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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 Mahinda Rajapaksa will leave for Bangladesh today on a two-day state visit, on an invita-



will coincide with the celebration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

tion extended by Bangladesh Prime and the Golden Jubilee of the Inde-Minister Sheikh Hasina. The visit pendence of Bangladesh. TO PAGE 02

ADEQUATE STOCKS AVAILABLE

RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS DURING

FESTIVE SEASON

Finance Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa stated yesterday that there is no shortage of LP Gas in the country and

Prime Minister 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

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

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 nation-

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

Former Minister Rajitha Senaratne and his son Chatura Senaratne will be questioned by the Colombo Crimes Diviconnection with the false claims. claims made by a web journal-

ist about being abducted and ing at the Police Headquar-

tortured. The web journalist Sujeewa Gamage in his statement to the Police had admitted that sion (CCD) regarding their he had falsely made these

Addressing a media briefabducted. TO PAGE 02

ters yesterday, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that it was reported that on March 10th a 62-year-old web journalist for Siyarata, Sujeewa Gamage had been

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 gang-'Keselwatte Dinuka' whose body

was sent to Sri Lanka from Dubai yesterday, Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana told a media briefing yesterday.

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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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 Court chal-







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SLBFE to bear cost for returnees under their registry

Special quarantine centers to accommodate them



IRANGIKA RANGE

Those who have left for employment abroad after duly registering with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) will be repatriated with SLBFE funds if they wish to return.

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said they will also be quarantined using SLBFE funds on their arrival to the country.

Quarantine centres will be established for these returnees in each district, Labour Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva said. He said the list of identified locations for the quarantine centres across the country has already been submitted to the Special Task Force on COVID-19. All the expenses in these centers will also be borne by the SLBFE.

The Minister said around 30,000 Sri Lankan migrant workers have already arrived the country while another 20,000 are still awaiting to return. The main problem is the lack of space in the existing quarantine centres after they return to the country. That is why we have decided to set up separate quarantine centers for them," the Minister said.

Trains ply again

The Locomotive Engine Operators' Union and railway guards' unions have called off their 24 hour token strike after an agreement was reached during discussions held with Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge yesterday.

Locomotive Engine Operators' Union (LEOU) Secretary Indika Dodangoda said a committee headed by the Transport Ministry Secretary was appointed by the Minister to look into the demands of trade unions. The token strike commenced on midnight Wednesday to oppose the government's decision to recover damages from the railway employees for operational errors in train accidents.

Passengers were left stranded yesterday morning during the rush hour due to the strike.

Tanzanian President dies

Tanzania's President John Magufuli has died at a hospital in Dar-es-Salaam, the country's vice president announced in a televised address on Wednesday. He was 61

61.

"President John Magufuli died of a heart ailment that he has battled for over 10 years," Samia Suluhu Hassan said. She added that the president had been receiving treatment at Mzena hospital since Sunday, and announced 14 days of national mourning.

Hassan is now the acting president of Tanzania. While a date for her swearing-in has not yet been announced, she will be Tanzania's first female president.

Magufuli, who usually made weekly public appearances at Sunday church services, had not been seen since February 27, fueling speculation that he was ill and was being treated abroad.

The country's Prime Minister dispelled rumors about his health last week after days of speculation that the President was ill with Covid-19.Magufuli

was one of Africa's most prominent Covid skeptics.

In June, he claimed his country had eradicated coronavirus "by the grace of God," questioned the safety of foreign Covid-19 vaccines and made no plan to procure any shots for his country, instead pushing for the use of herbal medicine and steam treatments.

Tanzania hasn't reported Covid-19 figures since April 2020, prompting the World Health Organization to call for Tanzania to publish data on the coronavirus and ramp up public health measures.

Known as "The Bulldozer" for his tough stance against corruption and for his hardline policies, Magufuli swept to victory in October 2015 as Tanzania's fifth president.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was one of the first world leaders to express their sympathy at the death of Magufuli. "My thoughts are with his loved ones and the people of Tanzania," he wrote in a post on Twitter. (CNN)

for 20 per cent of the population which will cover 4.4 million people in the country as part of the agreement between the Health Ministry and the COVAY Facility. The COVAY Facility.

Health Ministry and the COVAX Facility.

The first round of allocations from the COVAX facility of 1.44 million vaccines will be provided in stages through to May

facility of 1.44 million vaccines will be provided in stages through to May 2021. The vaccines will be procured by UNICEF, subject to the availability from manufacturers and authorization by the WHO Emergency Use Listing.

The first batch of

Innoculation against

COVID under the COVAX Facility will be allocated

The first batch of 264,000 doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca 'Covishield' vaccines that recently arrived in Sri Lanka will be for the elderly population above 60 in high-risk areas impacted by COVID-19 in line with the National Vaccine Deployment Plan of the Health Ministry. According to the Plan, there are 2.65 million



COVAX to supply Covishield vaccines

to cover 20% of SL population

elderly people (above 60 years) in the country.

The COVAX Facility, a partnership between CEPI, Gavi, UNICEF and WHO and multiple donors is helping to make the COVID-19 vaccine available to protect vulnerable groups against the pandemic, the COVAX facility in a media statement said.

The partner Governments including various bilateral, multilateral as well as some major foundations and corporations are providing significant support and funding, to ensure the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines globally, including to Sri Lanka.

UN Resident Coordinator, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy said, "Global solidarity is more important than ever, and donors are playing a fundamental role in making the provision of vaccines to the most high-risk groups in Sri Lanka and across the world possible".

Development partners and international financial institutions across the world are providing substantial financial resources to the COVAX facility to help countries through the pandemic recovery period to ensure that no one is left behind.

"We are all grateful for this partnership. Together we can defeat this pandemic and charter a course to social and economic recovery by ensuring a safer and healthier future for everyone in Sri Lanka," the Resident Coordinator said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that no one is safe, until everyone is safe and the fair and equitable access to the vaccine is the only way we can defeat the virus" Singer-Hamdy said.

Assist Ravi fight case says UNP Leader

SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE

Former Prime Minister and UNP leader Ranil Wickremesinghe yesterday (18) instructed the UNP Legal Division to provide all necessary legal assistance to former UNP Deputy Leader Ravi Karunanayake. He was remanded in connection with the Central Bank bond case. Wickremesinghe has instructed the UNP legal division to assist Ravi Karunanayake's lawyers, if they wish.

Wickremasinghe during whose tenure as Prime Minister the alleged bond scam took place has instructed the party Legal Division to take steps to assist Ravi Karunanayake in any way possible, party sources said.

PM on two day... From Page 01

Sri Lanka's Health Ministry has granted approval to undertake the state visit to Bangladesh as a Bio Secure Travel Bubble adhering to strict COVID-19 preventive measures.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa will be delivering a speech on Friday evening at the event to mark the conclusion of the "Mujib Year," declared to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh's Independence.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa will hold high-level bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and the Governor of the Bangladesh Bank.

The special invitation and

the high-level bilateral discussions are expected to enhance the strong relations the two countries have enjoyed for a very long time. Bilateral discussions will touch upon a variety of sectors including

ment, defense, maritime connectivity, education, health and tourism, among others. The visit will also see the

agriculture, trade and invest-

two countries sign a number of Memoranda of Understanding in various sectors such as agriculture, technical education, health and cultural cooperation.

Among other engagements

Among other engagements, Prime Minister Rajapaksa will visit the National Martyrs' Memorial where he will lay a wreath to pay his respects to those who died in the Bangladesh War of Independence and plant a sapling. Later, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister will also visit the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, the Prime Minister's media unit said.

Bangladesh became a nation in 1971 and established formal diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka the following year. Both countries will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022.

DNA to confirm ... From Page 01

However, the Police Spokesman said that it had been revealed that the dead person was Keselwatte Dinuka only on Wednesday night as he had been operating under the name Rajapaksa Kasun Maduranga.

The DIG said that a DNA test and the fingerprints in the police records would be compared with those of the body that was brought from Dubai to determine if it is the body of Rajapaksa Arachchige Dinuka Madushan alias Kes-

elwatte Dinuka wanted by the police and who had been residing overseas.

"The body had been taken over by a woman by the name of M.A.Renuka, a resident of Keselwatte. This woman was named as the guardian. She had earlier claimed that it is the body of her son that was being brought. But, upon checking on the name claimed by the woman, it had been found that the woman did not have a son by that name. This had raised suspicion on

whether this person had left the country under a false name and his body was now brought to Sri Lanka upon his death," the Police Spokesman said.

Police had also found that

the suspect had left the country on June 19, 2012 to Dubai. DIG Ajith Rohana said that there are many cases against Rajapaksa Arachchige Dinuka Madushan and if the body is confirmed to be that of him, then these cases could be closed upon verification.

False claims by web... From Page 01

It was claimed that he had been abducted by an unknown group from the Meerigama area around 7.00 am. He is a resident of Udawelawatte, Dambadeniya and is said to travel to Borella to his news office by train from the Meerigama station.

On March 10th he claimed that a group of four persons had abducted him and said that having been abducted around 7.00 am and had been detained at some unknown location for around 45 minutes and had been tortured and questioned regarding a chip containing information.

The DIG revealed that thereafter, the journalist claims that he had been brought to a location in Maligawatte and released around 1.30 pm. He claimed that he had been burnt using some chemical during questioning. He claimed that both his hands had been burnt demanding some chip containing information from him.

"The Meerigama Police had conducted an investigation into this matter and the Colombo Crimes Division had also initiated a complete investigation into these allegations. The CCD during their investigations had gathered CCTV footage from the areas that the journalist had claimed to have been abducted and upon investigating these claims have come to the conclusion that the allegations levelled by the journalist are false.

The DIG also noted that the claims made by the journalist that his hands were burnt and his abductors had demanded a chip from him is a total lie. "Information has been gathered to establish that the burns on his hands have been inflicted by the journalist himself at his home in Udawelawatte, Dambadeniya the previous night using a mason spoon. The CCD officers had found the mason spoon used by the journalist to inflict these

burn injuries on himself," he added.

The journalist had received treatment at the National Hospital in Colombo over a period of six days.

The Police Spokesman

added that the claim made by the journalist that he was released by his abductors in the Maligawatte area between 1.30 and 2.00 pm on March 10 is also a lie. "The police had obtained CCTV footage showing the journalist arriving at the Dematagoda Station. He said that investigations have also revealed that thereafter the journalist had gone to an office run by Chatura Senaratne, the son of MP Rajitha Senaratne in Thimbirigasyaya. There he had spent over 3 hours. Information has also been obtained by the police that during his time there, the journalist had also met MP Rajitha Senaratne. Thereafter, he had been admitted to the Nation-

al Hospital."

The journalist claiming to have been abducted, tortured and abandoned in Maligawatte has been arrested for making false claims to bring disrepute to the government and he has produced before the courts yesterday.

The Police Spokesman

said that the journalist had gone directly from the Dematagoda station to Chatura Senaratne's office and therefore, the CCD is scheduled to record statements from both Rajitha Senaratne and his son Chatura Senaratne. Investigations are also continuing to determine why this journalist had resorted to making such false claims of being abducted and what connection MP Rajitha Senaratne and his son Chatura

dent.

The Police Spokesman said that at a time when the UNHRC sessions are ongoing it is being investigated as to why this journalist had made such false allegations.

Senaratne has with this inci-

Two PS members... From Page 01

A 44-year-old
Bandaragama
Pradeshiya Sabha
member was arrested
from Raigama by the
Bandaragama Police in
connection with an
assault on a disabled
army soldier yesterday,
Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith
Rohana said.

The suspect was remanded till April 1 after being produced before the Panadura Magistrate's Court.

Meanwhile, a 43 year old Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabha member was arrested by the Biyagama Police over criminal trespass and assault on employees of a restaurant in the Biyagama area.

The suspect was produced before the Judicial Medical offic-

er and confirmed that he was intoxicated at the time. The suspect was produced before the Mahara Magistrate's Court yesterday.In addition to these incidents, a suspect has been arrested with an excavator and 31 logs at an irrigation reservation in the Dolekanda area in Baddegama. This special raid was conducted by the officials attached to the Baddegama Police. Police are looking for anoth-

absconding the police.
The suspect has been identified as a member of Baddegama Pradeshiya Sabha. A police team deployed to arrest the suspect and Police are investigating all three incidents separately.

er suspect who was

Former CID chief files FR... From Page 01

recommendations made by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe incidents of political victimization.

Filing this petition through counsel Manjula Balasuriya, Seneviratne is seeking an order to quash the findings and recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and the decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers dated January 18, 2021 to implement the recommendations.

Through this petition the former CID Chief is challenging the recommendations of the PCoI to name Seneviratne as a respondent subsequent to a complaint made by former Navy Commander Wasantha Karannagoda and former Navy media spokesman D.K.P. Dassanayake.

Seneviratne said the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to inquire into Political Victimisation into Political Victimisation was handed over to the President on December 8, 2020. The Petitioner states that, under and in terms of the Proclamation published in Gazette (Extraordinary) bearing No. 2212/53 of 29th January 2021, the President has established the Special Presiden-

tial Commission of Inquiry in accordance with Section 2 of the Special Presidential Inquiry Act No. 7 of 1978 for the purposes of implementation of the Decision and Recommendation of above PCoI report.

The petitioner states that the complaints made by Wasantha Karannagoda and D.K.P.Dasanayake connect to the investigations and legal proceedings carried out by the CID and the Attorney General's Department in respect of

the incident of the Disappearance and Killing of 11 young men in 2008 and 2009. The Petitioner states that the investigations of the incident of disappearance of 11 young men have been commenced in 2009 and that the petitioner assumed duties as the senior Deputy Inspector General, of the Criminal Investigation Department in 2012. The Petitioner states that the task to conduct and supervise the investigation on the disappeared 11 young men was assigned to his subordinate officers namely former Director, CID (interdicted) Shani Abeysekara (SSP) and former Inspector Nishantha Silva together with the investigation officers attached to the

(CID). The Petitioner states that the overall investigations were carried out by the officers attached to the CID, primarily as a part of their statutory duty as Police Officers to protect victims and promote offender accountability by consistently enforcing laws and procedures.

The petitioner states that the progress of the investigation carried out by the CID officers in relation to the Disappearance of 11 young men was initially reported by submitting all the evidence revealed through investigation including forensic and scientific evidence, eye witnesses, criminal evidence, digital evidence, circumstantial evidence and other evidence to the Attorney General and thereafter with the recommendation of the Attorney General.

The petitioner stated that the investigation officers including the Petitioner did not deviate from the investigation procedures and did not insisted any undue influence towards any suspects.

The petitioner had cited the commissioners of Presidential Commission, Cabinet of Ministers and several others as respondents.

Revised guidelines... From Page 01

According to the revised guidelines, passengers arriving in Sri Lanka two weeks after being vaccinated can go home after undergoing a PCR test within 24 hours after arriving in the country and receiving the test result.

The passenger must be transferred to a quarantine center or quarantine hotel until the result of the PCR test is received. The passenger can

then be discharged and allowed to travel home but must keep the area Medical Officer of Health informed. The passengers must undergo a repeat PCR test on day seven after arriving in Sri Lanka. Passengers who have not been vaccinated, not completely recommended or arrive in the country within less than two weeks of vaccination must be quarantined at a quarantine center or quarantine hotel for seven days.

A PCR test must be carried out on the first and seventh day on the passenger and if the results are negative they can be discharged on the seventh day.

Those passengers should complete the remaining seven days of the 14 days quarantine at home under the supervision of the area Medical Officer of Health.

No gas price hike... From Page 01

Commenting on the pressure to increase gas prices, Prime Minister Rajapaksa said that the LP gas companies had made profits at a time when world gas prices were falling due to the COVID pandemic.

He said those companies should now support Government efforts as the government had taken the economy forward despite many challenges while protecting the jobs of private sector workers.

Trade Minister Bandula Gunawardena drew attention to the disruption of supply chains due to COVID-19 pandemic, exchange rate changes, rising prices of essential food items including rice and the demands made by gas companies to increase prices.

The Central Bank's Economic Research Division presenting a report highlighted how the cost of essential commodities had risen in the global economy due to the COVID pandemic.

Central Bank officials also pointed out that the trade deficit could increase if import controls were relaxed. Accordingly, the Central Bank officials stated that it was important to earn foreign exchange by focusing on the development of local agriculture, strengthening local businesses and

exporting goods.

Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation Basil Rajapaksa inquired as to whether a programme could be set up to distrib-

ute nearly 3,000 metric tonnes of rice seized by the Sri Lanka Customs to the people through the CWE.

Treasury Secretary S.R. Attygalle agreed and the Prime Minister instructed the Director General of Customs G.V. Ravipriya to take action.

In addition, the release of paddy stocks owned by the Paddy Marketing Board to the market and the purchase of another 25,000 metric tonnes from local rice traders were also discussed.

Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation Basil Rajapaksa said that there was no shortage of rice in the country and that the country had produced enough rice for consumption.

He also expressed confidence that vegetable prices will come down during the New Year season.

Production and Export Diversification State Minister Arundika Fernando said that a programme will be prepared to sell coconuts at lower prices through the CWE in the future.

Ministers Nimal Siripa-

la de Silva, Bandula Gunawardena, Wimal Weerawansa, Prasanna Ranatunga, State Ministers Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Shasheendra Rajapaksa, Dayasiri Jayasekara, Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Arundika Fernando, Janaka Wakkumbura, Central Bank Governor Prof. W.D. Lakshman and senior officials took part, the Prime Minister's Media Division

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

They said that large-scale deforestation of Wallapatta is taking place in the Gon-Puwakpitiya, amada, Pathanagama, Kawudagammana 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 rack-

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

rate the Wallapatta plants.

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

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, Puwak Pitiya, 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 pro-

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,

Be careful of **COVID** during festive season

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

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

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

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

he 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

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-

"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.

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 thing 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 specialty 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

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



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

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 Martinesz 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 chal-

lenges faced by teachers," Martinesz 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 Martinesz.** *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

"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.

Martinesz 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 kide of this are group."

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 child-hood 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 try-

"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

ed 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 planned for at least the next 30 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 visited the courts to inspect its ciation were also present.

Rs. 20 billion has been allocat- 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 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 Courts Complex. The minister of the Mount Lavinia Bar Asso-



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

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 longstanding 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 revolutionary 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, disasterrelated operations, raids on terrorist hide-outs and intelligence collection process before the Exercise proper gets underway from Thursday.

Brigadier Sanjeewa 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.



their rank, if they have commit-

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.

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

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

Government does not influence Police, Judiciary

– State Minister Lanza

Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza said that the Government does not influence the Police and the Judiciary like the previous government did.

The State Minister was participating in an inauguration ceremony of the construction work of a bridge in Dickowita, Wattala

day attacks will be punished in accordance with the law of the country, the State Minister said.

"People such as Azath Salley are trying to gain political mileage by expressing various extremist views and disrupting national unity. However, the citizens know that they should abide by the law of the country. The law must be enforced against every type of culprit. The parties that challenge the law and order must be defeated legally and politically," the State

Minister said. "The previous govern-

Those who are responsi- ment obstructed the Police ble for the Central Bank and the Judiciary. They fraud and the Easter Sun- pressurised independent institutions to gain political mileage. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Government will not exert such influence on the independent institutions. That is why the Commission report on the Easter Sunday attacks has been submitted to the Attorney General. Further action will be taken accordingly," State Minister said. State Minister Nimal

Lanza said that the perpetrators of the Central Bank Bond Scam and the Easter Sunday attacks will be punished in accordance with the law.

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

ted any illegal acts.

Suspect in harassment case granted bail

tody 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 jour-

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

A driver who was in remand cus- 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

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 Nawalapitiya Magistrate's

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

Chinese cities donate anti-pandamic materials to Sri Lanka

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

Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong handed over the anti-pandamic 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

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, Senanavake thanked the governments of

Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu for

their donations. The donations included anti-pandamic 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 pre-

sent. 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 Ferlaid the foundation

Extradition of Arjuna Mahendran; extradition documents sent to Singapore AG

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Extradition documents pertaining to former Central Bank Governor Arjuna Mahendran have been re-sent to Singapore Attorney General's Department in connection with the Central Bank bond scam that took place on February 2015, the Attorney General informed Court yesterday.

Senior Deputy Solicitor General Haripriya Jayasundara appearing for the Attorney General informed the Permanent Trial-at-Bar bench that on three occasions, Attorney General's Department has sent documents to the Singapore Attorney General's Department regarding Arjuna Mahendran's extradition.

The Permanent Trial-at-Bar bench has

already issued a warrant written in English through the Interpol for the arrest of former Central Bank Governor Arjuna Mahendran, who is evading courts by residing overseas in connection with the Central Bank bond scam

Criminal indictments have been filed in this case against former Central Bank Governor Arjuna Mahendran, former Bank Deputy Governor P. Samarasiri, Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL), the PTL beneficiary owner Arjuna Joseph Aloysius, PTL Chief dealer Kasun Palisena, Chairman of Perpetual Treasuries Limited Jeffrey Joseph Aloysius, PTL directors Pushya Mithra Gunawardena, Chitta Ranjan Hulugalle, Muthuraja Surendran and Ajahn Gardiya Punchi-

According to the indictments, all 10 accused have been charged with conspiracy to commit criminal misappropriation in respect of treasury bonds to the face value of Rs.10.058 billion and Mahendran and Samarasiri have been charged with criminal breach of trust in respect of Treasury Bonds to the face value of Rs. 10.058 billion resulting in a loss to the Government of Rs. 688.76 million.

Former Deputy Governor P. Samarasiri is accused of abetting the former Central Bank Governor Arjuna Mahendran to commit criminal breach of trust in respect of Treasury Bonds. The PTL is accused of insider

ANURA PREMALAL

Public Security Minister Rear

Admiral (retired) Dr Sarath

Weerasekera yesterday said that

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

(JVP) leader Anura Kumara Dis-

sanayake should make a statement

over copper factory owner

Mohammed Ibrahim, who is one

of the main suspects behind the

The Minister was speaking at

Easter Sunday attacks.

dealing and criminal misappropriation in respect of Treasury Bonds to the face value of Rs 5 billion. Mahendran, Samarasiri, Alovsius, Palisena and the director board of PTL are accused of abetting PTL to commit insider dealing and criminal misappropria-

The Charges have been presented under the Public Property Act and Registered Stocks and Securities Ordinance. The Attorney General has named 115 individuals as prosecution witnesses and further listed 236 documents as production items. The supporting evidence in the form of court productions is understood to number over 1 million pages of documents.

'Anura Kumara should make statement

Ibrahim who blew themselves on

Easter Sunday is Mohammed

Ibrahim and he has allegedly

given Rs 30 million to Saharan to

The Minister said that JVP

leader Anura Kumara Dissanay-

ake should make a statement on

the inclusion of Ibrahim's name in

Dr. Weerasekera said that he is

ready to extend his Ministry's full-

carry out the attacks.

the JVP's national list

Eight suspects in Bond Scam subjected to PCR tests

BUDDHIKA IMBULANA

The eight suspects, including former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, who were remanded by courts in connection with the bond scam, have been subjected to PCR tests

Commissioner General of Prisons (Administration and Prisons Rehabilitation) and Media Spokesman Chandana Ekanayake said that if the results of their PCR tests are negative, they will be sent to the Colombo Remand Prison.

If these reports confirm that they are infected with COVID 19, they will be referred to the Kandakadu Treatment Center, he said.

The suspects are now at the Special Quarantine Center at the Women's Section of the Welikada Prison.

Women inmates at the Welikada Prison have been sent to the old Bogambara Prison where a quarantine centre has been set up.

est assistance to the members of

the Self Employed Persons Con-

federation on the directive of

in developing he self employment sector . Foreign Minister Dinesh

Gunawardene, State Minister Sisi-

ra Jayakody General Secretary of the Self Employed Confederation

Ashoka Hettiarachchi were pre-

"The government is committed

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Four suspects arrested with 348 kg of Kerala cannabis



A part of the seized cannabis.

ANURADHAPURA CENTRAL SPECIAL CORR.

The Police seized 348 kg of Kerala cannabis valued at nearly Rs. 50 million in Anuradhapura.

Four suspects have been arrested on Wednesday night in this regard. A special team of

Kekirawa Police had arrested the suspects with Rs.

The raid was carried out

on information obtained by an intelligence officer at the Kekirawa Police that a large scale racket was being carried out to distribute Kerala cannabis through a holiday resort on the Anuradhapura New Kandy Road.

At the time of the raid, suspects were unpacking a large stock of cannabis at the resort and preparing parcels of two kilograms

Police have confirmed that the cannabis was being smuggled into the country from the Kerala by motorboats via Thalaimannar.

Police said that a bus had been parked at the scene at the time of the raid and that several special compartments had been set up to deposit money and for transporting cannabis.

Investigations are con-

Paddy reserve of 300,000 metric tonnes to protect farmers **ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA** interest in the process of purchas-

The Government will protect farmers and consumers from the paddy and rice mafia by maintaining a reserve of 300,000 metric tonnes of paddy owned by the Government, Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage

He was participating in an inspection tour of paddy purchasing sites in the Killinochchi Dis-

The National Paddy Purchasing programme has been successfully implemented in six districts. The paddy purchasing programme has already been implemented in Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Ampara, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota and Kurunegala. Killinochchi. "It was observed that there was a keen

ing paddy among the people." he

over copper factory owner'

federation yesterday.

the opening of the new office of

the Self Employed Persons Con-

Dissanayake had said that state-

ments by me time to time in the

recent past have turned out to be

a damp squib. "People will know

whether they are just damp squibs

cide bombers Inshaf and Ilham

in the near future," he said He said that the father of sui-

JVP leader Anura Kumara

According to the Paddy Purchasing Assistant Manager in Odidusudan and Kilinochchi, around 10,000 metric tonnes of paddy could be easily purchased from the district.

