country to ban the burqa? Several European countries have banned wearing a nikab or burqa in public. France legislated a ban with effect from September 2010 and Belgium from March 2011. The United Kingdom's good ambassadors who raised objections to Sri Lanka's attempts to ban the burqa for security reasons after a dastardly terrorist attacks on civilian targets on Easter Sunday in 2019, were silent when their erstwhile fellow colonial powers - France and Belgium - banned the burqa and nikab a decade ago.

If they thought banning the burqa was a denial of human rights, the UK could have raised objections to France and Belgium at several European organizations at that time. They not only have the European Union, but also the powerful European Court of Justice (ECJ) for that purpose.

The European policy seems to be that there should not be any objection to a fellow 'white-supremacy' country taking action against a minority community, even though there could be some community members indulging in terrorism. But when a Third World country - for that matter a small vulnerable South Asian country - applies the same rule, it is a violation of human rights, according to British logic. It is a clear case of Europeans and other powerful countries being above the law.

In addition to France and Belgium, the United Kingdom also seriously considered banning the burqa a decade ago. In July 2010, a British opinion poll revealed that 67 percent of the population supported a complete ban on wearing the burqa across Britain. A further poll in August 2016, suggested 57 percent of British people favoured banning the burqa in public, with 25 percent being against such a ban.

Supporting the proposed ban, Paul Braterman of UK's National Security Society (NSS) said that people in a public place should be publicly identi-

able as a matter of public safety. "The French government should be applauded for bringing to public attention the importance of facial expression and identification to social integration and relationships," Celia Hart of NSS said.

The Western moves against the proposed ban of the burqa came following several other instances of blatant interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. The British sponsored UNHRC Resolution on Sri Lanka added two other clauses to the original one. The cremation of the bodies of COVID-19 victims were talked about for months, until the country, after obtaining medical advice, decided to allow the burial of Muslims under strict medical regulations at a suitably selected remote area. The British Permanent Representative to UNHRC thought it fit even to criticize the problems in selecting a site for burials. "The forced cremations issue remains a live issue very much that the resolution should absolutely exert and while burials resumed, the decision to allocate burial sites in remote parts of the country remains deeply problematic," he said.

Last month, suddenly another internal affair, this time the Provincial Council elections, was included in the resolution. It called on Sri Lanka to fulfil its commitment on devolution, including the holding of provincial council elections. The draft resolution also calls upon Colombo to ensure that "all provincial councils, including the Northern and Eastern Provincial Councils, are able to operate effectively, in accordance with the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka".

India's statement at an interactive discussion on the UN human rights chief's report on Sri Lanka had signaled that New Delhi was not happy with Colombo. The Indian representative had called for the "full implementation" of the 13th Amendment. This was a direct interference in an internal affair. Furthermore, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa had already declared that the PC elections would be held as early as possible and instructed officials to expedite the delimitation report, which is a constitutional requirement before holding the elections under the new electoral system. The two leaders have also asked the officials to take action to hold the elections under the old electoral system by passing the required bill in Parliament, if the delimitation process takes a long period of time.

India should realize that the UNHRC has no justification whatsoever to include PC elections in Sri Lanka in the resolution as it would be an unwarranted interference like listing India's deci-

sion to undo Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that had given a special status to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state. It is one thing for New Delhi to raise the 13th Amendment related issues with Colombo during bilateral talks. But to raise it at an international forum is not a friendly act, to say the least.

With regard to the burqa ban, the government clarified that it would be done after a dialogue with the stakeholders. The government has announced that it would initiate a broad dialogue with all parties concerned and sufficient time will be taken for necessary consultations to be held and for consensus to be reached.

In 2016, the government proposed to ban the burqa. "However it was deferred after an objection was raised by then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Cabinet meeting," former President Maithripala Sirisena revealed while giving evidence at the Commission of Inquiry on Easter Sunday attacks. Last year, the Sectoral Oversight Committee was established and it proposed to ban all kinds of face veils and face covers in public places, including the burqa. The special report of the Committee was submitted to Parliament.

The Committee recommended that police officials should be given the power to request any person wearing something to cover their face in a public place to remove it at any given moment in order to establish the identity of such person and if such request is not complied with, police officials should have the power to arrest the individual without a warrant.

The Committee report also proposed that all students studying currently in Islamic religious schools, are expected to integrate into a state school under the Education Ministry within three years.

The wearing of burqas was temporarily banned in 2019 after the Easter Sunday bomb attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka that killed more than 260 people. Minister Weerasekera said the government will ban more than 1,000 madrasas, saying they are not registered with the authorities and do not follow the national education policy.

Many Sri Lankans and fair-minded people across the world believe the burqa and the nikab should be banned. As Charlie Klendjian of UK's National Security Society said, "I find the full veil intimidating. And besides, why should I reveal my identity to someone only for them to hide theirs from me?"



Soldiers stand guard at St Anthony's Church, Kochchikade, after the suicide bombing on Easter Sunday 2019.



Countries that have restricted the burqa



Switzerland held a referendum on the burqa



Gamini Dissanayake birth anniversary

WHEN YOU ARE IN A GARDEN, WHICH FLOWERS DO YOU PICK FIRST?

The most beautiful ones...

NAVIN DISSANAYAKE

Chairperson
Gamini Dissanayake Foundation

Is this the reason why many good people die early? March 20 is my father's birthday. He would have been 79 had he lived. He was a wonderful husband and a wonderful father but most of all he was a wonderful human being.

It has been 26 years since my father's untimely death and despite the time he is always in my heart and mind. Time is supposed to heal all wounds, but yet this wound has not healed. How can it? He was my world. I seldom show my emotions, I speak a few words, yet, my mind is far too active... Its activity crosses all time spans...night and day...my thoughts go to him. I yearn for his presence and his love and guidance. Through my father's untimely death both my brother and I were driven to politics at a very early age. There was no choice, but a necessity. Even whilst he was living and engaged in politics, we as a family supported him throughout and we were on the field. Our father however never expected us to follow in his footsteps and enter politics. He was not a believer in family dynasties. His advice to us was whatever career path you choose it has to be done by your own merits. I will not prop you up. You have to stand on your own two feet. How valuable this advice was.

The name Gamini Dissanayake is synonymous with the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Project for he established the foundation of the largest ever multipurpose national development programme in the history of Sri Lanka. He was identified as a people's leader and in his short span of life, rendered a considerable service to the country, especially the rural poor and the plantation sector community. My father entered Parliament as a UNP MP under former Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake, having won the Nuwara Eliya-Maskeliya seat at the crucial 1970 general elections which saw many UNP stalwarts losing their electoral 'citadels'.

He was among the 18 UNP MPs who won their seats when the party suffered a surprise overwhelming defeat at the election. He easily secured his seat in the 1977 General Elections which brought the UNP back to power under the farsighted leadership of President J.R. Jayewardene and was appointed as Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways, which was held by Maithripala



Gamini, Srma and their children



Gamini with Navin



Gamini at a meeting

Senanayake under the Premiership of Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Later, following the launch of the Mahaweli Development Project by the Jayewardene government, he became the Mahaweli Development Minister aimed at completing the entire project in six years which was earlier earmarked to be completed in 30 years. My father also served as Plantation Industries Minister during President Premadasa's regime.

It was indeed a nostalgic experience for me to have held the same portfolio he held so many years ago as Minister of Plantation Industries. The beginning of my political journey holding a portfolio was also as deputy minister for plantation industries. Today I am at a crossroad. I have been in active politics for 20

years and have always held the notion that politics is a platform for the greater good which I still stand by today.

Not a day goes by that I don't think of my father...He was my world and my mentor... My world shattered the day he lost his life and it was my mother who gave me the strength to face his untimely death. We all lose our parents one day and as an adult and with two daughters of my own, I understand this very well. But the pain of losing him at such a tender age in tragic circumstances never leaves you.

On my parents advice, I left Sri Lanka at a tender age of 15 years and was sent to Australia to a boarding school. The experience of boarding school was very unpleasant for me,

new surrounding, new cultures and most of all I missed my father and the long discussions we had. As a 15 year old, my interest were very different to the others of my age. Recently, I spent many hours going through the letters that were exchanged between my father and me. What sound advice he gave me and how he explained the art of politics to me. He was a politician to the core, who loved people. There was genuine love flowing from him whenever he saw someone. He remembered their names. He remembered their story.

How can he remember so much, I always use to wonder? And, the answer is simple. He cared about them. He wanted to help them. I was so absorbed and moved by the love and respect people had for him.



Gamini, Srma and Navin

His ideologies he had so many years ago were far-fetched. He believed in sound education and that English and IT were the tools of power. How true it is now to the modern world.

"If Gamini were alive..." How many times I have heard this echoing in my ears, said by many people...If he was alive, my brother and sister and I would have had a father. My mother would have had a husband. The love of a family is the most precious gift and this was stolen from us the day he parted. Our grieving processes are different and my grief I keep locked in my heart.

The fateful day he departed is still a memory that is so vivid. He was dressed in his usual national costume, with hair neatly combed. I went to his room and asked, "Appachchi, how is it going?"

He said, "Yes, I can win it!" His voice was filled with certainty and determination. These words are still ringing in my ears and these words I can never forget. That was the last time I saw him - in the upstairs room in our house in Kandy. He was so determined. This happened in the morning and he was killed in the night. I remember that face. He was ready for a fight and was never going to give up.

When I think of this day I always wonder, was he hasty in his decision? Should he have contested at that

time? But this is our destiny...his destiny and the country's destiny.

June 20, 2016 was a day that filled me with so much happiness. This was the day that I was able to be part of fulfilling my father's wish of completing the Mahaweli Seya. This one single act that gave me much peace and tranquility. This was done for my father. The foundation stone was laid during his time and the completion took 33 years. I spend many hours at the Seya... sitting on the grounds, absorbing the calm serene surrounding where I felt his presence. This takes me away from an array of tasks that I perform on a daily basis. The state of calmness that I am able to achieve takes me away from the pains of this world. I feel my father's presence amidst the Mahaweli Seya surrounding.

On this day, his 79th birthday, I wish him to attain the supreme bliss of Nirvana, even though my heart yearns for his birth again as my father, but this yearning will only lengthen this journey in Samsara. I learnt so much from him during his short but productive life. I will never be able to be another Gamini Dissanayake in this political era, but I strive hard to be like him... I am his son and with that advantage I will tread this life doing my duties to the best of my ability so that I will serve society and help make Sri Lanka a better country for our future generations.

Complex condominium related law can lead to contentious litigation

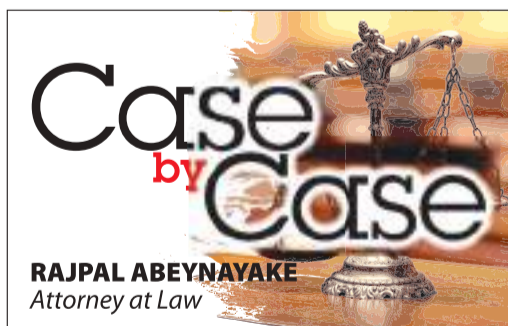
A plaintiff filed action in the District Court seeking title to the first and second floors of an apartment property. The lawsuit was filed against his stepmother.

The District Court judge made order stating that the issues had to go to trial, and that the case cannot be decided on the basis that the plaintiff "had not registered the first and second floors as condominium properties," as the defendant submitted to Court.

Aggrieved by this District Court order, the defendant came before the Court of Appeal, in *Mallika Fernando v. Nagesh Fernando - SLR - 403, Vol 2 of 2001 [2001] LKCA 5; (2001) 2 Sri LR 403 (May 15, 2001)*

The Plaintiff had instituted this action against the Defendant who is the Plaintiff's step mother seeking among other things, for a declaration of title to the first and the second floors of the three storied building bearing No. 110/1, which was described in the schedule to the plaint.

The Court of Appeal noted in judgement: "The question to be decided by the learned Additional District Judge in respect of issues 11, 12 and 13 was that whether the Deed No. 854 dated 25. 01. 1992 by which the Plaintiff claims title to this property was a valid deed in view of the provisions of the Apartment Ownership Law No. 11/73. Deed No. 854 is a deed of gift whereby



the donor, the father of the Plaintiff and the husband of the Defendant gifted the ground floor with two garages to the Defendant and her minor son and the first and the second floors to the Plaintiff. These deeds were signed by the Plaintiff and the Defendants as donees accepting the gift. The Defendant who was a signatory to the deed is challenging the validity of this deed."

The main issue on which the case turned was whether by neglecting to register the first and second floor apartments under the provisions of Section 3 of the Apartment Ownership Law, the plaintiff had lost title to these properties.

The registration of condominium property is not imperative under the Apartment Ownership Law, and this to the relief of the plaintiff, was the clear position of the Judges of the Appeal Court. Section 3(1) made registering a condominium property an option, it was pointed out. So registration became a matter of discretion for



the owner of the property. The unusual aspect of this was that the owner may even be guilty of an offence under Section 21 of the law aforesaid, but even so, he did not lose his right to the property on account of his decision to avoid registration.

The lawyers appearing for the defendant argued in the District Court that since the property had not been registered under the Apartment Ownership Law, as per the Roman Dutch Law the stepmother who is the owner of the land on which the so called condominium property stood, owns everything on the ground and above, and therefore is the rightful owner of the first and second floor apartments as well.

The Court of Appeal further noted: "An owner may register any condominium property under this law and after registration under section 20(1) of the above law, he may make an

application to the District Court to terminate the condominium status of such property and if the District Court allows that application and makes an order terminating the condominium status then the owners of such property shall be deemed to be co-owners of the property in proportion to their respective interests."

The validity or otherwise of the deed, does not turn only on a matter of law, i.e. whether the deed was registered under the Apartment Ownership Law, but turns on the law and facts, which have to be gone into by Court and decided upon, and not merely decided as a preliminary issue of law, Appeal Court decided in judgement, noting: "According to section 147 of the Civil Procedure Code when issues both of law and of fact arise in the same action, and the Court is of opinion that the case may be disposed of on the issues of law only, it shall try those

issues first. In this case it is very clear that this case cannot be disposed of on the question of the validity or otherwise of deed No. 854 as the Additional District Judge has observed that this is a matter the Court has to decide after leading of evidence at the trial."

There is a subtle distinction here. Facts based issues cannot be ignored by preliminarily deciding on an issue of law.

In *Pure Beverages Ltd. vs. Shamil Fernando(1)*, it was held that "if an issue of law arise in relation to a fact or factual position in regard to which parties are at variance that issue cannot and ought not to be tried first as a preliminary issue of law. It also needs to be stressed that in a trial of an action the question as to how or in what manner the issues have to be dealt with or tried is primary a matter best left to the discretion of the, trial Judge...."

Interestingly, in a case that focuses on a different set of issues with regard to condominiums, a plaintiff sued that she had not been allotted the parking space that was promised in the condominium contract. She asked for a writ of mandamus granting her that space, in the Court of Appeal, in *C.A WRIT 540/2019, Kumudini Madugalle Vs National Housing Development Authority and Others*.

The Court of Appeal observed in judgement: "To be specific, it is the 2nd Respondent who entered into the Agreement to Sell marked R7(1) with the 7th Respondent, for the sale of space on the ground floor of Block A, inclusive of the parking space claimed by the Petitioner. In the eyes of the law, the 2nd Respondent Company is a distinct legal entity, separate from its shareholders, directors etc. Hence the insinuation that the 1st Respondent and the Urban Development Authority, being majority shareholders, control the affairs of the 2nd Respondent Company is of no relevance. In the Judgement of Trade Exchange (Ceylon) Ltd v. Asian Hotels Corporation Ltd. [1981] 1 Sri LR 67, the Supreme Court makes the point clear."

The Court's decision was that matters entered into in private contract, are Contractual issues that cannot be enforced by mandamus - even if the contracting parties may be State entities - and hence should be litigated in an alternate forum, i.e., the District Court.

Where death reminds us of life

DISHAN JOSEPH

In English literature the medieval scribes often asked, "O Death, where is thy sting?" The final destination of mortal life is certainly death. The soul and the afterlife is another day's deliberation. The prudent poet John Dryden said, "The world's an inn, and death the journey's end." We have all attended many funerals of family and friends. A death is a painful parting and its sorrow cannot be eased by fragrant flowers or radiant candles.

The Borella General Cemetery with a very long history is the final resting place for thousands of Sri Lankans. Visiting a cemetery is not a pleasant task, when you remember a loved one buried there. However, when you choose to visit like I did, there is so much of intricate beauty manifesting in the marble and cement statues. To the nature lover this massive cemetery is full of beautiful trees, not to mention the hundreds of fruit eating bats. The latter is a natural element in this garden of eternal rest and definitely not paranormal.

Where do I start in this vast domain of death? The cemetery covers an area of almost 40 acres. The gravel road leads to thousands of graves. Perhaps this area of land is the only place in the busy city where there is no rush, worry, doubt or envious aspiration. One of the first marble images to stand out was that of a woman, dressed in a long frock, with a cloak on her shoulders like a character from the Elizabethan era. The Colombo Cemetery was commissioned in 1866. There are numbered lanes. Lane number 4 leads to the Commonwealth War graves, where rows of tombstones pay tribute to Allied armed forces who gallantly died in the defence of Ceylon. I could make out the insignia of the Royal Ceylon Navy, Royal Ceylon Air Force and Ceylon Light Infantry. Near the main gate, behind the cemetery office is the first marble gravestone, bearing the names of the Ceylonese who died in the First World War. There is a beautiful Commonwealth War Cemetery in Trincomalee, with similar gravestones, which I have visited.

