



# The land of gods, men and the otherworldly!

The rooftop from Araliya Beach Resort & Spa offers a complete view of Rumassala and the Unawatuna Bay that was not quite seen before, and it is a magnificent view indeed.

The origins of the area are shrouded in mystery, just like the lush biodiversity that shrouds the southern hill. Ancient folklore swears by the romantic legend of the 'Ramayana,' spoken throughout the generations. Science on the other hand, is excited by a geological rock formation over a million years old.

So, Unawatuna may have come into existence by the actions of the monkey god Hanuman, or a meteorite that crashed into Earth at the beginning of time itself.

The opinions conflict. The experience does not. This place is special and we would love to show it to you.

# We Open our doors

to delight you...

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2021 onwards**



# ARALIYA

BEACH RESORT & SPA UNAWATUNA



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# BE PROUD OF YOUR MOUTH

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY  
20th MARCH 2021



**Dr. A. Sundar**  
President, Sri Lanka Dental Association

FDI World Dental Federation represents more than one million dentists worldwide, from about 200 countries. Sri Lanka Dental Association (SLDA) is the National Dental Association in Sri Lanka and the members are from the Department of Health, Private sector, University Academia and Defence services.

World Oral Health Day (WOHD) is celebrated globally every year on 20th March. We ask the world to unite to help reduce the burden of oral diseases, which affect individuals, health systems and economies everywhere.

Its purpose is to empower people with knowledge, tools and confidence to secure oral health. WOHD encourages people to look after their oral health by adopting a good oral hygiene routine and managing risk factors. Preserving oral health can help keep the mind and body healthy, as well as protect against the spread of infections.

For the next three years, the overarching theme for the WOHD campaign is "Be Proud of Your Mouth." With this empowering call to action, FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) and Sri Lanka Dental Association (SLDA) hope to motivate people to value and take care of their mouths and understand that by doing so, they can also help protect their general health and well-being and help them live a longer, healthier life.

We appeal the people to

- Look after oral health for overall health
- Protect your mouth while you're on the go
- Learn good oral health habits
- Take charge of your oral health
- Eat a balanced, low sugar diet
- Practice a good oral hygiene routine
- Visit the Dentist regularly



**Dr. Vipula Wickramasinghe**  
Hon. General Secretary- Sri Lanka Dental Association

International Dental Federation (FDI) has declared 20th March every year as World Oral Health day to be celebrated globally. The theme for the year 2021 is "Be proud of your Mouth".

According to FDI, the objective of this year's celebration is to empower people with the knowledge tools and confidence to secure good oral health.

Oral diseases are a major health concern in many countries and negatively impact people throughout their lives. Oral diseases lead to pain and discomfort, social isolation and loss of self confidence, and they are often linked with serious health issues. But most oral health conditions are largely preventable and can be treated in their early stages.

Therefore, Sri Lanka Dental Association and Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Dental Federation (FDI) recognise several key areas to be addressed at this year's WOHD celebration which are relevant to the Sri Lankan population.

- Empower individuals to take personal action
- Encourage schools and youth groups to deliver learning activities about oral health
- Provide a unified platform for oral health professionals and the wider healthcare community to educate the populations they serve
- Urge government and policymakers to champion better oral health for all



**Hajar Alaffi**  
Chairperson - Unilever Sri Lanka

At Unilever, we believe in doing well by doing good. As part of our efforts to make sustainable living commonplace we aim to improve health and wellbeing across the globe and drive positive change through our brands.

The link between Oral health and overall health cannot be ignored. Tooth decay is one of the world's most widespread disease. The COVID-19 pandemic brought about increased focus on health and wellbeing. Yet, research has shown that whilst overall health became a priority, oral health took a back seat with fewer people brushing twice a day and avoiding visits to the dentist. World Oral Health Day serves as a reminder to all of us to continue to protect the smiles hidden behind our masks.

We at Unilever are privileged to continue a long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Sri Lankan Dental Association (SLDA) and the World Dental Federation (FDI) which has empowered us to create a substantial impact on the lives of millions of Sri Lankan's through educating them on the importance of good oral hygiene habits and providing screenings and treatments for over a decade.

This year, we will continue our efforts through teaching children the importance of brushing twice a day with a fluoridated toothpaste through conducting a nationwide school program. We consider it our collective responsibility to continue to spread good oral hygiene practices across the country with an aim to further reduce the prevalence of cavities in Sri Lanka and spread smiles across the country



**Dr Gerhard K. Seeberger**  
President - World Dental Federation (FDI)

"Oral diseases affect close to 3.5 billion people worldwide. In the face of this staggering statistic, I offer a simple yet powerful message: Be Proud of Your Mouth. We must all work together in order to tackle the global oral disease burden. The change starts when everyone's involved. What are you waiting for? Join me in celebrating World Oral Health Day!"



# Awareness programmes launched for Samurdhi beneficiary families

AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

A series of awareness programmes have been launched by the Sri Lanka Podujana Engineers Front on Government facilities granted for Samurdhi beneficiary families to obtain electricity, Engineer Ravihara Kulatunga said yesterday (19).

"Accordingly, 248 such awareness programmes will be held islandwide. The inaugural programme was launched at Haliela Foreign Employment Bureau," he added.