The Minister is confident that the Government could buy 200,000 metric tonnes of paddy in

The Minister said that the Kilinochchi and Odidusudan Paddy Storage Complexes are already full and around 366 officers have been deployed for the National Paddy Procurement Operation in sis districts alone and they have been instructed to go to the farms and buy paddy.



Western Province Dhamma Schools to re-open on April 25

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Sunday Buddhist Dhamma Schools in the Kurunegala and the Puttalam Districts have been opened and the Buddhist Dhamma Schools in the Western Province will be opened on April 25, Buddhist Affairs Commissioner General

Sunanda Kariyapperuma said in a circular to Heads Buddhist Dhamma Schools.

"The country has about 2,026 Buddhist Dhamma schools in the Western Province with 604,853 students and about 31,954 teachers," he said.

Kurunegala District

Asgiriya Chapter Chief Sanaganayake Most Ven. Dunkannawe Suneetha Nayaka Thera said in this regard at a meeting of Sunday Dhamma School heads of the Kurunegala District yesterday at the Bingiriya Ancient Raja Maha Viharaya, Kurune-

Focus on rise in leprosy patient's mainly children

ASELA KURULUWANSA

About 2,000 leprosy cases are reported annually in the country and 10.9 per cent of them are children under 15, Health Ministry's Leprosy Campaign Director, Dr. Champa Aluthweera said.

In 2019, 1,792 leprosy patients were reported from the country and most of them were reported from the Western Province, she said.

This was stated by the Director at a meeting held at the Peradeniya Teaching Hospital Wednesday (17) to review the district level

programmes being carried around 1,200 leprosy out under the Leprosy Eradication Campaign to reduce the spread of leprosy in the country.

She said that with proper treatment, leprosy could be completely cured and as many patients were not ment many problems had

Speaking at the event, Dr. Kapila Piyasena, Specialist in the Leprosy Eradication of Health stated that despite the closure of the country due to the COVID situation,

patients were reported in 2020 and this was a dangerous situation.

About 70 per cent of those diagnosed with leprosy can live a normal life if they continue to receive antiretrovirals for about a receiving continuous treat- year, he said. He emphasized that those who have the infection in their system but cannot spread it should be treated for only six months.The Welisara Lep-Campaign of the Ministry rosy Hospital had about 800 patients at that time, but that number has now dropped to 32, he said.

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA ake. The interim order will be effective until March 24. The Court of Appeal yes-

terday further extended its interim order directing Secretary General of Parliament (SGP) to maintain status quo (maintain existing state of affairs) regarding the Parliamentary Seat of Samagi Jana Balawegaya Gampaha District Parliamentarian Ranjan RamanayThe Court of Appeal two-

Interim Order further extended

Ranjan's Parliamentary Seat;

judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Arjuna Obeysekera and Justice Mayadunna Corea made this order consequent to a writ petition filed by Ranjan Ramanayake claiming his rights to function as a Parliamentarian.

The Court of Appeal yesterday concluded oral submissions presented by both parties and the petition is to be taken up again on March 24.

On January 11, the Supreme Court convicted Ranjan Ramanayake for the offence of Contempt of Court and sentenced him to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

Four persons injured in motorcycle-car collision

motorcycle and

H.L.SUNIL SHANTHA,

Kalutara Central Special Corr.

Four persons were hospitalised when a motorcycle and car collided yesterday morning, Wadduwa Police said. The car from Panadura to

ing a woman. A pedestrian was also injured. The injured were admitted to the Panadura Base

Kalutara crashed into the

into a nearby boutique injur-

Hospital in Suwa Seriya Ambulance and the driver was arrested, police said. Wadduwa Traffic Police

OIC Sub Inspector Gayan Kahatapitiya is investigat-

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY



MRS. SHEILA JAYARATNE 27.05.1934 - 19.03.2019

We Miss You Each and Every Day Loving You Always Husband Bernard, Son Janaka, Daughter Shiranthi & **Family Members**

APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE UNDER SEC. 34 OF THE COMPANIES ACT NO. 07 OF 2007

In pursuance of Sec. 34 of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 application has been made to the Registrar General of Companies for a licence directing a Forum about to be formed under the name "KOREAN EDÜCATION CENTER IN LANKA" to be registered as a Company limited by Guarantee without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name. The primary objects for which the Forum is proposed to be established are;

(A) OBJECTS the Company's objects are for the benefit of the public:

i. To promote cultural exchange through Korean Education.

ii. To support Korean Education as a foreign language. iii. To assist Sri Lankans in getting admitted to the Korean Universities, in expanding employment opportunities with the Korean Companies and obtaining employment VISA permit of Korea through the private diplomatic programs between Korea

The Company undertakes that the Company does not engage any primary & secondary education activities from the public at any

Further details in Articles of Association can be examined where kept in No. 40 Aluthganthota Road, Mawilmada, Kandy. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may make such objection within 21 days from this publication, by a letter addressed to the Registrar General of Companies, 400, D. R. Wijewardena, Mw, Colombo 10, Board of Directors (Ms. KANG JIEUN & Ms. DEWATHAPELI GEDARASHYAMA MUTHUMALI)

Matale paddy farmers lament over high tractor charges

crashed

A.A.L.DIAS, MATALE **GROUP CORR.**

The forthcoming Yala season is likely to be disrupted in Matale because preparing paddy fields has become a major problem for farmers due to an unexpected increase of tractor fares.

Farmer organisations said that this situation has arisen because tractor owners have increased tractor fees under private monopoly.

They charge Rs. 7,000 per acre for the first ploughing and the second ploughing.

The labour shortage has also escalated and the daily wage of a worker who previously charged Rs. 1,000, now charges Rs. 1,500.

The cultivation of paddy in the Matale District, therefore, will be disrupted. About four decades ago, a state-sponsored tractor center was in Naula, Arangala and farmers were provided with tractors under a concessionary rate.

Tractor service was grabbed by the private sector after 1977.

Obituaries

DR VIJITHASENA RAJAPAKSE Dearly beloved husband of Nelunika, most affectionate father of Dr Vinodh Rajapakse (son) and Milakshmi (Mimi), Rajapakse (daughter), loving brother of the late Hemalatha Laktillake, the late Dr Sirimana Rajapakse, Chandrapala Rajapakse, Weerasinghe, Premalatha (Merle) Sarathchandra (Ranja), Rajapakse and Anura Rajapakse, and much loved brotherin-law of Dr Shanti Gunawardena and Ramesh Gunawardena, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2021, in his home of 42 years in **Solon, Ohio, USA.** May he attain the Supreme Bliss of Nirvana. 020897

MRS GERTRUDE CRUSZ (nee ROOFF) - Safe in the arms of Jesus. Dearly beloved wife of late Winston Gerald, darling mummy of David, Dorothy (Canada) and Desmond (Canada), mother-in-law of Philomena, late Geoffrey De Zylwa, and Adora, precious Nanna of Michelle and Ajantha, Nigel and Lenka (UK), Damien and Tania, Fiona and Shyam, Jerome and Vicky (Canada) Fallon and Ryan, Danille and Donna, great-grandma of Melissa, Aneetra, Tatyana, Natalie, Luke, Aiden and Everly. Viewing on 19th March 2021 from 8.00 a.m. Cortege leaves Funeral Parlour at Jayaratne's at 10.00 a.m. for Cremation at General Cemetery Kanatte Borella on 19th March 2021. No flowers by request. Donations may be made to St Jude's Elderly / Nursing Home Negombo. Contact: WhatsApp: +94 712327774.

Late Obituaries -

KARUNARATHNE KAPURUBANDARA - (Attorney-at-Law of Gampaha). Beloved mother of Manori Kapurubandara - (Attorney-at-Law), Jeevaka Kapurubandara - (Registrar Information Technology District Court), Chanaka Kapurubandara - (Attorney-at-Law), beloved mother-in-Law of Surangi Kapurubandara, Chathuri Kapurubandara (Attorney-at-Law - Legal Draftsmen's Department) & Aravinda Perera (High Court Judge), expired. Cremation on Friday, 19th March 2021 at 6.00 p.m. at the Gampaha Town Cemetery. Oruthota Road, Vishaka Place, Gampaha. 0712222142.

Details of private sector employees who lost jobs in pandemic gathered

Silva has requested the Labour Department to provide information on those who lost jobs in the private sector during the COVID-19 pan-

The Minister said that the cen-

of the pandemic on private sector employees and relief will be pro-

Those who have lost their jobs should provide information such as their names, addresses, telephone sus will be conducted to gather 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 RelaMehewara Piyasa, Colombo 5 before

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

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 ported by Sri Lanka's own up major hydro, and the renewa-

Sri Lanka is confident of ble energy percentage in our grid has declined over the years since

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, feasibilities, financing and project execution issues.

"În 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 supdomestic deposits of natural gas ister said.



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

"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 Min-

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 thunder-

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

Minister reaches

in Grandpass

out to fire affected

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.

Rs. 10,000 fine for selling contaminated cheese

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE,

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.

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our Clients Groupe Lactalis of 10 rue Adolphe Beck, 53000 Laval, France are the Owners and Sole Proprietors of the following Trademark:-



The said Trademark is used in international Class 29 in respect of the following goods:-

Eggs; milk, cheese, butter, cream (diary products) and other dairy products; edible oils and fats, soya milk

Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their above mentioned trademark and reserve the right to take legal action against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.

Any enquiry relative thereto may be referred to the following: -

JULIUS & CREASY Attorneys-at-Law & Notaries Public No. 371, R. A. De Mel Mawatha Colombo 03 **Republic of Sri Lanka** pts1@juliusandcreasy.lk

Bees sting man to death, child hospitalized

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE. Kurunegala Central Special Corr

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

the man and daughter were return-

ing from Mawathagama. They were attacked in Mawathagama, Pitakanda Estate on Wednes-

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

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 yester-

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.

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 Decem-

ber 31,2018. Chief Government Whip and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando, Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Nimal Siripala de Silva, Mahinda Amaraweera and Prasan-Kumara Dissanayake, M. A. Sumanthiran and Field Marshal Member of the Committee, were, the Parliament Media Division

na Ranatunga, Parliamentarians Gayantha Karunatilake, Anura Sarath Fonseka, who is not a

Mode of Delivery



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Applications could be downloaded from the Department of Language Studies page of the OUSL website. Duly filled applications should be emailed to korean.ousl@gmail.com with the subject Course Coordinator/Korean Language Department of Language Studies on or before 28th March 2021. You will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your application within 24 hours. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement, please get in touch with the coordinator on the number given below.

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Coordinator: 0112 881 431

OUSL General Line: 011 2881 000

Rigistran The Open University of Sri Lanka, Hawala, Hagegoda

'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 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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Daily Actus

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Friday, March 19, 2021

Halt this mayhem

hat 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 work-out 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 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

BURQABANAND 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



t 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

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-supreme' 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 identifi-

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 Parlia-

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 Weerasekara 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.





Switzerland held a referendum on the burqa

NAVIN DISSANAYAKE

Chairperson Gamini Dissanayake Foundation

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 advise 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, Srima and their children



Gamini with Navin

Senanayake under the Premiership of Sirimayo Bandaranaike, Later, follo ing 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



Gamini at a meeting

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

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

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, Srima 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 time 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 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

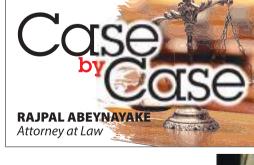
plaintiff filed action in the District Court seeking title to the first and second floors of an apartment property. The lawsuit was filed against his stepmoth-

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 condominiums 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.

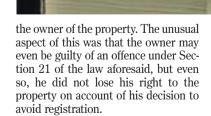
The Court of Appeal noted in judgement: "The question to be decided by the learned Additional District Judge in respect of issues 11, 12 and 13 was that whether the Deed No. 854 dated 25. 01. 1992 by which the Plaintiff claims title to this property was a valid deed in view of the provisions of the Apartment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

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 betried 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

n 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

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 clergymen 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

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.



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

There is no sword; maybe an interpretation of his bedience to God by giving up his sword. Navigating arough the myriad of graves a magnificent sight dazled my eyes amidst the regular graves. There were ve figures brought to life in solid marble – the risen esus Christ, St. Anthony, the Blessed Virgin Mary

explained, "There are about 30 staff at the general cemetery. We have to multi task. We dig and prepare graves for burial. Maintaining the gardens and clearing the paths is another duty. I have witnessed many funerals, but the one that stands out is the death of my own son. I had to bury him. Since then, I realized in a

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."

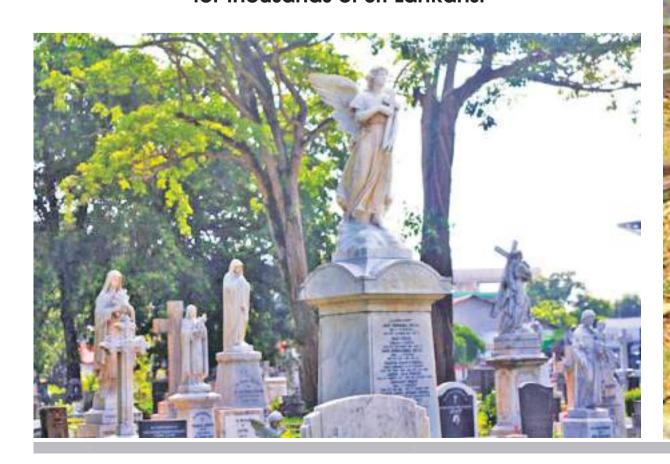
According to another gravedigger, the only incident they recall is of witnessing a man in a suit walking towards the mortuary at night. There was a mortuary here decades ago.

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 foul 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?"

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





Prof. Wimal Gunesekera Ballagalle - Scholar and Erudite Linguist par excellence

Emeritus Gunesekera Balagalle is an eminent, erudite multilingual scholar, a well-known linguist versatile in Sinhala, Pali, Prakit, Sanskrit, Bengali languages and English as well.

Prof. Balagalle has been recognised as the most learned scholar in the field of language studies and Linguistics and the embodiment of the lifelong learner of the Oriental education system inherited from

He belongs to the multi lingual scholars beginning from Jems de Alvis and scholar Buddhist monks Hikkaduve Sri Sumangala, Ratmalane Sri Dharmarama, Velivitiye Sri Sorata, Yakkaduve Sri Pragnarama, Kalukondayave SriPagnasekhara and Kodagoda Sri Gnanaloka and prominent scholars W.F.Gunavardhana, Kumaratunga Munidasa, Senarat Paranavitana, Martin Wickramasinghe and D.E. Hettiarachchi, a very rare generation of scholars in the country with a self-inclination for lifelong learning.

Born on November 1924, in the village of Balagalle in the Gampaha District, initially he attended Ullapola Vidyatilaka Boys' Buddhist School where he completed the GSC with first class honours.

Owing to his self-inclination for writing and early penchant for literary creativity he won the first place at a national creative writing competition for his short story 'Veradi Giya Upakramaya' (A Failed Plan). He entered the Pallevela Vikramasila Pirivena in 1938 to continue his post-secondary education.

While he was engaging in his post-secondary education, he also visited the SarasvatiPirivena where he had the opportunity of associating himself with Venerable Hisselle ¥a'odaya who introduced him to classical languages inspiring Balagalle for Pirivena education.

The next turning point in his life was in 1945 when he entered the Vidyodaya Pirivena at Maligakanda for higher educa-

Here, he was fortunate enough to study under the patronage of well- known Buddhist scholar monks such as Baddegama Piyaratana, Velivitiye Soratha, Palannoruve Vimaladhamma, Dehigaspe Pagnaasara and Kalukondayave Pagnasekhara.

He kept on to perform outstandingly well in Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit and Prakrit languages as well as religious studies, logic, prosody, rhetoric, history and archaeology as well.

He concluded his Pirivena education with the 'Syamaraja' award, a special prize awarded by the King of Thailand in recognition of his aptitudes for studies.

He sat for the final examination in Pracina Pandita in 1950 and was awarded the Gold Medal in Pracina Pandita for his exceptional performance, and obtained the first Order of Merits as well as the highest marks for the subject at this examination in 1949 conducted by the Oriental Languages

He is the only individual to have achieved this rare academic accomplishment and this record remains unbroken to this day.

In 1950, he saved his Pandit Diploma (O.S.S.) and subsequently, he entered the University of Ceylon (Colombo and Peradeniya) in 1952 and was awarded the BA Honours Degree in Sinhala in 1956.

Young Ballagalle after his appointment as a member in the Vidyodaya Pirivena worked very closely with the Chief Incumbent of the Venerable Veivitiye Soratha Thera at a time of religious and cultural revival in Sri Lanka. Subsequently, when the Vidyodaya Pirivena was granted university status on the 19th of February 1959, young Balagalle was appointed as a lecturer in Sinhala and the Registrar of Examinations of the University. He was promoted to the post of Professor in May of the same year.

He was the Head of the Department of Sinhala from 1959 to 1964, the Dean of the Faculty of Languages from 1964-73, the President of the Vidyodaya Campus from 1973-74 and finally the Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1975-90. During his tenure as Head of the Department, he recruited many young academics who became well-known scholars in the field of oriental languages and studies.

Among them, Prof. A. V. Suraweera, Prof. Vinnie Vitharana, Prof.Nandasena Ratnapala, and Prof.T. B. Kangararachchi stand out. He has been awarded a number of international fellowships.

First amongst them was awarded by the University of London, from 1961-63 and the University of Washington, Seattle, USA, from June - August in 1963. He also had the opportunity of being a Collaborator of the Critical Pali Dictionary complied by the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, Copenhagen, Denmark in 1963. In fact, there are a number of Professor Balagalle's articles published in the second volume of this publication.

Being a member of the academic staff and an inexhaustible researcher of language and cultural studies, Prof.Balagalle took every step possible to create a research culture in the university while admiring the accurate academic writing style in Sinhala. Being the Chief Editor of the Vidyodaya: Journal of Arts and Letters since 1982 for five consecutive years, he rendered a commendable service to ignite the young writ-

During this time, he played a central role in the compilation of a publication consisting of over forty research articles in celebration of the University silver jubilee.

This is a true witness of his contribution and involvement in research activities of the University.

Prof.Balagalle has been an active member in various departmental committees, the Faculty Board (which he continues to be a member of even today), the University Senate as well as the Council and other research committees from the inception of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

It is a well- known fact that Prof. Balagalle, being one of the pioneers in the establishment of the university, is the sole consultant when it comes to the history or any other important information relating to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

The University of Sri Jayewardenepura and other Sri Lankan universities, Oriental Studies Society, The Department of Examinations, and The National Institute of Education sought the advice and guidance of Prof.Balagalle in many of their academic and administrative matters. In addition to his academic engagements, he got involved in a number of external academic and literary committees as well.

His national contribution includes the key role he played as the Chief Editor of the Sinhala Dictionary from 1994 to 2002 and the Chairman of the Sinhala Mahavamsa Compilation Committee.

He has contributed extensively to the development of linguistic studies in Sri Lanka particularly through his publication. The number of books and other publications by Professor Balagalle in the field of Micro and Macro Linguistics witness his erudition in applying the Eastern and Western Linguistic theories to analyse Sinhala

His first book, a Sinhala translation of the fifth book of Pancatantra together with a commentary was published in 1950 followed by The Life of Sarana kara the fol-

lowing year. He won the UNESCO literary award for his translation of the Record of the Buddhist Kingdom by Fa Xian which was published in 1958. In 1964 he published A Critical Edition of Sinhala Thupa vansaya



which he co-edited with Professor Vimala

He was awarded the State Literary Award in 1995 for Language Studies and Sinhala Usage and in 1998 for the publication The History of the Studies on Sinhala Lan-

Among his many scholarly works, The Origin and the Evolution of Sinhala Language (1992), The Foundation and the Development of Sinhala Language (1996), Sinhala translation of the Linguistic Characteristics of the Sinhalese by Wilhelm Geiger (2001), Essays on Sinhala Linguistic Studies - I (2004) are exceptional. As far as his academic publications are concerned, a special mention must be made of the History of the Sinhala language and Historical linguistics.

Furthermore, in addition to journal articles and literary reviews he has a large number of scholarly articles to his credit. "Semi-nasal Characters in Sinhala" (in Sanskriti:D.E.Hettiarachchi Felicitation Volume,1983); "History of Sinhala Literature Interlinear Inscriptions" (in Sanskriti:17, 1983); "Modern Theory of Semantics and Semantics Theory Practised in Ancient India" (in G.B.Senanayake Felicitation Volume,1985); "Some Notes on Theory of Literary Studies and Semantics diffused in Ancient Sri Lanka" in Vidyodaya: Special Issue on Commemorating Ven. Velivitiye Soratha Thera, 1978).

Prof Balagalle published a book entitled Linguistic Communication and Semantics and Pragmatics in 2014 which could be considered as the only scholarly book in Sinhala in this field.

The most notable fact in relation to this publication is that Professor Balagalle produced this academic work at the age of ninety, a fitting example to his continuous engagement in academic work.

His fairly resent publications 'Bhasa Adhyanaya ha Sinhala Vyavaharaya (1995), Bhasa Sannivedanaya Artha Vivarayaha Upayogita Viyvaraya, Linguistic Communication Semantics and Pragmatics reveal the scholarship of Prof. Balagalle in adapting Eastern and Western linguistic theories to analyze Sinhala langue and his talents for creating Sinhala technical terms.

In this whole process of scholarly exercise, giving due place to our traditional Sinhala grammar envisioned by 'Sidatsanagarava' written in thirteenth century, Professor Balagalle has made an effort to analyze every aspects of Sinhala language further with due attention to its evolution.

In addition to his research articles in literature, education, literary criticism, traditional culture and history, the most significant are the publications on Linguistics and Sinhala grammar, simply because there is no other scholar in Sri Lanka who has written extensively on this topic as Professor Balagalle's accomplishment.

Identifying the vital need of the forma-

tion of technical terms, equivalence in Sinhala for words and terms in other oriental languages and English for the development of Sinhala language, Prof. Balagalle owing to his scholarship in languages, has contributed immensely in creating absolute equivalence in Sinhala.

For instance, the title of his publication "Bhasa Sannivedanaya Artha Vivarayaha Upayogita Vivaraya" itself is an absolute translation of "Linguistic Communication Semantics and Pragmatics".

Accordingly, it is evident that the knowledge Prof. Balagalle has on Etymology is second to none.

In recognition and appreciation of his academic contribution and service, the University of Sri Jayewardenepura conferred an Honorary Doctorate on Prof. Balagalle in 1984, and a second Honourary Doctorate was conferred upon him by the Buddhist and Pali University in 2008.

In 1990, Professor Balagalle was conferred the title Professor Emeritus by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

In recognition of the unparalleled contribution for Oriental languages and Linguistics, Sinhala language studies in particular, the Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka took great pride in awarding its Gold medal for 2018 to Professor Wimal Gunasekera Bala-

Professor Balagalle is a scholar incomparable. Scholars who have achieved such levels of academic prowess as he has are very rare and infrequent amongst us today. Now Professor Balagalle is at the age of Ninety Seven. I wish him a very healthy

> -Prof. Manoj Ariyaratne, Sabaragamuwa University.



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The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months



APPRECIATIONS

The officer and gentleman Who shined in Sri Lankan

One of the smartest in uniform To adorn that high ranking

Through his skill and ability brought honour to his office With Honesty and integrity He served with rejoice Commencing his career In the upcountry range In traffic and road safety soon he gained a name Many national events in international frame He skillfully handled with honour and fame Being one of the assignments in his illustrious career He was privileged to serve In the VIP frontier In those challenging times Without any fear or favor He Served President JRJ With promptness and cheer Another milestone In his colorful career Was being appointed to Lead the northern frontier



During the height of the war that was becoming severe He showed his mettle Without any iota of fear Humaneness was in his heart all the time Every one he treated with kindness and a smile

Whilst he had friends from many walks of life Never lost the common touch with his unassuming style To his family and friends He was a pillar of strength reputation and respect was his much earned wealth To many in distress

he did Support in stealth His greatness will remain Our hearts as an epitome of strength..!

- Indrajith Senadhira



SUBIR BHAUMIK

s 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 threefold 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 Kongbased 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 Bhaumik 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

arch 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 Libera-

tion 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".

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

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

The characteristics of a modern economy—that is, a graduation from being a griculturally-dependent to growing through the industry and services

ally. 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.

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 lowincome 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 ultrarich 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 meaning-ful

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

New report details COVID impact on South Asia

Severe disruptions in health services due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have resulted in an additional 239,000 child and maternal deaths in South Asia last year, United Nations agencies said on Wednesday.

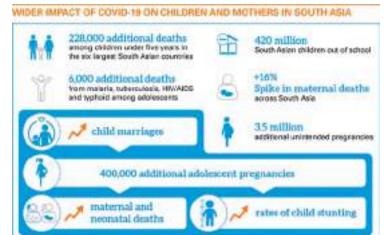
In a new report, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said that the impact also included sharp drops in the number of young children treated for severe acute malnutrition as well as in childhood immunizations.

Drastic cuts in health across South Asia due to COVID-19 have been deadly for children. The report - Direct and Indirect Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic and Response in South Asia examines the effect of these government strategies on healthcare, social services, including schools, and the economy.

It's vital that access to these essential services is fully restored, with all possible safety measures. @UNICEFROSA https://t.co/7l9rcYrbLM

According to George Laryea-Adjei, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia, the fall-off of these critical services has had a devastating impact on the health and nutrition of the poorest and most vulnerable families.

"It is absolutely vital that



these services are fully restored for children and mothers who are in desperate need of them, and that everything possible is done to ensure that people feel safe to use them", he stressed.

The region also suffered increased levels of unemployment, poverty and food insecurity due to the pandemic, further undermining public health, the report said.