Moving back to the main gravel path, I saw a small chapel on the right. The chapel has a black platform with a cross painted in white. Even in this green garden of grief the solitary stained glass window ushered in radiant sunlight, in contrast to the solemn atmosphere. It depicts the Blessed Mary mourning the death of her son Jesus Christ, whose lifeless body lay in her caring arms. The artist shows the crown of thorns, fallen on the ground along with the three iron nails that were used in the crucifixion. A clergyman once told me it was love that held Jesus Christ to the cross and not the iron nails. The craftsman is showing us the gospel revelation that the three nails could not restrain Christ, who according to the Bible rose from the dead, wherein he conquered death and mortal sin.

Walking further one can witness crosses depicting various styles crafted in cement and marble. The figures of angels, cherubims and celestial citizens are truly amazing and perhaps comforting to the mourner. One little angel with a gentle smile is the marker on the grave of a child. The angel is holding a rose in his left hand, while the right hand is cut off at the elbow. Whether this hand was broken over the decades or willfully sculptured by the craftsman to reflect a sense of immense incompleteness is a mystery. It accentuates the grief over this dead child. Can you imagine such advanced sculpture in a cemetery?

Another figure rising almost five feet from the ground, mounted on a stone pedestal, is that of the Archangel Michael. The left hand is holding onto a scroll and trumpet while the right hand proudly points up towards heaven. The facial expression is not of one focusing on the present life, as his eyes are closed.

His raised hand could be interpreted as a gesture of pointing the Christian to their eternal home in heaven, and also a divine warning that all earthly things are temporary. The sculptor has the Archangel's wings crafted more like that of an eagle, maybe to show the majestic status of St. Michael within the echelon of angels. I was reminded of Ophelia's question to Hamlet (Shakespeare) "We know what we are, but not what we may be?"

Walking amidst the neatly maintained garden another spectacular figure is that of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of soldiers. To the non-Christian, at a first glance, this beautiful statue may look like the statue of a Roman centurion. Saint Sebastian holds a small cross in his right hand, with his helmet placed aside the left foot.

The Borella General Cemetery with a very long history is the final resting place for thousands of Sri Lankans.



There is no sword; maybe an interpretation of his obedience to God by giving up his sword. Navigating through the myriad of graves a magnificent sight dazzled my eyes amidst the regular graves. There were five figures brought to life in solid marble – the risen Jesus Christ, St. Anthony, the Blessed Virgin Mary holding Jesus the child, Saint Joseph and another marble manifestation of Mary with both palms open in divine adoration. In my opinion, these five images are the centerpiece in the Christian section of the cemetery. The sculptors must have spent weeks toiling hard to bring real life like features. Of the five figures, the statue of Saint Anthony has an unusual element.

Moving onto the Buddhist section, the monuments reflect symbols associated with Buddhism. One grave had a *dharmachakra* on top of a single stone column. Another very old grave had four miniature towers and a dome, I am uncertain of its symbolism.

There were signboards pointing to the crematoriums and wood pyre section used for the respected last rites of Buddhists, Hindus and Christians.

With a shortage of graves in Colombo, some Christians who traditionally buried their dead have had to adapt to cremation. Owning graves in Colombo is becoming very expensive. A few ravens cawed from a tree, adding that enigmatic feeling one usually encounters in a cemetery.

I spoke to a retired gravedigger Rathnapala who had come for some purpose to the cemetery office. He

We joined some of the cemetery staff during their tea break. One of them said, "People associate the graveyards with ghosts and stories of haunting. In my years of service I have never seen such a thing."

I was reminded of Ophelia's question to Hamlet, "We know what we are, but not what we may be?"

deeper sense the grief of others." We joined some of the cemetery staff during their tea break. One of them said, "People associate the graveyards with ghosts and stories of haunting. In my years of service I have never seen such a thing. This is a place of sentiment for the families of the dead, which we must respect. We have worked in the night and have our meals here. We were never disturbed by any spirits."

According to another gravedigger, the only incident they recall is of witnessing a man in a suit walking towards the mortuary at night. There was a mortuary here decades ago.

The figure had suddenly disappeared on reaching the mortuary door. Today, the cemetery is well lit at night. The area around the cemetery has buildings and vehicular movement. There is no need for fear. The staff is a close knit team. The good work they do is often marred by social stigma. The gravedigger performs an important task when laying a loved one to rest.

On the subject of the paranormal beings, let's do a detour. We have all heard the legend of Kalu Kumaraya, a black fowl prince who preys on young girls at midnight. The truth is that in old Ceylon when young girls reached puberty, their parents wanted to keep them safe at home, from aspiring young men. So our ancestors invented the myth of a marauding black ghost and the girls stayed home after dark.

I walked out of this solemn garden of crypts. Bats slowly began their evening flight, from the massive trees. This cemetery's hidden beauty can be cherished. It reminds us that our earthly journey is a transition. The desire for excessive material possession is in vain. As the *Bhagavad Gita* teaches, attachment is not that you don't own anything, it is that nothing owns you. I conclude with Shakespeare: "For in that sleep of death what dreams may come?"



SUBIR BHAMIK

As a teenager, Prasenjit Pal saw trucks loaded with food drive into Bangladesh every night from the roof of his home in Agartala, capital of India's northeastern state of Tripura.

"The smugglers would carry almost everything Bangladeshis needed," said Pal.

The trucks still move but in the other direction now — driving into Agartala loaded with garments, electronic goods, and food like fish from the border. "My town totally depends on supplies from Bangladesh and when border guards get tough, we suffer," says Pal, now 50.

The Bangladesh Pal knew when in school was Henry Kissinger's "basket case." Fifty years after its birth, Bangladesh is now called "South Asia's economic bull case," with some even comparing its export-driven growth to South Korea or Vietnam.

Its hard-fought independence from Pakistan in 1971 cost 3 million lives and devastated its infrastructure, leaving it at the bottom of the list of poor nations in the 1970s.

But now, Bangladesh's estimated 2020 GDP per capita of \$1,888 places the country far above many of the desperately poor African countries it was once compared with. Real economic growth exceeded 8 percent in 2019, and although the Coronavirus crisis has slowed the pace, growth is expected to continue at a more modest pace. That puts Bangladesh exactly one spot above neighbor India in the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) per capita GDP table.

The World Bank said in its 2020 Outlook that while India's GDP is set to reduce by 10 percent in FY2020-21, Bangladesh's was expected to grow by almost 4 percent — a sharp contrast.

"Isn't that cause for celebration! Once a byword for disasters, the country is now an example of resilient turnaround," Bangladesh watcher Sukhoranjan Dasgupta told The Diplomat.

Much credit for that, and also the economic turnaround, goes to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladeshi newspaper editor Mahfuz Anam credits her for leading the country's "Golden Decade of Development," between 2010 and 2020. "She gave the country an infectious self-belief, the confidence that we can do it," Anam wrote in his column in Dhaka's Daily Star.

Leaving behind memories of the horrific 1974 famine, the country has achieved near self-sufficiency in food production for its 166 million-plus population. In 2020, Bangladesh moved up 13 notches to the 75th place among 107 qualifying countries in the latest Global Hunger Index, well ahead of India.

Per capita income has risen nearly three-fold since 2009, reaching \$2,064 in 2019-20. And the number of people living in extreme poverty — classified as under \$1.25 per day — has shrunk from about 19 percent of the population to less than 9 percent over the same period, according to the World Bank.

Bangladesh at 50 is now celebrating a pivotal moment as the United Nations has announced its elevation to the status of a "Developing Country" from a "Least Developed Country."

"That is a huge boost to our self-image. In 1970s, nobody gave us a chance; many predicted we will fail as a state. Today Pakistan that we broke away from is a failed state and we feel vindicated for leaving a sinking ship," Tarana Halim, an actor-lawyer-politician who served as Bangladesh's junior information and



The Bangladeshi National Flag

Life begins at 50

telecom minister until a year ago told The Diplomat.

Hasina said recently that "exiting LDC status gives us some kind of strength and confidence." Her predictions of Bangladesh touching a 10 percent GDP growth rate in 2021 may not materialize because of the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic, but on many fronts, Bangladesh's economic performance has indeed exceeded even government targets.

With a national strategy focused on manufacturing — dominated by the garment industry, which provides 5 million jobs and accounts for 80 percent of the country's merchandise exports — the country has seen exports soar by an average annual rate of 15-17 percent in recent years. It slumped 14.6 percent year-on-year to \$33.6 billion in 2020 due to the pandemic's impact but Hasina's team is confident of regaining the growth path soon.

Garment exports posted a 17 percent drop in receipts to \$27.5 billion in 2020 but migrant Bangladeshi workers abroad belied doomsday forecasts to send home \$21.9 billion, 10 percent of that in December 2020 alone.



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina

"Remittances have played a vital role in boosting the foreign exchange reserves amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said former Bangladesh Bank governor Atiur Rahman. Hasina, with her U.S.-educated son Sajeeb Joy as her adviser, launched "Digital

Bangladesh" immediately after coming to power in 2009. In the last three years, Bangladesh's IT industry has experienced a six-fold growth, from \$800 million to \$5 billion. Gung-ho young executives in capital Dhaka predict their country will "leapfrog" India in both infotech and pharmaceuticals.

"IT and Pharma, shipbuilding and ship-breaking industries have shown promise. We need to transition from a classic working-class economy to one that prioritizes innovations and diversification," technocrat-politician Sufi Farooq told The Diplomat.

Christopher Wood of the Hong Kong-based brokerage CLSA believes that Bangladesh's reliance on the garment sector has to go. "This sector on a 10-year view faces the risk of cheap wage alternatives such as Africa, automation, and the loss of duty-free market access if Bangladesh transitions from LDC status [as scheduled for 2024]," he said.

"For now, the challenge is to develop other sectors, with pharmaceuticals and business process outsourcing being two areas of promise. But this will require much more foreign investment," Nikkei Asia quoted him as saying.

The government is now implementing an

ambitious scheme to build a network of 100 Special Economic Zones to get over Bangladesh's rather poor record of foreign direct investment (FDI) — from \$961 million in 2008 before Hasina took charge to \$ 3.8 billion in 2019.

Partly to blame is Bangladesh's persistent low rankings in the World Bank's annual "Ease of Doing Business" survey, which deters foreign investors. The latest survey put Bangladesh at 168th out of 190 countries, a jump from its 176th rank a year ago. The 2020 report projected a better-than-before scenario: "Bangladesh carried out three business reforms during the past year, the most in a decade, and would need to accelerate the reform pace to further improve its regional and global competitiveness."

The government has moved to streamline the investment process with the creation of a "one-stop" investor service, BIDA, intended to replicate similar services in Singapore and Vietnam.

Bangladesh Bank's chief economist Faisal Ahmed credits the country's "density dividend" for the phenomenal economic turnaround. "The proximity of our population helped us design and spread social and economic ideas such as microfinance and low-cost health care. But we need to better manage our scarce land resources by developing industrial parks and SEZs," he told The Diplomat.

Former central bank governor Atiur Rahman identifies three top priorities if Bangladesh has to do better — plugging leakages like fund siphoning through endemic corruption, curbing money laundering, and addressing bank defaults, which are a huge drain on national resources. "We could add 1 percent to our GDP if we tackled these effectively. We need a war on economic crimes," Rahman told The Diplomat.

Apprehensions of difficulties ahead notwithstanding, the country has so much to celebrate now — 50 years of independence, the birth centenary of its founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and completion of the 6.15-kilometers railroad bridge on the Padma River (thereby linking 21 southern districts to capital Dhaka) with its own resources that may add 1 percent to the country's GDP when operational.

"We have thrown out the brutal Pakistan army, we have tamed the mighty Padma, we will go a long way," said Halim.

She argued that Bangladesh's economic turnaround would never have happened without social modernization and human development, especially in key areas like gender empowerment.

Former World Bank chief economist Kaushik Basu agrees. "Bangladesh's growth model is inclusive, focused on trickle-down and driven by grassroots-level human development in areas like education, health, women empowerment," he told The Diplomat. Note that 34 percent of Bangladesh's population is 15 years old or younger and nearly half are women.

"The rising women workforce and our liberal Bengali traditions are our best bet against Islamist radicalism that has ruined Pakistan. We can exploit the demographic dividend by tapping our youth power because they have not gone astray despite some stray cases of terrorism," garment trade unionist Lovely Yasmin told The Diplomat.

Subir Bhamik is a former BBC and Reuters correspondent and author on South Asian conflicts. He worked as senior editor in Dhaka-based bdnews24.com and Myanmar's Mizzima Media. (The Diplomat)

Bangladesh's achievements in 50 years and making it meaningful

FAHMIDA KATUN

March is a month that carries special significance for Bangladesh. In March 1971, the country got involved in the Liberation War, which continued for nine long months. This war was the culmination of a prolonged movement for emancipation from economic, political and cultural suppression by the then West Pakistan. Thus, the Liberation War was influenced by the ethos to establish a country where the underlying philosophy of development policies were equity and justice. Independence was about achieving democratic rights, economic rights, social rights and cultural rights. The aspirations of the people of Bangladesh have been articulated eloquently in the constitution of the country.

However, Bangladesh's journey in the post-independence period has not been smooth. It has experienced turmoil in the form of assassinations, coups, counter-coups and military rule. These were coupled with corruption and bad governance. Within three years of Bangladesh's independence, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in August 1975, by a group of junior army officers, in an attempt to overthrow the incumbent government. Following this brutal killing, a sharp division in political ideology began to take root in the country. After a long period of instability and misrule, Bangladesh moved towards a democratic transition through parliamentary elections in 1991.

This transition, however, could not continue uninterrupted as politics could not take a developed and institutional shape and instead became highly confrontational. So, after a few elections, the democratic process faced another blow in the midst of bitter hostility among the

dominant political parties in 2006, when transition of power through an election became uncertain. This resulted in the assumption of power by a military-backed non-partisan caretaker government, which took over in January 2007 with the promise to hold a free and fair election. An election was held in December 2008 and Bangladesh Awami League came into power, winning an over-



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

whelming majority. However, the Parliament became dysfunctional after the election and political opposition has become weaker over time. Hence, 50 years on, Bangladesh's political journey is still a "work in progress".

In terms of the economic situation, in 1971, Bangladesh inherited a poor and undiversified economy. It was predominantly an agricultural economy with low productivity. It had underdeveloped industrial and services sectors, a rapidly growing population and an overall poor infrastructure. Due to decades of British and Pakistani colonial exploitation, the economy was stuck in the vicious cycle of poverty. Low levels of income,

savings and investment were resulting in a low growth. On top of this, the war had caused serious damage to the economy.

Despite such unfavourable circumstances and constraints on resources, Bangladesh has made spectacular economic and social progress over the last five decades. For one, the growth rate of its Gross Domestic Production (GDP) has been impressive. On average, the GDP of Bangladesh has risen from about 3 percent in the 1970s to 7 percent in the 2010s, and had crossed 8 percent just before the Covid-19 pandemic set in. Though the pandemic has slowed Bangladesh's growth, its GDP growth is projected to rise faster than that of other countries. High growth has pushed per capita income upwards by 23 times in 2020, from where it was in 1973.

The characteristics of a modern economy—that is, a graduation from being agriculturally dependent to growing through the industry and services sector—is also being observed gradually. Currently, the share of agriculture in Bangladesh's GDP is about 13 percent, while that of industry and services sectors are about 35 percent and 52 percent, respectively. The economy has also been integrated with the global economy. Shares of exports, imports and remittances in GDP have increased over time. Moreover, high imports are possible with the help of impressive remittance flow. On the other hand, dependency on foreign aid to undertake development work has declined by almost half in terms of its share in GDP in 2020 (from that of 1973), indicating a more self-reliant growth effort.

Economic progress has impacted

the social lives of the population positively on many counts. By 2016, the share of population below the poverty line had declined from more than 80 percent in the early 1970s to 24.2 percent. Life expectancy has also increased by more than one and a half times since 1973. In a similar vein, maternal mortality has declined by almost four times and child mortality by about five times from what they were in the eighties. And there are many more visible progresses of which we are proud of.

The recognition of such progress has come from several organisations. In February 2021, Bangladesh fulfilled all three criteria to graduate from a least developed country (LDC) to a developing country, for the second time since 2018. The United Nations has recommended Bangladesh's graduation by 2026. Besides, in 2015, Bangladesh became a lower-middle income country from being a low-income country, according to the World Bank's classification of countries.

It should be noted, though, that the fruits of all this progress are yet to be distributed equally to each and every member of Bangladeshi society. So, while we rejoice at the achievements we have made since our independence, it is important to remember that we have also let many opportunities pass us by. Despite steady progress in several areas, the promise of an equitable and just society has remained unfulfilled. Income inequality persists as resources and wealth are concentrated amongst a few people in society, many of whom are politically connected. The nexus between politics and business is also strong. As the number of the ultra-rich people is increasing fast, the Gini coefficient that measures the country's income inequality is also increasing. With the pandemic hitting the economy hard, inequality may have widened in Bangladesh, as is apprehended in many other countries too.

Therefore, the macroeconomic numbers are only a part of the full story. GDP may continue to grow, and per capita income may also rise—but they mean nothing in the end, particu-



Map of Bangladesh

larly for those who live on the edge of vulnerability. This is not only because the process of estimating GDP and per capita income are faulty and provides an incomplete picture, but also because, in the absence of major enablers of economic progress (such as participatory development process), growth will continue to suffer from disillusionment. Studies indicate that if political and economic institutions are inclusive and pluralistic, everyone will have incentives to invest and success will follow. However, nations find it difficult to succeed if institutions protect the political and economic interests of only a small group of powerful people.

On the occasion of Bangladesh's

golden jubilee, we celebrate the achievements made by the country with pride. A lot of blood, sweat and tears have gone into Bangladesh's independence and victory. The sacrifice of our freedom fighters can only be meaningful if tangible change in the lives, particularly of the poorest of common citizens, happens. This requires an inclusive democratic and development process. Participation of the broader section of the population in the economic and political process can make the 50 years of economic progress even more meaningful.

(Dr. Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.) (Daily Star)

Ruwan Paul to promote powerlifting in Sri Lanka

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

In a bid to give due recognition to the sport of Powerlifting a Sri Lankan dual citizen now based in Australia has launched a mega drive to popularize it in the island.

"Sri Lankan history talks of many giants like 'Dasamaha Yodayas' (Ten Giants) who have helped ancient kings to win wars, create historic monuments and irrigation landmarks which are still evident," said international award winner Ruwan Paul.

Hence Sri Lankans still have these strengths in their DNA and one needs to mould them to reach international standards and this should be started at the age of 14. "To meet this objective I have decided to launch a special project, 'PLUS' from my Ja-Ela Training Centre targeting not only teenagers but also people up to the age of 70 plus.

"I still love my country and felt that I should do more towards its Powerlifting segment and have invested around Rs. 70 million to set up this PLUS, a training and practising venue for the development of Powerlifting."

"I hope to officially launch this centre by end of 2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic settles and hope to offer membership for the public to join in. Through this membership fees I will offer coaching scholarships for school children to train, free of charge."

He said that powerlifting is a unique sport where the athletes do not have to retire unlike most of the



World Powerlifting Director Robert Wilks (on left) congratulating Ruwan Paul for being appointed international Powerlifting Brand Ambassador.

other sports. "I personally created an Australian national Powerlifting record in 2018 by lifting 220 KG and then in two years bettered it to 222 KG at the age of 52. I know of a 70 year old lady who broke the world Powerlifting record in Oceania Games in Hong Kong in 2020."

Recalling his past he said he was a football player playing for the Navy and Sri Lanka team. A former Lieutenant Commander of the Navy he also excelled in karate. However during operations he suffered a head injury in a LTTE led Motor Attack in Arali and was airlifted to Colombo and was in hospital for seven months battling for his life.

After his recovery he dangled on to serve in the Navy but after the change

of government in 2002 due to political victimisation he decided to leave Sri Lanka taking wing to Australia.

Due to the after effects of the operation on my head I started to gather weight and decided to move to the sport of Powerlifting. After intense training I am proud to say that I went on to create two Australian national records for 'Squat' in Australian Masters Games in 2019 beating over 400 participants and ended up being selected to Australian National Team and later was picked for International Powerlifting Competition in Hong Kong.

Paul has achieved many firsts in Australia winning more medals and was also a competitor at the Asia Pacific Masters Championship and

New Zealand Masters Championship. At the Asia Pacific Championship Paul was able to win two gold medals and the best achievement by him came when competing in New Zealand where he won three gold medals.

He was also made an international Powerlifting Brand Ambassador after these notable feats.

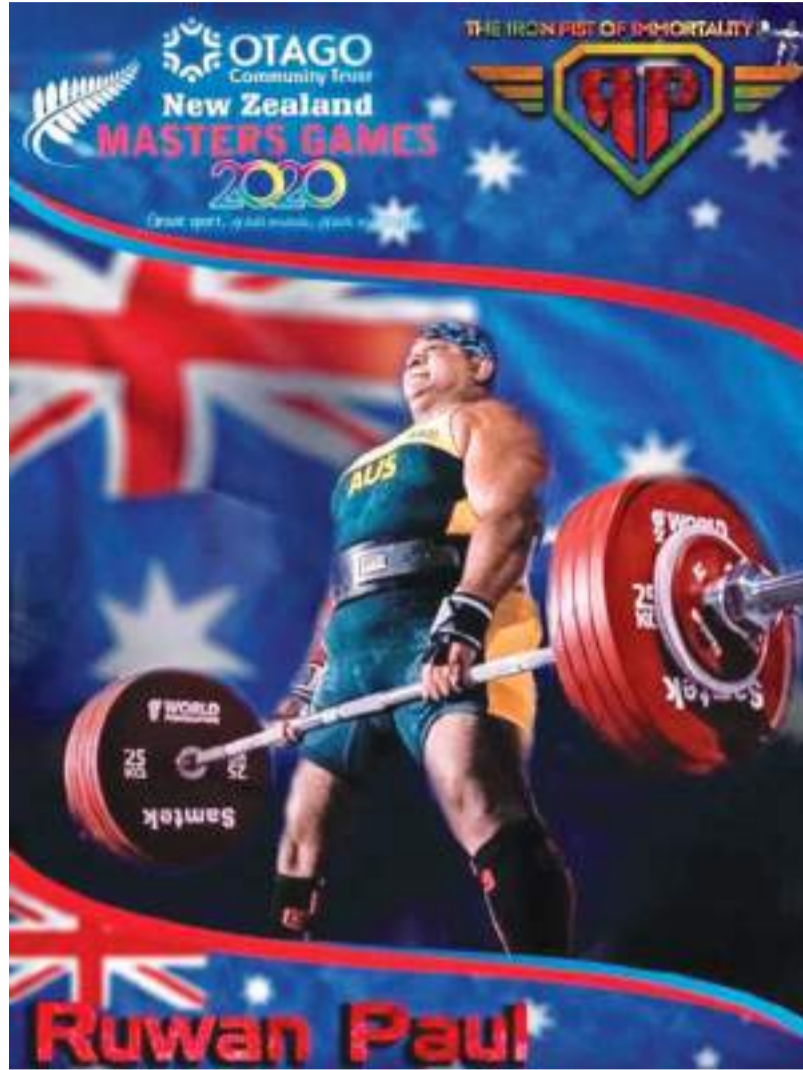
He said he plans to visit Sri Lanka and meet the local Federation officials and discuss how he could assist in the development of the sport. I also hope to meet the local Powerlifting Body schools Associations and also to discuss and plan future promotions.

"I can provide financial and technical assistance for the coaching programmes too."

He said that Sri Lanka Sports under the new Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa seems to be gathering momentum.

Both Australian and New Zealand Powerlifting Associations have shown a willingness to arrange international Championships in Sri Lanka in 2022 which will be of great importance also for Sports tourism promotions. He also said there is a global increasing demand for Powerlifting equipment and some of these can be made locally and exported adding a 'new product' to Sri Lankans export basket.

"For example a branded Powerlifting T-shirt costs around Rs. 8,000 and this could be made in Sri Lanka under franchise and exported.



Ruwan Paul taking part in Master Games in New Zealand

Dharmaraja clinch Warnapura Trophy



The Dharmaraja College team with the Principal of the School, Dampiya Wanasinghe, Saliya Samarawickrema (POG) D.Dissanayake (MIC) Ananda Wijesekera (Coach) Upesh Wijesiri (Asst.Coach) E.M.U. Chandrathilak (Asst. Coach) are also in the picture. (Pictures by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA - Kandy Sports Special corr.

The Cricket Match between Dharmaraja College, Kandy and Nalanda College, Colombo for Bandula Warnapura Trophy was held on March 15 and 16 at Lake View Grounds, Kandy. Bandula Warnapura is an Old Nalandian who is the first Test Cricket Captain of Sri Lanka. The Bandula Warnapura Trophy was presented by the old boys of Dharmaraja College, Kandy. Since the year 1999 the Trophy was presented to the Team that gets a first Innings lead if there is no outright win

Nalanda scored 122 in the 1st Innings and 264 in the second Innings. Dharmaraja scored 187 in the first Innings but did not bat in the second Innings. Rajans won the Bandula Warnapura Trophy for the first Innings win and they won this trophy after eleven years.



Warnapura Trophy being presented to the Skipper of Dharmaraja College, Upendra Warnakulasuriya by the Principal of Dharmaraja College, Dampiya Wanasinghe and Deputy Principal of Nalanda College, Feroze Jayasinghe.

Horse Racing Festival in Nuwara Eliya begins on March 20

Turf Club (RTC) Horse Racing Festival 2021 will gallop ahead from this weekend, March 20, 2021 at the picturesque Nuwara Eliya race course from 10.00am onwards. Last season's champion thoroughbreds Spirited Touch, Alcazaba, Mehera, Honourius, Santos and other leading horses are expected to put a strong performance after a lapse in racing for nearly an year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 season was written off the calendar owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, while 2019 season was cut short of completion due to the Easter Bombings, hence the 2021 season is much looked forward by everyone who loves the sport of horse racing, Nisitha Rupasinghe, Treasurer of the RTC said.

"This season we are gearing up to put a grand display to show the world that Sri Lanka is alive with action. We will conduct the season adhering to the guidelines issued by the health authorities. Everything else will be as glamorous as they always used to be," Rupasinghe further said.



The RTC Spring & Summer Cup has been fixed for 3rd April, followed by the prestigious Governor's Cup 2021 on 15th April. The Queen's Cup and Mayor's Cup will be held on the same race day under the Governor's Cup.

The Horse Racing Festival 2021 will culminate with the RTC Magic Million Cup scheduled for 24th April with more races to follow during August, September, November and December. RTC's event calendar will

provide the stable owners - Fearless Stables and Stud Farm, Edwards Stables, Jayaratne Stables, Dynamic Stables, Monaro Stables and Cavali Stables and other individual owners the opportunity to continuously engage in active races.

As a prelude, RTC conducted the Mock Race 2021 successfully on 27th February at the Race course in Nuwara Eliya with three races involving 14 runners. Fearless Stables and Stud Farm put up a gallant show reassuring a promising season ahead in the coming four weeks, by winning two races out of three.

K. Sanjeevan rode star stead Honourius and Spirited Touch, the current holder of the prestigious Governor's Cup, while the Edwards Stable won one of the races with the combination of Santos and jockey S.D. Janaka. (AM)

Sri Lanka Rugby look for a new sponsor to conduct inter-club rugby sevens

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sri Lanka Rugby (SLR) is making every effort to conduct the much looked forward to 'Commanders Cup' Inter Club Rugby Sevens tournament after Air Force, who had initially been a partner in planning the tournament, pulled out earlier this week citing the prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic situation as the reason.

Incumbent President SLR Rizly Ilyas was pretty confident that even if Air Force withdraws from hosting the tournament they will still pursue with the event at a later date. After consulting their main sponsor, Dialog Axiata, they furnished a fresh proposal last Tuesday, seeking their support and approval to kick-off the tournament at least first week of April.

However, after serious evaluation, Dialog authorities turned down SLR's request stating that it was not 'commercially viable' for them to get on board as sponsors. Moreover, they had initially shown their interest since it was a tri-party agreement including

the Air Force and SLR to commemorate the Air Force's 70th Anniversary celebration.

Speaking to 'Daily News' Ilyas said: "We made a fresh request to Dialog to consider and grant permission to conduct the tournament with a new tag. But on Tuesday night we were informed that they are not in a position to get on board with us, whereas we had high hopes of obtaining a positive response."

Now that it is clear, we will go in search of some other sponsor to pursue with the event at a later date, at least hosting a single leg tournament with the support of Daraz, who showed their willingness to lock horns as a co-sponsor.

"We are committed to move forward and will not let down the five clubs that came forward to engage in this event after putting in an indefatigable effort under tough conditions, with the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. The clubs had a tough task in retaining the players for training,

while some of them went to the extent of housing them in a residential camp to gear up for this tournament.

"The logistical part of the said tournament was under the purview of Air Force as per the initial agreement. They pulled out of organizing the logistics side citing various reasons at the eleventh hour, which put us in troubled waters. Until last Saturday Air Force were very positive. When we met the Air Force Commander and exchanged some souvenirs while discussing the conduct of the tournament, both parties agreed on a common platform without any hassle."

Unfortunately, they cited three leading clubs excused their participation, and the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in postponing the tournament. But the real fact is that these clubs announced their non-availability well in advance in mid-February after which we moved in to plan and organize this tournament with slight adjustments," concluded Ilyas.

Nintavur Lagan SC cricket team limited over champions

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

Lagan Sports Club, Nintavur beat Lee Star Sports Club, Akkaraipattu by 6 wickets in the final to emerge champions and bagged the 'Post COVID 19 Revitalization Cricket Champion Trophy-2021' of the seven-a-side five overs cricket tournament conducted by Addalaichenai Sober Sports Club at the Ashraff Memorial Public Play Grounds, Addalaichenai recently.

Altogether 38 teams from the Ampara region participated. The final match was played between the Nintavur Lagan Sports Club team and Akkaraipattu Lee Star Sports Club team.

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) Kalmunai Electorate Organizer and Member of the Eastern Province Housing Authority Board of Management Rizley M.Musthafa graced the occasion as Chief Guest and awarded the trophies and prizes.

Akkaraipattu Lee Star Sports Club team batting first scored 33 runs for the loss of two wickets in their allocated five overs. Nintavur Lagan Sports Club team in reply scored 34 runs for the loss of one wicket in 3.1 overs.

A.M. Najath who represented the Lagan SC team received the man of the match award. Man of the series was A.H. Rizad of the Addalaichenai New Star Sports Club.

Winners were awarded champion trophy and Rs.20,000. cash prize and Akkaraipattu Lee Star Sports Club was awarded a cash prize of Rs.10,000. and trophy by the Chief



The champion Lagan Sports Club, Nintavur with the trophy and cash prize



Man of the series A.H.Rizad of the Addalaichenai New Star Sports Club receiving the trophy

Guest at the award ceremony, Ampara District Athletic Coach S.L. Thajudeen, Sponsors, Addalaichenai Sober SC officials, presidents of the sports clubs, players and prominent people of the area were present.

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(MARCH 19)
LOCAL EVENTS

CRICKET
(Inter-Schools U-19 traditional):
St. Peter's vs Trinity at Bambalapitiya (2nd day)
Wesley vs St. Joseph's at Campbell Park (1st day)
VOLLEYBALL
Galaxy Trophy Tournament at Volleyball House, Dadella

FOREIGN EVENTS
CRICKET
Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe (2nd T20) at Abu Dhabi (Sheffield Shield):
Tasmania vs New South Wales at Hobart
FOOTBALL
(Premier League):
Fulham vs Leeds United (Spanish League):
Real Betis vs Levante
TENNIS
Dubai Championships at Dubai Duty Free Tennis Centre
Mexican Open at Princess Mundo Imperial
Monterrey Open at Sonoma Club, Mexico
St. Petersburg Ladies' Trophy at Sibur Arena
BADMINTON
All-England Tournament at Birmingham
FOOTBALL
(International Friendly):
Kenya vs Tanzania
GOLF
The Honda Classic at PGA National Champion Course, Florida
Kenya Open at Karen CC, Nairobi

Skipper Nipunaka shines as St. Peter's amass 277



Ananda College attempts a run out. Picture by Hirantha Gunathilaka

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
Skipper Nipunaka Fonseka hit a superb 76 with seven fours and a six, while Shenal Boteju scored 51 with six fours as St. Peter's College made 277 for nine declared in their first innings on the opening day of their Inter-Schools Under-19 traditional cricket encounter against Trinity College played at Bambalapitiya yesterday.

Left-hander Fonseka added 97 runs for the fifth wicket along with Wanuja Kumara who made a valuable 45 with four fours.

Trinity paceman Manula Kularatna was the most successful bowler as he finished with five for 60 while Skipper Abhishek Ananda-

kumar provided good support with three for 81.

At close, the Trinities were 85 for two wickets in their first innings.

Meanwhile, Ananda College made 217 in their first innings on the opening day of their traditional fixture against S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia which commenced at Ananda Mawatha yesterday. The Thomians were 25 for one wicket at close.

Chief scores
At Bambalapitiya
St. Peter's: 277/9



Nipunaka Fonseka

declared (Nipunaka Fonseka 76, Shenal Boteju 51, Wanuja Kumara 45, Niman Umesh 24, Shanuka Galagoda 26, Manula Kularatne 5/60, Abhishek Anandakumar 3/81)

Trinity: 85/2 (Umesh Rizan 30 n.o, Pavan Pathiraja 20 n.o, Thewin Amarasingher 28).

At Ananda Mawatha
Ananda: 217 (Ananda Jayaweera 45, Kanishka Ranthilakage 32, Hansaja Jyasinghe 47, Yasiru Rodrigo 5/63)

S. Thomas': 25/1.

Ranabima Royal win by 283 runs

HAFIZ MARIKAR
Ranabima Royal trounced Wesswood College by 283 runs in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Division Three Cricket Tournament fixture played at the Ranabima Royal College Grounds yesterday.

Chief scores

Ranabima Royal: 325 in 49.4 overs (Daminda Dissanayake 109, S. Kamalnath 64, Kavanga Gunawardena 20, Mohamed Umaiq 4/44, Abdul Hakim 3/68)

Wesswood College: 42 in 15 overs (T. Monishan 5/6, Malaka Seneviratne 2/8, Gagana Gunathilaka 2/17).

SSC to face Army CC in SLC T20 final

SSC and Army CC set up a showdown in the SLC T20 Cricket Tournament when they won their respective semi-finals at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place yesterday.

SSC produced a fine all-round performance to beat CCC by 32 runs while Army CC recorded even a more convincing nine-wicket victory over the giant killers Kurunegala YCC.

SSC of course, managed to score only 159 for four from their 20 overs with opener

Avishka Fernando stroking a fluent half century.

However, the SSC bowlers defended that score and bowled out their opponents for 127 runs in the last over with Prabath Jayasuriya (3/16), Jeffrey Vandersay (2/17), Himesh Ramanayake (2/23) and Tharindu Ratnayake (2/29) sharing the wickets.

Meanwhile, Kurunegala YCC's giant killing performances came to an end when they were beaten by Army CC in the second

semi-final encounter. Kurunegala YCC were restricted to 114 for six and Army CC overtook that score easily with Ashan Randika and Seekkuge Prasanna stroking unbeaten half centuries.