Millions of girls unlikely to ever return to school

The report – which covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka also found that about 420 million children were out of school due to the pandemic and its related

control measures.

It warned that 4.5 million girls are likely to never return to school, and are at particular risk due to deteriorating access to sexual and reproductive health and information services

"Given the cultural and social context of South Asia, the suspension of these services is deepening inequalities and is likely to lead to an increase in the number of maternal and neonatal deaths", Bjorn Andersson, UNFPA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific said.

"There are also likely to be an additional 3.5 million unintended pregnancies in this region", Mr. Andersson warned.

Wider impact of COVID-19 also included increased risk of child marriage and stunting impaired growth and development due to poor nutrition and

Prioritize essential health services

The UN agencies called for prioritizing essential health services for pregnant women, adolescents and young infants, as well as strengthening supply chains for the delivery of vaccines and other essential childhood medicines.

Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, underlined that maintaining essential health services is vital for the region's COVID-19 response strategy "as disruption would only increase the risk of deaths from preventable causes".

The report also called for ensuring uninterrupted and improved health services for all, helping vulnerable populations address health needs, and stepping up of key COVID-19 prevention measures.

It also urged cash transfer programmes to support the poorest families. (UN)



Slow walkers more likely to die from COVID

People who walk slowly may be nearly four times more likely to die from Covid-19, a new study has found.

Health researchers based in Leicester concluded slow walkers with a "normal" weight were 3.75 times more likely to die from the virus than brisk walkers.

The project used data collected from more than 400,000 middle-aged people.

Lead researcher Prof Tom Yates said self-reported walking pace could be used to predict whether someone was at higher risk from the virus.

The study, run by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Leicester Biomedical Research Centre, was designed to explore links between body mass index (BMI) and self-reported walking pace with the risk of contracting severe Covid-19 and mortality.

It used self-reported data from 412,596 people who participate in UK Biobank, a biomedical database and research study.

Slow walking was considered to be at a speed of less than three miles (4.8km) per hour, steady/ average speed was

three to four

miles (6.4km) per hour, and brisk at more than four miles per hour. Researchers also found

slow walkers were 2.5 times more likely to develop severe Covid-19 than those in the fastest bracket. Risk was uniformly high

in normal weight slow walkers and slow walkers with obesity.

However, researchers noted that self-reported walking pace was subject to possible reporting bias and therefore no definitive causal conclusions could be

derived from the results. Latest news and stories from the East Midlands Prof Yates, a

> activity, sedentary behaviour and health at the University of Leicester, said:

specialist

in physical

"We know already that obesity and frailty are key risk factors for Covid-19 outcomes.

"This is the first study to show that slow walkers have a much higher risk of contracting severe Covid-19 outcomes, irrespective of their weight. (BBC)

'EU will not hesitate to restrict vaccine exports' European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU would not hesitate to restrict exports of COVID-19 vaccines in order to receive the doses that it was promised.

Von der Leyen had previously said that the EU approved the export of some 41 million doses to 33 countries in the last six weeks and said that the EU was at the forefront of international vaccine-sharing efforts.

"Open roads run in both directions," said von der Leyen. "We want to see reciprocity and proportionality in exports, and we are ready to use whatever tool we need to deliver on that."

While she did not mention any countries directly, the comments appeared at least partly aimed at the UK, which recently left the EU and where the AstraZeneca development process was spearheaded. Given the vaccine's multinational production, however, the EU has been exporting doses to



EU Chief Ursula von der Leyen

Britain for use. UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab expressed surprise at her statements.

"We've, all of us, including with our European friends, been saving throughout the pandemic that you'd be wrong to curtail or interfere with lawfully contracted supply," said

Bulgaria has announced nationwide restrictions as the number of infections rise. Schools, restaurants and shopping malls will

remain closed for 10 days from March 22.

Poland will enter a threeweek partial lockdown beginning on Saturday, in order to try to contain the spread of the illness. Shopping malls, hotels, swimming pools, gyms and schools will be closed until at least April 9.

The **UK** will see a significant reduction in the amount of COVID-19 vaccines available after March 29 due to a cut in manufacturing supplies.

It will slow what has been one of the fastest vaccine rollouts in the world. The country is on track to reach the milestone of having given a first vaccine shot half of all adults in the country in the next few days.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said supply often fluctuated but the country was still on track to give vaccines to priority groups by April 15 and all adults by the end of July. (DW)

COVID Virus targets the heart too

Three-quarters of people who died of COVID-19 harbored the SARS-CoV-2 virus in their hearts, according to the most detailed study of cardiac tissue to date. Those people were also more likely than patients without cardiac invasion to experience abnormal heart rhythms before they died. The study offers insight into how the disease may damage the heart—and how certain treatments may help.

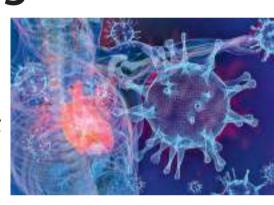
The finding "paints a really nice picture" of the connection between the virus and heart problems, says Joseph Maleszewski, a cardiovascular pathologist at the Mayo Clinic who was not involved with the study.

Scientists have ample evidence of heart damage in COVID-19 patients. Some people, for example, show elevated levels of troponins, molecules released in the blood when the heart is injured. Others have experienced inflammation of the sac surrounding the heart—and inflammation of the heart itself. But it's been unclear whether these problems were caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus attacking the heart directly, or the damage is due to an overactive immune response.

Part of the problem is that previous studies are mixed about whether SARS-CoV-2 can invade heart tissue. Many that haven't found the virus use real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), says James Stone, a cardiovascular pathologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. RT-PCR works by detecting viral RNA in tissue, then making many DNA copies of it. Once

there's enough DNA, a molecule called a fluorescent tag can stick to it and shine to reveal its presence. But Stone says that heart tissue is often processed and preserved using chemicals like paraffin, which can break down the RNA and prevent detection to begin with.

So he and his team used another approach: in situ hybridization and NanoString transcriptomic profiling. Like RT-PCR, these techniques use special molecules to attach to and detect pieces of viral RNA, but they do so without having to make DNA copies first. The approach can identify viral RNA even after it's broken into smaller pieces. The scien-



tists also analyzed about 1000 pieces of heart tissue—more than 20 samples from each of the 41 patients they looked at. That's double the number of samples per patient in most studies, Stone SARS-CoV-2 was present in 30

of the hearts, the team reports today in *Modern Pathology*. And only those patients experienced new atrial fibrillations, fast and irregular heart rhythms, or early or extra heartbeats, compared with the other patients in the study—a correlation Stone calls "pretty phenomenal."

Still, it's unclear whether the virus attacked the heart directly in these cases. Most of the infect-

immune cells, which SARS-CoV-2 could have invaded elsewhere in the body before they traveled to the heart. It's also unclear whether the virus—rather than the immune cells themselves is causing the problems. Regardless, the study may help explain why the steroid dexamethasone is so helpful to some patients. The drug was

one of the first found to prevent deaths from severe COVID-19. It reduces inflammation, so it may have curbed the presence of SARS-CoV-2-harboring immune cells in the heart, Stone says. Only 50% of the patients treated with dexamethasone had the virus in their hearts, compared with 90% of patients who were not on the drug.

But compared with large clinical trials, the number of patients in this new study is small, making it impossible to say that one drug protects the heart better than another, says Nicholas Hendren, a cardiology fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. (Science)

NLB

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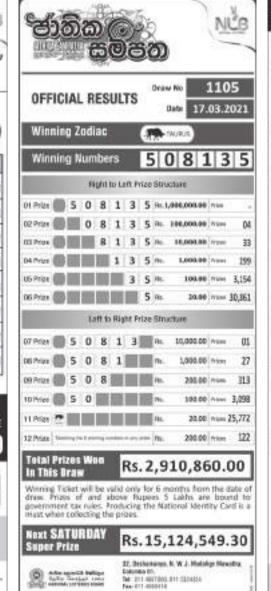
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17.03.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 722,873 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS





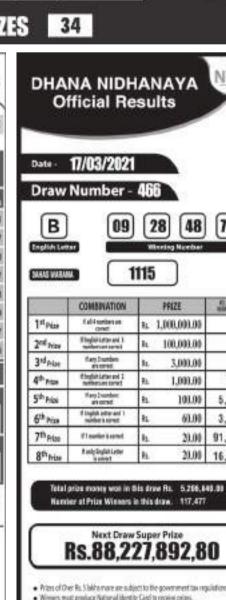








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Ruwan Paul to promote powerlifting in Sri Lanka

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 targetting not only teenagers but also people up to the age of 70

"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 Power-

"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

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 of government in 2002 due to politi-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

cal 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 been 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 Champion-ship. 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

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

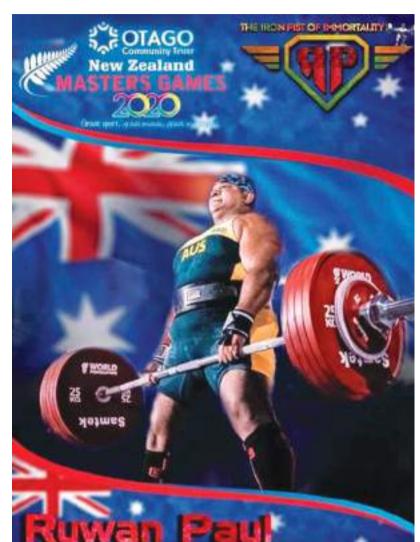
He said he plans to visit Sri Lanka and meet the local Federation officials and discuss how he could asset in the development of the sport. I also hope to meet the local Powerlifting Body schools Associations and also to discuss and plan future promotions.

"I can provide financial and technical assistance for the coaching pro-

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 the 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 Dharmaraia 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.Cor

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA - Kandy Sports Special corr.

The Cricket Match between Dharmaraja College, Kandy and Nalanda College, Colombo for Bandula Warnapura Trophy was held on March15 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 Dharmaraia 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 pan-

demic. 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 dis-

play 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 glamourous as they always used

to be," Rupasinghe further Following the race day on 20th March, the RTC is planning to conduct its core race days during April, including the legendary Governor's Cup, Queen's

Cup and the Mayor's Cup.

The RTC Spring & Summer Cup has been fixed for 3rd April, followed by the prestigious Governor's Cup 2021 on 15th April. 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

Queen's Cup and Mayor's

Cup will be held on the

same race day under the

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. Sanjeewan 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. (AN)

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 Illyas 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 rate the Air Force's 70th Anniversary celebration.

Speaking to 'Daily News' Illyas 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.

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,

the Air Force and SLR to commemo- 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 Now that it is clear, we will go in exchanged some souvenirs while dissearch of some other sponsor to pur- cussing the conduct of the tournasue with the event at a later date, at ment, 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 Illyas.

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

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



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

Guest at the award ceremony. Ampa- Sober SC officials, presidents of the ra District Athletic Coach S.L. Tha-sports clubs, players and prominent Rs.10,000. and trophy by the Chief judeen, Sponsors, Addalaichenai people of the area were present.

Sameera Wijesinghe the weightlifting, athletic and rugby star

The task of forwards in rugby are to compete for the ball in scrums and line-outs and are generally bigger and stronger than the backs. Props push in the scrums, while the hooker tries to secure the ball for their team by hooking it back with their feet. The hooker is also the one who is responsible for throwing the ball in at line-outs, where it is mostly competed for by the locks, who are generally the tallest players in the team. The flankers and number eight are expected to be the first players to arrive at a breakdown point and play an important role in securing possession of the ball for their team. Sameera Sandun Wijesinghe was a hefty player who had a remarkable career in rugby occupying a few positions in the pack at school, club and at National level. The 43 yearold Sameera's father is Norbert a retired Army Officer and Indrani his mother is a housewife. He has two brothers Thimeera a building contractor and Charith is a planter attached to Bogawantalawa Plantations. He was enrolled as a primary student at Kingswood College, Kandy in 1984 and went on to complete his academic career in 1997. made a College prefect in 1996/97.

Sameera with his build mingled with his friends in school to play various sports during free time. It was Ananda Kasthuriarachchi, his junior rugby coach who spotted him and motivated him to handle the oval shaped ball, after which he joined the college under-13 rugby team, which became the stepping stone to his rugby career. He went on to captain the college under-15, 17 and 19 rugby teams in 1992, 1994 and 1997 respectively. He played in the prop forward and number eight positions during his rugby career. While he was handling the oval shaped ball, he was a member of college Powerlifting and weightlifting squads. He won the Silver medal at Sri Lanka schools Powerlifting Championship in under 81 weight category in 1994. Won the Silver medal at Sri Lanka Junior National Weightlifting Championship in under 81 weight category in the same year. The other unique feature in his sporting career was his participation in the college athletic teams in 1993, 1994 and 1995 in Shot Putt and Discus Throw events. For his participation in sports, he was awarded the College Rugby colours in 1997. He was also

While he was competing in rugby he was a member of the college under-19 team that played in the All Island 10-a-side tournament for the Milo Trophy in 1996 defeating Trinity in the final. The very next year, he captained his 'Alma Mater' in rugby and lost the same tournament in semi finals to Thurstan. Same year they moved to the quarter finals of the President's Trophy and lost to Isipathana. His first rugby coaches were Ananda Kasthuriarachchi and A.C. Tennakoon in the under 13 and 15 teams. The under-19 rugby team was coached by former Army and Sri Lanka National player G.B.Gunadasa. He was fortunate enough to play with some fine players of that era like Nalaka Weerakkody, Nilfer Ibrahim, Mohamed Buksh and Ravi Jayasuriya.

While he was in school, he along with some of his friends visited Colombo to witness a sevens rugby tournament where the cream of the players from top clubs took part. This motivated and encouraged him to join a club in Colombo and enrolled at CH and FC to play as a hooker to pursue his club rugby career from 1999 to 2006, concentrating with the same club without moving here and there to change clubs. When he donned the CH jersey it was Charndrishan Perera who coached their team and under his guidance they were able to win the inter club under-24 championship in 2000. Same year their senior team won the League Championship under the captaincy of Nazeem Mohamed and coached by Tony Amit. Bimal Perera, Duminda de Silva, Milinda Jayasinghe, Shashika Cooray, Nalin Dissanayeke, Yuganthara. Karunaratne, Jude Pillai and Ajith Upawansa were some of the senior team mates.

He was finally appointed to lead the Gymkhana club in 2004 and was coached by Graham Raux, and the team consisted of four foreign players from Fiji. They were able to end up in fourth place at the end of that season. It was a pleasure to remind that, in his Club Rugby career, he came across few personalities who helped him a lot throughout like Rizly Illyas, Ranjan Kanagasabei and Rajan Anthony were some of them. According to him his tenure at CH was an unforgettable period of time.

He got the National call in 2000 and played against Chinese Taipei in Sri

Lanka. The next year he toured Malaysia to play in the Tri Nation Tournament involving Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia. That team was captained by Asoka Jayasena and coached by retired senior DIG Nimal Lewke where they managed to beat Malaysia by 18 - 7. He played against Kazakhstan in

the second round in a World Cup qualifying match in 2002 with Asoka Jayasena leading the team and coached by Tony Amit.

In 2002, he was a member of the National Rugby squad once again for the 14th Asian Games in Busan, Korea. The council of the SLRFU appointed C.P. Abeygunawardena as the National coach and late George Simpkin as the Technical coach.

He was also a member of the squad which took part in the Rugby World Cup qualifying round match against China in 2003.

Next year he played for the Sri Lanka team which played against China. Played in the Rugby World Cup matches

2004/07 against India and Thailand. His other colleagues in the National team were top players like Asoka Jayasena, Pradeep Basnayake, Indrajith Bandaranayake, Sudath Sampath, Asanga Rodrigo, Dunstan de Silva, Savantha de Saram few to be

While he was playing rugby, he worked at Harcourts Pharmaceuticals in 2000 and 2001 and played the Mercantile Sevens Rugby Tournament where they were able to become 'Bowl'

In 2006, he called it a day to his 14-year rugby career and migrated to Italy to work in the Hospitality Indus-

His wife is Bhagya Weerasooriya and two children are ten year old Sethum and 13 year old Methumdi.

Nalanda skipper Raveen de Silva a fine all rounder



Raveen de Silva after scoring a century in the 'Big-Match against Ananda. Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl.Corr.

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

Kandy Sports Special correspondent

Raveen de Silva, Grade 13 student of Nalanda Vidyalaya, Colombo is the Skipper of the School Cricket team this season. He started playing cricket under the coaching of Pubudu Aluwihare in the year 2016 when he was studying in Grade 7 and he was selected to the Under 13 school cricket team and he went on to score more than 200 runs and took 25 wickets as a right arm off-spinner in the Division one Under 13 Cricket tournament in the

As a second year player he showed improvement by scoring over 250 runs and claiming over 30 wickets.In the Under 15 cricket tournament he scored over 400 runs and bagged over 30 wickets When playing in the Under 15 side for the second year he bagged 47 wickets.

He was also selected to play in the 'Big Match' against Ananda College and scored 35 Runs and claimed two wickets. In the Under 17 age group he scored a century against S de S Jayasinghe Vidyalaya and scored five half centuries and in the second year again in the Under 17 Age Group he led his side up to the Quarter Final Level. He has played for the first XI Team as an Under 15 player and Under 17 player.

As an Under 19 player in 2020 he scored 711 runs including an unbeaten knock of 113 runs against Maliyadeva College and 100 not out in the 'Big Match'against Ananda College. His First XI Coach is Prasanna Dissanayake, former Dharmaraja College Cricket Captain.

Among the opportunities he got to represent the country are in 2018 as a debutant he represented Sri Lanka Schools against Bangladesh Schools and then he played for the Under 19 team against the visiting Australian side and Pakistan team in the

Again in 2019 he toured Bangladesh for the Test match which ended in a draw and his Under 19 Coach was Hashan Tillakaratne, former Sri Lanka Test Cricket Captain.

In the local tournaments he has captained the Under 15 District and Provincial School teams in 2017 and in 2020 he played in three matches for the Tamil Union in the Premier League and he claimed three wickets for 30 runs against Bloomfield and two wickets for 30 runs against SSC. His ambition is to represent Sri Lanka at the Under 19 World Cup in the year 2022.



Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Yogiyana, Dankotuwa under 17 Girls Volleyball team the Provincial Volleyball Champions of 2019 Standing L/R - Sithmi Nurasha, Thakshila Sewwandi, Nadeera Vimashi, Avishka Subashini, Maheshika Lakshani, Imashi Nethmini, Vinodya Lakmali, Tharushi Malsha (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Cor-

Sithmi Nurasha Samarawila excels in beach volleyball

and the Beach Volleyball Captain ment in 2015 held at Kuliyapitiya Sithmi Nurasha Wohari Samarawila brought honour and fame to her Alma Mater Wekada Maha Vidyalaya, Yogiyana, Dankotuwa.

Sithmi was admitted to the Grade One of this school in 2009 when Mr. Wickramasinghe was the Principal of the school and her first class teacher in Grade One was

Mrs. Jessica. When she was admitted to the school Primary there was only Inter House Athletic Meets annually but she did not take an interest in sports activities as her father Jayantha Samarawila passed away when she was one year old. But when she came up to Grade Six her mother Inoka Damayanthi encouraged her to do sport and she did Putt Shot, Discus and Javelin at the Inter House Sports Meet and won places. When she was in Grade Seven she took an interest in volleyball and came under the Prefect of Games and Volleyball Coach of the school Saman Kumara and her house won the Championthe Inter House Volleyball Tourna- very supportive of her.

ment. In the same year she played Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent for the school team at the All The Games Captain of the school Island Tikiri Volleyball Tournaand her school could not come up to expectations.

In 2016 their under 13 volleyball team went up to Provincial level and in the under 15 team too came up to Provincial level.

In 2018 their under 17 team won the Divisional, Zonal and the Provincial Tournaments and in the All Island Schools Tournament they reached up to Quarter Finals and in 2018 she took up to Beach Volleyball under the instructions of coach Saman Kumara and her senior partner and Captain was Nethsika and she was the Vice Captain and in the All Island Open Tournament her school lost to Anamaduwa Central in the finals and in 2019 she was appointed as the Captain of the team and as the school Games Captain. Her next partner was Nadeera and their team lost in the Provincial Finals. There was no tournament during the year 2020 due to Covid 19. In this context her Principal W. S. A. Vithana and the coach Saman Kumara and her ship of the under 13 age group at class teacher Mrs. Kalhari were



Sithmi Samarawila is seen here with her

Mayor Kesara Senanayake out to develop sports in Kandy

HAFIZ MARIKAR

The Mayor of Kandy Kesara Senanayake is going all out to support Kandy to be the most active and socially-integrated city in the coun-

The Kandy Mayor has an unwavering belief in the power of sport to was taken over by the Sports Minisbring Kandy citizens together to try in late 1990's. When it was improve their lives. Sports helps community to come together to foster social integration which will help Kandy'as a destination for major sporting events.

The Mayor believes sport is a powerful tool for social change, and can be used to address a range of issues facing communities. He is all out to initiate his strategy for sports and physical activity in Kandy. . Kandy Municipal Council is blessed rugby, football and hockey. In early with over twenty seven playgrounds and forty five community centres

playgrounds are small and he is keen to expand them and help the schools sport and physical activity in Kandy. and clubs to do their sports. . At This strategy sets out his vision for present there are many schools and clubs without grounds

The only ground they had for matches like football,rugger and hockey was Bogambara and that too under the Municipality the ground charged only a few hundred rupees. Today the price is sky-high and poor schools and clubs are finding it difficult to pocket out this money. Sad to say this ground is under renovation for the last two years,.

Bogambara is a multi-purpose stadium in Kandy and it is one of the oldest grounds in the country. The Stadium was used mostly for days cricket too was played and this was the venue for the first unof-youth of today on the correct path.

where indoor sports is played. All ficial test cricket match. It was in 1897 the grounds were converted from a lake to a playing field. At one time it was the site for carnivals, games circuses and gymkhana activities and even as an execution ground during the British occupa-

A number of sporting clubs including Kandy Sports Club, Young Stars SC, Young Wanderers SC, Green Field SC and schools including St.Anthony's, Trinity College, Sri Rahula College, St. Paul's(now known as Sri Sumangala College), Dharmaraja College and Kingswood College used the venue to conduct their sports. . In the early days Bogambara was also used for sports

like elle, bahu, thattu and gudu Today there is a crying need for more and more playgrounds with many youngsters taking to sports this will be of great help to put

SRI LANKAN OLYMPIC STARS OF YESTERYEAR

Malcolm Bulner was a glittering star in the boxing ring

Malcolm Bulner, who started his boxing career from St. Sylvester's College, Kandy and moved up the ladder to the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 was a glittering star in the boxing ring.

Born in 1944, he entered the boxing ring in 1950 and remained an unbeaten star in the boxing ring by 1960. Bulner, who was coached by the National Boxing Coach Derrick Raymond, took pleasure in fighting opponents who were older than himself.

In the National Boxing Championships held in 1962 and 1963 he won the lightweight and the welterweight classes and the trophy awarded to the Best Boxer. In these events he twice defeated Sumith Liyanage who had participated at the Olympic boxing events in Rome

Bulner who was a terror in the National boxing ring with his right hand punches was never really challenged as a boxer. Bulner participated in the Commonwealth Games held in Perth, Australia in 1962 and was up against Adrian Blayer the internationally reputed Australian Boxer who had participated in 140 International Meets.

Bulner faced him courageously in the first two rounds but in the third round he received a strong blow from his contender and was defeated.

In 1963, he participated in the Asian Boxing Championship Meet and was defeated by the Gold Medallist Thai Boxer of the same class. The Ceylon Boxing Federation selected Bulner as the number one participant for the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

He became the first ever schoolboy to participate in Olympic Games. At the Tokyo Olympics, Bulner faced the Gold Medallist Yugoslav Boxer B. Nemsec and was defeated by points.

This dynamic boxer who had gathered experience having participated in several international contests was entrusted with the captaincy of the Sri Lanka Boxing Team for the Indo-Ceylon Schools Boxing events during the years 1964 and 1965.

tation Sector during which period he represented the Kandy and Dimbulla Rugby Clubs at National Championships. Bulner, left Sri Lanka on February 21, 1966 to settle

After leaving school he was associated with the Plan-

down in Australia and he received training under the most competent Trainer Johnny Cooper and won 26 Amateur boxing meets.

He even defeated the reigning Australian National Boxing Champion to win the National trophies in that

At the contests held for the selection of Australian boxers to be sent to the Olympics in Mexico in 1968, he defeated his closest rival Des Hogart in the first-round.

the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia and also in the boxing meets held in the Pacific Region and New Zealand. Although Bulner was selected for the

Des was a Gold Medallist at

Olympic Games, he was not permitted by the International Boxing Federation to enter the contests. He was disqualified on the premise

that he had represented Sri Lanka in 1964 and had not completed three years as a citizen of Australia.

Later, he became a professional boxer and during the period from 1968 to 1973 he participated in 13 professional contests and won 11 out of those events. (C.D)



W RLD OF

(MARCH 19) **LOCAL EVENTS**

Bambalapitiya (2nd day) Wesley vs St. Joseph's at Campbell Park (1st day)

Galaxy Trophy Tournament at Volleyball House,

FOREIGN EVENTS

Tasmania vs New South

Fulham vs Leeds United

Monterrey Open at Sonoma Club, Mexico

St. Petersburg Ladies

FOOTBALL

All-England Tournament at

VOLLEYBALL

FOOTBALL

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Skipper Nipunaka shines as St. Peter's amass 277



Ananda College attempts a run out. Picture by Hirantha Gunathilala

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 Anandakumar provided good support with three for

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

Ananda College made 217 in first their 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

Chief scores At Bambalapitiya St. Peter's: 277/9 declared (Nipunaka Fonseka Boteju 51, Wanuja Kumara

Nipunaka Fonseka

Niman Umesh 24, Shanuka Galagoda Manula Kularatne 5/60, Abhishek Ananadkumar 3/81)

Shenal

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

At Ananda Mawatha

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

S. Thomas': 25/1.

Ranabima Royal win by 283 runs

Ranabima Royal trounced Wesswood et 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, Kavinga Gunawardena 20, Mohamed Umaiq 4/44, Abdul Hakim

(T. Monishan 5/6, Malaka Seneviratne

College by 283 runs in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Division Three Crick-

Wesswood College: 42 in 15 overs 2/8, Gagana Gunathilaka 2/17).