Chief scores
(SSC won by 32 runs)
SSC: 159/4 in 20 overs (Avishka Fernando 65, Nipun Dananjaya 34, Malinda Pushpakumara 2/33)
CCC: 127 in 19.3 overs (Ron Chandraguptha 55,

Ashan Priyanjan 21, Prabath Jayasuriya 3/16, Jeffrey Vandersay 2/17, Himesh Ramanayake 2/23, Tharindu Ratnayake 2/29).

(Army CC won by nine wickets)

Kurunegala YCC: 114/6 in 20 overs (Lahiru Jayaratne 34 n.o, Sameera Sadamal 29, Randeera Ranasinghe 28 n.o, Janith Silva 3/15)

Army CC: 120/1 in 11.4 overs (Ashan Randika 54 n.o, Seekkuge Prasanna 50 n.o).

CWI President's XI dominate SL on Day 1

Shai Hope hit a brilliant unbeaten half-century to follow up Roston Chase's four-wicket haul as Cricket West Indies (CWI) President's XI dominated Sri Lanka on the opening day of their two-day practice match which commenced in Antigua on Wednesday.

After bowling out the visitors for just 172 just after tea, the President's XI reached the close on 103 for one with Hope unbeaten on a stroke-filled 60 off just 72 balls.

Left-hander Darren Bravo ended the day on a solid 30 not out off 69 balls and has so far put on 94 for the second wicket with Hope.



Oshada Fernando was the top scorer for Sri Lanka

Chase had earlier picked up four for 12 as Sri Lanka collapsed from 137 for five to lose their last five wickets for 35 runs in quick time.

Oshada Fernando top-scored with 47, Dinesh Chandimal struck 40

while Pathum Nissanka, made 23.

Sri Lanka were never allowed to settle, as fast bowler Anderson Phillip snatched three for 47 and seamer Kemar Roach, two for 41 to cause problems from early in the innings.

Roach removed both openers in successive overs. He got left-hander Lahiru Thirimanne to play around a full length delivery gained a leg-before decision in the day's third over.

He then had Captain Dimuth Karunaratne (2) caught at first slip by Kyle Mayers after Chase at second slip parried the initial offering.

Chief scores
Sri Lanka: 172 (Oshada Fernando 47, Dinesh Chandimal 40, Pathum Nissanka 23, Kemar Roach 2/41, Anderson Phillip 3/47, Roston Chase 4/12)
CWI President's XI: 103/1 (Shai Hope 60 n.o, Darren Bravo 30 n.o). (Agencies)



Ashan Randika of Army CC plays a shot.



Avishka Fernando was the top scorer for SSC. Pix courtesy SLC

Irregularities in SLC election nomination process - Nishantha

ALTHAF NAWAZ
Nishantha Ranatunga, who is contesting for the post of General Secretary at the upcoming Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) Elections, said that there were many irregularities during the nomination process.

He made these observations during a special media conference held at the Colts Cricket Club pavilion in Colombo yesterday.

"Right now our National team's performances are at low ebb and with the recent defeats at the hands of West Indies they have slipped down to the 10th



Nishantha Ranatunga

position in the T20I and ODI formats while we are pushed back to the sixth position in Test Cricket Rankings."

Bandula Warnapura who is contesting for the post of Vice-President said: "I never had any intention of contesting until lots of people told me why should you use your experience and serve for the betterment of the game rather than presenting your ideas on the television."

Meanwhile, Presidential candidate Mathivanan, briefed the media on the shortcomings of SLC's present regime, while accusing them of power hunger and about their other intentions.

Sarath Jayasinghe's book launch today

Veteran author and sports journalist Sarath Jayasinghe will launch his latest book titled "ODI Cricket History of Sri Lanka" to commemorate the 79th Birth Anniversary of late Minister Gamini Dissanayake at the Sports Ministry Auditorium today.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa will be the Chief Guest for this occasion while Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation President Navin Dissanayake and former Sri Lanka Cricket Captain Arjuna Ranatunga will also grace the event. (D.R)

Pavan guides Mahanama to easy win

Skipper Pavan Ratnayaka hit a fine 93 as Mahanama College notched-up an easy 88-run win over St. Joseph's College in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Limited Over Cricket Tournament fixture played at the CCC Grounds yesterday.

Mahanama batting first hit up a healthy 213 for eight in their 50 overs and then bowled out their opponents for just 125 runs.

Chief scores
● **At BRC Grounds (Isipatana won by seven wickets)**
St. Joseph Vaz: 155 in 49.3 overs (Vishwa Rajapaksa 54, Thevindu Dickwella 5/21) **Isipatana:** 156/3 in 30.5 overs (Tharush Nethsara 90).
● **At CCC Grounds**

(Mahanama won by 88 runs)
Mahanama: 213/8 in 50 overs (Pavan Ratnayaka 93)
St. Joseph's: 125 in 35.1 overs.
● **At Kalutara (Siri Piyarathana MMV, Padukka won by seven wickets)**
Tissa Central: 97 in 31.1 overs (Maneth Pawan 5/32)
Siri Piyarathana MMV: 99/3 in 18.1 overs.
● **At Karandeniya (Sri Dharmaloka, Kelaniya won by two wickets)**
Karandeniya Central: 107 in 43.4 overs
Sri Dharmaloka: 118/8 in 17.1 overs.



Pavan Ratnayaka

● **At Kurunegala (Maliyadeva won by 36 runs)**
Maliyadeva: 289/6 in 50 overs (Rishi Adhistan 100, Thimira Chandrasekna 58)
Prince of Wales: 253 in 47.1 overs (Ashan Fernando 56)
● **At Wattala (Lyceum won by seven wickets)**
Vidyarthi: 106 in 44 overs
Lyceum: 107/3 in 31.3 overs.
● **At Chilaw (St. Mary's won by 36 runs)**
St. Mary's: 157 in 41.4 overs
Christ the King, Ja-Ela: 124 in 28.3 overs
● **At Veyangoda (Harishchandra National College won by five wickets)**
Bandaranayake Central: 86

in 27 overs (Shalinda Perera 8/16)
Harishchandra National College: 87/5 in 32.3 overs.
● **At Ibbagamuwa (Ibbagamuwa Central won by 10 wickets)**
Azar College, Akurana: 37 in 21.4 overs (Madusha Ekanayake 5/10)
Ibbagamuwa Central: 38/0 in three overs.
● **At Wannappuwa (St. Joseph's, Enderamulla won by six runs)**
St. Joseph's: 181/ 9 in 50 overs (Methmal Perera 54)
Loyola College: 175 in 49.3 overs.
● **At Matara (St. Servatius' won by two wickets)**
Dharmasoka: 115 in 36.1 overs
St. Servatius': 116/8 in 46 overs.

Sri Lanka's World Cup heroes felicitated

Text and pic by **HERBERT PERERA**
A special event to mark the 1996 Cricket World Cup Silver Jubilee Celebrations was held at the Grand Ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel on Wednesday.

The Sri Lanka Team members dressed in the 1996 World Cup outfit paraded to the stage with cheerleaders Percy and Lionel carrying the Sri Lanka flag to the main stage. The

event was organised by Iyngaran Media Solutions (Pvt) Limited headed by its Managing Director N. Karthik and the Creative Head M. F. Ziya Ur Hassan.



The 1996 Sri Lanka Cricket Team members after the awards presentation.

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 18.03.2021. Table listing security names, volume, V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, and Change (Rs.).

Market Statistics on 18.03.2021. Table listing security names, volume, V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, and Change (Rs.).

COCONUTS

Coconut Products - Prices on 18.03.2021. Table listing product types, prices, and market details.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Australian Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, etc.

Smartlink celebrates five years

Smartlink Distribution (Pvt) Ltd., celebrated its 5th Anniversary with their Premium partners at Lang Dale Nuwara-Eliya & Shangri-la Hambantota.

Loyalty, Trust, Sharing, Success and 5 years of SMARTLINK. Smartlink Distribution, Cater total range of Asus NoteBooks including Consumer NoteBooks, Commercial NoteBooks and Gaming NoteBooks to almost all the Authorized Asus Partners around the country.

Also the relationship we have with our partners is second to none and our experienced team made us number one for most of IT brands in Sri Lanka. Akram Badurdeen - Director of Smartlink Distribution stated "Our partners are the backbone of our business and they are a very integral part of our success. Without their support we will not achieve this success, so we thought of appreciating their contribution to our success by rewarding them and I am always thankful to them."



The event in Nuwara Eliya.



The event in Hambantota.

T/ING

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY

Areas you walk through to Ella

JULIET COOMBE

*"If you are cold, tea will warm you;
if you are too heated, it will cool you;
if you are depressed, it will cheer you;
if you are excited, it will calm you."*
- William Ewart Gladstone

Great ideas are born at heady heights and it is here in one of the most beautiful spots on earth that the visionary Sir Thomas Lipton tea merchant extraordinaire would survey his favourite tea estate Dambetenna, where the panoramic views of the mountains, and rivers, also reveal on a clear day the Hambantota port. Lipton a close friend of the self styled infamous Comte De Many was an unstoppable force with over three hundred shops across UK and an enthusiasm for life, that was infectious and his kindness with helping people from all walks of life is his greatest legacy as a highly admired business man of the hills.

For those who love the great outdoors their is no better walk than the rugged unforgettable seven kilometre walk up hill to see Lipton's seat, requires taking a picture of yourself with a statue Sir Thomas Lipton surrounded by unforgettable panoramic views, which will take your breath away. As you do the two to three hour hike back down hill, ponder on Lipton's philosophy, which was simple always pick at the peak of freshness and let Mother Nature do its bit by choosing to cultivate in areas with teams of tea pickers that have a passion for consistency, always producing the same quality of teas for generations due to the love they past down in their finger tips from one generation to the next. Lipton's view of cutting out the middle man to keep costs fair and growing excellent affordable tea for all was revolutionary thinking in the 1890s in Britain, where tea at the time was either terrible and rubbish tea dust off the cutting room floors or too expensive for the average person to drink. To this day the company believes every cup of tea made by Lipton should not only help brighten your day but help brighten the future of all tea farmers and their families, and the planet too."

Whether you decide to walk with a local guide through Lipton's lush plantations into the heart of Ella's pine forest, where rubber is tapped daily; try to stop along the way and enjoy a rustic take away village meal of rice and curry lunch; or a dip in a waterfall, where boys have made it a tradition on New Years day to dive in, whatever the weather conditions. Trekking past the 90 metre Ravana waterfall requires being vigilant about leaches, but as they say there is no gain without a bit of pain, so cover your feet and legs in soap

FROM PLOT TO POT!

Enjoy the natural and healthy highs of trekking through the hills and discovering first hand why they call Sri Lankan Tea green gold



Stay safe and keep others safe too wear a mask

and listen out o the rhythmic beat of the temple drummers, as the sun starts to set over the mountain ranges. The view is dotted with little huts, hiding mystics, who can read your fortune in the tea leaves, which make every visit a unique one. Just make sure you make a wish by throwing a coin in one of the many

waterfalls; an ancient tradition carried out by travellers for centuries who believe that whatever you wish for, will always come true.

Walkers love Ella and its many different treks, as well as enjoying the au natural lifestyle swimming in these idyllic waterfall spots and even on the coldest of days taking early morning baths in the natural waterholes created over thousands of years of pounding

Ella is a place to rest your mind and body, a mini paradise in the hills



water, which have carved out giant water basins to bathe in. So, if you love chasing waterfalls of all shapes and sizes, there really is no better place to end this epic day exploring Ella and its picturesque twisting and turning valleys, where you will discover wildlife artist Prasanna who is based in a line cottage in Hanska Kithulgolla Gotuwala. He works from a palette of jungle wood-chips, mostly found in the surrounding area, including everything from teak to mahogany, which are delicately hand crafted, cut and lovingly etched into detailed images of local birds and Sri Lankan rural scenes of women collecting giant pots of water from the falls. In other places, you will find artists depicting nature and the Esala Perahera, with Buddha images done in many different mediums, including tea water colour paints made from the leftovers of wangedi tea picker brews made with a mortar and pestle. Only a short distance from this village, you can also discover a festival drum-making family in a village so small that it is not on Google maps, Udarawa is identifiable by its giant staircase of tea cut from the side of the road, which has a shear drop into the ever green bushy valley below making it well worth going off the well worn track to have a go at playing local drums and seeing how they are made first hand.

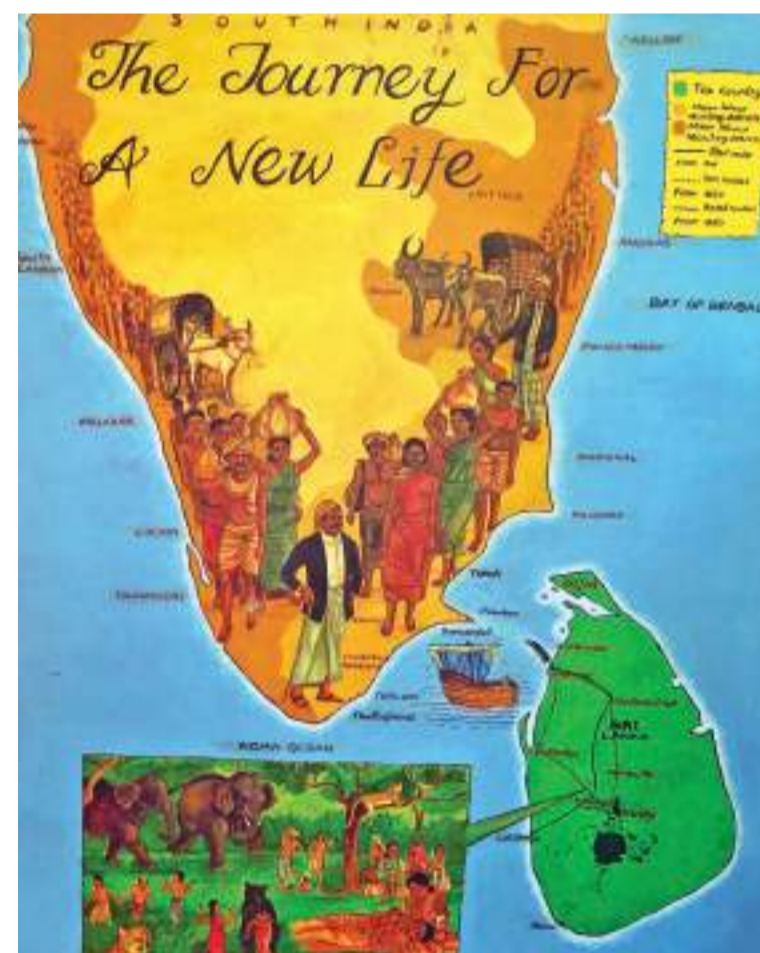
The walk from Ella which means waterfall to Nine Arches is hauntingly beautiful with magical mountainous hand-cut trails that take you through some of the island's most dramatic scenery. Walking this section of the trail, is in many ways like an epic waterfall trek, always on the move, never stopping, whatever the weather conditions and, like life, can be totally unpredictable and extremely dangerous at certain times of year, like in the heavy monsoon rainy season. One wrong move, while trekking through these ancient mountain trails around Ella, and you might vanish into a choppy flow of water, cascading down the steep hillsides into the valleys miles below, which swell with the heavy rains, causing horrific landslides, and crushing everything in their paths; so do make sure you take local advice during this period.

Ella as an area is totally bewitching and often described as Sri Lanka's Shangri-La, where you will enjoy the simplicity of life in a place that time stands still. Through the local eateries and tea shops, all run by the charismatic mountain people you can gather fun local tips about

the prehistoric cave paintings on side treks, while relaxing to the background sounds of the waterfalls that make the area so famous. From here, you can take the tea pickers' route up narrow paths, through vibrant emerald green tea cultivations, while dense forest looks down at you, like giants, upon the Demodara loop, between Ella and Demodara colonial railway station, that feels like something out of a vintage movie. This exceptional Nine Arches Bridge in Demodara, known as the bridge in the sky is 80 foot high, and 300 feet long. The bridge was built during the colonial period in extremely challenging times as the original materials

meant for creating it such as steel were allegedly relocated by Britain to resource the Great War. So instead this Hitchcock like structure that has inspired many an epic photo shoot of trains crossing the Nine Arch Bridge, that was in the end only made out of stone, brick and cement.

It's so true to say drinking tea is the best daily ritual and even more fun when walking the tea trail paths as you can drink in the stunning scenery as well as smell the crushed leaves of the surrounding tea bushes. As one ancient Chinese proverb rightly put it "Better to be deprived of food for three days, than tea for one."



The journey of tea is included in a hands on tour of tea at Handungoda



Mint for the tea



Picking green gold



Make your own with Mortar used to roll the tea



Micky, our mood-booster

Covid 19 pandemic is not yet over. I got vaccinated recently, but still do have to wear a face mask and adhere to hand hygiene practices. The entire last year was spent without much fun, excitement or happiness where my office and work life were considered. Both my husband and I were at home doing a bit of gardening! Since my children have gone abroad for higher studies, only both of us were at home!

Micky was our only source of happiness all throughout the year 2020 and even now! In fact, Micky was with us even before the Covid 19 pandemic. He came to our lives back in mid 2019, a few months before the deadly pandemic hitting the world. However, we did not feel its presence much back then.

That does not mean that we did not love Micky. Of Course we did love him. But the truth is we all were quite busy, doing our own work-office or otherwise - and did not have much time to care for him or rather observe his cute things constantly.

When the country went into lockdown, only the

three of us were at home! My hubby, myself and Micky! Micky looked thrilled and accompanied us wherever we went.

I thought of trying my hand at gardening. My husband was a bit lazy to help me out, but Micky rose to the occasion. Even though he did not do any "hard work", Micky's presence in the garden - sniffing at plants, digging holes in the ground, playing with stones- filled my day with happiness.

He was so happy to have both of us at home the entire day. Unlike our office days Micky would let us sleep a little more.

But I am sure he wanted us to go back to office on the days we pushed him to have a bath!!!

Anyway Micky taught us that pets play a vital role in their owners' emotional well-being during bad days!

- Eshanthi Silva



Are you a smart pet owner? Share your 'Pet care in the time of lockdown' story with us. Email : features.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

DOG CARE



Causes for red excreta

DR GCS KURUGALA,

Veterinary Surgeon,
(B.V.Sc; M.Sc Poultry Science; Master of Public Administration & Management)

As a dog loving owner you should develop a habit of observing the dog thoroughly every day. By this kind of examination you can rule out any disease condition and attend to it early. We have already discussed different types of stools. Prompt action should be taken if the stools of your dog are red. The whole content could be red or sometimes there will be red patches or blood clots or fresh blood mixed with the stools which indicate a dangerous situation.

CAUSES FOR RED COLOUR STOOLS

Bleeding from gastrointestinal tract

Bleeding from the latter part of the small intestine, large intestine, rectum or anus can lead to red coloured stools. Intestinal ulcers, wounds, damages caused to the intestinal wall by viral or bacterial diarrhea are the common causes for bleeding.

INJURY OR INFECTION IN THE DOG'S ANUS

This can be a mechanical injury caused by an external object, dog bite etc. Anus is the point where the dog's excreta comes out from the body. As the anus is open to the outside infections may occur, adding blood to excreta.

BLEEDING FROM ANAL GLANDS

There are two glands near the anal opening called as anal glands. The function of this gland is excreting individually specific odor to stools which contain personal identification specifications for the particular dog. In older dogs these glands can be infected, enlarged and sometimes damaged leading to bleeding which ultimately makes stools turn red.

TUMOR/CANCER IN ANUS

Anal cancer is common in older dogs. There will be growth within the anus. While passing the stools through the anus, the growth damages and as a result stools turn red.

SIGNS

Main sign is red colour stools. Sometimes there may be blood clots and whole blood with stools. Fur around anus, tail may look wet. Your dog will pass stools with great difficulty.

DIAGNOSIS

Your vet will perform a thorough physical examination. It is necessary to check Red Blood Cell Level and hemoglobin level if there is severe blood loss. Tests such as Biopsy, scanning, endoscopy are required to identify the wounds in the intestine.

TREATMENT

According to the cause of the disease your vet may recommend treatment. If it is needed, blood transfusion will be done. Sometimes drugs causing soft stools will help the improvement of a dog's condition.

CATS AREN'T SELFISH - THEY'RE JUST CONFUSED!

A STUDY HAS REVEALED THAT CATS' SELFISHNESS MAY BE THE RESULT OF SOCIAL CONFUSION



EMMA DOONEY

Cats often get a bad rap for being slightly on the selfish side, but research now shows that it might not even be their fault.

The feline creatures have long been seen as overly independent, especially when compared to dogs. While our canine friends are celebrated for their loyal nature and stress-reducing abilities, cats are routinely criticized for putting themselves first. However, a recent study has revealed that this unsavory behavior might not be deliberate.

Researchers at Kyoto University in Japan have discovered that cats may not understand when they are being unkind to humans.

In the study, which was published in the February edition of the journal

Animal Behavior and Cognition, the loyalty of 36 domestic cats towards their owners was put to the test. For the first part of the experiment, the cats watched their owner struggling to open a container. An appointed actor then arrived to help the owner, thus behaving like a friend. For the second stage, the cats again watched their owner straining with the container. In this case, a different actor came onto the scene but, instead of helping, they turned away.

A third actor was present throughout the performance, to act as a point of reference. The cats were then offered food from

all parties, including the non-helper. The results found that the cats had no objections to accepting food from the non-helper, which may be seen as an act of betrayal by the owner.

In a similar study, dogs had refused to take food from those who had not helped their owner. However, the researchers emphasized that the cats' behavior does not necessarily indicate disloyalty. "It is conceivable that the cats in this study did not understand the meaning or goal of the owners' behavior," the authors wrote. "But even if they did understand the owner's goal or intention, they might have failed to detect the negative intention of the non-helpful actor." The issue, therefore, could be that cats struggle to identify humans' intentions and feelings, which can come across as coldness.

This might also explain why your cat doesn't always appreciate your cutesy pet talk, or why they may not jump for joy when you return after a long trip. Unlike dogs, they're simply not as literate in reading humans.

"We consider that cats might not possess the same social evaluation abilities as dogs, at least in this situation, because unlike the latter, they have not been selected to cooperate with humans," the authors added. Well, at least we know it's not purr-sonal.



They both deserve to be loved in a home

SAHANA RAVISHANKER

Desperately appealing for a kind and loving home for this sweet girl who has been through so much.

She is around 2 years old, but is extremely thin and small made for her age. You can see her ribs. Her mother is also very short and small made just like her. Both are very loving and gentle natured. They live on the streets and get food from workers at a carpenter hut (Leemaduwa) in Peliyagoda. I got them both across to my vets to be sterilized a few weeks ago as both had littered 7 pups and 6 had been run over a month ago.

The mother's blood report was fine and so I went ahead with her surgery. However, the daughter was anemic and so I decided to board her for a short time and treat her before doing her sterilization. But all of a sudden the poor girl was unable to get up and walk and couldn't even move her neck. Even when she couldn't lift her head up she would constantly wag her tail at me. The vets were also not sure as to what had caused this, but we fear that she had suffered some trauma to her neck that had affected her nerves. The veterinary staff also grew very fond of her and they would always tell me what a sweet gentle little thing she was. She would always look at your

face with so much of hope and wag her tail. It's sad that I remember a time not too long ago of how she used to run a mile when I used to feed her on the streets.

She must have been abused or chased off by people which explained her fear of humans. But it's so lovely to see her so friendly and affectionate today.

With medical treatment and physiotherapy she has recovered and is doing really well. She can walk and eat by herself. If you see her face you can notice how happy and eternally grateful she is. She loves to wag her tail 24/7.

Unfortunately as I live on rent with many rescues and having financial issues I'm not in a position to adopt her and if I don't find a home I may have to drop her back on the streets like I dropped her mother a few days ago. But I really hope and pray that someone might see this appeal and adopt the little girl who wants to be loved and or the mother doggie as they have been together for years.

Both mother and daughter have been vaccinated for rabies and distemper and have been dewormed. Mother was sterilized. Daughter will be sterilized soon. Transport can be arranged.

Please open your hearts and home to a deserving dog that still hopes to be loved despite the struggles she has encountered on the harsh streets in Peliyagoda. To adopt one or both, pls contact Sahana on 0777567122.



Appealing for funds to cover rescue bills



These two dogs were rescued and hospitalized at best care hospitals for treatment.

Seedeve had a terrible cut and had injured herself at a construction site in Peliyagoda. She was a mother of 5 pups and had been bleeding as well. Anyways long story short her wounds were sutured she was sterilized and the best part is that she and one of her pups got adopted a few days ago. Need to rehome her other puppies now.

Nandu is very old and is still in hospital. He was rescued from Kelaniya. He was extremely malnourished and also had Tick fever, bad arthritis, hip luxation, rash, ear infection and a big wound on his leg. He is doing much better now, but needs a home soon.

If you like to help with these rescue bills of over 140,000/- please contact me on 0777567122. Vet receipts will be sent to the donors. If preferred, donations can be even directly made to the vet. -AD

Human cheese?

Would you eat cheese made with bacteria from a belly button? If so, you may be closer than ever to your dream dinner. Making news recently, biologist Christina Agapakis and scent expert Sissel Tolaas have extracted bacteria from the belly buttons, feet, mouths, and tears of artists, writers, and cheese makers to create 11 "human cheeses."

The project, called Selfmade, was funded by Synthetic Aesthetics, which creates collaborations between biology, art, and design. After being displayed in October at the "Grow Your Own" exhibition at the Science Gallery in Dublin, the initial reaction to the creation has been, unsurprisingly, utter repulsion.

But that's the exact response the pair looks to question in order to begin a conversation about the environment in which we live.

"These cheeses are meant only as 'food for thought,'" Agapakis said. "What we hope is that after the first visceral response of 'ew,' we can start to think more about the intersections of human and microbial cultures."

"Culture" in two ways, that is.

"Cheese is a wonderful artifact with which to demonstrate how 'nature' and 'culture' are not merely inseparable, but fully implicated in one another," Heather Paxson, anthropologist and author of *The Life of Cheese* and *Toe Bacteria Donor*, said.

While foodie thrill seekers won't be able to get their taste buds on these particular human cheeses, unusual-and initially repulsive-ones exist for enjoyment in cultures around the world.

National Geographic



Word power!

Young American artist Michael Volpicelli specializes in creating detailed portraits of people and animals exclusively out of written words related to them. After serving in Iraq and suffering a serious back injury, Volpicelli says art helped him recover and now he wants to share his talent with the world.

Ever since he was just a child, Michael Volpicelli loved to draw. While still in junior high-school, he enrolled in college courses to improve his drawing skills, and even though it was nerve-racking being the youngest person in the classroom, he says the experience really helped him flourish as an artist. During college, Michael started attending a fine arts school and an artistic career as an artist seemed like the only logical next step in his life. But then September 11 happened, and instead of pursuing his dream of becoming an artist, he ended up in war-torn Iraq. But even in this hostile environment, the talented young man couldn't stay away from art. He started designing certificates of appreciation, and creating works of art for his Sergeant Major's, drill sergeants, and even fellow soldiers. He was the "combat artist" of his infantry division. After leaving the Army and suffering a major back injury, Michael Volpicelli used art to help him recover. He enrolled into Oklahoma State University and studied fine arts. Today he uses his talent for drawing to create all kinds of beautiful artworks, but his forte is definitely word art.

Using pen and ink, the artist draws personalities that inspire him in hundreds of words related to their lives and the things that made them famous. His word art portfolio includes portraits of Malala Yousafzai, Israel "IZ" Kamakawio'ole, Pope John Paul II and Thich Nhat Hanh, among others. He also does word portraits of cats and dogs, some with touching stories of their own.

Oddity Central



Michael Volpicelli with his art



Songbird 'losing its song'

Australia's endangered regent honeyeater bird is losing its song, a sign that it could be nearing extinction, scientists warned in new research released on Wednesday.

A rapid decline in the rare songbird means its young are struggling to learn mating calls as adults disappear, according to researchers at the Australian National University.

Male regent honeyeaters sang rich, complex tunes in more populated habitats, but resorted to simplified songs elsewhere, the scientists wrote in a study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

Lead author Ross Crates said the findings were a "major warning sign the regent honeyeater is on the brink of extinction" - and the loss of song knowledge could also reduce chances of mating. "It could also be exacerbating the honeyeater's population decline, because we know a sexy song increases the odds of reproduction in songbirds."

Scientists found 18 regent honeyeaters, or around 12 percent of the total remaining male population, who could only mimic other species' songs - not their own. "This lack of ability to communicate with their own species is unprecedented in a wild animal," study co-author Dejan Stojanovic said.

"We can assume that regent honeyeaters are now so rare that some young males never find an older male teacher." Scientists estimate just a few hundred regent honeyeaters remain in the wild.

The rare bird, with its black and yellow markings, was once found across much of eastern Australia but is now largely confined to eucalyptus forests in the country's southeast.

The study also found regent honeyeaters born in captivity have different songs that could reduce their attractiveness to wild birds.

The scientists now hope to teach the captive birds to sing like their wild counterparts, by playing them audio recordings.

AFP

GIVING 'ROCK MUSIC' A WHOLE NEW MEANING

Blackbird is a unique stone violin carved by Swedish sculptor Lars Widenfalk, based on drawings by Stradivarius, but with modifications that allow it to be played.

Lars Widenfalk came up with the idea of creating a violin out of stone in the late 1980s, while chiseling away at a piece of diabase and being impressed by the pleasant sound it made when hit with hammer and chisel. It wasn't until 1990 that he finally got his hands

on a piece of diabase large enough to be sculpted into a life-size violin, but as soon as he did, he got to work. In the end, he needed a second piece for the back of the violin, but after two years of hard work, Blackbird, the stone violin named after the homonymous bird, was finally completed.

"It was the sound of Mother Earth and I wondered if it could be captured in an instrument carved from the stone that had emerged from deep inside the Earth," Widenfalk told *Gulf News*, in 2005. "What drove me on was the desire to discover the limits to which this stone can be pushed as an artistic material."

Believe it or not, the first piece of diabase obtained by the Swedish sculptor for his unique project came from his grandfather's tomb. When the family grave was renovated, a large piece of diabase was discarded, so he claimed it as the main medium of his one-of-a-kind diabase violin. However, the first piece proved insufficient, so Widenfalk ended up sourcing Harjedalan rock, which resembles diabase, from Sweden's mountains.

Even though the entire soundbox of the Blackbird violin is carved out of the black volcanic rock, the whole instrument weighs just 4.4 pounds.

That's because Lars Widenfalk managed to get the thickness of the soundbox walls down to only 2.3mm. The artist spent months working on ways to respect Stradivarius' designs and adapt the, to his stone creation.

Because there's only so much you can do with stone, Blackbird also features black ebony for the finger board, pegs, tailpiece and chin-rest, as well as a bridge made from yellow woolly mammoth ivory sourced from the Siberian permafrost.

Finished in 1992, the Blackbird diabase violin was first played by Swedish composer Sven David Sand-

storm, who composed music especially for the instrument. The first performance was at the Swedish pavilion at the World Expo 1992 in Seville, Spain, but the diabase violin has been touring the world ever since.

"At two kilos it is heavier than wooden violins, but it gives you the feel that you are carrying Mother Earth," Lars Widenfalk said.

But how does it sound? Well, there are plenty of videos showcasing the sound made by this unique musical instrument, so you can judge for yourself. To me, it sounds like any other violin, but I have read comments from people who say that it

sounds terrible compared to wooden Stradivarius violins. Still, it's worth remembering that Blackbird is an artwork made by a stone sculptor, not some musical masterpiece.

According to *The Vintage News*, Blackbird may be the world's first stone violin, but it is not the only one. Czech artist Jan Reřicha has reportedly created several functional violins from marble, a stone much easier to work with than diabase. His instruments are also considerably heavier than Lars Widenfalk's diabase violin, weighing between 8 and 14 pounds.

Oddity Central



AIRPORT INSPIRED BY THE SAND DUNES IN SAUDI ARABIA



Construction has just begun at the Red Sea International Airport in Saudi Arabia. Designed by the British architecture firm Foster + Partners, the airport is part of a development called the Red Sea Project - an ongoing scheme that is considered to be the most ambitious tourist project in the world. Some of the upcoming designs in the Red Sea Project include a complex comprising 100 holiday villas by Kengo Kuma and Associates and a luxurious circular hotel also designed by Foster + Partners.

Gerard Evenden, head of studio at Foster + Partners, explains that the Red Sea International Airport is designed to be "an integral part of the visitor experience" for those traveling to the resort. The luxurious modern interiors are dotted with greenery and filled with plenty of natural light and

certainly seem to fit with the tropical aesthetic of the Red Sea Project while celebrating Saudi Arabia's local colors and natural features. "Inspired by the colors and textures of the desert landscape," Evenden says, "the design seeks to create a calm and luxurious journey through the terminal and will become a transit hub for visitors coming in by both land and air."

The form of the airport is also the result of local inspiration. Five "pods" with arching roofs are abstracted from desert dunes and each includes a departure lounge with additional amenities like restaurants and spas. The dunes are arranged around a central area of the airport where guests can be picked up or dropped off for travel. Once a departing traveler is left at this area, they can make their way to the pod that is scheduled for their flight. In this way, each pod acts as an independent terminal and gives the airport added flexibility for periods of high and low traffic.

Flexibility is just one of the ways

this airport is designed to reduce energy and have a lower overall footprint. Other "green" interventions include self-shading devices and a smaller building overall to reduce energy demand. The airport is also planned to meet a LEED Platinum rating and be powered by 100 percent renewable energy. Though the airport is taking these green measures, Foster + Partners may still expect some criticism on designing the project in the first place. The controversy surrounded firms like Foster + Partners and Zaha Hadid Architects who are working on luxury airports and resorts in remote desert regions. Architects and critics have pointed out that the firms' projects seem to break promises they made by signing a pledge with Architects Declare. Critics believe that these projects are inherently harmful and that firms who signed the pledge but still take these commissions do not take Declare seriously.

My Modern Met



WORLD WATER DAY 2021

Clean water and sanitation are a basic human right. Today, water is under extreme threat from a growing population, increasing demands of agriculture and industry, and the worsening impacts of climate change. As societies balance the demands on water resources, many people's interests are not being taken into account.

Yet in 2017, 2.2 billion people, that is 29% of the world's population, did not have access to drinking water that was free from contamination and available on premises when needed. 785 million people lacked even basic drinking water services, which include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water. Of those who lacked basic access to water, eight out of ten people lived in rural areas. These statistics are devastating when clean water and sanitation are viewed as being essential to the realization of human rights.

In Sri Lanka, only 57.7% of the population has access to pipe borne water. Although the remaining population has access to basic water through self-sufficient methods such as protected dug wells, rainwater harvesting systems and nearby public point sources, access to safe water continues to be a critical issue.

Dr. Buddika Hapuarachchi, Team Lead & Policy Specialist of the Climate and Environment Team at UNDP in Sri Lanka concurs, "with the climate crisis worsening, the resultant environmental issues further catalyzing social inequalities and increasing pressures on already scarce natural resources essential to human life such as water, the wellbeing of our communities are at heightened risk."

This year's theme World Water Day is about what water means to people, its true value and how we can better protect this vital resource.