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 while Pathum Nissanka,

made 23.

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

Oshada Fernando topscored with 47, Dinesh Chandimal struck 40

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 legbefore 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 Philip 3/47, Roston Chase 4/12)

CWI President's XI: 103/1 (Shai Hope 60 n.o, Darren Bravo 30 n.o). (Agencies)

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 allround 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

CCC: 127 in 19.3 overs (Ron Chandraguptha 55,

bath Jayasuriya 3/16, Jeffrey Vandersay 2/17, Himesh Ramanayake 2/23, Tharindu Ratnayake 2/29). (Army CC won by nine wickets)

Ashan Priyanjan 21, Pra-

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



Ashan Randika of Army CC plays a shot.



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

At Kurune-

gala (Maliyadeva

Maliyadeva:

289/6 in 50 overs

(Rishi Adhistan 100,

Thimira Chandrase-

won by 36 runs)

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 observa-

tions during a special media conference held at the Colts Cricket Club pavilion in Colombo yes-"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



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

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

Auditorium today.

the event. (D.R)

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 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

Veteran author and

Pavan guides Mahanama to easy win Skipper Pavan Ratnayaka by 88 runs)

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

Mahanama: 213/8 in 50 overs (Pavan Ratnayake

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 Piyarathna MMV: 99/3 in 18.1 overs.

At Karandeniya (Sri

Dharmaloka, Kelaniya won by two wickets) Kanrandeniya Central: 107

Sri Dharmaloka: 118/8 in



Pavan Ratnayaka

Prince of Wales: 253 in 47.1 overs (Ashan Fernado 56) At Wattala (Lyceum won by seven wickets)

Vidyartha: 106 in 44 overs Lvceum: 107/3 in 31.3 overs. At Chilaw (St. Mary's

won by 36 runs) St. Marv'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

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 Ekanayae

in three overs. At Wennappuwa (St. Joseph's, Enderamulla won by six runs)

St. Joseph's: 181/ 9 in 50

Ibbagamuwa Central: 38/0

overs (Methmal Perera 54) Loyola College: 175 in 49.3 overs. At Matara (St. Servatius'

won by two wickets) Dharmasoka: 115 in 36.1

St. Servatius': 116/8 in 46

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



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Patented Cinnamon cigarettes introduced to the World

Over Rs. 400 mn invested with four more factories in the pipeline

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Creating history in the world cigarette industry, Sri Lankan patented Cinnamon cigarettes under the brand name 'Lion Heart' were officially launched in Colombo yesterday.

Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa who egged on this project said that this product would revolutionize the global tobacco industry. "The product is made out of 100% Cinnamon extract and I don't see any harmful substances unlike found in tobacco. This is the newest Ayurvedic smoking invention," he said.

Sales for the legal global tobacco market (2019) were worth approximately US\$818 billion. The largest global tobacco category remains combustible cigarettes. With over 5,200 billion cigarettes consumed annually, it is valued at US\$ 705 billion.



Inventor Samantha Punchi Hewa. Picture by Saliya Ruapsinge

The Minister also said that 'Lion Heart' cigarettes have already made exports to Australia and there is a growing demand for it and should be encouraged.

"We have been talking for many years especially about value-added exports – that must be promoted and encouraged and 'Lion Heart' is

The inventor and Chairman Nature's Group of Companies, Samantha Punchi Hewa said that he obtained a local patent for this product made out of 100% extracts from Cinnamon trees minus any chemicals and have already started distribution in selected districts. "We have three different flavors and price ranges starting half of the normal price of a cigarette."

A diversified entrepreneur in

Cinnamon and local product manufacturing he said they have started exports to Australia, and Europe and would up their exports to Asian countries as well. "We plan to have five factories and have already invested over Rs. 400 million for our factory in Elpitiya and would build four more factories generating over 100,000 direct

and indirect employment." We

another product of this also plan to open two factories overseas by the end of next

> Chairman Export Development Board Suresh De Mel welcomed the export of this product and said that it has created a new product to their export basket.



Minister Weerawansa with the newest Ayurvedic smoking invention.

Minister to get tough with NATA

Minister Wimal Weeerawansa lashed out at the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) for discouraging the sale of Lion Heart Cigarettes in the local market.

"When someone makes a 'gun' or launches a 'mini air place' the inventor is arrested and there are so many similar instances where government bodies themselves discourage local inventors and this trend must be reversed.

NATA has now 'put a tackle' to Lion Heart cigarettes and I am going to fight against this ban and even take the issue to Parliament and come up with a new legislature to get the 'clearance' for this product."

When both the Ayurveda Department and even the Export Development Board has endorsed this I sometimes feel

that 'global multinational competitors' for this product' are influencing the NATA to come up with 'Leg Brakes' of this nature.

Earlier NATA Chairman, Dr. Samadhi Rajapaksa, had written to the Ministry of Industry, and Department of Ayurveda requesting Lion Heart manufacturer to halt domestic promotion and sales as it is in violation of existing laws.

NCE proposes COVID vaccination certification on passport

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka, serving Sri Lankan Exporters with a Membership of over 405 organizations cordially propose, The Government takes the lead in the world, becoming the first country to certifying its Citizens been vaccinated against COVID-19, for overseas travel.

As there is no internationally accepted certificate at the moment, it could be done with an endorsement made on a 'Alterations and Observations' page of the passport as it is considered a credible document.

"We could take the lead in popularizing it first with our Asian friends and then move to the international arena with global partners."

Many Sri Lankan exporters travel overseas to participate at trade shows, exhibitions, B2B meetings and also to meet buyers to secure their exports to global markets. Unfortunately upon breakdown of the pandemic that caused disruption to world trade, they are facing numerous challenges in sustaining businesses. Since the introduction of the vaccination against the virus and gradual opening up of international markets, people all over the world have started to regain confidence and have hope for the future. With this view it is believed world travel resume with easing of travel restrictions and other related require-

"We as a Chamber are of the view that certifying the travel documents of Sri Lankan travelers with the COVID 19 vaccination will facilitate them at international airports. We as a country will be the first nation to take such action to support the citizens in the global front."



State Minister of Money & Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal and members of the CEO Forum of India held a discussion yesterday (17). It was disclosed that over 60 CEO's with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have started a new program, "SHINE LANKA - Path to Investment Sri Lanka". They will also promote Sri Lanka in India as an attractive and safe destination for investment. They are also developing special brochures and presentation kits under the theme "SHINE LANKA" to promote Indian investments to Sri Lanka. Here copy of this is presented by the Chairman of CEO Forum Umesh Gautam to Minister Cabraal.

Market down for fourth consecutive session - First Capital Research

the red territory for the 4th consecutive session recording the highest intraday loss after 2-weeks.

strong downtrend during the early hour of trading, thereafter recorded a short-lived uptrend during mid-day.

Later the market reverted to a The Index experienced a downward movement and

closed at 6,931, losing 114 points. The capital Goods sector dominated the turnover for the session with a contribution of 31%. Parcel trade-in CCS amounted to 5% of turnover.

DINESH PERERA

Due to global shipping setbacks, the Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company is having problems tracking deliveries. The global shipping setbacks have been caused by the disruption COVID-19 has caused to the shipping industry.

CEO Dilmah Dilhan Fernando noted that his company had hundreds of containers stuck in different parts of the world. He noted that delays make it very hard to track shipments. Fernando also complained of a lack of consistent shipping services to popular destinations.

Fernando said, "the congestion causes shipping yards to use external yards to store containers." Fernando was speaking

on the Friedrich Naumann

Global logistics hampers tea exports Foundation organised a

webinar on 15 March on the topic of the topic: Restart Asian economies: Ideas and Actions for the Tea Industry.

Fernando noted that his company was working hard to bring about traceability in the supply chain. He noted that export destinations with harmonised customs procedures like the European Union make it easier for exporters to provide their goods.

Fernando call industry stakeholders and the regulators to create a stronger quality surveillance infrastructure.

Fernando noted the colonial structure imposed for the manufacture of tea and explained how his firm was working to create a more socially equitable production process.

Fernando said, "we will fulfil the expectations of the worker. My father made a commitment. We will do it regardless of commercial circumstances.' Fernando criticised the overly commercial and

price-cutting nature of the industry. He said that with a small price differential the companies across the industry would be able to make a significant change in terms of social empowerment and climate change.

Director Managing Luxmi Tea Rudra Chatterjee noted the diversity in tea. With many different

strains of tea and multiple methods of preparation, there was ample scope for product

differentia- Dilhan C Fernando Rudra Chatterjee

tion. Chatterjee called on stakeholders to develop tea culture locally and export it to the rest of the world as the Italians have done with coffee.

Chatterjee noted that in an Asian producer at that.' the instance of Olive Oil or other premium products the consumer is not averse to paying higher prices to compensate for the advertising investment by the producer. He called on tea labels to follow suit.



Chatterjee noted Dilmah's uniqueness in the tea industry. Chatterjee said, "Dilmah is the only one of the top 10 tea brands which is a producer and are

Chatteriee criticised the commodification of the tea industry. With the large number of people involved in the industry at all stages, he believed the industry could bring about real social change.

Russian top billionaire Andrey Melnichenko visits Port City Colombo

Prominent Russian business tycoon Andrey Melnichenko visited Port City Colombo on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Sri Lankanborn British Politician and former EU Parliamentarian Niranjan Deva Aditva.

Melnichenko is a self-made billionaire with major investments in Switzerland based fertilizer giant Euro-

Chem Group and Russia based coal energy company SUEK. He was warmly welcomed by Port City

Marketing Yamuna Jayaratne. The delegation was briefed on Port City Colombo project, its construction progress and future develop-

Colombo Assistant Managing Direc-

tors Yue Yeqing and Thulci Aluwihare

together with Director Sales and

ments by Radhika Ellepola, Country Manager Sales and Investor Rela-

Melnichenko expressed positive remarks about the project and was impressed about the strategic planning of the new city in the making.

Board of Investment Chairman, Sanjaya Mohottala, Director General Pasan Wanigasekara and corporate sector veteran Rajan Brito were also present at the occasion. From the beginning of this year, Port City Colombo continued to attract several world leading business personalities, keeping Sri Lanka back in the map as a potential hub for future investment. Port City Colombo now awaits the introduction of the Special Economic Zone law by the Government.



Russian business tycoon Andrey Melnichenko visiing Port City Colombo

SEGREGATE YOUR WASTE AS GIVEN BELOW

Degradable Waste

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

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



Recyclable Waste

Following materials must be clean

- Glass
- · Paper / Cardboard Cleaned Polythene / Plastic
- Metal
- Cleaned coconut shells Cleaned tin
- Cleaned yoghurt cups and plastic cups
- Recyclable kitchen appliances



Non – Recyclable Waste

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



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MARKET/NEWS

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

| SHARES - | COLO | MBO | STO | CK | EXC | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Security | Volume | **V.W.A. Previous | Open | High | Low | **V.W.A. Yesterday's | Change (Rs.) |
| Main Board | | Close | | | | Close | (KS.) |
| A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD. | 5,910 | 30.00 | 29.50 | 29.50 | 28.20 | 29.00 | (1.00) |
| ABANS | 101 | 160.00 | 155.50 | 155.50 | 155.25 | 155.25 | (4.75) |
| ACCESS ENG SL | 424,861 | 22.40 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 21.60 | 21.90 | (0.50) |
| ACL | 146,882 | 36.80 | 36.80 | 37.90 | 35.10 | 35.30 | (1.50) |
| ACL PLASTICS | 2,342 | 246.25 | 235.50 | 240.00 | 226.25 | 227.00 | (19.25) |
| ACME | 1,002 | 6.30 | 6.60 | 6.60 | 6.00 | 6.20 | (0.10) |
| AGALAWATTE | 3,392 | 28.60 | 29.20 | 29.30 | 28.00 | 28.00 | (0.60) |
| AHOT PROPERTIES | 121 | 37.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | (2.00) |
| AITKEN SPENCE | 72,639 | 54.30 | 54.00 | 58.00 | 50.00 | 51.20 | (3.10) |
| ALLIANCE | 1,290 | 49.90 | 49.50 | 49.50 | 48.50 | 49.00 | (0.90) |
| AMANA BANK | 1,078,888 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.20 | (0.10) |
| MAYA LEISURE | 300 | 18.00 | 17.80 | 17.80 | 17.80 | 17.80 | (0.10) |
| ASIA ASSET | 5,727 | 5.70 | 5.90 | 5.90 | 5.60 | 5.60 | |
| ASIRI | 28,886 | 23.60 | 23.50 | 23.50 | 23.10 | 23.30 | (0.30) |
| ASIRI SURG | 17,351 | 14.00 | 13.60 | 14.00 | 13.10 | 14.00 | 0.00 |
| NUTODROME | 560 | 70.10 | 66.60 | 66.60 | 66.10 | 66.30 | (3.80) |
| BAIRAHA FARMS | 7,024 | 132.00 | 131.00 | 131.00 | 130.00 | 130.00 | (2.00) |
| BALANGODA | 32,203 | 12.00 | 11.70 | 12.70 | 10.50 | 10.90 | (1.10) |
| BUKIT DARAH | 240 | 325.50 | 306.00 | 321.75 | 306.00 | 316.75 | (8.75) |
| C M HOLDINGS | 51,068 | 88.70 | 89.80 | 89.80 | 85.30 | 88.80 | 0.10 |
| C T HOLDINGS | 13,570 | 170.00 | 169.50 | 172.00 | 169.50 | 170.00 | 0.00 |
| CARGILLS | | 238.50 | 233.75 | 233.75 | 233.75 | 238.50 | 0.00 |
| CARGO BOAT | 8,160 | 56.10 | 58.00 | 58.00 | 55.10 | 55.10 | (1.00) |
| CARSONS | 8,581 | 270.00 | 268.00 | 275.00 | 267.00 | 275.00 | |
| CDB | 1,000 | 106.50 | 106.00 | 106.00 | 106.00 | 106.00 | (0.50) |
| CDB (CDB.X0000) | 5 | 68.10 | 70.00 | 70.00 | 70.00 | 68.10 | 0.00 |
| CENTRAL FINANCE | 77,341 | 82.80 | 82.60 | 83.00 | 80.00 | 81.00 | (1.80) |
| CENTRAL IND. | 26,913 | 101.25 | 101.00 | 101.00 | 97.00 | 99.20 | (2.05) |
| CEYLINCO INS. (CINS.X00 | 00) 140 | 1,001.00 | 1,002.00 | 1,020.00 | 1,000.00 | 1,003.25 | 2.25 |
| CEYLON GUARDIAN | 6,000 | 115.00 | 115.00 | 115.00 | 115.00 | 115.00 | 0.00 |
| CEYLON INV. | 15,324 | 57.10 | 56.30 | 61.20 | 56.30 | 56.90 | (0.20) |
| CEYLON TOBACCO | 630 | 998.25 | 995.25 | 1,000.00 | 990.00 | 994.25 | (4.00) |
| CHEMANEX | 625 | 79.30 | 75.50 | | 71.00 | 75.20 | (4.10) |
| CHEVRON | 184,176 | 91.60 | 91.50 | 91.50 | 89.00 | 89.10 | (2.50) |
| CIC | 738,066 | 52.40 | 54.00 | 54.00 | 48.00 | 48.40 | (4.00) |
| CIC (CIC.X0000) | 228,844 | 43.00 | 43.00 | 44.90 | 40.20 | 40.80 | (2.20) |
| CITRUS LEISURE | 15,226 | 8.30 | 8.00 | 8.20 | 7.80 | 7.90 | (0.40) |
| COLD STORES | 75,774 | 617.75 | 616.00 | 620.00 | 616.00 | 620.00 | 2.25 |
| COLOMBO CITY | 42 | 875.25 | 871.00 | 871.00 | 849.75 | 875.25 | 0.00 |
| COLOMBO LAND | 102,665 | 23.60 | 23.10 | 24.00 | 23.00 | 23.90 | 0.30 |
| COMMERCIAL BANK | 453,918 | 86.00 | 86.80 | 86.80 | 85.00 | 85.80 | (0.20) |
| COMMERCIAL BANK (COM | MB X000038 004 | 79.70 | 81.60 | 81.60 | 79.70 | 80.50 | 0.80 |
| CONVENIENCE FOOD DANKOTUWA PORCEL | 1 59,990 | 1,250.25 10.80 | 1,117.00 | 1,117.00 | 1,117.00 10.30 | 1,250.25 10.40 | 0.00 |
| DFCC BANK PLC | 52,290 | 59.60 | 60.90 | 60.90 | 57.50 | 59.60 | 0.00 |
| DIALOG | 1,922,908 | 13.10 | 13.20 | 13.20 | 12.70 | 12.90 | (0.20) |
| DIMO | 411 | 510.00 | 507.00 | 535.00 | 500.00 | 505.75 | (4.25) |
| DIPPED PRODUCTS XD | 1,712,381 | 46.20 | 46.00 | 46.00 | 43.60 | 43.90 | (2.30) |
| OOCKYARD | 769 | 72.20 | 73.00 | 74.90 | 70.00 | 70.70 | (1.50) |
| OOLPHIN HOTELS | 55 | 23.40 | 23.10 | 23.10 | 23.10 | 23.40 | 0.00 |
| DURDANS | 200 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| DURDANS (CHL.X0000) | 1,300 | 85.80 | 86.00 | 86.00 | 86.00 | 86.00 | 0.20 |
| E B CREASY | 13,173 | 30.50 | 31.20 | 31.20 | 29.90 | 30.30 | (0.20) |
| EAST WEST EASTERN MERCHANT | 39,728 2,100 | 10.10 5.10 | 10.20 | 10.50 5.20 | 10.00 | 10.00 | (0.10) (0.10) |
| EXPOLANKA | 2,630,346 | 44.70 | 45.00 | 45.00 | 42.00 | 42.70 | (2.00) |
| FORT LAND | 512 | 12.40 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 12.30 | 12.30 | (0.10) |
| GRAIN ELEVATORS | 164,678 | 113.50 | 113.00 | 113.50 | 104.75 | 108.00 | (5.50) |
| HAYCARB XD | 156,332 | 94.50 | 94.90 | 94.90 | 90.00 | 90.60 | (3.90) |
| HAYLEYS | 1,467,283 | 55.00 | 56.00 | 56.00 | 53.40 | 53.60 | (1.40) |
| HAYLEYS FABRIC XD | 542,651 | 14.20 | 14.10 | 14.20 | 13.80 | 13.80 | (0.40) |
| HAYLEYS FIBRE XD | 5,830 | 46.40 | 46.00 | 47.80 | 44.50 | 47.20 | 0.80 |
| HDFC | 2,570 | 33.60 | 33.00 | 33.00 | 31.90 | 32.00 | (1.60) |
| HEMAS HOLDINGS | 199,109 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 80.10 | 79.10 | 79.90 | (0.10) |
| INB | 33,969 | 128.00 | 128.00 | 128.00 | 126.00 | 126.75 | (1.25) |
| INB ASSURANCE | 13,687 | 56.60 | 57.00 | 57.00 | 56.00 | 56.00 | (0.60) |
| HNB (HNB.X0000) | 62,492 | 101.00 | 101.00 | 101.00 | 100.00 | 100.50 | (0.50) |
| NDUSTRIAL ASPH. | 7,675,674 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| IKH KANDY HOTELS KEGALLE | 880,819 15 1,400 | 149.00 4.90 | 150.00 5.20 | 150.00 5.20 | 148.00 5.20 | 148.00 4.90 | (1.00) |
| KEGALLE | 1,400 | 100.00 | 99.90 | 99.90 | 97.00 | 97.00 | (3.00) |
| KELANI CABLES | 4 | 111.00 | 117.00 | 117.00 | 103.00 | 111.00 | 0.00 |
| KELANI TYRES | 30,734 | 73.60 | 73.50 | 73.50 | 70.10 | 70.90 | (2.70) |
| KELANI VALLEY XD | 13,682 | 39.40 | 39.00 | 40.60 | 36.70 | 39.70 | 0.30 (0.10) |
| KINGSBURY | 45,098 | 5.70 | 5.80 | 5.80 | 5.60 | 5.60 | |
| KOTAGALA | 47,779 | 5.90 | 5.80 | 5.90 | 5.40 | 5.40 | (0.50) |
| LOLC HOLDINGS | 268,402 | 296.00 | 295.50 | 298.00 | 285.00 | 286.75 | (9.25) |
| ANKA ALUMINIUM | 16,310 | 15.90 | 16.00 | 16.10 | 15.10 | 15.50 | (0.40) |
| ANKA HOSPITALS | 4,444 | 40.10 | 40.10 | 41.00 | 40.00 | 40.10 | |
| ANKA IOC | 8,242 | 19.80 | 19.80 | 20.00 | 19.30 | 19.50 | (0.30) |
| ANKA TILES | 118,066 | 180.25 | 182.75 | 182.75 | 165.00 | 166.75 | (13.50) |
| ANKA VENTURES | 42 | 48.60 | 48.60 | 48.60 | 48.40 | 48.60 | 0.00 |
| ANKA VENTUKES ANKA WALLTILE AUGFS GAS | 17,880 5,647 | 180.75 20.00 | 180.00 19.70 | 180.00 20.50 | 170.00 19.00 | 174.50 20.00 | (6.25) 0.00 |
| AUGFS GAS (LGL.X0000) AXAPANA | | 15.50 13.90 | 15.50 13.90 | 15.50 13.90 | 15.10 13.90 | 15.20 13.90 | (0.30) |
| B FINANCE | 317,339 | 45.20 | 46.00 | 46.00 | 43.30 | 44.00 | (1.20) |
| MF | 50,642 | 145.75 | 145.00 | 146.00 | 139.25 | 140.00 | (5.75) |
| VL ENERGY | 20,206 | 9.30 | 9.50 | 9.50 | 9.00 | 9.00 | (0.30) (0.20) |
| MALWATTE | 7,000 | 11.90 | 10.80 | 11.90 | 10.80 | 11.70 | |
| MALWATTE (MAL.X0000) | 10 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 0.00 |
| MELSTACORP | 122,731 | 45.00 | 44.00 | 44.00 | 42.50 | 42.80 | (2.20) |
| MERCHANT BANK | 5,400 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 7.10 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 0.00 |
| MULLERS NAMUNUKULA | 2,015 701 | 1.00 1.00 179.50 | 1.10 169.25 | 1.10 175.00 | 0.90 169.25 | 1.00 173.00 | 0.00 (6.50) |
| NAT. DEV. BANK XD | 28,343 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 79.00 | 80.00 | 0.00 |
| NATIONS TRUST | 68,149 | 54.50 | 54.50 | 54.50 | 53.80 | 53.90 | (0.60) |
| NAWALOKA | 83,189 | 4.90 | 4.90 | 5.10 | 4.90 | 5.00 | 0.10 |
| NESTLE XD | 95 | 1,151.50 | 1,148.00 | 1,150.00 | 1,140.00 | 1,151.50 | 0.00 |
| OVERSEAS REALTY PAN ASIA PANASIAN POWER | 1,614,031 147,460 1,431,855 | 15.70 15.60 | 15.70 15.50 | 16.10 15.90 | 15.50 15.00 | 16.00 15.10 | 0.30 (0.50) |
| PANASIAN POWER | 1,431,855 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.60 | 3.40 | 3.50 | 0.00 |
| PEOPLE'S INS | 44,765 | 30.50 | 31.00 | 31.00 | 29.90 | 29.90 | (0.60) |
| PEOPLES LEASING | 234,786 | 12.10 | 12.00 | 12.10 | 11.90 | 11.90 | (0.20) |
| PIRAMAL GLASS PRINTCARE PLC | 1,641,238 1,500 | 9.50 28.00 | 9.40 28.00 | 9.50 28.00 | 9.30 27.00 | 9.40 27.20 | (0.10) |
| R I L PROPERTY | 467,993 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 5.60 | 5.70 | (0.30) |
| REGNIS | 19,234 | 44.10 | 44.00 | 44.00 | 42.00 | 42.20 | (1.90) |
| RENUKA AGRI | 598,670 | 3.40 | 3.30 | 3.50 | 3.20 | 3.30 | (0.10) |
| RENUKA CITY HOT. | 2,130 | 225.00 | 225.00 | 225.00 | 221.00 | 221.00 | (4.00) |
| RENUKA FOODS RENUKA FOODS (COCO.) RENUKA HOLDINGS | 10,200 (0000) 8,041 | 13.10 11.10 | 13.10 11.10 | 13.10 11.10 | 13.00 10.80 | 13.00 10.90 | (0.10) (0.20) |
| RENUKA HOLDINGS | 35,465 | 14.80 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 13.50 | 13.80 | (1.00) |
| RENUKA HOLDINGS (RHL | X0000) 464 | 10.80 | 10.80 | 10.80 | 10.40 | 10.80 | 0.00 |
| RESUS ENERGY | 8,164 | 24.00 | 24.50 | 24.50 | 24.00 | 24.00 | 0.00 |
| RESUS ENERGY RICHARD PIERIS ROYAL CERAMIC | 524,925 292,297 | 15.50 242.25 | 15.50 242.00 | 15.80 242.00 | 15.50 235.00 | 15.60 235.50 | 0.00 0.10 (6.75) |
| S M B LEASING | 4,654,134 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.50 | (0.10) |
| S M B LEASING (SEMB.X0 | 000) 519,003 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.30 | 0.00 |
| SANASA DEV. BANK | 8,740 | 57.50 | 57.40 | 57.50 | 56.10 | 56.50 | (1.00) |
| SEYLAN BANK | 170,751 | 49.70 | 49.70 | 51.00 | 49.70 | 50.90 | 1.20 |
| SEYLAN BANK (SEYB.X00 SEYLAN DEVTS SIERRA CABL | 44,004 | 43.00 16.20 | 43.00 15.90 | 43.00 16.10 | 42.00 15.50 | 42.10 15.60 | (0.90) (0.60) |
| SIGIRIYA VILLAGE SINGER FINANCE | 20,602 1,216 35,106 | 6.00 32.90 13.90 | 5.90 33.00 13.80 | 6.00 33.00 14.00 | 5.90 32.90 13.50 | 5.90 33.00 13.60 | (0.10) 0.10 (0.30) |
| SLT | 33,286 | 32.60 | 32.50 | 33.10 | 31.80 | 32.10 | (0.50) |
| SUNSHINE HOLDING | 34,875 | 79.00 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 77.80 | 78.20 | |
| SWISSTEK | 19,692 | 102.00 | 103.25 | 103.25 | 99.50 | 100.25 | (1.75) |
| FALAWAKELLE | 9,942 | 39.40 | 38.80 | 39.00 | 37.20 | 37.70 | (1.70) |
| FEEJAY LANKA | 62,477 | 39.50 | 39.50 | 39.50 | 38.30 | 38.50 | (1.00) |
| FHREE ACRE FARMS | 52,451 | 195.75 | 187.00 | 187.00 | 182.25 | 182.75 | (13.00) |
| TOKYO CEMENT | 303,061 | 66.50 | 65.90 | 66.50 | 63.80 | 64.30 | (2.20) |
| TOKYO CEMENT (TKYO.XI | 0000) 499,795 | 59.40 | 59.90 | 59.90 | 56.00 | 56.40 | (3.00) |
| JNION BANK | 986,631 | 10.60 | 10.50 | 10.50 | 10.00 | 10.10 | (0.50) |
| JNISYST JNITED MOTORS | 20,618 1,710 | 7.20 59.90 | 7.10 59.90 | 7.10 59.90 | 6.60 59.80 | 6.60 59.90 | (0.60) (0.60) 0.00 |
| VALLIBEL | 1,103,772 | 7.20 | 7.30 | 7.30 | 7.20 | 7.20 | 0.00 |
| VALLIBEL FINANCE | 2,454 | 101.00 | 101.00 | 103.75 | 100.00 | 101.25 | 0.25 |
| /IDULLANKA | 95,423 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 5.50 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 0.00 |
| WATAWALA | 2,653 | 56.60 | 56.90 | 56.90 | 56.50 | 56.50 | (0.10) |
| SECOND BOARD | | | 07.70 | 07.70 | 27.50 | 07.70 | |
| ABANS FINANCIAL | 30 | 27.70 | 27.70 | 27.70 | 27.50 | 27.70 | 0.00 |
| AMBEON CAPITAL | 22,759 | 5.00 | 4.70 | 4.90 | 4.60 | 4.70 | (0.30) |
| ARPICO | 53 | 180.00 | 177.25 | 177.25 | 177.25 | 180.00 | 0.00 |
| BROWNS BEACH COMM LEASE & FIN | 200 61,498 | 180.00 11.00 5.80 | 177.25 10.60 5.80 | 177.25 10.60 6.00 | 177.25 10.60 5.80 | 10.60 5.80 | (0.40) 0.00 |
| DIALOG FINANCE | 500 | 59.50 | 55.30 | 55.30 | 55.30 | 55.30 | (4.20) |
| DISTILLERIES | 132,664 | 19.80 | 19.90 | 19.90 | 19.50 | 19.50 | (0.30) |
| FIRST CAPITAL | 31,520 | 48.20 | 48.30 | 48.30 | 46.50 | 46.90 | (1.30) |
| HUNAS FALLS | 101 | 152.00 | 152.50 | 152.50 | 152.25 | 152.25 | 0.25 |
| LANKA REALTY | 2,820 | 31.20 | 31.20 | 31.50 | 30.00 | 30.20 | (1.00) |
| LOLC FINANCE | 222,590 | 5.90 | 5.90 | 6.00 | 5.70 | 5.70 | (0.20) |
| MADULSIMA | 1,995 | 8.30 | 8.20 | 8.20 | 7.90 | 8.00 | (0.30) |
| ORIENT FINANCE | 645 | 13.40 | 13.20 | 14.70 | 13.20 | 14.30 | 0.90 |
| PEOPLE'S MERCH | 18,420 | 7.40 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 6.90 | 7.00 | (0.40) |
| SERENDIB LAND SINGER SRI LANKA | 18,420 26 6,821 | 3,000.00 17.50 | 2,800.00 17.40 | 2,800.00 17.40 | 2,800.00 16.90 | 3,000.00 17.00 | 0.00 (0.50) |
| DIRI SAVI BOARD | | | | | | | |
| AGSTAR PLC | 14,500 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 7.00 | 7.00 | (0.10) |
| ALUMEX PLC | 639,838 | 10.10 | 10.10 | 10.20 | 9.90 | 9.90 | (0.20) |