In Sri Lanka, water is interwoven into the core of its social and cultural spheres. Ancient villages were designed around water sources for their sustenance, while kings developed cascade systems to enhance the long-term development of the surrounding natural resources on which the communities and their livelihoods depended. This year's theme for World Water Day, 'Valuing water', is central to the rich community and sustainability centered identity of Sri Lanka. Yet, in the 2020 Global Climate Risk Index, Sri Lanka ranked 6th among the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events in 2018.

In the recent past, owing to the many effects of climate change, Sri Lanka's Dry Zone, which covers 70% of the country's land area, has experienced some of the worst droughts in the island's history. With this area being home to a majority of the country's farmers and smallholders, rural communities bear the brunt of water issues in the country. Ensuring an uninterrupted supply of drinking water during periods of drought; reduced quality of water from public point sources which scientific speculations link to the cause of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKDu) which is prevalent in some of the areas in the Dry Zone; limitations in the country's water production capacity and stress on its water resources, and the partial treatment and water quality deterioration are some of the crucial issues that affect Sri Lanka.

Women and Water

In addition, water and sanitation have social impacts that are often gendered. The lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services has a greater impact on women and children, with links to an increase in the threat of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Women's inequitable access, and in most cases, lack of access to financial resources, economic opportunities, technology and skills training, and the abysmal representation at decision-making levels, dictate how and on what conditions women have access to these resources. Given this position of vulnerability, women often face increased levels of intimate partner violence, and other forms of GBV, furthering entrenchment in poverty through their interactions with natural resources – especially those as crucial to survival as water. Due to gendered cultural norms in most countries, women and girls are given the responsibility to fetch water, manage daily water use and storage, and access to water. Not only does such unequal access prevent women and girls from focusing their time and energy on more economically and personally productive activities, like attending school or engaging in an income generating activity, but it also leads to a further entrenchment in poverty while increasing their vulnerability to risk of sexual harassment and danger.

Water; The backbone of Sri Lanka



In addition, water and sanitation have social impacts that are often gendered. The lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services has a greater impact on women and children, with links to an increase in the threat of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Global observations are synonymous to the local context too. 29-year-old Baleswary from Vavuniya has similar struggles. The mother of a toddler and a preschooler, she lacks access to clean drinking water due to the absence of water filtering equipment in her area and has to pay 3 rupees for every litre of clean water obtained. Unable to afford such costs, she and her two daughters have had to resort to using untreated, contaminated water.

For women like Baleswary, and many others in her community, water means hardship, evidence of severe inequalities and ever-increasing vulnerability.

Responding to these challenges, the 'Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management' (CRI-WMP) project implemented by the Government of Sri Lanka with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funding of the Green Climate Fund (GCF); is working together with communities to find a comprehensive solution to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers in the Dry Zone to climate variability and extreme events.

Through an integrated approach to water management, the seven-year project targets households in three river basins - the Malwathu Oya, Mi Oya, and Yan Oya (rivers) - which flows through the Northern part of the Dry Zone.

An innovative project involving the rehabilita-

tion of 325 reservoirs, of an ancient water distribution structure known as the cascade system has created a platform, to rehabilitate especially deprived parts of this system. The cascade system is one of the oldest water mobilization schemes on the planet. The selected 16 cascades consist of hundreds of small reservoirs known as "tanks", all connected by irrigation channels. A component of the project is also focused on harvesting rainwater for villages and households, which help families to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Dr. Buddika went on to note, "Progress on all other facets of development such as reducing poverty, achieving universal access to basic services, ending hunger, reducing malnutrition, ensuring food security, combating diseases and reducing gender inequality and ending all forms of violence against women and girls depend on equitable access to affordable and safe water, therefore preemptive, holistic and effective work towards achieving SDG 6. 'Water and Sanitation for All' is vital."

Experience from the field indicates that 'Domestic Roof Water Harvesting and Recharge' is a viable and simple technology to improve access to safe water in the dry zone villages. "Protection and improvement of catchments and watersheds of all water resources are vital to improving the drinking water security as well



as quality. Implementation of catchments and watershed protection at the village level, small tank, cascade and larger river basin levels are essential within the community," adds Sajjan Jayasiriwardane, Water Supply Specialist for UNDP in Sri Lanka.

Therefore, as we examine the impact of this basic yet vital resource, it is important that we identify the issues faced by communities and work towards providing equitable access to safe and clean water to all.

The value of water is about much more than its price – water has enormous and complex value for our households, culture, health, education, economics and the integrity of our natural environment. If we overlook any of these values, we risk mismanaging this finite, irreplaceable resource.



Sathis Navaratne, Chairman- Sadaharitha Group (second from right) rewards an Agarwood investor.

Sadaharitha Plantations Limited, a pioneer in the Green Investment sector and leader in commercial forestry in Sri Lanka, cre-

ated history on March 03 at a ceremony themed 'Trust Rewarded'.

During the milestone event in Sri Lanka's Agarwood industry,

Sadaharitha repurchased the Agarwood harvests from its customers upon the completion of their tenure by rewarding them

Sadaharitha rewards customers' with dividends at 'Trust Rewarded'

with higher rate of returns-much higher than dividends offered by any financial institution.

The 'Trust Rewarded' event, held at Cinnamon Grand Hotel Colombo, was graced by Chairman of the Sadaharitha Group, Sathis Nawarathna who is a pioneer and veteran in introducing commercial forestry as a source of foreign exchange to Sri Lanka. The 'Trust Rewarded' event was conducted adhering to all the COVID-19 precautions. At the March 03 'Trust Rewarded' event Sadaharitha – the first company to introduce Agarwood as a commercial forestry based investment – offered dividends to the customers who purchased spots in their first-ever planta-

tion located in Neboda. Sathis Nawarathna stated: "I am incredibly pleased to see this important day unfolding into reality, as this is the day we buy the harvest from our investors while being able to deliver higher returns – much more than what was promised. Right from the inception and introduction of Agarwood to Sri Lanka, we have long planned to bring in foreign exchange to the country, strengthening local investors, and to protect and preserve nature.

And as a company, I can confidently say that we are delivering the very best to our customers. Our customers have been with us for over 19 years and this is a true reflection of the 'trust' that we

have won, nurtured and strengthened over the years."

Speaking on the occasion, the Executive Director and CEO of Sadaharitha Plantations Dr. Pradeep Edward said: "The Sadaharitha Group is a pioneer in the commercial forestry of Agarwood –and ensures catalyzing the highest quality market value.

The international markets require Agarwood of the highest quality and our threshold of being able to produce and supply the products directly to those markets allow us to reward the investors with the highest profit return ratios in the forestry and investment industry. We are now a major stakeholder in the foreign exchange earnings for the country."

Sadaharitha Agarwood – the only stable Sri Lankan brand in the global Agarwood market – is constantly committed in providing the highest quality Agarwood to the rest of the world. Its commendable research and development division together with its expert staff produce high quality agave through technology and innovation. Director, Sales and Marketing, Sadaharitha Group Jayampathy Mirando said: "I take this opportunity to thank all our 35,000 customers, who value very much.

We have been able to offer dividends for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka primarily due to being able to provide a reliable and cordial service to our customers."

Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation and
Childcare Services

CENTRAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

INVITATION FOR BIDS

PURCHASE OF DRY AND RAW DRUGS YEAR 2021

Provincial Department of Ayurveda

1. Bids are invited from qualified institutions and individuals who are not blacklisted for the purchase of Dry and Raw Medicines to the Provincial Department of Ayurveda, required for the manufacture of medicines, for year 2021.

Ser. No.	Description	Non Refundable Bid Document Fee (Rs.)	Value of the Bid Security	
			In Cash (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)
1	Purchase of Dry and Raw Drugs - year 2021	1500/-	1% of the Bid Value	2% of the Bid Value

2. Relevant bid documents may be obtained between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days of the week from 19.03.2021 until 07.04.2021 on submission of the receipt obtained from the Financial Assistant of the Central Provincial Department of Ayurveda upon payment of the non refundable bid document fee in cash. Only the bid documents issued by the department should be used for the submission of bids and the bids not in conformity of that will be rejected. Instructions required for bidders are issued with the bid documents.
3. A bid security to the value mentioned in the table above drawn in favour of the Central Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, and the bid security should be valid until 10.07.2021. If the bid security amount is paid in cash, it should be paid to the Financial Assistant of the Central Provincial Department of Ayurveda in valid Sri Lankan currency and the certified copy of the receipt obtained should be attached to the bid as the bid guarantee.
4. Bidders who submit quotations for dry and raw drugs should formally hand over samples separately for each drug suitably packed in a container sealed to the Accounts Division of the Central provincial Department of Ayurveda between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. with a list of samples and should obtain a certificate that correct samples were handed over.
5. All bids should be prepared in duplicate and the Original and the Duplicate should be inserted in separate covers, sealed marking Original and Duplicate and both covers should be reinserted in a single cover and sealed mentioning "Purchase of Dry and Raw Drugs - year 2021" on the left hand top corner of the envelope and may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Central Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Pallekelle, Kundasale" or deposited in the bid box kept at the Official Room of the Central Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda to receive at or before 10.30 a.m. on 08.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids and the bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
6. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on 31.03.2021 at the Auditorium of the Central Provincial Department of Ayurveda.
7. Procurement entity reserves the right to take all the decision regarding the procurement activities.
8. Further details regarding the bid may be obtained by calling on Tel. No. 081-2423144) and the relevant documents may be inspected free of charge between 12.00 and 13.00 hrs on working days at the Accounts Division of the Provincial Department of Ayurveda.

Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Central Provincial Department of Ayurveda
Pallekelle
Kundasale
19.03.2021

Procurement Notice

Ministry of Road Development, Transport, Power and
Energy, Housing and Construction Central Province

Amendment to the Newspaper Advertisement published on Tuesday, 2nd March 2021

I wish to inform that the bid documents will be issued for the works mentioned in that advertisement as per the Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii) dated 18.02.2021 and accordingly the CIDA Registration will be amended as per the circular. Accordingly, the relevant dates will be amended as follows.

Last Date for Issuing of Bid Documents	Second Pre-Bid Meeting	Opening of Quotations
Up to 3.00 p.m. on 30.03.2021	At 10.00 on 24.03.2021	At 10.30 a.m. on 01.04.2021

It is further informed that all other details and conditions mentioned in the advertisement published on 02.03.2021 remain same and valid.

Chairman
Procurement Committee
Ministry of Road Development, Transport, Power and Energy and Housing and Construction
No. 109, Yatinuware Street,
Kandy.



COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Lease of vacant meat stalls in public markets for the year 2021/2022/2023

Sealed bids in duplicate are invited from Sri Lankan citizens for the lease of the right of sale of Beef / Mutton / Chicken in the vacant meat stalls vacant in the Public Markets for the period from 01.07.2021 to 31.12.2023.

- Bid forms and documents could be obtained from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. during weekdays up to 3.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021 upon payment of the bid form fee of Rs. 1000 + VAT from the Revenue Division of Municipal Treasurer's Department.
- The deposit amount relevant for the said application forms so obtained could be paid to the Revenue Division of Municipal Treasurer's Department up to 3.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021 and sealed bid documents should be deposited in the tender box kept at the Municipal Secretary's Department before 10.00 a.m. on 09.04.2021.
- Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 09.04.2021 and bidders or one of their representatives could be present at the time.
- Bid forms not compatible to the all conditions in bid documents will be rejected. The relevant trade stall will be allocated for the maximum bid offered for each stall.
- Further details could be had from the Accountant (Revenue) through the Telephone No. 011-2699244 of the Revenue Department of Municipal Treasurer's Department
- Colombo Municipal Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Municipal Commissioner
Colombo Municipal Council

Colombo Municipal Council
Colombo-07.

SCHEDULE

Public Market	Stall No.	Nature	Council Price Rs. Cts.	Tender Deposit Amount Rs. Cts.
Deans Road	44/05	Beef	165,700.00	83,000.00
	44/10	Beef	114,900./00	58,000.00
Dematagoda	50/37	Chicken	193,000.00	97,000.00
Bambalapitiya	14	Chicken	494,800.00	248,000.00
	24	Beef	392,000.00	196,000.00
Wellawatte	01	Pork	72,200.00	37,000.00
	03	Mutton	793,250.00	397,000.00
	04	Beef	1,339,600.00	670,000.00
	01	Chicken	617,400.00	309,000.00
Gintupitiya	02	Chicken	3,296,500.00	1,649,000.00
	03	Mutton	408,500.00	205,000.00
Nagalagam Street	07	Mutton	573,600.00	287,000.00
	381/1	Chicken	551,300.00	276,000.00
	381/7	Chicken	663,800.00	332,000.00
Kirulapona	381/8	Pork	167,200.00	84,000.00
	146	Chicken	8,290,000.00	4,145,000.00
Kollupitiya	01/A	Pork	102,600.00	52,000.00
	09	Mutton	508,400.00	255,000.00



State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction & Building Materials Industries Promotion STATE ENGINEERING CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka now invites two separate sealed Bids from the Bidders for the works as described below.

No.	Name & Identification No. of Bid	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Construction Period	Location	Non Refundable Bid Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)
I.	Bid for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Split Type Air-Conditioning System (Inverter Type) at Second Floor for Design & Construction of the Four Storied Para Clinical Building - Stage II, University of Peradeniya. (C&P/C/1967/2021/032)	Rs.6.5 Million	90 Days	Para Clinical Building - University of Peradeniya	2,000.00	65,000.00
II.	Bid for Supply, Fabrication and Fixing of Steel Fire Doors for Construction of Millennium Wards, PCU & Paramedical Services Building (Balance Work) at Colombo South Teaching Hospital - Kalubowila. (C&P/P/2292/2021/035)	Rs. 6.5 Million	30 Days	Millennium Wards - Colombo South Hospital, Kalubowila	2,000.00	65,000.00

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure & interested Bidders may quote any or both Bids separately.
3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be a reputed local company having experience in supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of air-conditioning works and supply, fabrication and fixing of steel fire doors as per bidding document.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **Chief Engineer (Contracts & Planning), Contracts & Planning Division, 5th Floor, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from **09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs** and contact Numbers are **011-2451151, 011-2430061-5**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02 from **19.03.2021 until 01.04.2021** on any working day from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a Tender Fee (non-refundable) given as above to the **Cashier, Accounts Division at 7th Floor, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02**.
6. Bids will be delivered to the address below at **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, Ground Floor, Head Office Building, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** at or before **14.00 hrs on 02.04.2021**. Contact name should be marked at the top left-hand corner of the Bid. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend.
7. Both Bids shall be accompanied by a separate Bid Security for the amount given above. Bid Security shall be in any form as per the Bid Document and should be valid up to **16.07.2021**.
8. A Pre Bid Meeting is scheduled to be held at **1st Floor, Head Office Building, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** on 25.03.2021 at 10.00 hrs for Bid No. I.

Chairman
Department Procurement Committee,
State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka,
130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha,
Colombo 02.

19.03.2021

Invitation for Bids - Local Supply
STATE PRINTING CORPORATION

Chairman, Procurement Committee, State Printing Corporation invites sealed Bids from the eligible and qualified bidders who work as Suppliers, Importers or Manufacturers through their Accredited Local Agents for the supply of White Printing Paper as given below.

FILE REFERENCE	QTY.	ITEM	BID BOND
SPC/SU/2020/I/37	500 MT	Imp. White Writing Paper 750 mm - 70 gsm	Rs.800,000/=

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding as Local Supply of the materials
- Bidders should comply with the following eligibility criteria to qualify for award.
 - Manufacturer's authorization / Power of Attorney confirming the status of the Agency / Importer
 - Valid Business Registration
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by the interested Bidders on submission of written application to **Supplies Manager, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka** on any working day from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 19.03.2021 until 07.04.2021 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5000/= . The method of payment will be by cash.
- Sealed Bids must mention the tender reference on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and shall be deposited in the Tender Box available at the Office of the **Supplies Manager, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka** or send by Registered Post to Chairman, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka at the above address to reach him on or before 11.00 hrs on 08.04.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing. Bidders or their representatives may attend the bid opening.
- The Bids shall be valid up to 45 calendar days from the date closing of the bid.
- An on demand Bid Bond deposit in cash or in the form of an unconditional Bank Guarantee issued by a reputed bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and payable to Chairman / General Manager, State Printing Corporation should be submitted with the Bid.

Further details could be obtained from the **Supplies Manager** on Telephone / Fax : 2757500.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee
STATE PRINTING CORPORATION
Panaluwa,
Padukka.**

Procurement Notice
Dog Sterilization Programme
Department of Health Services - Sabaragamuwa Province

- Bids will be received up to 10.00 a.m. on 09th April 2021 by the Director of Health Services, Sabaragamuwa Province, from registered Institutions or Organizations fulfilling required qualifications for the provision of required services for the Dog Sterilization Programme implemented in Ratnapura and Kegalle Districts by the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Department of Health Services.
- Relevant Bid Documents will be issued from the Office of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Director of Health Services at No. 75, Dharmapala Mawatha, Ratnapura, from 19th March 2021 up to 07th April, 2021, on Government working days, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on 08th April 2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,000.00 and a refundable deposit of Rs. 150,000.00 will have to be paid per each Institution for the issuance of Bid Documents. To obtain relevant Bid documents, the receipts received for the above payments made to this office along with a written request should be submitted.
- Bids received will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 09th April 2021 at the Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services. Bidders or their authorized representatives can be present at the bid opening.
- Sealed Bids could either be sent by registered post to the address stated in Para 2 or placed in the Bid Box kept at this office, to be received at or before 10.00 a.m. on 09th April 2021.
- Relevant Bid Documents can be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services.
- Further details can be obtained from the Chief Accountant of this Office.

**Telephone Nos. 045-2222277
045-2222322**

**Chairman
Procurement Committee,
Provincial Department of Health Services**

No. 75, Dharmapala Mawatha, Ratnapura.
19th March 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007

Name of the Company:
Lengara Leisure (Private) Limited
Registration No. PV 00234936
Date of Incorporation:
15.02.2021
Registered office:
No. 27/8, Silva Lane, Meetotamulla Road, Kollonnawa, Wellampitiya.
Board of Directors

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 that the following company was incorporated.

Name of the Company:
AYOMAL COLLECTION (PVT) LTD
No of Company. PV 00227660
Registered office:
No. 241/3, Kahantota Road, Malabe.
Date of Incorporation:
19.09.2021
Company Secretary

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 that the following company was incorporated on the 5th of March 2021.

Name of the Company:
KASTHANE CEYLON (PRIVATE) LIMITED
Company registration No. PV 00235936
Registered office address:
No. 359/1A, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia, Ratmalana.
On behalf of the Board by Gregory's Partners
Company Secretary
53/3B, Gregory's Road, Colombo 07.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given in terms of Section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 in respect of the Name Change of the undermentioned Company.

Former Name of the Company : **M S L Audits (Private) Limited**
New Name of the Company : **Mulgampola Property Investment (Private) Limited**
Registration No : PV 15329
Registered Office Address : **No. 839/2, Peradeniya Road, Kandy.**
Date of Name Change Certificate : **March 11, 2021**
On behalf of the above Company Business Intelligence (Private) Limited Secretaries **No. 08, Ticklell Road, Colombo 08.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
STATE PRINTING CORPORATION
IFB No: SPC/SU/L/2021/FI/06
Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Digital Printing Machine

- State Printing Corporation (SPC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders, Importers or Manufacturers through their accredited local agents for Supply, Installation & commissioning of Digital Printing Machine.
- Bidders are required to furnish a Bid Security of Rs. 70,000.00.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedure.
- Bids may be submitted by local agents, on behalf of their respective principals, who have previous experience of at least **ten (10) years** in supplying, installing and maintaining of machineries of similar capacity.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application, which is accompanied with the receipt for payment of a non refundable fee of **Rs 3,500.00**. Bid documents will be issued on working days from **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 pm** commencing from **19/03/2021** up to **08/04/2021**.
- Duly filed bidding documents in duplicate, marked **"Original"** and **"Duplicate"** relevantly in sealed envelopes and enclosed both in one sealed envelope marked **"Bid for Digital Printing Machine: SPC/SU/L/2021/FI06"** on the top left-hand corner of the envelope should be deposited in the tender box kept at the **Office of Supplies Manager, State Printing Corporation, Panaluwa, Padukka** at or before **11.00 am** on **09/04/2021**. Late bid submissions are not accepted.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person immediately after the bid closing on **09/04/2021**.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee - Minor,
State Printing Corporation,
Panaluwa,
Padukka.**

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **Tikiri Hennadige Saman Kumara** (NIC No. 671680154V) do hereby inform the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the general public that the Special Power of Attorney No. 438 dated 25.07.2020, attested by me N.T. Sivaranjan, Notary public of Kandy, entered and registered in the written authorities and Power of Attorney book, volume 312, folio 14 and Day Book No. 8289, dated 17.08.2020 and conferred on Rathnayaka Mudiyansele Perarakum Senarath Bandara (NIC No. 197625702982), appointing him as my Power of Attorney is hereby cancelled and annulled and that the said power of attorney will have no legal effect hereinafter.

Tikiri Hennadige Saman Kumara

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, **ERAMBU SELVARASA** of No. 62/1 2nd Cross Street, Puttalam (Holder of National Identity Card No. 472220225V) do hereby inform the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that, the General Power of Attorney bearing No. 1216 dated 15th day of November, 2016 and attested by Insey Azeef Iqbal of Puttalam Notary Public and registered under day book No. 43 of the Deputy Registrar General, Registrar General's Office North Western / North Central Zonal Office, Kurunegala and granted to (1) SELVARASA DARSHANA (Holder of National Identity Card No. 915630200V) and (2) KANAGASABAPATHI AYNARATHASAN (Holder of National Identity Card No. 850322015V) both of No. 62, 2nd Cross Street, Puttalam is revoked and cancelled from 23.01.2021.

ERAMBU SELVARASA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
LANKAPURA PRADESHIVA SABHA
Construction of Commercial Building in Tambala-Stage 01
PS LAN/NCB/2021/01

- The Chairman, Council Procurement Committee on behalf of Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Construction of Commercial Building in Tambala-Stage 01 and estimated to cost Rs.10 Mn. The Construction period is 120 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of Work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs. 50 Mn., regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (ii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet CIDA registration C6 or C7.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include the successful completion of a similar nature of building of value more than Rs. 5 Mn in consecutive last five years and employing a Technical officer who has engaged in, three similar Projects in last five years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Chairman, Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha, Thalpotha, Polonnaruwa [Telephone: 027-2242324, e-mail: nep/lps.lankapura2324@mail.com and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Chairman, Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha, from 17th March 2021 until 06th April 2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500/-. The method of payment will be in cash.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below, on or before 7th April 2021 at 1000 hrs. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 77 Days (23.06.2021).
- Pre bid meeting shall be held on 31 March 2021 at 11.00 hrs at Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha office premises.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of **Rs. 200,000**. Bid Security shall be valid up to **21.07.2021**.

The address referred to above is:

**Council Procurement Committee,
Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha,
Thalpotha,
Polonnaruwa.**

**Chairman,
Council Procurement Committee,
Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha.**

BIKES FAIR KOTTAWA

VEHICLE NO.	MODEL	TYPE
WP BBG - 19XX	APACHE RTR	BIKE
NC BCN-35XX	PULSAR 135 LS	BIKE
SG BIP-50XX	FZ	BIKE
CP BIQ - 50XX	NTORQ	BIKE
WP BIR - 55XX	MT-15	BIKE
WP BGO - 64XX	APACHE RTR	BIKE
WP BGX-68XX	NTORQ	BIKE
NC BIK - 70XX	FZ VERSION 0.2	BIKE
WP BGE - 74XX	DIO	BIKE
WP BIN - 74XX	FZ VERSION 03	BIKE
WP BCB-75XX	PULSAR 150	BIKE
WP BGX-85XX	XL HEAVY DUTY	BIKE
UP BER-90XX	APACHE RTR	BIKE
SP BID - 19XX	RAY-ZR	BIKE
SP BHA-23XX	RAY-ZR	BIKE
SP BFN 33XX	PULSAR 200 NS	BIKE
SP BHC-44XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE
SP BFB-54XX	FZ-5	BIKE
SP BFS - 58XX	METRO	BIKE
SP BIC-63XX	NTORQ	BIKE
SP BBW - 64XX	ZEST	BIKE
SP BGS - 65XX	XL SUPER HD	BIKE
SP BHR - 83XX	DIO	BIKE
SP BBC - 86XX	METRO	BIKE
SP BGH - 93XX	WEGO	BIKE
SP BIK - 70XX	RAY-ZR	BIKE
UP BFU - 98XX	ROCKSTAR	BIKE
WP BGR-35XX	DIO	BIKE
WP BIQ - 92XX	NTORQ	BIKE
NW BIK-77XX	DIO	BIKE

Inspections can be done at company vehicle yard, on 23rd and 24th March 2021 9.00 am to 4.00 pm at No 17/1, Pinhena Junction, Horana Rd, Kottawa.

The management of the company has the right to withdraw any vehicle from the fair without prior notice.

Call to reserve your seat in advance (Fee 1,500)
Contact Number - 0719915986

0719 919 986 / 0712 591 067

Auction Date : 25th MARCH 2021
Time 10.00 am *Conditions Apply
Entry is limited to the first 50 persons

**Head Office
Arpico Finance Company PLC**
No.145, Havelock Rd., Thimbinipaya, Colombo 01.
Tel: 0115 553663

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Ministry of Industries PARANTHAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LIMITED



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids are invited by the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee from manufacturers or principals or their Accredited Agents for the following.

Bid No: PCCL/05/CL₂/CC/2021/02 :

630 Metric Tons of Liquid Chlorine in Company Cylinders.

Those who wish to apply, should download the bidding document from following website or send an email of requesting the Bid Document.

Website	Email
www.pccl.gov.lk/	dhananjika@pccl.gov.lk

Note: Bid opening date will be on 21st April 2021 at 10.30 a.m

Bidders or their authorized representatives will be permitted to be present at the opening of Bids. Late Bids will be rejected.

**Chairman
Department Procurement Committee,
PARANTHAN CHEMICALS COMPANY LIMITED**

No.100/25,
Sri Ramanathan Mawatha,
Colombo 13.

Tel. No. 0112 437 557

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 9 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.

Company Name: VERBZ INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD
Company Reg. No. PV 00235146
Date of Incorporation 19.02.2021
Registered Office 76, Poorwarama Road, Nugegoda

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given in terms of Section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 in respect of the Name Change of the undermentioned Company.

Former Name of the Company: M S L Audits (Private) Limited
New Name of the Company: Mulgampola Property Holdings (Private) Limited
Registration No: PV 15039
Registered Office Address: No. 201, De Saram Place, Colombo 10.
Date of Name Change Certificate: March 02, 2021

On behalf of the above Company Managers and Secretaries (Private) Limited Secretaries No. 08, Tickell Road, Colombo 08.

**Repeat
Your
Ad
For
Better
Offers**

Notice of Election of Members to the Council of the Sri Lanka Medical Council

Nominations were received for the election of Members to the SLMC under Section 12(1)(c) of the Medical Ordinance. The following nominations were accepted.

- ANANDA KUTTIGAMA ATHIGE SAMANTHA KUMARASIRI ANANDA
- ASELA SURENDA ABEYSUNDERA
- CHANDANA KAPILA RANASINGHE
- CHANDANA SUDASSI DHARMARATNE
- DONIL PRASANNAJITH GANEGODA
- HARITHA PUNU ALUTHGE
- JAYASIRI DESHAPRIYA DIAS
- KOTTASA VIDANELAGE NIHAL DEVAPRIYA
- RYAN JAYALATH
- SARADA UDAJEEWA KANNANGARA
- SURIYAKUMARA WANNISINGHE KANCHANA MALINDA BANDARA BULANKULAME

An election will be held for the election of Five (5) members from the above candidates. Medical Practitioners with valid registration under Section 29 of the Medical Ordinance are eligible to vote.

Voting in person will be held at the BMICH, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7 from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday 20 April and Wednesday 21 April 2021.

Any Medical Practitioner who is found to be involved in any kind of Election Malpractice shall be considered as an offender and shall be reported to the Council under the disciplinary procedure regulations of the SLMC.

Prof. Vajira Dissanayake
Returning Officer/President,
Sri Lanka Medical Council,
31, Norris Canal Road,
Colombo 10.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES – KALMUNAI

PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE FURNITURE, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, COMPUTERS AND IT EQUIPMENT

Primary Healthcare System Strengthening Project - 2021

Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, **Regional Procurement Committee** on behalf of the Regional Director of Health Services - Kalmunai from eligible and qualified bidders for the undermentioned items in the following table :

S.N	Name of Equipment	UNITS	NON REFUNDABLE FEES	BID SECURITY
Package Number 01. Procurement of Medical Equipment				
Ref No : EP/KAL/RDHS/PSSP/P1/MEQ Den/2021				
1	Supply & installation of Dental Chairs	2	1,000.00	15,000.00
Package Number 02. Procurement of computers, laptops and other IT Equipment				
Ref No : EP/KAL/RDHS/PSSP/P2/IT.Equi/2021				
2	Laptop	4	1,000.00	1% of the total bid value without VAT, Valid for 45 days from the date of closing
3	Barcode Reader	4		
4	POS Printer	4		
5	Sticker Printer	4		
6	HD Web Camera	4		
7	Wireless Laser Printer	4		
8	Laminating Machine	4		
9	Desktop Computer set	4		
10	Printer	4		
11	Portable Sound System	6		
Package Number 03. Procurement of office furniture, other equipment				
Ref No : EP/KAL/RDHS/PSSP/Hos fur/2021				
13	Iron cupboard with glass	8	1,000.00	1% of the total bid value without VAT, Valid for 45 days from the date of closing
14	Waste Collection Bins	68		
15	Waste Collection Cart	12		
16	High Back Chairs	8		
17	Office Table	8		
18	OPD waiting chairs	200		
19	OPD 3 seater Gang chairs	60 set		
20	low back chair	20		
21	Visitor chairs for Auditorium (Cushion chair with Arm)	250		
22	Head table for Auditorium	4		

- Procurement method will be **National competitive bidding**, single stage envelope system.
- Bid documents for each package in duplicate can be obtained from Regional Director of Health Services Office - Kalmunai during working days from 19.03.2021 to 08.04.2021 between 9.00 am & 2.30 pm at the office of Regional Director of Health Services Office - Kalmunai on submission of the following :
 - Receipt obtained from Financial Unit of the Regional Director of Health Services Office - Kalmunai upon payment of non-refundable fees as mentioned in above table in cash for each package
 - A written application to the Regional Director of Health Services Office - Kalmunai
 - Certified copy of business registration certificate
- Sealed Bids must be delivered in duplicate to the address given below or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Regional Director of Health Services Office, Police Station Road, Kalmunai at or before 2.30 pm on 09.04.2021. Respective bid title of supplies should be marked separately on the left corner of the envelope /cover. **Late bids** will be **rejected**. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as mentioned in above table. It shall be obtained from recognized organizations in Sri Lanka.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain **further information from Financial Unit / Planning Unit - Regional Director of Health Services Office** - Kalmunai during office hours (09.00hrs to 16.00hrs). 0672224067, 0672223640
- Decision of the Regional Procurement Committee is final regarding this tender.

**Dr. G. Sukunan
RDHS
Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee
Regional Director of Health Services, RDHS Office, Police Station Road, Kalmunai**



TERTIARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMISSION

State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research & Innovations



Common Examination for Equalizing National Certificate in Technology (NCT) (Civil / Quantity Surveying / Electrical & Electronic / Mechanical Engineering) / National Certificate for Industrial Technician (NCIT) (Civil Engineering/ Mechanical / Electrical) to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) Level 5

National Certificate in Technology (NCT) & National Certificate for Industrial Technician (NCIT) to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ)

01. The Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) has made arrangements to conduct common examination for certificate holders of National Certificate in Technology (Civil / Quantity Surveying / Electrical & Electronic / Mechanical Engineering) and National Certificate for Industrial Technician (NCIT) (Civil Engineering/ Mechanical / Electrical) awarded by Department of Technical Education Training to grant NVQ level 5 equivalence qualification. The examination will be based on National Competency Standard (NCS) and Competency Based Training (CBT) Curriculum for Construction Technology / Quantity Surveying / Electrical Technology / Production Technology / Welding Technology / Automobile Technology / Ref & AC Technology.

02. Certificate holders, who were enrolled for the above courses on or before 2014, are eligible to apply for the examination.

03. Examination fee - A receipt of payment in favour of "Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission", A/C No. 078100172266044 of Peoples' Bank to the value of Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand), obtained only from any branch of Peoples' Bank should accompany each application. This examination fee is non refundable.

04. TVEC shall conduct a viva voce for candidates who are successful at the examination, for which additional Rs. 2000.00 will be levied later.

05. NCT/NCIT certificate holders, who wish to apply for this are informed to forward the application given below under registered post marked "NCT (Civil) / NCT (QS) / NCT (Electrical & Electronic) / NCT (Mechanical) / NCIT (Civil) / NCIT (Electrical) / NCIT (Mechanical) common examination" as relevant to you on the top left hand corner of the envelope. The duly filled application should be addressed to the Director General, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 or on or before 23.04.2021.

Note : If you are unable to apply on date visit www.tvec.gov.lk, web site to apply through Mature candidate route (NVQ circular 01/2019) or External candidate route (NVQ circular 05/2017)

Please use following link to register for examination before closing date.
<https://nvq.gov.lk/NCT/ApplicationWelcome>

Application for Common Examination for Equalizing National Certificate in Technology (Civil Engineering / Quantity Surveying / Electrical & Electronic Engineering / Mechanical Engineering) & National Certificate for Industrial Technician (NCIT) (Civil Engineering / Mechanical / Electrical) to NVQ Level 5

- Name of Applicant (as appeared in the certificate) :
- NIC No. :
- Address :
- Email :
- Contact Telephone No. :
- Period of study : From To
- Effective Date of certificate (Please attach a certified copy of the certificate) :
- Underline the technical Subject area you preferred to sit for the common Examination according to your NCT/NCIT course.

Construction Technology / Quantity Surveying / Electrical Technology / Production Technology / Welding Technology / Automobile Technology / Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Technology

9. Applicants Declaration

9.1 I do hereby certify that above information are true and correct.

9.2 I have pasted the cash deposit / cash transfer receipt to the value of Rs. 1000.00, obtained from Peoples' Bank, drawn in favour of Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, Account No. 078100172266044 of Peoples' Bank.

Date

Signature

Director General,
Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission,
Nipunathe Piyasa, 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.
Tel: 011-7608000, 011-7608060



Ministry of Budhdhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
Department of National Archives



Procurement Notice

Provision of Services for the Canteen for One Year 2021/2022

The Chairman of the Procurement Committee of this Department calls applications from eligible bidders to maintain the canteen of the institution.