| Security | Volume | **V.W.A. | Open | High | Low | **V.W.A. | Change |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|---------|
| | | Previous | | | | Yesterday's | (Rs.) |
| | | Close | | | | Close | |
| | | | | | | | |
| AMANA TAKAFUL | 610 | 7.20 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 7.00 | (0.20) |
| AMBEON HOLDINGS | 23,400 | 17.20 | 16.00 | 16.50 | 15.90 | 16.30 | (0.90) |
| ARPICO INSURANCE | 730 | 23.90 | 22.50 | 23.40 | 22.00 | 22.20 | (1.70) |
| ASIA SIYAKA | 62,579 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.50 | (0.10) |
| BANSEI RESORTS | 3 | 8.90 | 8.30 | 8.30 | 7.50 | 8.90 | 0.00 |
| BERUWALA RESORTS | 203,825 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.90 | 0.80 | 0.80 | (0.10) |
| BOGALA GRAPHITE | 3,135 | 24.20 | 25.80 | 25.80 | 24.20 | 24.20 | 0.00 |
| BOGAWANTALAWA | 107 | 12.20 | 12.40 | 12.40 | 11.70 | 12.40 | 0.20 |
| BPPL HOLDINGS | 245,844 | 13.60 | 13.70 | 13.80 | 13.40 | 13.50 | (0.10) |
| BROWNS | 20,999 | 158.25 | 160.00 | 160.00 | 149.50 | 150.50 | (7.75) |
| BROWNS INVSTMNTS 1 | 9,326,499 | 5.10 | 5.10 | 5.10 | 4.80 | 4.90 | (0.20) |
| C T LAND | 480 | 27.50 | 27.00 | 27.50 | 27.00 | 27.50 | 0.00 |
| C.W.MACKIE | 8,391 | 43.10 | 43.60 | 43.60 | 42.50 | 42.70 | (0.40) |
| CEYLON TEA BRKRS | 23,953 | 3.10 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 3.00 | 3.10 | 0.00 |
| CFI | 6 | 67.50 | 71.00 | 71.00 | 65.10 | 67.50 | 0.00 |
| CITRUS HIKKADUWA | 36,864 | 4.90 | 4.80 | 5.00 | 4.80 | 4.80 | (0.10) |
| CITRUS WASKADUWA | 17,964 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.20 | 3.00 | 3.10 | 0.10 |
| COM.CREDIT | 3,150 | 22.10 | 21.40 | 21.90 | 21.00 | 21.90 | (0.20) |
| COMMERCIAL DEV. | 811 | 100.00 | 99.50 | 100.00 | 98.50 | 99.40 | (0.60) |
| DILMAH CEYLON | 8 | 636.75 | 640.00 | 640.00 | 640.00 | 636.75 | 0.00 |
| E - CHANNELLING | 804 | 5.40 | 5.60 | 5.70 | 5.40 | 5.60 | 0.20 |
| EDEN HOTEL LANKA | 11,409 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.50 | 9.90 | 10.00 | 0.00 |
| ELPITIYA | 17,859 | 42.70 | 42.10 | 43.90 | 40.00 | 41.00 | (1.70) |
| EQUITY TWO PLC | 11 | 53.10 | 52.90 | 52.90 | 52.80 | 53.10 | 0.00 |
| FORTRESS RESORTS | 384,000 | 10.10 | 10.10 | 10.70 | 10.10 | 10.70 | 0.60 |
| GALADARI | 1,500 | 8.00 | 7.80 | 8.00 | 7.80 | 8.00 | 0.00 |
| GUARDIAN CAPITAL | 870 | 27.50 | 27.30 | 27.30 | 27.20 | 27.20 | (0.30) |
| HATTON | 4,905 | 8.50 | 8.50 | 9.00 | 8.30 | 8.50 | 0.00 |
| HNB FINANCE | 5,186 | 8.90 | 8.50 | 8.50 | 8.30 | 8.40 | (0.50) |
| HNB FINANCE (HNBF-X-0000) | 1,504 | 6.70 | 7.20 | 7.20 | 6.60 | 6.80 | 0.10 |
| HVA FOODS | 10,551 | 4.90 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 4.80 | 4.80 | (0.10) |
| JETWING SYMPHONY | 8,900 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 0.00 |
| JOHN KEELLS | 10 | 67.90 | 70.70 | 70.70 | 70.70 | 67.90 | 0.00 |
| KAHAWATTE | 750 | 27.70 | 27.30 | 27.30 | 27.10 | 27.10 | (0.60) |
| KEELLS FOOD | 1 | 166.00 | 165.75 | 165.75 | 165.75 | 166.00 | 0.00 |
| KEELLS HOTELS | 9,036 | 9.50 | 9.50 | 9.50 | 9.40 | 9.50 | 0.00 |
| LANKA CERAMIC | 9,036 | 110.00 | 115.25 | 115.25 | 105.50 | 110.00 | 0.00 |
| LANKEM CEYLON | 994 | 28.60 | 26.00 | 26.00 | 26.00 | 26.00 | (2.60) |
| LAUGFS POWER | 14,198 | 8.60 | 8.90 | 8.90 | 8.40 | 8.40 | |
| | | | | | | | (0.20) |
| LAUGFS POWER (LPL-X-0000) LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL | 9,723 | 6.00 | 5.90 | 6.10 | 5.70 | 5.80 | (0.20) |
| | 150 230,716 | 29.00 11.70 | 29.20 | 29.20 | 29.20 | 29.20 | 0.20 |
| LOTUS HYDRO | | | 11.70 | 11.90 | 11.50 | 11.70 | 0.00 |
| MAHAWELI COCONUT | 560 | 27.50 | 27.40 | 27.40 | 26.60 | 26.60 | (0.90) |
| MAHAWELI REACH | 700 | 15.00 | 13.10 | 13.20 | 13.10 | 13.20 | (1.80) |
| MASKELIYA | 3,870 | 10.60 | 10.20 | 10.50 | 10.20 | 10.50 | (0.10) |
| NUWARA ELIYA | 102 | 1,014.00 | 1,011.00 | 1,011.00 | 1,010.00 | 1,010.00 | (4.00) |
| ON'ALLY | 2,330 | 29.20 | 29.10 | 29.30 | 29.00 | 29.10 | (0.10) |
| PALM GARDEN HOTL | 1 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 0.00 |
| PEGASUS HOTELS | 25 | 31.00 | 28.60 | 28.60 | 28.60 | 31.00 | 0.00 |
| PRIME FINANCE | 4,501 | 13.20 | 13.10 | 13.10 | 12.10 | 13.10 | (0.10) |
| RAIGAM SALTERNS | 37,247 | 5.10 | 5.00 | 5.30 | 5.00 | 5.00 | (0.10) |
| RENUKA CAPITAL | 355,107 | 6.00 | 5.90 | 6.00 | 5.30 | 5.60 | (0.40) |
| RICH PIERIS EXP | 2,786 | 350.00 | 349.50 | 349.50 | 340.00 | 340.50 | (9.50) |
| ROYAL PALMS | 38,930 | 13.90 | 13.90 | 13.90 | 13.10 | 13.20 | (0.70) |
| SATHOSA MOTORS | 300 | 226.50 | 220.00 | 220.00 | 215.50 | 215.50 | (11.00) |
| SEDENIDID ENIO ODD | | | | | 0.40 | 0.00 | |

| SWADESHI | 1 | 18,324.80 | 18,025.00 | 18,025.00 | 18,025.00 | 18,324.80 | 0.00 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Softlogic Life | 190,437 | 32.10 | 32.90 | 32.90 | 31.90 | 32.00 | (0.10) |
| TAL LÂNKA | 300 | 12.50 | 12.30 | 12.30 | 11.00 | 11.00 | (1.50) |
| TRANS ASIA | 182 | 51.00 | 51.00 | 51.40 | 51.00 | 51.10 | 0.10 |
| UDAPUSSELLAWA | 388 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 0.00 |
| UNION ASSURANCE | 249 | 310.00 | 300.50 | 312.00 | 300.50 | 302.50 | (7.50) |
| VALLIBEL ONE XD | 1,132,471 | 48.00 | 48.00 | 48.00 | 45.70 | 46.10 | (1.90) |
| | | | | | | | |
| WATCH LIST | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| ANILANA HOTELS | 25,707 | 1.00 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| BIMPUTH FINANCE | 10,685 | 6.60 | 6.60 | 6.80 | 6.50 | 6.60 | 0.00 |
| BLUE DIAMONDS | 233,274 | 0.70 | 0.60 | 0.70 | 0.60 | 0.60 | (0.10) |
| BLUE DIAMONDS (BLUE.X00 | | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.20 | 0.30 | 0.00 |
| LANKEM DEV. | 15,468 | 3.20 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.20 | 0.00 |
| MACKWOODS ENERGY | 28,762 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.60 | 2.50 | 2.60 | 0.00 |
| MULTI FINANCE | 1,587 | 7.00 | 7.00 | 7.10 | 6.10 | 6.70 | (0.30) |
| NATION LANKA | 1,364,702 | 0.80 | 0.70 | 0.80 | 0.70 | 0.70 | (0.10) |
| OFFICE EQUIPMENT | 35 | 71.20 | 68.00 | 68.00 | 68.00 | 71.20 | 0.00 |
| RADIANT GEMS | 16,152 | 28.60 | 25.10 | 25.10 | 21.50 | 21.70 | (6.90) |
| SINHAPUTHRA FIN | 2,500 | 7.00 | 6.50 | 6.50 | 6.50 | 6.50 | (0.50) |
| STANDARD CAPITAL | 150 | 60.00 | 61.80 | 61.80 | 60.00 | 60.00 | 0.00 |
| TESS AGRO | 1,004 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.60 | 0.00 |
| TESS AGRO (TESS.X0000) | 5,300 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| | | | | | | | |
| EQUITY DETAILS | | TODAY | | PRV.D | | | |
| VALUE OF TURNOVER(RS.) | | 1,297,47 | 5,335.10 | 853,06 | 35,170.15 | | |

6.00

14.70

8.80

48.00

1.90 3.70

11.70

3.60

10.00

3,380

385,585

89,328

156,204

3,446

15.00

9.60

47.00

3.90

11.70

3.70

10.00

| TRADES(NO.) MARKET CAPITALIZATION(RS.) | 65,392,090 14,694 3,027,748,138,078.60 | 38,855,643 10,270 3,080,641,200,536.05 |
|--|--|--|
| GOVT: SECURITIES VALUE OF TURNOVER(RS.) VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.) TRADES(NO.) MARKET CAPITALIZATION(RS.) | TODAY | PRV.DAY |
| CORPORATE DEBT | TODAY | PRV.DAY |
| VALUE OF TURNOVER(RS.) VOLUME OF TURNOVER(NO.) TRADES(NO.) | | 15-Mar-21 31,660,800.00 326,400 3 |
| EQUITY INDICES | TODAY | PRV.DAY |
| PRICE INDICES CSE ALL SHARE INDEX S&P SL 20 INDEX | 6,930.76 2,774.78 | 7,044.56 2,816.92 |
| TOTAL RETURN INDICES TRI ON ALL SHARES (ASTRI) | 9,290.68 | 9,443.23 |
| | | |

Smartlink celebrates five years

Smartlink Distribution (Pvt) Ltd., Loyalty, Trust, Sharing, Success and 5 elebrated its 5th Anniversary with years of SMARTLINK" celebrated its 5th Anniversary with their Premium partners at Lang Dale Nuware-Eliya & Shangri-la Hambanthota. SmartLink is an Authorized Distributor for the World-renowned Asus Brand of NoteBook Computers in Sri Lanka.

TRI ON S&P SL 20 INDEX (S&P SL20 (TR))

SERENDIB ENG.GRP

SERENDIB HOTELS

SINGER IND.

SOFTLOGIC

SOFTLOGIC CAP

SOFTLOGIC FIN

SERENDIB HOTELS (SHOT.X0000) 1,303

SINGHE HOSPITALS SINHAPUTHRA FIN (SFL.P0000)

SmartLink is efficient and swift in launching Innovative technology to Sri Lanka with an excellent professional service level to satisfy Sri Lankan IT partners. Smartlink Distribution celebrating their 5th Anniversary with the theme of "5 years of Togetherness,

Also the relationship we

have with our partners

is second to none and

made us number one for

most of IT brands in Sri

Akram Badurdeen - Director of

Smartlink Distribution stated "Our

partners are the backbone of our busi-

ness 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 con-

tribution to our success by rewarding

them and I am always thankful to

Smartlink Distribution's 5th Anni-

versary celebrations started in style

and their 10 premium partners

Lanka".

them."

Smartlink Distribution, Cater total range of Asus NoteBooks including our experienced team Consumer NoteBooks, Commercial NoteBooks and Gaming NoteBooks to almost all the Authorized Asus Partners around the country.

Fahmy Ismail D Group Chairman stated "We do our business through honesty and a high level of business integrity. Satisfying our customers is our main objective and we have been doing this for many years and hoping to do so in the coming years as well.



The event in Nuwara Eliya.

| COCONU | JTS | | |
|--|--|------------------------|--|
| Coconut Products – Prices on 18.03.2021 | | | |
| 1. FRESH COCONUT (a) Market Price: (Source – HAF Large Size Rs/Nut Small Size Rs/But | RTI) Wholesale | Retail | |
| (b)Coconut Development Authori Use) | ty – Colombo Auc | tion (For Industry | |
| Average Price Nuts Offered Nuts Traded | - | | |
| Without husk Price Rs/1,000 Nut | s | | |
| (c) Coconut Development Author | rity – Kuliyapitiya A | uction | |
| Price Range Nuts Offered Nuts Trade | - | | |
| (Without husk Price Rs/Kg) | | | |
| (d) Locally Traded (Farm-gate pri | ice) | | |
| | Nuts (with Husk) | | |
| Rs.MT (Husked Ex-Mill) | , | | |
| Kurunegala Dist | 45,000-55,000 | 95,000-105,000 | |
| Puttalam Dist | 45,000-55,000 | 95,000-105,000 | |
| Gampaha Dist | 50,000-55,000 | 95,000-105,000 | |
| Hambantota Dist | 60,000-65,000 | 95,000-100,000 | |
| 2. COPRA – (Locally Traded) | (18.03.2021) | | |
| Copra Edible M.S. No.1 Copra M.S. No.2 Copra MO – (Milling Ordinary) Copra | (Rs. /250 Kg) (Rs. /250 Kg) (Rs. /250 Kg) (Rs. /250 Kg) | 80,500 66,250 | |
| COPRA – (At Colombo Auction) | | | |
| Quantity of Copra Offered Quantity of Copra Sold M.S. No.1 Copra | (Kgs) (Kgs) | | |
| Highest Price M.S. No.1 Copra | (Rs./250Kg) | | |
| Simple average price M.S. No.1 Copra | (Rs./250Kg) | | |
| Market price M.S. No.2 & 3 Copra | (Rs./250Kg) | | |
| Simple average price M.S. No. 2 & 3 Copra | (Rs./250Kg) | | |
| Market price | (Rs./250Kg) | | |
| Next Auction on - | | | |
| 3. DESICCATED COCONUT Fine Sri Lanka (Domestic) Medium Sri Lanka FOB (Fina, Medium, C | (Rs/Kg) (Rs/Kg) Chips,Etc) (Rs/Kg) | 475-490 N 480-495 N | |
| 4. COCONUT OIL Local Wholesale Price Philippines (CIF-Rott) | (Rs/Mt) | 500,000-520,000 N | |
| (Oil World) (11/03/2021) | (Rs/Mt) | 317,859 | |
| 5. POONAC | (Rs/Mt) | 65,000 - 75,000 T | |
| 6. MATTRESS FIBRE | (Rs./50 Kg) | 950-1,400 T | |
| 7. OMAT FIBRE (FAQ) | (Rs. /50 Kg) | 3,750-5,000 T | |
| 8. MIX FIBRE | (Rs. /50 Kg) | 1,500-1,750 T | |
| 9. BRISTLE FIBRE 1 TIE | (Rs. /50 Kg) | 5,000-7,000 T | |
| 10. BRISTLE FIBRE 2 TIE | (Rs. /50 Kg) | 7,500-8,500 T | |
| 11. COCONUT HUSKS | (16.03.2021) | | |

12. COCONUT SHELL (Rs./MT) 29,500-30,500 T 13. COCONUT SHELL CHARCOAL (26/2/-03/4/2021) Moisture 12% Dust 3%(Rs/MT) 110,000.00 T 14. COCONUT EKELS (Rs/MT) 43,000-46,000 T

Rs/per 1.000 husks

4,500-5,000 4,500-5,000

4.500-5.000

Rs/Kg Rs/Kg

7.50 8.50

9.50

Coconut Husk (Moisture is more than 50%) Rs/Kg Coconut Husk (Moisture is 40%-50% Coconut Husk (Moisture is 30%-40%

Coconut Husk (Moisture is 10%-20% Rs/Kg
Coconut Husk (Moisture is less than 10% Rs/Kg

Cooconut Husk(Moisture is 20%-30%

0.00

(0.20) (2.90)

0.00

(0.60)

(0.10)

0.00

District

Puttalan Gampaha Matara

T - Traded

6.00

14.70

8.60

45.10

1.90 3.70 11.10

3.60

9.90

6.10

15.00

8.60

45.00

1.90 3.50

11.10

3.60

15.00

9.60

47.00

2.10 3.90

11.90

3.70

10.00

18.03.2021

(1)The average rates of the following currencies quoted by commercial banks in Colombo for Telegraphic Transfers (TT) at 9.30 a.m. are as follows;

| Australian Dollar Canadian Dollar Euro Japanese Yen Sterling Pound US Dollar | 152.8602 157.0140 233.1295 1.7987 272.3197 195.3045 | 159.3437 163.8651 241.9902 1.8585 282.2416 201.5005 |
|---|--|--|
| | | |

(2) The approximate exchange rates of GULF Currencies based on previous day's market weighted average rate for the US\$ are as follows;

| Bahrain | Bahrain Dinar | 523.7400 |
|----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Kuwait | Kuwait Dinar | 653.9595 |
| Oman | Oman Rial | 512.8705 |
| Qatar | Qatar Riyal | 54.2184 |
| Saudi Arabia S | Saudi Arabian Riyal | 52.6379 |
| JAE | UAE Dirham | 53.7549 |

(3) The Average Weighted Prime Lending Rate (AWPR) and the Lowest Prime Rate (LPR) during the week ended 05-Mar-2021, by all commercial banks was 5.54 percent and 5.00 percent respectively.

(4) The Average Weighted Deposit Rate (AWDR) of commercial banks for the month of February-2021 was 5.36

percent.

rewarded with a fully paid Helicopter

tour to Nuwara Eliya. The Partners stayed overnight at

Amaya Langdale, Nanuoya for the 5thyear celebration and they enjoyed the Golf coaching session at Nuwara Eliya Golf Course.

Their second tier of partners, a total of 20 partners taken to Shangri-la Hotel, Hambantota to celebrate their 5th year in Business. One night accommodation and entertainment-packed stay for partners were arranged and they enjoyed a Golf Coaching session at Shangri-la Golf course.



The event in Hambantota.

Maliban displays resilience with double-digit growth despite COVID-19

In its battle against COVID-19, Maliban Biscuits, one of Sri Lanka's leading biscuit manufacturer displayed great strength and resilience while striving to serve its consumers uninterruptedly during challenging times. This astonishing feat resulted in the organization's double-digit growth during the year, standing evident to Maliban's continuous efforts to deliver quality products in line with stringent health and safety guidelines.

Earlier last year, the organization was awarded the COVID-19 Safety Management System certification by Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), being the first food manufacturing company to do so. The certification reflects a well-planned COVID-19 safety management system which is vital for the safety of the company, its employees, customers and other stakeholders.

Adapting to the first wave of COVID-19 in the country, Maliban began implementing various proactive measures, starting from basic steps of maintaining social distance, sanitization and daily medical screening of its employees by medical professionals. Employees are subject to mandatory sanitization procedures too.

Following protocol, screens have been placed in the factory to maintain social distance among staff by segregating the prem-



MD Kumudika Fernando

ises into four major zones. Crossing between these zones are strictly controlled to minimize potential cross contamination. Employees are also provided with face shields, all 3 meals, vitamins C and D, and daily transport – free of charge.

Ravi Jayawardena, Group Chief Executive Officer stated, "With the strength and commitment of the staff at Maliban, who works unitedly as one team to drive the



Group CEO Ravi Jayawardena

growth of the company, Maliban was able to see a double-digit growth during the past year."

"As a trusted household brand, it is our duty to our employees and consumers that we ensure maximum safety in all our operations and products. By investing over LKR 20 million per month and following collaboration and inspection by representatives of the Ministry of Health, we have placed

countless measures which allow us to continue operations while prioritizing the health and safety of our local community."

Kumudika Fernando, Managing Director of Maliban commented, "On behalf of Maliban, I'd like to extend our immense gratitude towards the key drivers of the business – our employees and our customers, for having faith and believing in us to continue serving the nation."

Furthermore, Maliban's finished goods are stored at three different locations - Angulana, Panadura and Ratmalana. These stores operate separately from each other to further minimize the risk of contamination.

As a trusted household brand, Maliban holistically supports the local community in its battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from its internal efforts to ensure a safe and secure environment for its employees, Maliban partnered with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to mitigate the risk of the pandemic in school environments, through the 'SAFE SCHOOLS' project. Alongside these efforts, Maliban also donated its products, special cold storage facilities and highly essential medical equipment to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH), aided the Manusath Derana Program and contributed Rs.10 Million to the government's COVID-

NCE outlines views on topical policy issues

The National Chamber of Exporters has set out its views on topical policy issues and hopes to engage with all stakeholders for the amicable resolution of the same.

Government jobs for graduates

The NCE representing the Exporters of Sri Lanka, facilitate the sector to mitigate challenges and bring in much needed foreign exchange to the country.

The providing of employment (in Government) for already employed graduates in the private sectors under the unemployed graduates' scheme, has caused disruptions within exporting industries.

The exporters allocate resources (internal and external) to train these newly recruited graduates with an intention of receiving noteworthy performance from the company. But when government sector employment is offered indiscriminately (who have and don't have) of employment, these new recruits leave the establishments after a short engagement.

This not only causes waste of resources of the employing company but also prevent qualified unemployed graduate getting a placement under this government scheme. Some of the adverse impacts are outlined below;

1. Cost of operational disruptions is high due to short notice from employees on their resignations.

2. Cost of Training borne by the Exporting Enterprises become obsolete, which is a wasteful burden on the already burdened exporting enterprises

Cost of recruitment and retraining is extremely high.
 Unemployed Graduate's opportunity to gain employment is marginalized due to employed Graduates' applications are enter-

tained under this scheme.

The NCE propose amicable solutions to ensure the export processing activities are not disturbed and qualified unemployed graduates are found employment with Government. We suggest offering Jobs only to Graduates who are unem-

considered by Government employment.

However, in the event the Graduate is self-employed and has an EPF number, such should be considered for employment under this scheme.

ployed at the time of Government recruitment, graduate with an EPF number at a private sector company should not be

Plantation workers

The NCE seeks assistance in resolving an issue related to an increase in the daily wage of Plantation Workers without consideration for productivity.

The Members of the NCE representing the plantation and Tea Exports sector are faced with a challenge with regards to the amendment of the Wages Board Regulations (WBR) by making it mandatory for the tea plantation workers to be paid a minimum of Rs. 1,000 a day.

The increase has been conceded without reference to the productivity aspect of the workers at a time exporters are facing difficulty due to the current market situations.

The NCE is in agreement that remuneration to plantation workers should be increased but to be based on the productivity of the workers to mitigate the impact on the export market share of Sri Lankan tea.

It is to note the high cost of production will lead to higher selling prices, where buyers in the international market place are will not accept.

Softlogic Life's 2020 annual report is Asia's first to obtain 'External Assurance' on integrated reporting The 2020 annual report of Sri Lankan', it's an ode to the million Lankan', it's an ode to the million in 2017 as Sri Lanka's first video Financial Officer of Softlogic Life,

The 2020 annual report of Sri Lanka's fastest-growing life insurer, Softlogic Life, recently became the first entity in Asia and Sri Lanka to obtain external assurance on integrated reporting practices. This reflects Softlogic Life's commitment to transparent and objective reporting towards shareholders and other key stakeholders.

Obtaining assurance over integrated reports is an emerging trend, with Softlogic Life receiving what is referred to as external assurance for their 2020 report. After the Board of Softlogic Life sought assurance on the financial statement information and integrated reporting, KPMG reviewed the report to assess whether it had been prepared in line with the guiding principles of the International Framework and to ensure it covered the key content elements. Prepared under the theme 'One

The Swiss and U.S. governments have joined hands to initiate the Safe

guidance and skills development for Sri

Lankan migrant workers, SRMW will

be fully integrated with the U.S. Agen-

cy for International Development sup-

ported USD 18 million youth employ-

ment and entrepreneurship project,

YouLead. The Swiss contribution of

vide guidance and skills training for

thousands of migrant workers, as well

assess their skills learned overseas and

link them to employment and entrepre-

SRMW, part of SDC's 'Safe Labor

Migration Program Phase IV' was for-

mally launched on March 2, 2021 at

the Embassy of Switzerland in Colom-

bo, by Ambassador Dr Dominik Fur-

gler of Switzerland and Ambassador

The project is designed to make

Alaina Teplitz of the United States.

as helping returned migrant workers

neurship opportunities in Sri Lanka.

\$1.5 million over three years will pro-

and Resilient Migrant Workers

(SRMW) project in Sri Lanka.

Designed to provide much needed

Sri Lankans who have entrusted Softlogic Life with their protection and care for a million reasons. The company's dynamic portfolio of products and services is designed to safeguard and empower these people, while its agility to evolve has helped Softlogic Life align its trajectory to contribute to the nation's growth ambitions. The report has closely followed guiding principles and fundamental concepts in the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) Framework to serve the information needs of stakeholders best.

Softlogic Life Managing Director Iftikar Ahamed said, "As a leading life insurance entity in Sri Lanka, we have long recognized the role assurance can play in building trust and confidence in integrated reports and this trend has been reflected by develop-

Switzerland, US support migrant workers

man, and Nirosha Hapuarachchi.

overseas employment safer and more

sionally, by providing better occupa-

tional information and by increasing

the skill levels of Sri Lankans who go

abroad for work. It will also work to

help reintegrate returning workers into

meaningful productive opportunities in

Sri Lanka. SRMW comes at a particu-

50,000 migrant workers are returning

home due to the pandemic-many of

them without employment prospects.

The activity will focus its efforts in

Kandy, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura,

Puttalam and Vavuniya—all districts

with large numbers seeking work over-

larly important time as more than

rewarding, both financially and profes-



CFO Nuwan Pushpakumara

ments we see globally. We are extremely proud to obtain this as Asia's first insurance company, which is a huge milestone for the entire industry."

Furthermore, Softlogic Life has presented the video version of its integrated annual report for the fourth consecutive year. Unveiled

seas, while actively influencing nation-

"The pandemic has undoubtedly

highlighted the challenges faced by

migrant workers for years, and this

action. Therefore, the 'Skilled and

Resilient Migrant Workers Project'

by the safe labor migration pro-

aims to build on the foundations laid

grammes launched by the government

labor force," commented His Excellen-

cy the Swiss Ambassador to Sri Lanka,

of Switzerland, to accelerate its posi-

tive impact on Sri Lanka's migrant

developing crisis calls for immediate

al policy initiatives for improved

skilled migration.

Dominik Furgler.

Madushika Lansakara, Dr. Dominik Furgler, Alaina Teplitz, Reed Aeschli-

in 2017 as Sri Lanka's first video Annual Report, Softlogic Life's innovative approach aims to enhance user-friendliness and simplicity, encouraging key stakeholders of the company to familiarize themselves with their comprehensive content integrated annual report.

Available now on YouTube and

Softlogic Life's official website,

the video showcases several key details of this year's Annual Report using unique infographics—financial outcome which include gross written premium (GWP) achieved, profit before tax (PBT) and Year-on-Year (YoY) growth, business operating context to the business process of the company, intellectual capital to human capital, innovations and new products unveiled by Softlogic Life in 2020 and rights to opportunities

and risks to opportunities.

Nuwan Pushpakumara, Chief

said, "The positive feedback we have been receiving since 2017 from our stakeholders for the video Annual Report confirms the success of this landmark innovation.

We are humbled to present a well-crafted video version for the fourth consecutive year, which translates how well the overall business strategies have elevated Softlogic Life during a tough year to become the third-largest entity in the life insurance industry with sustainable growth."

Softlogic Life recently

Softlogic Life recently announced that despite all the difficulties associated with a thoroughly disrupted COVID year 2020, the company grew revenues to record Gross Written Premium (GWP) of Rs. 15.6 billion, an increase of 25%, making it the fastest company to that mark.

Saranga Goonawardena appointed Chairman of COYLE

Saranga Goonawardena was elected the new Chairman at the Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs (COYLE) 22nd Annual General Meeting held on 10th March 2021 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo. It was followed by a gala function attended by Chief Guest, Prime Minister Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, Ministers, State Ministers together with Secretaries, Government Officials and COYLE members. The traditional Kiribath was cut by the outgoing and past Chairmen of COYLE.

He takes over from Chamath Kottage who held the office for the preceding year. The new Chairman will be ably assisted by Senior Vice Chairman Dimuth Chankama Silva and Vice-

Chairman Rasith Wickramasingha.
Saranga Goonawardena, who
assumed duties as the 22nd Chairman
of COYLE, started from mediocre
beginnings but had a vision of being
successful in life and pursued his
dreams in global enterprises. After having pursued a career in Civil Engineering, he went on to obtain his Masters'
in Business Administration from the
USA, and on proceeding to the USA,
he worked in a US company with
international exposure. Meanwhile, he



Coyle Chairman
Saranga Goonawardena

also stepped into the area of E-commerce. Having received exposure in international organizations and E-commerce, he returned to Sri Lanka and ventured into the unique industry of protective packaging; and is presently the Managing Director of TNG Packaging Pvt. Ltd. and TN Global Pvt. Ltd.

Chairman Saranga Goonawardena in his speech stated," It is with a deep sense of pride that I take on the reins of COYLE which has taken on yet another challenging chapter in its 22-year journey. The close affiliations we have sustained with Government agencies and foreign missions have opened up various avenues for dynamic entrepre-

SriLankan Engineering signs maintenance agreement with FITS Aviation

neurship in both local and international markets. Significantly, COYLE has been instrumental in reaching mutual consensus on vital issues with successive Governments." He added, "COYLE has encouraged its members to adapt their business models and its governance to the new economic, financial and regulatory environment effected by the present pandemic, and great progress has been made on all these fronts."

Outgoing Chairman Chamath Kottage said, "As I transition out of my role as Chairman of COYLE, first and foremost I would like to thank the past presidents, steering committees and members for bringing the Chamber to this standard of influence in the business arena. I am pleased to say I will be leaving you in the capable hands of incoming Chairman for 2021/22 Saranga Goonawardena, who has been involved with us here at COYLE for many years."

COYLE through its empowering motto, "Recognition through Excellence" contributes greatly towards the economic development of the country, with a greater emphasis on the Sri Lankan Business community.

Task Force on essentials passes one year milestone

One year ago, when the COVID-19 first lockdown came, it was a challenging task for the Government and the providers of essential services to ensure an uninterrupted supply to the people.

The Presidential Task

Force to provide essentials during the COVID-19 lock-down, headed by former minister Basil Rajapaksa was formed and swiftly commenced operations to ensure that the public was given access to everyday essentials needed.

Under the guidance of the

Under the guidance of the Presidential Task Force, Litro Gas Lanka was among the essential service providers who took up the challenge of making their products and services available to consumers throughout the lockdown period. For Litro Gas Lanka as the national LPG provider, it was an undertaking that called for



exceptional leadership and functionality skills, says Chairman and CEO, Anil Koswatte.

From the holding of a special meeting to commence operations under COVID-19 safety protocols on 20th March 2020, to reactivating a seamless supply chain, the process involved meticulous planning and a tremendous effort, but it was a task of national importance – that of ensuring that essential supplies were made availa-

ble to the public at large.
"The President Gotabaya
Rajapaksa, Prime Minister
Mahinda Rajapaksa and
Basil Rajapaksa gave every
stakeholder the inspiration
needed to recommence
operations. Under their
guidance, we undertook a
task that had not been
attempted before, under pan-

demic conditions."

For every essential service provider, it was an operation that was initiated under the strictest COVID-19 safety functions.

Employees and suppliers had to be brought together while the safety parameters were followed carefully. Yet, the efficiency and the clear guidance put in place by the Presidential Task Force to provide essentials during the lockdown, brought results and ensured that the public had access to consistent supplies.

As in every challenge, the

COVID-19 lockdown introduced new experiences one was to embrace innovation and technology. Many apps were introduced, contactless payments and digital commerce initiatives encouraged. The COVID-19 lockdown was a lesson in mitigating essential services under restricting conditions - for every stakeholder, it was an experience that tested the readiness and capability to ensure unbroken supplies under the most try-

ing circumstances.

SriLankan Engineering the engineering and maintenance arm of SriLankan Airlines,

arm of SriLankan Airlines, signed a 'Total360' aircraft engineering and maintenance agreement with FITS Aviation (Pvt) Limited last week. The agreement encompass-

es tasks involving base maintenance, line maintenance, and other engineering services, for FITS Aviation Limited's Airbus A320 fleet of aircraft, in Sri Lanka. This agreement marks the

This agreement marks the beginning of a long-term mutually beneficial partnership that would enable FITS aviation to achieve their goals, whilst SriLankan Airlines will be assuring their aircraft receive the highest standards of maintenance, they require to be airworthy at all times. Head of Engineering of SriLankan Airlines Shevantha Weerasekera said,



chosen as a 360 Engineering rate with any airline in the region and will support with and maintenance provider by Fits aviation", said Arjuna their engineering and maintenance needs." SriLankan Kapugeekivana, Senior Man-Engineering is accredited ager Aircraft Maintenance of with a range of industry cer-SriLankan Airlines. SriLantifications of the highest reckan Engineering also holds approvals from numerous ognized global standards, which includes EASA 145 national aviation authorities certifications for Line Mainincluding China, India, Qatar, tenance, Base Maintenance UAE, Singapore, Seychelles and Engineering Workshops and Bahrain to carry out airand authorization to certify craft maintenance. It also

provides full engineering services for the entire SriLankan Airlines fleet, which comprise A320, A321 (CEO and NEO versions), and A330 aircraft. Also, SriLankan Engineering provides Line certification of B777, B737 Family, A340, A350, B787 at Colombo and Malé Airports to third-party airline customers. SriLankan Airlines and its engineering and maintenance arm, SriLankan Engineering take this opportunity to wish FITS Aviation (Pvt) Limited the best and look forward to a longstanding sustainable relationship.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

Reservations open at Prime Signature Villas



Prime Group, the market leader in the real estate sector in Sri Lanka is all set to launch its newest individual housing venture Clover - Prime Signature Villas in Corea Gardens Thalawathugoda which will open doors for reservations from March 19, 2021.

Clover - Prime Signature Villas is the pinnacle of Thalawathugodaone of the most luxuries and many sought-after neighbourhoods suitable for your next move. "Clover" is located in one of the prestigious neighbourhoods which is undoubtedly a real estate masterpiece.

The venture comprises spa-

cious four-bedroom villas with modern architectural language, well-integrated spaces, including all necessary amenities for a modern and luxurious lifestyle and a rooftop garden for private

gatherings. All bedrooms are fully airconditioned with timber flooring and European standard toilet fittings and accessories, with a fully fitted modern pantry. Hot water facilities for all toilets and pantry through a solar

Residents are provided with 24-hour gated security along with an adults and children's swimming pool, lounge area, gymnasium, yoga pavilion,



Clubhouse for a well relaxed and calm lifestyle for residence together with a well-landscaped area with eye-catching water features.

Clover-Prime Signature Villas, CoreaGarderns -Thalawathugoda is an ideal choice for those who want to upgrade their lifestyle from the norm to a modern prestigious lifestyle away from the city of Colom-

Prime Lands (Pvt.) Ltd, a subsidiary of Prime Group, The market leader in the real estate sector in Sri Lanka which was established 25 years ago with a vision to 'committed to creating a better place on Earth'.

Currently present in most parts of Sri Lanka. Prime Lands has earned the trust of its customers and the loyalty of its employees by providing the best of services and a pleasant working environment over the past two decades. Prime Residencies and Prime Finance PLC are two other subsidiaries of Prime

The long term goal of Prime Group is to shift from a private family-owned enterprise to a publicly owned organization broad-basing its shareholders while earning the status of an iconic international player in the region by going into an IPO

Union Assurance recognized internationally as the 'Most Innovative Digital Insurance Company in SL'

nized as the Most Innovative Digital Insurance Company of Sri Lanka and the Most Innovative Digital Initiative of Sri Lanka in 2021 by the world-renowned Business and Financial journal International Business Magazine.

The awards were attributed to the many initiatives by Union Assurance to spearhead digital adaptation in the insurance industry through a comprehensive transformation journey that focuses on the digitization of operations, building capability and adopting disruptive technology.

Commenting on this special achievement, Jude Gomes, Chief Executive Officer of Union Assurance stated "Our progressive investments in cutting-edge digital technology are coming to fruition. Our transition to a digital operating model has been rapid, supporting over 500 employees working remotely and helping Union Assurance to provide best in class

online services to our customers." While Sri Lanka has trailed behind in innovating its products, servicing capabilities, and distri-



CEO Jude Gomes

bution in this market, Union Assurance is stepping out of the norm and driving forward innovation, making its mission to bridge the gap between the tech-savvy consumer and the less advanced industry. By transforming itself to become a digitally enhanced, customer-centric life insurer with better, tech-enabled products, services, and platforms, Union Assurance is leading the way for the Sri Lankan market in helping its customers to achieve their financial

tected lives.

Union Assurance is recognized as LMD's #1 Most Awarded insurance company in Sri Lanka. It received the most respected international accolade for financial advisors in life insurance for producing the highest number of MDRTs (Million Dollar Round Table achievers) in 2020. Union Assurance is a part of the John Keells Group, Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate, completing over three decades of success with a market capitalization of Rs. 18 billion, a Life Fund of Rs. 42 billion and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 341% as of December 2020. Set to empower the Sri Lankan Dream, Union Assurance offers Life Insurance solutions that cover the education, health, investment, protection, and retirement needs of Sri Lankans. With 75 branches and an over 3500-strong workforce, Union Assurance continues to invest in people, products, and processes with a customer-centric focus to be responsive to emerging trends in the Life Insurance industry.

SLT-Mobitel signs MoU with CT Land Development

SLT-Mobitel, the nation's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions leader has signed an MoU with CT Land Development PLC, the owning company of Majestic City luxury shopping complex to elevate the building's ICT infrastructure.

Majestic City, which often is best known by its moniker, 'MC', is an iconic and one of the most recognizable buildings located in the heart of the bustling city of Bambalapitiya, Colombo 04.

The MoU signing took place recently at the SLT head office located in Colombo Fort and was presided over by Kiththi Perera, Chief Executive Officer of SLT and Mignonne Perera Director of CT Land Development PLC. Other officials from both companies also participated in the agreement signing.

With the expansive and revolutionary world of digitalization taking shape across the world

and the nation, it only felt timely that a luxury shopping complex such as Majestic City would adopt the installation of an ICT infrastructure. With Sri Lanka Telecom PLC being denoted as a fixture that has pioneered in the provision of ICT solutions, the company came into agreement with CT Land Development PLC to facilitate the shopping complex with telecommunications services, ultra-fast broadband connectivity provided through fibre technology as well as the next revolution in entertainment television, PEO TV.

Sharing her thoughts on the new collaboration, Mignonne Perera, Director of CT Land Development PLC, said, "In keeping with the importance of embracing digital change and innovation, we recognized Sri Lanka Telecom PLC as the ideal partner towards achieving our goal of digitization and staying relevant in this digital



CT Land Development; Charuni Gunawardana, Mignonne Perera. SLT; Kiththi Perera, Chethana Attanayake, and Imantha Wijekoon.

age. We look forward to witnessing the Majestic City in a whole new light.'

Kiththi Perera, Chief Executive Officer of SLT said, "As a national fixture that aims to uplift the nation through tech nology and digital intervention, it is also a role that we, at SLT embraces in terms of providing the best in ICT and telecom solutions to our home-grown business entities.

We feel privileged to have

had this opportunity where we can work to elevate Majestic City into a smart building and provide solutions that will no doubt turn into an experience that the public will enjoy and

Majestic City comprises five stories and is well-frequented by customers of all ages. The shopping complex is also recognised as a hub for shopping and commercial activities as well as for relaxation purposes.

BOC Kesbewa Branch shifted to a new location



Officials of the Bank of Ceylon Kesbawa branch and guests at the opening.

Bank of Ceylon Kesbewa branch relocated to a new location, at Horana Road, Kesbewa recently. The ceremony took place with the patronage of the Bank's Deputy General Manager Sales and Channel Management Priyal Silva. Bank of Ceylon Kesbewa Branch has been providing a dedicated service to the customers of the region through financial assistance to uplift their socio-economic wellbe-

With the relocation of the branch at its new address, the Bank enhanced the convenience of banking to its customers with a spacious

and more organized ambience and extended digital banking services. DGM Retail Banking Range II

B.K. Gurusinghe, AGM Western Province South W.K.L.B.N. Samanthi, AGM Province Sales Management D.R.C.S. Udayakumari and AGM Offshore Banking I.S.N. Perera represented the bank's Corporate and Executi Management, officials from the Bank's Western Province South Office customers and other distinguished guests participated at the opening. The manager of the Kesbewa branch and the staff officiated the event.

BOC Kesbewa is connected with every other BOC branch across the country, hence customers have the privilege of carrying out banking transactions to any part of the country through the Kesbewa branch. The Branch will offer a wide array of banking services to its customers inclusive of deposit products such as current and local or foreign currency savings and Fixed Deposit accounts and investment plans and loan products such as housing and personal loans, education loans, Leasing, pawning facilities and special loans schemes such as Divi Udana loan scheme.

Univiser announces partnership with SkilledUp Life

Univiser, a Singaporean and Sri Lankan-based tech startup that provides a peer-to-peer platform that connects university prospective students with current students, alumni and staff, announced a strategic long-term partnership with U.K. based technology company SkilledUp Life. The partnership was expected to take place in early March 2021.

The move provides Univiser users with access to SkilledUp Life's two-sided online marketplace which bridges talented volunteers from around the globe with careerenhancing opportunities at early-stage tech companies from around the world.

Under the partnership, Univiser will begin offering its growing community of university Student Ambassadors exclusive access to volunteer opportunities available from SkilledUp Life. The move is expected to help students further their careers by gaining relevant, in-demand work experiences in their fields of interest. In addition to serving as mentors and leaders within the university community, students can now choose from career up-skill volunteer opportunities within the highly indemand global IT sector.

"At Univiser we are more than just a product company, we want to build a community. Student Ambassadors of the universities are a big part of that community. We are always looking at ways to add value for them; we are super pleased to partner with SkilledUp Life to provide remote work experience opportunities for them. Furthermore, by being selected as a Univiser ambassador there is already a level of vetting involved, all of our buddies are of high calibre, so companies can confidently work with these students who are keen to take up this opportunity," said Ismail Sadurdeen, Founder and CEO - Uni-







Manoj Ranaweera Ismail Sadurdeen

"I'm delighted to build a trusted and long-term partnership with Univiser, where we can introduce opportunities in early-stage technology companies to young graduates through Univiser. Due to rapid technological advancements, there will no longer be a job for every 18+ in the world. Young graduates would not just need to demonstrate excellent educational results, they would increasingly be asked to demonstrate real experiences by employers. This is where SkilledUp Life comes in. As you cannot earn through us, we provide an easy way to gain new experiences and skills which you can take forward to improve your career pros-

The more effort you put in, the more opportunities we can create, which could make a significant difference in a graduate's prospects. All opportunities are remote. All you need is a computer, access to the internet, spare time, and a willingness to improve your chances," Manoj Ranaweera, Founder and CEO SkilledUp Life

The mutually beneficial partnership will also allow tech companies access to a new pool of candidates to hire talent while simultaneously allowing universities to become more marketable as their students continue to acquire more high-demand tech skills and competencies to advance their careers.



Homelands Skyline; A. R Bandara, Nimali Gunasekara, Lanka Jayasinghe, Harshani Herath, Nalin Herath. HNB; Sanjay Wijemanne, Kanchana Karunagama, Vijaya Vidayasagara, Ruwanie Ranaweera, and Rajika Nishantha.

HNB, Homelands Skyline partner on exclusive housing loans

HNB partners Homelands Skyline to offer exclusive housing loans Sri Lanka's most customer-friendly bank HNB PLC announced an exclusive partnership with leading property developer and real estate giant Homelands Skyline to offer housing loans anchored to a slew of benefits and special rates across its extensive property portfolio.

Senior officials from HNB and Homelands Skyline were present at the ceremony held at HNB Towers to commemorate the partnership including; Homelands Group Chairman and Managing Director, Nalin Herath, Homelands Skyline Directress, Harshani Herath, HNB Deputy General Manager - Retail & SME Banking, Sanjay Wijemanne and HNB Head of Personal Financial Services, Kanchana Karunagama.

Notably, HNB offers the speediest path to acquiring a home loan, having streamlined their processes with technology to deliver approvals in just three days.

"Even with the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for housing and vertical living has continued to increase. Hence, we have sought to add greater value to our customers over the past year by offering exclusive deals from leading property developers and real estate partners across the country. This unique partnership with Homelands Skyline will equip our valued customers who are looking to invest in a home of their own, with the best possible financial tools and facilities," Karunagama said.

During the promotional period from March 01 to May 31 2021, HNB customers can avail themselves of the most flexible and competitive loans in the market. In compliance with standard HNB practices, customers need

only fund 25% of the purchase price to be eligible for the promotion.