- Interested bidders should obtain relevant bid documents from the Assistant Director (Admin) from 19.03.2021 to 21.04.2021 during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. upon submission of National Identity Card and the receipt obtained by paying the non refundable fee of Rs.1000.00 as the fee for bid documents to the Accountant of Department of National Archives.
- On the top left corner of the envelope which contains the application the words "Provision of Services for the Canteen for One Year 2021/2022" should be indicated and the Bid application should be addressed to Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Department of National Archives, No 07, Philip Gunawardhana Mawatha, Colombo 07 and may either be dispatched by registered post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the institute at or before 2.00 p.m. 21.04.2021.
- Bids will be opened soon after the closing at 3.00 pm on 21.04.2021 and the bidder or one of his authorized agents will be allowed to attend the event in accordance with current quarantine laws and health care practices in the country.
- Applications of persons who have violated the terms of the government contract and are blacklisted will be rejected.
- Contact the Administrative Officer of the Department of National Archives for more information.
Telephone(0112696072)

Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee
Department of National Archives
No 07, Philip Gunawardhana Mawatha,
Colombo 07.
Telephone Number 011 - 2696917, 011 - 2696072

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AMENDMENT

Uva Provincial Department of Education

Purchase of Equipment for the Development of Quality of Education and Repairing of School Equipment.

Reference to the procurement notice published on 15th March 2021 as the above, please note that the pre bid meeting date and time contained therein in the said notice has been amended as 9.00 a.m. on 29th March, 2021. All other details contained in the earlier notice published remain unchanged.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Uva Provincial Department of Education,
Welagedara Road, Badulla.

UVA PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Procurement Notice

Purchase of Handloom Thread/Yarn, Dyes, Chemicals, Handloom equipment, self-employment equipment and Sawn Timber for Department of Industrial Development, Uva Province - 2021

Bids are hereby invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Industrial Development, Uva Province, from the Local Manufacturers, suppliers and importers for the purchase of material and equipment, described in the schedule below, for the Uva Provincial Department of Industrial Development, for the year 2021

S/No.	Categories	Quantity expected to be purchased	Refundable Bid Deposit (Rs.)	Non-refundable Bidding Document Fee (Rs.)
01	Gray Yarn (for Handlooms)	5000 kg	50,000.00	3,000.00
02	2/80 colour Yarn (for Handlooms)	3000 kg	50,000.00	3,000.00
03	Coloured Yarn and Rayan Yarn (for Handloom)	2000 kg	50,000.00	3,000.00
04	Dyes and Chemicals	500 kg	50,000.00	3,000.00
05	Handloom equipment	-	50,000.00	3,000.00
06	Materials required for Timber related products	-	50,000.00	3,000.00
07	Sawn Timber	15,000 liner feet	50,000.00	3,000.00
08	Self employment equipment	-	50,000.00	3,000.00
09	Sewing Machines	-	50,000.00	3,000.00

- Bidding documents including tender forms could be obtained by the interested bidders on production of the receipt for the payment of fees indicated in the schedule above paid to the Uva Provincial Director of Industries.
- Issuance of bidding documents, closing of bids and opening of bids will be done as follows.
Issuing of Bidding documents : At the office the Uva Provincial Department of Industrial Development from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days of the week, from 22.03.2021 to 18.04.2021.
Closing/acceptance of Bids : At the office room of the (Uva) Provincial Director of Industries, of the Uva Provincial Department of Industrial Development up to 2.00 p.m. on 19.04.2021.
Opening of Bids : At the office room of the (Uva) Provincial Director of Industries of the Uva Provincial Department of Industries 2.00 p.m. on 19.04.2021
- Further details in this regard could be obtained contacting us over Telephone No. 055-2222607 or visiting/ calling over of the Uva Provincial Department of Industries.

Ajith Dissanayake
Chairman, Procurement Committee

Uva Provincial Department of Industrial Development,
Uva Provincial Council,
Badulla.

19.03.2021

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR NARAHENPITA

OBTAINING BUILDINGS ON LEASE BASIS FOR MAINTAINING LABOUR OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Contract No. FG/TB/24/2020

Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of the Department of Labour on behalf of the Commissioner General of Labour from fully qualified eligible bidders for obtaining buildings on rent for a period of three years for maintaining labour office as mentioned below.

Serial no.	Office	No. of Employees	Land extent	Prospective areas for obtaining buildings
01	District Labour Office - Ja-ela	41	above 5500 sq.foot	from Ja-Ela Town suburbs
02	District Labour Office - Wennappuwa	29	3100 sq.foot	From Wennappuwa Town suburbs
03	District Labour Office - Chilaw	33	2200 sq.foot	from Chilaw Town suburbs
04	Labour Sub-Office - Warakapola	14	1600 sq.foot	from Warakapola Town suburbs

The following requirements should be fulfilled when submitting bids.

- Should consist of the land extent for each of the offices as mentioned above.
- Should possess parking facilities for a minimum of 03 vehicles.
- Should possess sufficient space for service recipients gathered.
- Toilet facilities according to specified standards should be available for the use of the Office Staff and service recipients.
- A separate electricity meter should be available for supply of electricity.
- Main pipe borne water supply with a separate water meter should be available.
- Should have telephone facilities.
- The location should have sufficient protection from natural disasters.
- Should have facilities for disabled persons.
- Both parties should come into a mutual agreement for extension of the lease period.
- Should be located in an area within access to public transport facilities.

An application containing details of the building, location of the building, monthly rent (with and without tax), a copy of the tax registration certificate if paying tax, telephone no. and details of other facilities available, duly prepared and signed by the owner and submitted along with the following documents.

- Copy of the title deed and survey plan.
- Copies of receipts for having paid the assessment tax, accordingly
- A sketch of the access way to the building
- A copy of the approved building plan.

An advance payment will be paid to the selected bidder.

The bid submitted by you should be valid up to 23.06.2021. Bids should be sent by registered post to the Department of Labour, Finance Division, 9th Floor, Colombo 05 to be received at or before 10.30 a.m. on 08.04.2021 or could be hand delivered. Bids should be submitted in two copies marked as "Original" and "Duplicate" and the words "Obtaining buildings on lease basis" should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing bids. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids and authorized representatives could participate on this occasion.

Further details could be obtained from the Additional Commissioner General of Labour (Administration) on Tel No. 011-2581970.

The decision of the Procurement Committee of the Department of Labour regarding this invitation for quotations is deemed final.

Commissioner General of Labour
Department of Labour
Narahenpita,
Colombo 05.

Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Social Welfare, Probation & Childcare Services

Central Provincial Department of Health Services

Office of the Kandy Regional Director of Health Services

Primary Health Services System Empowering Project (PSSP)

This refers to the Bid Invitation published on Page 25 in the Dinamina Newspaper on 02.03.2021 relevant to the above matter.

Accordingly, as per the 3.3 of the Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii) dated 18.02.2021, the CIDA Registration Grades for Contractors qualifying for construction procurements up to Rupees Million 50 is amended as follows. Therefore, when bid evaluations are made this Circular will be followed as relevant to the CIDA Registration and the Regional Registration.

	Constructions and Repair Work	Registered CIDA Grade
1.	Kadugannawa Regional Hospital - Repairs to male Wards and Staff Rest Rooms	C8 and C7
2.	Jambugahapitiya Regional Hospital - Repairs to Clinic Building	C8 and C7
3.	Thalathuoya Regional Hospital - Improvements to Dental Unit and Access Road to Staff Quarters	C9 and C8
4.	Repairs to Mulgama Clinic Center in the Doluwa Medical Health Division	C8 and C7
5.	Uduwela Regional Hospital - Construction of Drainage System and Septic Tank	C9 and C8
6.	Thiththapajjala Regional Hospital - Construction of Ambulance Garage and Rest Room	C8 and C7
7.	Kotaligoda Regional Hospital - Repairs to Female Ward and Emergency Treatment Unit	C8 and C7
8.	Repairs to Mailapitiya Primary Medical Unit	C7 and C6
9.	Kotaligoda Regional Hospital - Improvements to Access Roads to OPD Section and Suwa Divi Clinics	C8 and C7
10.	Katugastota Regional Hospital - Improvements to the protection of Wards and Ambulance Garage	C8 and C7
11.	Sangarajapura Regional Hospital - Repairs to OPD Section	C9 and C8
12.	Menikhinna Regional Hospital - Improvements to Dental Clinic	C9 and C8
13.	Katugastota Regional Hospital - Improvements to Dental Clinic	C9 and C8
14.	Hataraliyadda Regional Hospital - Repairs to male and female Wards, Children's Ward and Kitchen	C7 and C6
15.	Construction of the Waiting Place of the Central Clinic of the Kundasale Office of the Medical Officer of Health	C8 and C7
16.	Pussellawa Regional Hospital - Construction of Toilet Complex for the OPD Section	C9 and C8
17.	Kurunduwatta Regional Hospital - Repairs to the Drainage System	C9 and C8
18.	Kurunduwatta Regional Hospital - Repairs to Access Road	C9 and C8
19.	Yakgahapitiya Regional Hospital - Repairs to Male and Female Wards	C8 and C7
20.	Ulapone Regional Hospital - Repairs to OPD Section	C7 and C6

- Date and time for issuance of Bid Documents will be extended up to 3.00 p.m. on 29.03.2021.
- Acceptance of Bids will be closed at 10.00 a.m. on 30.03.2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter.
- Further details relevant to this can be obtained from the following - Accountant of the Office of the Kandy Regional Director of Health Services or the Officer-in-Charge of the Construction subject - Tel. Nos. 081-2236452 / 081-2232456 and Deputy Director of the Engineering Services Department or the District Engineer (Health Buildings) - Tel. Nos. 081-2201624 / 0812203611.

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Office of the Regional Director of Health Services,
Kandy.

METROPOLITAN ENGINEERING (PRIVATE) LIMITED
PUBLIC NOTICE
[PV 16193]

Public Notice in terms of Sub section (3)(b) of Section 242 of the Companies Act No.7 of 2007 (Act) of a proposed amalgamation of Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited (Company Registration No. PV 6330) with Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited (Company Registration No. PV 16193) in terms of Section 242 (1) of the Act

On the 5th day of March 2021, the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited and the Board of Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited resolved to amalgamate Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited with Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited, in terms of Section 242 (1) of the Act whereby Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited will continue as the Amalgamated Company.

On a day not less than 20 working days hence from the date of this Notice, upon the Registrar General of Companies issuing the Certificate of Amalgamation in terms of Section 244 (2) of the Act pursuant to Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited and Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited filing with the Registrar General of Companies for registration the amalgamation proposal together with the documents set out in Section 243 of the said Act, the amalgamation shall take effect.

Copies of the amalgamation proposal which shall in terms of Section 242 (4) of the Act deem to constitute the resolutions approving the amalgamation by the Boards of Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited and Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited are available for inspection by any shareholder or creditor of the Company or any person to whom the Company is under an obligation, at the registered office of the Company at No. 85, Braybrooke Place, Colombo 02, during the normal business hours.

A shareholder or creditor of the Company or any person to whom the Company is under an obligation, is entitled to be supplied free of charge with a copy of the amalgamation proposal upon request made to the Company.

By Order of the Board of
METROPOLITAN ENGINEERING (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Sgd.
P W Corporate Secretarial (Pvt) Ltd
Secretaries

On this 5th day of March 2021

METROPOLITAN COMMUNICATIONS (PRIVATE) LIMITED
PUBLIC NOTICE
[PV 6330]

Public Notice in terms of Sub section (3)(b) of Section 242 of the Companies Act No.7 of 2007 (Act) of a proposed amalgamation of Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited (Company Registration No. PV 6330) with Metropolitan Engineering (Private) Limited (Company Registration No. PV 16193) in terms of Section 242 (1) of the Act

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A shareholder or creditor of the Company or any person to whom the Company is under an obligation, is entitled to be supplied free of charge with a copy of the amalgamation proposal upon request made to the Company.

By Order of the Board of
METROPOLITAN COMMUNICATIONS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Sgd.
P W Corporate Secretarial (Pvt) Ltd
Secretaries

On this 5th day of March 2021



Education Employees Cooperative Thrift and Credit Society Limited

Sinhala & Hindu New Year Holiday Notice

All the members of our Society are kindly informed that our Office will be closed from **11.04.2021 to 19.04.2021** for Sinhala & Hindu New Year and the Office will re-open from **20.04.2021** onwards. The Office will be opened for members from **21.04.2021** (Wednesday).

Further it is informed that the office will be kept open on Mondays, **29.03.2021** and **05.04.2021** for the transactions of our members for Sinhala & Hindu New Year.

Chief Secretary,
Education Employees Cooperative Thrift and Credit Society Limited
No. 294, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.

Tel - 0112370067 / 0112575737 / 0112370717

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

LEASE OF PROPERTY FOR THE YEAR 2021
ARACHCHIKATTUWA PRADESHIYA SABHA

Sealed Procurements will be accepted by me to lease 07 Beef Stalls, 04 Chicken Stalls and 01 Pork Stall, located within Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha from 01.05.2021 to 31.12.2021.

Issue of Procurement Forms - Until 14.30 p.m. from 19.03.2021 - 05.04.2021

Accepting Procurement Forms - Until 10.30 a.m. on 06.04.2021

Opening of Procurement Forms - At 10.45 a.m. on 06.04.2021

Further details can be obtained through Tel. Nos. 0322259783/80 or from the Facebook Page - Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha.

Chairman,
Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha

16.03.2021



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF TRADE

Invitation of Expressions of Interest from the suppliers for storing a security stock of rice for year - 2021

Correction Notice on the Closing Date of Application

With reference to the newspaper advertisement that was published on 18th March 2021 the dates of Invitation of Expressions of Interest should be corrected as from 18.03.2021 until 25.03.2021. Accordingly, the opening date and time of the Applications of Expressions of Interest should also be corrected as at 3.00 p.m. on 26.03.2021.

Further inquiries may be directed to the Assistant Secretary (Administration) on Tel. No. 011-2304078 / 076-2566047.

Secretary - Ministry of Trade
07th Floor,
CWE Secretariat Building
No. 27, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo-02.

Date: 19.03.2021

APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL OF COMPANIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that in pursuance of Section 34 of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, application has been made to the Registrar General of Companies for a license directing that a Company about to be formed under the name and style of

"SLMCS FOUNDATION"

"S L M C S" means Sri Lanka Muslim Civil Society.

be registered with limited liability without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name.

The objects for which the Association is proposed to be established are :-

"To Champion co-existence by engaging and inspiring through education and community led initiatives and

To facilitate building a society respecting all cultures and traditions.

Work to create a safe country with positive and active participation in social economic and cultural activity.

To carry out development activities to support democracy and poverty reduction through network of groups, communities, networks, and organizations."

The other objects of the Association are set out in extenso in the Articles of Association, a copy of which may be inspected at No. 36, myBIZ Building, Haig Road, Colombo 04 during office hours on working days.

Any person, company or corporation objecting to this application may bring such objections before the Registrar General of Companies on or before the 09th day of April 2021 by a letter addressed to the Registrar General of Companies, No. 400, "Samagam Medura", D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Attorney at law of the Promoter

17th March 2021

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4th Floor Savsiri Complex, High Level Road
011 282 8114

Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No 35, D R Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10

1949

Daily News

Classifieds

Automotive **Personal**

122 **524**

M/Cycles & T/Wheelers For sale

Philatelic & Coins

Sri Lanka

WP ABN-1388 Bajaj, 2016, three wheeler for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 021069

WP BHW-7363 Honda Dio, 2019, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 021066

Employment

327

Positions Wanted

Apparels 30 years experienced production factory General Manager seeking employment any type of garments knit & woven. Last occupation Bangladesh. Contact Shan Peiris Tel: 0774185841. Email: inworldanil@gmail.com 020997


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Employment Opportunities



STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES PROMOTION

STATE ENGINEERING CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

JOIN THE LEADER IN CONSTRUCTION

VACANCIES

POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (HUMAN RESOURCE & ADMINISTRATION)

Requirements : A Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field of Human Resource Management / Management / Law or Art which is recognized by the U.G.C. and a Postgraduate qualification (Masters) in the relevant field and minimum of 15 years relevant field experience in a managerial level in a Corporation, Statutory Board, Institution or a reputed private institution.

Salary : Permanent Basis - HM 1-3 - Rs. 86,865/- 15x2,270/- = -120,915/-
Contract Basis - In case of a contract appointment salary may be negotiable. (In addition, the prevailing cost of living allowance is paid).

POST OF DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)

Requirements : Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field of Finance / Business Administration which is recognized by the U.G.C. and (Full Membership) Corporate Membership of ICA or CIMA - UK or ACCA - UK with a minimum of 15 years relevant field experience in managerial level in a Corporation, Statutory Board, Institution or a reputed private institution.

Salary : Permanent Basis - HM 1-3 - Rs. 86,865/- = - 15x2,270/- = -120,915/-
Contract Basis - In case of a contract appointment salary may be negotiable. (In addition, the prevailing cost of living allowance is paid).

General

Age Limit : Age should be not less than 35 years and not more than 55 years, but this age limit is not applicable to the employees of Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards.

Benefits : Suitable transport facilities will be provided for the selected candidate according to the prevailing Government rules and regulations.

LEGAL OFFICER - (Contract Basis)

Requirements : L.L.B. Degree from a University recognized by the U.G.C. and Attorney-at-Law with at least 02 years post qualifying work experience in relevant field in a Corporation, Statutory Board, or large Engineering Organisation.

Salary : Contract Basis - Salary may be negotiable. (In addition, the prevailing cost of living allowance is paid)

General

Age Limit : Age should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years, but this age limit is not applicable to the employees of Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards.




Other Benefits : 10% of the Employee's salary shall be contributed to E.P.F. and the S.E.C. will make a monthly contribution of 12% to the E.P.F. and 3% to the E.T.F.

Applications should be sent under Registered Post with copies of certificates and names of two non-related referees to reach the undersigned on or before 26.03.2021.

Chairman / CEO,
STATE ENGINEERING CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA,
130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha,
Colombo 02.
Tel/Fax : 011-2434941/42

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