Dedicated customer service agents will assist HNB clients with comprehensive support for legal and documentation requirements, in addition to offering doorstep mortgage advisory services. Offered at some of the best rates in the market, HNB will provide flexible financial solutions to suit the requirements of any prospective homeowner for land, property, and apartments on offer by Skyline.

"Homelands Skyline is committed to providing aspiring homeowners with the most reliable and streamlined path to finding properties that fir their individual needs. We are therefore delighted to be able to partner with HNB and offer our clients an extensive range of discounts and packages, based on their individual housing requirements,' Nalin Herath said.

ComBank adjudged 'Best Financial Brand - Sri Lanka 2021' by **Global Brands Magazine**

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has been declared the 'Best Financial Brand – Sri Lanka 2021' in the Banking and Finance Awards category by the UK-based 'Global Brands' magazine, one of the largest brand publications that provides opinions and news on brands across the world.

The Bank was evaluated in a study conducted by an independent external research agency appointed by Global Brands. The agency collected data from publicly available sources



(I) COMMERCIAL BANK

and submitted its nominations in the different award catego ries to Global Brands Publications Limited.

Commercial Bank was selected for the award from a competitive group of entrants, all of whom demonstrated unique and exceptional service delivery in evolving banking sectors. The Bank was recognised for its exceptional commitment to innovation, quality, branding activities, customer service and performance, and for being a robust financial brand in the country.

Other leading brands that were honoured by Global Brands in the Banking and Finance category included Morgan Stanley, DBS and JP Morgan as Global winners, and UBS Group AG (Switzerland) and Bank of America (USA).

Notably, Commercial Bank was adjudged the 'Most Innovative Customer Service Banking Brand' in Sri Lanka by Global Brands in 2018.

The Global Brands awards programme was established with the aim of honouring excellence in performance and rewarding companies across different sectors. The awards recognise companies that have performed extraordinarily well in the field of Finance, Education, Hospitality, Lifestyle, Automobiles, and Technology. The awards are presented to acknowledge key players who strive for fineness, and to provide a platform for recognition.

The first Sri Lankan Bank to be listed among the Top 1000 Banks of the World and the only Sri Lankan bank to be so listed for 10 years consecutively, Commercial Bank operates a network of 268 branches and 887 ATMs in Sri Lanka.

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

reat 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

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

FROM PLOTTO POTI

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 litwaterfalls; an ancient tradition carried out by travellers for centuries who believe that whatever you wish



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

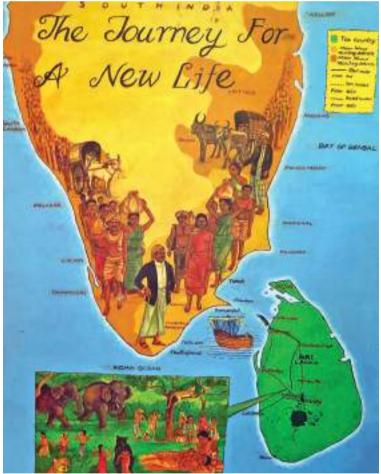
The walk from Ella which means waterfall to Nine Arches is hauntingly beautiful with magical mountainous hand-cut trails that take you through some of the island's most dramatic scenery. Walking this section of the trail, is in many ways like an epic waterfall trek, always on the move, never stopping, 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.

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 steal 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 scenary 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



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





'SITE INSPECTION BY AN ARCHITECT IS A MUST'

PERSONAL HOUSING

ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

e happiness that our nomes bring us and the happiness that our neighbors get from their homes is one of the most important symbiotic relationships in any society. The neighborhood we live in also gives us an identity. If you take a fairly affluent neighborhood, then it stands to reason that the income level of each neighbor is pretty much the same. That means that they are pretty much well to do. So if they are happy with their homes, if their homes are aesthetically pleasing to them while being comfortable, the general mood of the neighborhood is positive and

The Economist Adam Smith once said – 'No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable.' If any member of the neighborhood is unhappy about his/her living conditions due to whatever reason, that affects the general mood of the entire neighborhood. Which is why Arch World speaks to Chartered Architect, Archt. Tharinda Dissanayake on creating aesthetically pleasing homes that sends good vibes through the neighborhood.

GOOD VIBES

Personal housing is all about good vibes. Good vibes through the household and good vibes through the neighborhood. "As professionals, we generally assess the client's requirements with three main domains in mind, 'Socio-Cultural', 'Environmental' and 'Economical' aspects. So then we determine the 'Architect's Brief, which is more comprehensive, cohesive and more technical in nature. As I said we consider the whole domain of 'Environment' when designing a building. But for a simple house, the approach may be simpler. But as architects our minds are always trained to think scientifically. Thus, planning the building while preserving a tree becomes our top most concern. If we dig in deeper, the environment can be further divided into 'Abiotic' (Air, Water, Fire, etc, that is physical rather than biological) and 'Biotic' (Humans, Animals, Trees, etc that is biological) layers, where Climate is a phenomenon that naturally occurs within the 'Abiotic' layer. So, climatic control is one of the many factors that we take into consideration during designing. Therefore, within architecture schools, there is a subject about Environment and Climate where students are required to learn and demonstrate their skills in this field of scientific thinking," said Dissanayake

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

He added that when it comes to a house, the first thing that should be considered is the site's physical characteristics.

"For this, I strongly believe that a site inspection by an Architect is a must. Thus, during a visit we consider many factors. The magnetic north is one such, which will allow us to determine what the solar path is. Other than that, many other factors such as wind path, storm water drainage paths through natural terrain are considered and the list goes on. By determining the solar path, it helps when it comes to 'strategically locating' spaces that would minimize internal solar heat gains, that will reduce the cooling loads in a tropical country like Sri Lanka.

As we all know, the afternoon sun tends to be harsh and hot, and that means, the west face will gain more heat by absorbing energy photons. Thus, our first attempt is to decide whether living spaces where occupancy is high can be minimized when using the west face openings. But as life is not a bed of roses, this task is not always easy. That is where Architects use specialized tools and methods which they have learned effectively in Architecture Schools. So we need to read the client's expectations



Archt. **Tharinda Dissanayake**

through their Socio-Cultural expectations, values and traditions," stated Dissanayake.

CLIENT REQUIREMENTS

He brought up an example saying that sometimes they need to identify whether the client prefers more secluded spaces where he can meditate in the settings of a Buddhist environment. Some clients may prefer entertainment and enjoyment, so for that a secluded and serene environment will not be the solution. The Architect can scan the minds of people in order to have an idea about the client's personality. Architecture he says is all about people. So they need to have a good knowledge about various cultures, expectations and trends.

"I believe that it's a lame excuse to insert unknown beliefs into our culture. Always remember, we had a great civilization where our ancient

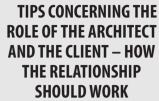


construction traditions were based on scientific rationalization. Also I feel that something that was not possible during that time could be enabled today with technology and materials," added Dissanayake.

Next Dissanayake brought up the factor which is the Client's budget – the Economic domain. As we all know, material costs vary. Here, the architect considers various options like low cost material and technologies. Thus, a client should talk to his architect and there should be a frank discussion about what can be done and what cannot.

The way a client describes his/her brief of requirements that denote his/ her thinking pattern is very important.

"Most of the times, I always prefer to talk to not only the house head, but also the other family members. But, when it comes to houses for an individual, then it's all about reading his/her mind, together with the aspects I have mentioned before. That way, I will get a precise idea about each and every person. There may be a husband and wife who are well experienced and their ideologies are based on realities but sometimes bound strongly to traditional beliefs and



■ The client should reveal all requirements to the architect. Be close to your architect like a friend. Trust him and tell him or her about your dreams and fantasies.

The Architect will decide what needs to be done and if there is some doubt he will educate the client and point out what cannot be achieved and outline other possibilities.

Always seek professional services under qualified personnel as per the Urban Development Authority Law No 41 of 1978 of the National State Assembly and Urban Development Authority Planning and Building Regulations of 1986 and all its relevant amendments (UDA Act).

When designing your dream home always seek the services of a professional. This is the Law of the country. It has been mandated by the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects Law No 01 of 1976 and its amendments. Architects are the people who have completed a full academic course when it comes to the scientific designing of the built environment. They do not just plan houses. They Design houses.

Generally, an architect's design needs two kinds of approvals: 1) The clients and 2). The local authority or the Urban Development Authority (UDA). The latter is crucial as that is the law as per the UDA act.

Finalize all the designs before you apply for the Local Authority / UDA approval. Because, at the end of the day, there is something called Certificate of Conformity (COC) where the authorities will come and check whether what is approved is built. If you change, then get ready for fines that should be paid to the UDA for violating building regulations.

■ The trust and connection between the Client-Architect-Contractor triangle must be strictly maintained where the Client shall not bypass the architect and give instructions to the contractor.

Architects value their design as their own babies. So they do care about the end result. Whatever is specified by the architect is for the client's own benefit, not anything else. If the client has any doubt, just talk with the architect.

cultural norms. Of course we know that generations change and that their children may not cherish these traditional beliefs. Mostly when it comes to teenagers, they are more exposed to the world, modern culture and technology and they value modernity. So, this obviously may create a problem and sometimes there could be arguments. In such a situation, the Architect will act as the Arbitrator. For that, we need to identify and sort out common interests and consider opposing views," explained Dissanayake

He also mentioned another example which is a newly married couple who are just starting their lives as a family. Both are young and have little experience when it comes to married

life. So they have their own requirements when their house is being designed.

He quipped that they may have fantasies and he loves to listen to those fantasies! If the couples are from different backgrounds the situation sometimes becomes more complex. However, though there are idea mismatches, there should be something in common between the couple. So his job is to identify what that special thing is.

CRUCIAL ELEMENTS

"Considering the crucial elements of the 'Socio-Cultural', 'Environmental' and 'Economical' domains will set the foundation for a perfect house. To me, if the client and all the family members are happy and enjoying the spaces that I created, then that is a perfect house to me. The collective decision making process is an effort by both architect and client. Discussions will create the so called perfect house. The most important connection is the client and architect one. If the client hates the architect and the architect hates the client, obviously the relationship won't work. From the very onset Trust needs to be there. Then you can create a perfect home,' explained Dissanayake.

Dissanayake added that another crucial part is when the designs on paper become a reality. Here he introduces the third party which is the contractor who actually builds the house

"As an Architect, I should be able to convey my design, which was collectively made with the client to the contractor. Here I assume responsibility that all the requirements of the client are satisfied during construction. Most clients want a hassle free construction with no issues. This is where the Architect comes into action in a separate stage called Construction Administration. The architect, together with other consultants comes and thoroughly inspects, examines and instructs the contractor to do the needful. Which is why I say that the Client -Architect- Contractor should be strong. There needs to be transparency. There should be clear communication between all three.

This will enable a perfect dream home. I have personal experience where clients try and go around the architect by giving direct instructions to the contractor. This is where they go wrong. They need to respect, believe and trust the architect. Instead they believe the words of other parties that are actually bogus and incorrect. This is when most of the clients learn their lesson when they build their dream home. They believe other people's words while not believing the architect during construction.

What I always say to my clients is that they should trust me and talk to me directly if there is any doubt. My strategy is face to face talk. If you study the publications of the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects, Client-Architect standard conditions of engagement, and also the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Standard Bidding Document series, you will find out how important this client-architect-contractor standard is," explained Dissanayake



MAKING YOUR BUILDING GREEN!

There are a number of ways to make a building green.

These include:

TAKING AN INTELLIGENT APPROACH TO ENERGY

Minimising energy use in all stages of a building's lifecycle, making new and renovated buildings more comfortable and less expensive to run, and helping building users learn to be efficient too.

Integrating renewable and low-carbon technologies to supply buildings' energy needs, once their design has maximised inbuilt and natural efficiencies.

SAFEGUARDING WATER RESOURCES

Exploring ways to improve drinking and waste water efficiency and management, harvesting water for safe indoor use in innovative ways, and generally minimising water use in buildings.

Considering the impact of buildings and their surroundings on stormwater and drainage infrastructure, ensuring these are not put under undue stress or prevented from doing their job

MINIMISING WASTE AND MAXIMISING REUSE

Using fewer, more durable materials and generating less waste, as well as accounting for a building's end of life stage by designing for demolition waste recovery and reuse. Engaging building users in reuse and recycling.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Bringing fresh air inside, delivering good indoor air quality through ventilation, and avoiding materials and chemicals that create harmful or toxic emissions.

Incorporating natural light and views to ensure building users' comfort and enjoyment of their surroundings, and reducing lighting energy needs in the process.



KEEPING OUR ENVIRONMENT GREEN

Recognising that our urban environment should preserve nature, and ensuring diverse wildlife and land quality are protected or enhanced, by, for example, remediating and building on polluted land or creating new green spaces. Looking for ways we can make our urban areas more productive, bringing agriculture into our cities

CREATING RESILIENT AND FLEXIBLE STRUCTURES Adapting to our changing climate, ensuring resilience to events such as flooding, earthquakes or fires so that our buildings stand the test of time and keep people and their belongings safe. Designing flexible and dynamic spaces, anticipating changes in

their use over time, and avoiding the need to demolish, rebuild or significantly renovate buildings to prevent them becoming obsolete.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE

Creating diverse environments that connect and enhance communities, asking what a building will add to its context in terms of positive economic and social effects, and engaging local communities in planning.

Ensuring transport and distance to amenities are considered in design, reducing the impact of personal transport on the environment, and encouraging environmentally friendly options such as walking or cycling.

Exploring the potential of both 'smart' and information communications technologies to communicate better with the world around us, for example through smart electricity grids that understand how to transport energy where and when it is needed.

CONSIDERING ALL STAGES OF A BUILDING'S LIFE-CYCLE

Seeking to lower environmental impacts and maximise social and economic value over a building's whole lifecycle (from design, construction, operation and maintenance, through to renovation and eventual demolition).

Ensuring that embodied resources, such as the energy or water used to produce and transport the materials in the building are minimised so that buildings are truly low impact. View our publications & reports on green building.

- www.woldgbc.org



ovid 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

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

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

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

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



EMMA DOONEY ats often get a bad rap or being slightly on the selfish side, but research now shows hat 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 havior might not be deliberate

Researchers at Kyoto University in Japan have discovered that cats may not understand when they are being unkind to In the study, which was published in the

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

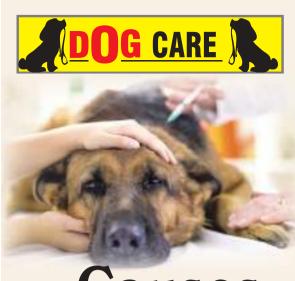


all parties, including the non-helper. The results found that the cats had no objections to accepting food from the nonhelper, which may be seen as an act of betrayal by the owner.

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 nonhelpful 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.



Causes excreta

DR GCS KURUGALA,

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

s 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

CAUSES FOR RED COLOUR STOOLS

Bleeding from gastrointestinal tract

stools which indicate a dangerous situation.

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.

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.

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.





They both deserve to be loved in a home

SAHANA RAVISHANKER

esperately appealing for a kind and loving home for his 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

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

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 physio-

therapy 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



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

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





cheese?

ould 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,

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



Michael Volpicelli with his art



oung 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 decreins a little and contains to improve his decreins a little and contains a little and conta 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

forté 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" Kamakawiwo'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









regent honeyeater bird is losing its song, a sign that it could be nearing extinction, scientists warned in ew research released on

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

"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 honeveaters 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.

ORT INSPIRED

GIVING 'ROCK MUSIC' A WHOLE NEW MEANING

stone violin carved by Swedish sculptor 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 pleas-

ant 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 moun-

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 wooly 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 especial-

for the

first performance

was at the Swedish

pavilion at the World

Expo 1992 in Seville,

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 vio-

lin, but I have read com-

ments from people who say that it

instrument. The

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 the world's first stone violin, but it is not the only one. Czech artist Jan Rericha 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.



onstruction has just egun at the Red Sea International Airport 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 circu-

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

lean 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

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 andavailable 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, it's 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 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 responsibilityto fetch water, manage daily water use and storage, andaccess 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

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 lager 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 ofthis 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.

Sadaharitha rewards customers' with dividends at 'Trust Rewarded'





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

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 cer-

emony 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

tion located in Neboda. Sathis have won, nurtured and strength-Nawarathna stated: "I am incred-

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-

ibly 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 pre-

serve 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

ened 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 market value.

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 we value

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."

very much.

Daily Actor Tender and Other advertisements

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

.. 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

| Ser. | Description | Non Refundable Bid | Value of the F | Bid Security |
|------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| No. | Description | Document Fee (Rs.) | 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

Pallekelle Kundasale

19.03.2021



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 | Millenium 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. Ramanayaka 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. Ramanayaka Mawatha, Colombo 02 on 25.03.2021 at 10.00 hrs for Bid No. I.

Chairmar

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

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, Yatinuwara 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 docuemnts 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 |
| | 02 | Chicken | 3,296,500.00 | 1,649,000.00 |
| Gintupitiya | 03 | Mutton | 408,500.00 | 205,000.00 |
| | 07 | Mutton | 573,600.00 | 287,000.00 |
| Nagalagam Street | 381/1 | Chicken | 551,300.00 | 276,000.00 |
| | 381/7 | Chicken | 663,800.00 | 332,000.00 |
| | 381/8 | Pork | 167,200.00 | 84,000.00 |
| Kirulapona | 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 |

WASTE POLYTHENE

L.D.P.E/H.D.P.E/PP

Factory Waste & Washed Clean Waste (Film Grade) and L.D.P.E/H.D.P.E/PP **RE-CYCLED PELLETS**

Purchased at Higher price

Polypak Secco Ltd., 4th Floor, "Propertex Court", 108, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mw., Colombo 02.

Tel: 2330128-30, 2326658, 2447712



Material

PROCUREMENT NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

: White Printing Paper

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, invites bids from Foreign Principals / Accredited Agents in Sri Lanka for the supply of following.

01. White Printing Paper - 20"x25" - 80 GSM

: Wood Free & Surface Sized Quality Substance : $80 \pm 2.5\%$ GSM : 20"x25" Quantity Required : $100 \pm 10\%$ Metric Tons Bid Reference No. : S.I.2021/26 : Rs. 7,000.00 Bid Fee

02. White Printing Paper - 30"x40" - 80 GSM

Material : White Printing Paper Quality : Wood Free & Surface Sized Substance : $80 \pm 2.5\%$ GSM

: 30"x40" Quantity Required : $50 \pm 10\%$ Metric Tons Bid Reference No. : S.I.2021/30 Bid Fee : Rs. 4,000.00

Closing of above Bids: 2.00 p.m. on 09.04.2021 and open the Bid Documents immediately after closing the same.

Bidding documents will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing at the below mentioned address on written application together with the above non-refundable fee pertaining to the item at or before 2.00 p.m. day prior to the closing date of Bids given above.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

> Gangani Liyanage Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing 118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha

Colombo 08. Telephone: 011-2694898 Web Sites: www.documents.gov.lk

www.npa.gov.lk

16.03.2021

SALE UNDER SECTION 29D OF THE PEOPLE'S BANK ACT NO.29 OF 1961 AS AMENDED BY ACT NO. 32 OF 1986

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF A VALUBALE PROPERTY MONARAGALA BRANCH

ALLOMENT OF LAND MARKED:

- 1. Land depicted in Plan No. 4612 dated 16.06.1996 made by Mr. M. Huard Smile, Licensed Surveyor of Badulla of the land called "Kalugahalanda" Containing in the extent One Rood and Twenty Six Decimal Nine Zero Perches (A:0 R:1 P: 26.90) together with everything else, which was divided out of the owing to me in respect of Judgment of partition case No. P8023 of District Court of Monaragala and called as "Kalugahalanda" and situated in the Village of Muppane and Muppane Grama Nijadhari Division of Buttala Wedirata Korale and most correctly in Monaragala Divisional Secretariat Division it was mentioned as the Monaragala Division and Monaragala District, Uva Province and Containing in extent of two acres three roods and sixteen perches (A:2
- 2. Lot No 01 of plan No.1785 dated 07.12.1998 made by Mr. L. K Gunasekara, Licensed Surveyor of Hindikivala Monaragala and which was Partitioned from the land called Kalugahalanda"
- 3. LAND IN EXTENT: Ten Perches (A0.R.P10) together with building,

plantation, everything else and right of way. Under the a authority granted to me by People's Bank. I shall sell by Public Auction on 21st April 2021 commencing at 10.30 a.m at the People's Bank Monaragala Branch.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health, adhering to COV1D 19 protocol

FOR NOTICE OF RESOLUTION: Please refer the government gazette of 03.05.2019 and Dinamina, Daily News of 22.04.2019 news papers

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY: When you go about 20M from Monaragala town along the Colombo road, and to the right at People's Bank Service center and travel about 300M in that road you may find this Property at

MODE OF PAYMENT: The successful purchaser will have to pay following amount in cash at the fall of the hammer.

- 1. 10% of the purchase price
- 2 01% Of the sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
- 3. Auctioneer's commission of 2 1/2 % (Two and a half percent only) on sale price.
- 4. Clerk's and Crier's fee Rs. 1000/=
- 5. Cost of sale and any other charges, if any.
- 6. Stamp duty to the certification of sale

Balance 90% of the purchase price will have to be paid within 30 days from the date of sale to the Regional Manager, People's Bank, Regional Head Office (Monaragala), No 199 Wellawaya Road, Monaragala. T.P. 055 2276347/055 2276351

If the said amount is not paid within 30 days as stipulated above the bank

shall have the right to forfeit (10%) of the purchase price already paid and resell the property. The title deeds and other reference may be obtained from the above mentioned address.

People's Bank reserves right to stop or cancel the sale without prior notice.

11/55 Bogahawatte, Kudabuthgamuwa, Angoda T.P. 011205328/ 072 3207533

076 921739/ 072 0881044

E.S. Ramanayake **Court Commissionner** Licensed Auctioneer Valuer and (JP Whole Island)

CENSUS ON THE EMPLOYEES, WHO LOST THEIR JOBS IN THE PRIVATE **SECTOR DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

It is kindly requested from the Employees who lost their jobs, while serving in the Private Sector (Companies, etc.) due to COVID-19 Pandemic to submit their details as described below to the Commissioner of Labour (Industrial Relations), Dept. of Labour before 01.04.2021.

- Name:
- Address:
- 3. Telephone No:
- National Identity Card (NIC) No:
- Address of the Institution Employed:
- Date removed / expelled from Service : No. of the Years employed / served :
- Basic salary received last:

Commissioner of Labour (Industrial Relations (IR) Division), 11th Floor, "Mehewara Piyasa", Colombo 05.

Fax: 011-2369484 E-mail: irlabur456@gmail.com Telephone: 011-2368502 It is kindly informed that the persons, who have already submitted complaints to the Department of Labour, need not send those details

Commissioner General of Labour, **Department of Labour**

once again, to the Department of Labour.

AUCTION OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Horana Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Limited sell by Public Auction all the articles pawned up to and yet remain unredeemed at the Rural Bank of,

Uthuru Uduwa / Kaballagoda Palannoruwa / Horana / Moragahahena / Pokunuwita / Weediyagoda / Munagama / Ran Surakum Horana / Palannoruwa / Koralaima and Pokunuwita Center on 03, 04 April 2021 at 9.00 a.m. at Head Office Premises.

General Manager, Horana M.P.C.S. Limited, No. 113, Sri Somananda Mawatha, Horana.



COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

page 27 DN

Municipal Commissioner of Colombo Municipal Council invites sealed Bids for the procurement of following Service & Item from eligible and qualified Bidders.

| | Reference No. | Description | |
|----|------------------|---|--|
| 1. | CPD/08/1886/2020 | Procurement of Laboratory Chemicals & Surgical Items | |
| 2. | CPD/09/3366/2020 | Renewal of insurance fleet for CMC Vehicle & Machines for the Year 2021 | |

Bidding document (Original & Duplicate) could be obtained by two methods.

- 1) Download from the CMC Website (www.colombo.mc.gov.lk)
 - i. Non-refundable Bidding Document Fee of Rs. 5400/= can be paid by following method.
 - a) Any People's Bank Branch to credit People's Bank, Town Hall Branch, Acc No: 167-1-001-6-3169425.
 - b) Payment Counters of following Municipal premises of Colombo City Limit from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on weekdays.
 - ➤ District Office 04, No. 147, High Level Road, Kirulapone, Colombo 06.
 - ➤ Drainage & Water Supply Division, Maligakanda, Colombo 10.

ii. It is mandatory to attach the receipt / slip with the Bidding Document.

- 2) Collect from Town Hall Premises
 - i. Bidding Documents could be obtained from the Office of Chief Accountant (Procurement), Central Procurement Department, Colombo Municipal Council, Town Hall, Colombo 07 on submission of a written request during working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. till 08th April 2021, upon payment of a non-refundable Bidding **Document Fee of Rs. 5400/= for each** to the Shroff Counters of Town Hall Premises.

Bidding Documents will not be available on the Website / issued after 3.00 p.m. on 8th April 2021.

Duly filled sealed Bidding Documents in duplicate should be deposited in the Tender Box (Bid Box) kept at the Municipal Secretary's Department, Town Hall, Colombo 07 at or before 10.00 a.m. on 09th April, 2021.

Bids will be closed at 10.00 a.m. on 09th April 2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter. Authorized representatives of the Bidders are allowed to be present at the opening.

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the Chief Accountant (Procurement) on Tel. 0112686389, 0112673173 and 0112686369.

ROSHANIE DISSANAYAKE - ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

PEOPLE'S BANK

Resolution under Section 29D of the People's Bank Act No.29 of 1961 As amended by the Act No. 32 of 1986.

It is hereby notified that the following resolution was unanimously passed by the Board of Directors of the People's Bank under section 29D of the People's Bank Act No.29 of 1961 as amended by the Act No. 32 of 1986 at their meeting held on, 21,06,2019.

Nissanka Denal Gleny Mendis & Abesinghe Mudiyanselage Kamini Wishwa Kumari Abeysinghe

as obligor have made default in payment due on the Bond No. 11645 dated 20.10.2017 attested by D.S. Lawrence, Notary Public of Gampaha & Bond No. 975 dated 22.08.2016 attested by Damayanthi D. Ranathunga, Notary Public of Gampaha in favour of the People's Bank and there is now due and owing to the People's Bank a sum of Rupees One Million Three Hundred & Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six and Cents Seventy (Rs. 1,346,666.70) & Rupees Four Million One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Two and Cents Nineteen (Rs. 4,119,402.19) on the said Bonds. The Board of Directors of the People's Bank under the powers vested in them by the People's Bank Act No.29 of 1961 as amended by the Act No.32 of 1986 do hereby resolve that the property and premises mortgaged to the said bank by the said Bonds No. 11645 & 975 be sold by Public Auction by Shockman & Samarawickrama, Licensed Auctioneer of Colombo for recovery of the said sum of Rupees One Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Six and Cents Seventy (Rs. 1,346,666.70 & Rupees Four Million One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Two and Cents Nineteen (Rs. 4,119,402.19) with further interest on Rupees One Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Six and Cents Seventy (Rs. 1,346,666.70) at 19% per annum from 01.01.2019 & on Rupees Four Million One Hundred & Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Two and Cents Nineteen (Rs. 4,119,402.19) at the rate of weekly AWPLR + **3.5%** + **2% per annum from 01.12.2018** to date of sale and costs of sale and money recoverable under section 29L of the said People's Bank Act, less payments (if any) since received.

Description of the property mortgaged

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked Lot H depicted in Plan No. 2018 dated 11.06.2016 made by S.A. Gunawardena Licensed Surveyor of the land called "DELGAHAWATTA" situated at Peralanda Village, Grama Niladari Division No.181 D, Peralanda within the Pradeshiya Sabha limits of Ja-ela in Divisional Secretariat Division of Ja-ela, in Ragam Pattu of Aluthkuru Korale in the District of Gampaha, Western Province and bounded on **NORTH-EAST** by Lot J in Plan No.10337J and 20ft. wide Road (Lot H 1) in Plan No.10337H of M.D.J.V.Perera LS, **SOUTH-EAST** by Lot 1 in Plan No.13337L of M.D.J.V. Perera, LS **SOUTH-WEST** by Land of B. Rupasinghe and **NORTH-WEST** by Land of heirs of Godvin Perera and containing in extent FOURTEEN PERCHES (A-0,R-0,P-14.0) together with the buildings and everything else standing thereon and registered under J 353/51 at the Land Registry of Gampaha.

Together with right of way depicted in the said Plan.

By order of the Board of Directors Regional Manager - Gampaha

People's Bank Regional Head Office Gampaha 131, Kandy Road, Belummahara, Mudungoda.



Ministry of Urban Development and Housing



Urban Development Authority

Tender Notice

Invitation for competitive Bids for disposal of remaining Scrap Iron and a Stock of Timber left behind at the premises when demolishing the buildings of the Old Manning Market, located at Pettah, Colombo, belonging to the Urban Development Authority.

- The Urban Development Authority has decided to dispose of the remaining Scrap Iron and the stock of timber remaining in the premises after demolishing the Old Manning Market Building in Pettah, belonging to them by calling for competitive Bids.
- Only one buyer among the parties applying for purchase of the stock of iron and timber who submits the highest bid will be issued with these material and the iron and the timber logs will not be issued separately. As such, the interested Purchasers should clearly mention separately, the purchase price of 1 Kilo of Iron and the purchase price for the entire stock of timber logs and successful Purchaser will be selected based on the highest price quoted.
- The minimum value for the disposable material mentioned above is shown below and interested Purchasers should submit quotations for a higher amount than the assessed value.

Minimum assessed value

| l | Details | Minimum Value | |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|
| Stock of Scrap Iron (including Sheets) | | Minimum value of 01 Kilo Rs. 20.00 | |
| | Stock of Scrap Timber Logs | Value of the entire stock Rs. 1,850,000 | |

4. Application Forms relevant to the Bid Quotations could be obtained during working days of the week from 22.03.2021 up to 06.04.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. after paying the non-refundable fee of Rs. 5000/= and the relevant Government Taxes to the Land Development and Management Division of the Urban Development Authority, 6th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Stage I Building, Battaramulla. Duly completed Bid applications should be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Ground Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Stage I Building, Battaramulla to be received before 2.00 p.m. on 08.04.2021. Applications submitted after the stipulated time will not be accepted for whatever reason.

Applications could also be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Revenue Tender Board (Minor), Urban Development Authority, 6th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Stage I Battaramulla". The words "Quotation for removal of Iron and Timber Logs remaining in the Old Manning Market Premises" should be written on the top corner of the envelope containing the Quotation.

Further details could be obtained from the Land Development and Management Division of the Urban Development Authority, 6th Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Stage 1 Building, Battaramulla. Telephone Nos. 0113357363 or 0112875916-20 Extension 29, 37.

Chairman

Revenue Tender Board (Minor) Urban Development Authority, 6th & 7th Floor,

"Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in

terms of Section 9(1) of

the Companies Act No. 7

of 2007 that the



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.

| | O.T.Y. | TOTAL C | DID DOVD |
|------------------|--------|---|--------------|
| FILE REFERENCE | QTY. | ITEM | BID BOND |
| SPC/SU/2020/I/37 | 500 MT | Imp. White Writing Paper 750 mm - 70 gsm | Rs.800,000/= |

- 1. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding as Local Supply of the materials
- 2. Bidders should comply with the following eligibility criteria to qualify for award.
 - a. Manufacturer's authorization / Power of Attorney confirming the status of the Agency / Importer
 - b. Valid Business Registration
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. The Bids shall be valid up to 45 calendar days from the date closing of the bid.
- 6. 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.



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

LANKAPURA PRADESHIVA SABHA

Construction of Commercial Building in Tambala-Stage 01

PS LAN/NCB/2021/01

- 1. 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).
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet CIDA registration C6 or C7.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Chairman, Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabba, Thalpotha, Polonnaruwa [Telephone: 027-2242324, e-mail: ncp/lps.lankapura2324@mail.com and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
- 6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Chairman, Lankaputra Pradeshiya Sabha, from 17th March 2021 until 06th April 2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Rs. 3,500/-. The method of payment will be in cash.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Bids shall be valid up to 77 Days (23.06.2021).
- 9. Pre bid meeting shall be held on 31 March 2021 at 11.00 hrs at Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabha office premises.
- 10. 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.

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Procurement Notice

Dog Sterilization Programme

Department of Health Services - Sabaragamuwa Province 01. 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 Provinial 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.
- 03. 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
- 05. Relevant Bid Documents can be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services.
- 06. 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



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.

Department Procurement Committee - Minor, State Printing Corporation,

Panaluwa,

Padukka

000

QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF 80 GSM - D/S ART PAPER

IMP/ADV/2021/02

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from foreign principals and local suppliers for the supply of "80 GSM - D/S Art Paper" as specified below.

Quantity 20 MT

Description 80 GSM - D/S Art Paper - Gloss - Size: 24"x35"

Packing: Palletized packets with extra Seaworthy Export packing with moisture

barrier.

Foreign Offers

The bidders should quote both FOB and CIF Colombo prices (on at sight as well as 90 days usance). CIF offers should clearly detail Cost, Freight & Insurance charges separately. ANCL reserves the right to place the order on FOB or on

Offers with samples and specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Quotations for 80 GSM - D/S Art Paper" on the top left hand corner. **Local Offers**

Ex - stock price indicating transport charges, VAT and other levies separately with samples should be submitted in a separate cover in the same manner.

Offers should be sent to the Head of Procurement to reach on or before 31 March 2021 at 2.30 p.m. which will be opened immediately. No separate documents will be issued. Suppliers may use their own formalities.

Probable date of delivery, validity of price, terms of payment etc. to be clearly indicated on the offers.

Acceptance of new sources/ product is subjected to a quality test.

The successful bidder should provide a Performance Bond to the value of 05% with a validity period of 90 days.

Bidders or accredited representatives will be allowed to be present at the opening. However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Head of Procurement The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., No. 35, Lake House, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10

For Details: 2429451, 2429452

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

following company was incorporated. Name of the Company: AYOMAL COLLECTION Registration No. PV 00234936 Date of Incorporation: (PVT) LTD No of Company. PV 00227660 15.02.2021 Registered office: Registered office: No. 27/8, Silva Lane, No. 241/3, Kahantota Meetotamulla Road, Road, Malabe. Kolonnawa, Date of Incorporation: 19.09.2021

Wellampitiya. **Board of Directors**

NOTICE

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 Con KASTHANE CEYLON (PRIVATE) LIMITED

Company registration 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 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 No. 08, Tickell Road, Colombo 08.

CANCELLATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

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. Sivaruban, 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 Mudiyanselage Perakum 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 Isney 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 AYNGARATHASAN (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

| VEHICLE NO. | MODEL | TYPE |
|---------------|---------------|------|
| WP BBG - 19XX | APACHE RTR | BIKE |
| NC BCN-35XX | PULSAR 135 LS | BIKE |
| SG BIP-SOXX | FZ | BIKE |
| CP BIQ - 50XX | NTORQ | BIKE |
| WP BIR - SSXX | MT-15 | BIKE |
| WP 8GO - 64XX | APACHE RTR | BIKE |
| WP BGX-68XX | NTORQ | BIKE |
| NC BIK - 70XX | FZ VRSION 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 BIO - 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-S | BIKE |
| SP BFS - 58XX | METRO | BIKE |
| SP BIC-63XX | NTORQ | BIKE |
| SP 88W - 64XX | ZEST | BIKE |
| SP BGS - 65XX | XL SUPER HD | BIKE |
| SP BHR - B3XX | DIO | BIKE |
| SP BBC - B6XX | 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 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- 0719919986

0719 919 986 / 0712 591 067 Auction Date : 25" MARCH 2021

Time 10.00 am

Arpico Finance Company PLC No. 146, Havelock Rd, Thimbingstyaya, Calc Tel: 0115 553663

Daily Actus Classifieds, the Housewives' companion



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

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.Equ | 1i/2021 | | |
| 2 | Laptop | 4 | | |
| 3 | Barcode Reader | 4 | | 1% of the |
| 4 | POS Printer | 4 | | total bid |
| 5 | Sticker Printer | 4 | | value |
| 6 | HD Web Camera | 4 | 1,000.00 | without VAT, Valid for 45 days from the date of closing |
| 7 | Wireless Laser Printer | 4 | 1,000.00 | |
| 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 | | |
| 14 | Waste Collection Bins | 68 | | |
| 15 | Waste Collection Cart | 12 | | 1% of the |
| 16 | High Back Chairs | 8 | | total bid value |
| 17 | Office Table | 8 | | without |
| 18 | OPD waiting chairs | 200 | 1,000.00 | VAT, Valid |
| 19 | OPD 3 seater Gang chairs | 60 set | | for 45 days from the |
| 20 | low back chair | 20 | | date of |
| 21 | Visitor chairs for Auditorium (Cushion chair with Arm) | 250 | | closing |
| 22 | Head table for Auditorium | 4 | | |

- Procurement method will be National competitive bidding, single stage envelope system.
- 2. 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
- 3. 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.
- 4. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as mentioned in above table. It shall be obtained from recognized organizations in Sri Lanka.
- 5. 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
- 6. 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

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

NOTICE

76, Poorwarama Road, Nugegoda

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:

MSL Audits (Private) Limited
New Name of the Company:

Mulgampola Property Holdin (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 Compan 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.

- 1. ANANDA KUTTIGAMA ATHIGE SAMANTHA KUMARASIRI ANANDA
- 2. ASELA SURENDA ABEYSUNDERA
- 3. CHANDANA KAPILA RANASINGHE
- 4. CHANDANA SUDASSI DHARMARATNE
- 5. DONIL PRASANNAJITH GANEGODA
- 6. HARITHA PUNU ALUTHGE
- 7. JAYASIRI DESHAPRIYA DIAS
- 8. KOTTASA VIDANELAGE NIHAL DEVAPRIYA
- 9. RYAN JAYALATH
- 10. SARADA UDAJEEWA KANNANGARA
- 11. 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

Prof. Vajira Dissanayake
Returning Officer/President,

Returning Officer/Presiden Sri Lanka Medical Council. 31, Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10.



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/ Mechnical / 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 Techniacal 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.
- Certificate holders, who were enrolled for the above courses on or before 2014, are eligible to apply for the examintion.
- 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 Engeneering / Quantity Surveying / Electrical & Electronic Engineering / Mechnical Engineering) & National Certificate for Industrial Technician (NCIT) (Civil Engineering / Mechnical / Electrical) to NVQ Level 5

| 1. | Name of Applicant (as appeared in the certificate) | : |
|----|--|-----------|
| 2. | NIC No. | : |
| 3. | Address | 1 |
| 4. | Email | · |
| 5. | Contact Telephone No. | · : |
| 6. | Period of study | ; From To |
| 7. | Effective Date of certificate (Please attach a certified copy of the certificate) | : |

 Underline the technical Subject area you prefered 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 | |
|----------|--|
| PS SHARE | |

| | Sia | naturo | |
|-----|------|--------|--|
| - 0 | ગપ્ર | nature | ************************************** |

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.

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 5. 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

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.feet | from Ja-Ela Town suburbs |
| 02 | District Labour Office - Wennappuwa | 29 | 3100 sq.feet | From Wennappuwa Town suburbs |
| 03 | District Labour Office - Chilaw | 33 | 2200 sq.feet | from Chilaw Town suburbs |
| 04 | Labour Sub-Office - Warakapola | 14 | 1600 sq.feet | from Warakapola Town suburbs |

The following requirements should be fulfilled when submitting bids.

- 1. Should consist of the land extent for each of the offices as mentioned above.
- 2. Should possess parking facilities for a minimum of 03 vehicles.
- 3. Should possess sufficient space for service recipients gathered.
- 4. Toilet facilities according to specified standards should be available for the use of the Office Staff and service recipients.
- 5. A separate electricity meter should be available for supply of electricity.
- 6. Main pipe borne water supply with a separate water meter should be available.
- 7. Should have telephone facilities.
- 8. The location should have sufficient protection from natural disasters.
- 9. Should have facilities for disabled persons.
- 10. Both parties should come into a mutual agreement for extension of the lease period.
- 11. 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.

- 1. Copy of the title deed and survey plan.
- 2. Copies of receipts for having paid the assessment tax, accordingly
- 3. A sketch of the access way to the building
- 4. 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.

Marriage Proposals in the

Sunday Observer

Is the best way to fulfil **your Future Dreams**

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 Manufactures, 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

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.

19th, 22th, 23th & 24th March 2021 from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm at the above address (Acceptance of tenders will be closed at 5.00 pm 24th March 2021)

Tender forms could be obtained from the Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC Vehicle Yards at the above addresses upon making a non-refundable payment of Rs.200/-

Successful bidders will be notified over the telephone, and they should remove the relevant vehicles within 7 days from the date of notification. The company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle from the tender without stating any reason. While the successful bidders shall accept the relevant vehicles in the existing condition, any outstanding payment in relation to revenue license and government taxes etc. shall have to borne by such bidders.

Decision of the Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC pertaining to this tender shall be final

Mercantile Investments & Finance PLC



236, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel No. 2343720 - 7 EXT: 210

lercantile Investments and Finance PLC

Contact: lanaka - 071 1624559 / Moditha - 071 9530350



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Quotations are hereby invited for the Supply of Office Equipment, required for the new Sabha Office of the Narammala Pradeshiya Sabha, Narammala.

Relevant tender forms and specifications could be obtained from Narammala Pradeshiya Sabha, Narammala upon payment of a Form Fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (One Thousand).

Tender Forms will be issued up to 12.30 p.m. on 01.04.2021 and Tenders will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on 06th April 2021. Tenders will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on the same day.

(For further details or for any clarification regarding the specifications, please contact the Technical Officer over Telephone Nos. 037-2249275, 037-4947461).

Chairman / Secretary, Narammala Pradeshiya Sabha, Narammala.

Replies to

Classifieds

Casual

Advertisements

published

C/o the

Daily Acws

should only be

sent by

ordinary post.

Replies sent

under

registered cover

will not be

accepted.

CEYLINCO INSURANCE PLC

LOSS SHARE CERTIFICATES

The following Share Certificates of Voting Ordinary Shares in the name of Dissanayakage Yasmin Therese Kumarani Seneviratne of No. 51/5, Gothami Road, Colombo 08, are deemed to be lost. An application has been made to the Director of the Company for issue of duplicates thereof my Mrs D.Y.T.K. Seneviratne

| Share Certificate Nos. | No. of Shares | Distinctive Numbers | Date |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 20686 | 120 | 7,392,922 - 7,393,041 | 05/08/1993 |
| 22221 | 38 | 8,299,750 - 8,299,787 | 04/10/1993 |
| 28960 | 41 | 19,284,502-19,284,542 | 30/03/2004 |
| | | | |

NOTICE is hereby given that if within two weeks from date of publication no claim is made to us, the Directors shall deal with such application for the issue of duplicate Share Certificates and the original Share Certificates will be deemed cancelled.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Company Secretary

CEYLINCO INSURANCE PLC (PQ 24)

No. 69, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.

(formerly known as Ceylinco Insurance Company Limited) Head Office, "Ceylinco House",



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL) will receive sealed bids for the following subject work.

| Description of work | Non Refundable Bidding Document Fee (Per Set) Rs. | Eligibility CIDA registration required (Specialty & Grade) | Estimate Rs. Million | Bidding documents could be obtained | Bid Validity Period | Bid Opening Date & Time | Refundable Bid Security |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Repair work and painting of wagon gantry at Zone 01 - Kolonnawa Installation Bid No: KPR/11/ 2021 | Rs. 1,800.00 | Building works / Heavy Steel Fabrication Either C8 or above, EM 4 or above | 3.9 | 0900 to 1400 hrs up to 31.03.2021 | 03.06.2021 | On. 01.04.2021 at 1400 hrs | Rs.40,000.00 & valid up to 01.07.2021 |

Interested parties may refer the bidding document (only for viewing purpose) and obtain necessary information through the website www.cpstl.lk.

The bidders who are eligible to quote the tender, could obtain the original bidding documents (full set) on submission of a written request (the request letter shall be on the company letterhead and signed by an authorized person) via an email to procure@cpstl.lk during working days as stated above. Considering bidder's request, Manager Procurement, CPSTL may issue the consent via email for depositing the non-refundable bidding document fee as stated above, if appropriate.

On receipt of non-refundable bidding document fee to CPSTL account, bidding documents (full set) will be issued by Procurement Function via email.

Bids shall be submitted on the bidding document obtainable from Procurement Function and duly filled bidding documents may be sent by post/courier under registered cover or sealed cover to reach the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Manager Procurement, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Procurement Function, 01st Floor, New Building, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya or could be deposited in the tender box kept at the main entrance of CPSTL, on or before as stated above.

In case, the bidders are unable to submit the original bids as above, they could submit the scanned copy of the duly filled bidding documents in PDF format via email to tenders@cpstl.lk to reach on or before as stated above, at their own discretion. However, the original bid document shall be securely kept to be submitted to the Manager Procurement when requested.

Bids will be closed as stated above and will be opened immediately thereafter at the office of Manager (Procurement). Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, the authorized representatives of the bidders may be allowed to participate / witness the tender opening procedure via video conferencing method.

All bids shall be valid and accompanied by bid security as stated above.

Any of the party who wishes to submit a bid, shall register himself at the Department of Registrar of Companies www.drc.gov.lk (e-ROC) as per the Public Contracts Act, No. 03 of 1987 for every public contract value exceeding Sri Lankan Rupees Five million (LKR 5,000,000.00).

Any clarification shall be sought from the Manager (Procurement) on Telephone No. 011-2572156/5663121.

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Minor), C/O Manager - Procurement, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Procurement Function, New Building, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya.

Telephone : +94 11 2572156, +94 11 5663121

: +94112572155

E-mail : procure@cpstl.lk



TEACHING HOSPITAL, JAFFNA

INVITATION FOR FOR BIDS (IFB)

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF AIR CONDITIONERS

Sealed bids for the supply of the undermentioned items will be received by Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna up to 10.00 a.m. on 09.04.2021.

| S. No. | Item Code | Non- refundable tender fee (Rs.) | Supply, Installation & Commissioning of | Qty | Bid Security (Rs.) | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | JTH/GH/AC/11/2021 | 1,000.00 | 9,000 BTU Air conditioner | 05 No. | | |
| | | | 12,000 BTU Air conditioner | 05 No. | | |
| | | | 18,000 BTU Air conditioner | 10 No. | | |
| | | | 24,000 BTU Air conditioner | 20 No. | | |
| | | | 30,000 BTU Air conditioner | 05 No. | 100,000.00 | |
| | | | 36,000 BTU Air conditioner | 07 No. | | |
| | | | 48,000 BTU Air conditioner | 02 No. | | |
| | | | 60,000 BTU Air conditioner | 02 No. | | |
| | | | Air Curtain 6 feet | 05 No. | | |

(Specifications of the equipment are included in the bidding documents.)

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method.
- Only the sole nominated representatives / accredited agents of manufacturers of the equipment offered for the Sri Lanka market are eligible to participate in this bid.
- Sealed bids should be made on a complete set of bidding documents for each project in duplicate and original shall be separately sent by Registered Post or shall be deposited in the tender box addressed to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.
- Bid documents should be obtained from Accountant, at the above address from 19.03.2021 to 08.04.2021 between 9.00 a.m and 3.00 p.m during working days on submission of the following. a) A written application to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna. b) Certificate of Business Registration (Certified Photocopy) c) Upon payment of the non-refundable tender fee stated above in cash to the Director Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security amounting to LKR mentioned in the bid projects table / document for each project by cash or bank bond and the validity period until 09.07.2021 (91days) from the deadline for the
- 7. Optional tender will not be accepted. The bidder should have to quote for only one model. Option either in model or in rates will not be accepted and the tender will be rejected straightaway. Alternative bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of bids at the Office of the Chairman / Director. Bidders or their representatives are permitted to be present when bids are opened.
- Bid Documents may be inspected free of charge at the Procurement Division in Our Hospital. 10. Further information could be obtained from Hospital Secretary TH /Jaffna (Tel- 021 222 7351)

Director / Chairman **Regional Procurement Committee** Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.

Invitation for Bids



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY HIRING OF MACHINERY FOR REPAIRING OF BREAKWATER AT PORT OF GALLE

- 1. The Chairman-Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), on behalf of the Chairman, SLPA invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Hiring of Machinery for Repairing of Breakwater at Port of Galle (Contract No EW/M&D/08).
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- 3. Pre Bid meeting followed by a site visit will be held at 11.00 hrs on 30/03/2021 at the Civil Engineer's office
- 4. A valid certificate of registration issued under Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987 should be submitted with bidding document.
- 5. Amount of Bid Security shall be Rs.200,000/= and shall be an unconditional guarantee issued by a bank operating in Sri Lanka and approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- 6. Bidding Documents will be issued between 10.00 hr and 14.00 hr on working days from 23/03/2021 till 12.00 noon on 06/04/2021 (both days inclusive) by the Chief Engineer (Civil), Civil Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No: 45, Leydan Bastian Road, Colombo - 01 on submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 2,000.00 (inclusive VAT). Bidding Documents may be inspected free of charge at the same office.
- 7. Bidding Document enclosed in a securely sealed cover and marked "Hiring of Machinery for Repairing of Breakwater at Port of Galle (Contract No EW/M&D/08)" on the top left hand corner shall be sent by registered post addressed to the Chairman - Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No.45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or placed in the Tender Box kept in the office of the Chief Engineer (Civil) on the above address.
- 8. Bids in duplicate shall be submitted by 14.30 hr on 07/04/2021 and the Bids will be opened immediately after Closing of Bids. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of the
- 9. Any further particulars may be obtained from Chief Engineer (Civil) on the above address. (T.P. 011-2483446).

Chairman.

Procurement Committee (Sri Lanka Ports Authority) Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.

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

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

PW 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

On the 5th day of March 2021, the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Communications (Private) Limited and the Board of Metropolitan Engineering (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 COMMUNICATIONS (PRIVATE) LIMITED

PW 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. 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.

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

"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



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







T/Wheelers For sale

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

WP BHW-7363 Honda Dio, 2019,

cycle for motor highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810.



Positions Wanted

Apparels 30 years experienced production factory General Manager seeking

employment any type of garments & woven. occupation Bangladesh. Contact Shan Peiris 0774185841.

Email: inworldanil

@gmail.com 020997

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Independent

Philatelic

and

Association

conducts Trade Fair

of old stamps, coins

at Public Library

entrance premises

Colombo 07 from

8.00 a.m. to 5.00

p.m. on 19th, 20th

and 21st March

2021. Telephone:

0779-785111.019655

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Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.



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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

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. : Permanent Basis HM 1-3 - Rs. 86.865/=15x2.270/=-120.915/=

Salary

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

General

: 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).

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

Benefits

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

with at least 02 years post qualifying work experience in relevant field in a

LEGAL OFFICER - (Contract Basis)

Corporation, Statutory Board, or large Engineering Organisation.

Requirements: L.L.B. Degree from a University recognized by the U.G.C. and Attorney-at-Law

: Contract Basis Salary may be negotiable.

Salary

(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

> 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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non-related referees to reach the undersigned on or before 26.03.2021