Kulatunga said, "There are more than 5 million houses in the country. Around one million do not have electricity. The total cost to provide electricity to 68,332 families will be around Rs.1,284 million, of which Rs.750 million has already been allocated by this year's budget to provide electricity to needy families.

He was speaking at a press brief organised by the Sri Lanka Podujana Engineers Front at the SLPP headquarters in Battaramulla yesterday (19).

Many people have observed that providing electricity will not solve all the problems surrounding the lack of it. Accordingly, the Government has decided to provide loans to Samurdhi families to purchase necessary equipment to obtain electricity facilities. We are carrying out these awareness programmes to educate people of the facility given to them by the Government."

Kulatunga also observed that the Engineers' Front is dedicated to implement the Deyata

Eliya programme which was launched under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Engineer Janaka Rathnakumara said, "When we look at the development of this country, 75% of all industries comprise small and medium scale industries. Its contribution is 52%. More than 45% of the job seekers are from these industries. Therefore, based on eight criteria, we are training those who are involved in small and medium enterprises on how to produce a product at a competitive level to suit the international market. Developing and standardization of our local products are crucial to improve our business. We have planned to connect the village to universities as a way to develop our industrial products. A number of programmes have been prepared by the Engineers' Front. As engineers, we plan to make use of all the engineers in this country to contribute to the development of our country."

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces granted approval to appoint Air Vice Marshal Prasanna Payoe as the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Air Force, with effect from March 9, 2021.

# New Air Force Chief of Staff

Accordingly, Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana, officially handed over the letter of appointment to Air Vice Marshal Prasanna Payoe.

Air Vice Marshal MDAP Payoe joined the Sri Lanka Air Force as an Officer Cadet in the General Duties Pilot Branch in 1985. Having undergone his Basic Combat Training at the Combat Training School in Diyatalawa and Basic Flying Training at Air Force Academy China Bay, he proceeded to Pakistan for further flying training. Having graduated as a military pilot in Pakistan in 1988 he was commissioned in the rank of Pilot Officer and was initially posted to No. 4 Helicopter Squadron. Since then, in the capacity of an operational helicopter pilot, he took part in almost every major operation conducted during the terrorist conflict in the Island.

Air Vice Marshal Payoe is qualified on Bell 206, Bell 212, Bell 412 and Mi 24 helicopters. He has 7200 flying hours to his credit after having engaged in VIP, VVIP, combat and search and rescue missions. He commanded No. 7 Helicopter Squadron, No. 9 Attack Helicopter Squadron and the No 4 VVIP Helicopter Squadron. Air Vice Marshal Payoe has also commanded SLAF Stations Katukurunda and Colombo and also served in the capacity of the Chief Instructor of the Air Wing at Defence Services Command and Staff College Sapugaskanda on two occasions. Air Vice Marshal Payoe also had the privilege of Commanding SLAF Bases Vavuniya and Katunayake. A notable feat in his career was being appointed as the Sri Lankan Defence Attaché to the Russia Federation. In 2019, Air Vice Marshal Payoe joined the Air Force Board of Management as the Director Training. He held the appointment of Director Air Operations before being appointed as the Chief of Staff of the SLAF today.

For his bravery he has been awarded with the Rana Wickrama Padakkama and Rana Sura Padakkama.



## Sri Lanka, Bangladesh will work together to achieve... From page 01

He said that the inspiring journey that the people of Bangladesh had undertaken from poverty and natural disasters in the past half century is a testament to a prosperous nation in the making.

Excerpts from the speech: "The people of Bangladesh are celebrating two historic events. One is the birth of the Father of their nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a century ago. And the second, is the

birth of Bangladesh a half a century ago. Both events are worthy of celebration," he said.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a person of principles who dedicated his entire life for the Bengali people, their language and their well-being. He was determined to continue his freedom struggle until the creation of a new nation of "Bangladesh" in 1971.

Unfortunately, he could not live

to realize the dreams he nurtured for his beloved country.

"I understand the agony of the immense loss that occurred on the 15th of August 1975. On that day, the nation lost a hero and the Father of Independence.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said "Bangladesh is fertile and endowed with plenty. Few countries in the world have the kind of fertile land that we have."

Madam Prime Minister....Your proposal to promote a "Blue Economy" in the Bay of Bengal continues to inspire our approach on maritime affairs.

"Bangladesh is considered one of the key emerging economic power houses in South Asia. It remains an important trading and investment partner for my country. Our exchanges have continued to grow rapidly during the last few decades".

## Allegations against SL... From page 01

"Over the years, various allegations have been levelled against our country, alleging human rights abuses. We have been cautious about this. After our Government was elected, a Presidential Commission was appointed to investigate human rights allegations. Funds have been allocated from the budget to activate the Office on Missing Persons. While the present Government was taking a number of such positive steps, it was not fair to ignore it and accuse us repeatedly in various ways at the Human Rights Council in Geneva" the Minister said.

"We try to defeat the false accusations levelled against us. Many friendly countries have joined hands with us in this.

We hope that India too, will support us this time," said Minister Gunawardena.



## Increasing production... From page 01

"Its benefits are now being reaped by the people including farmers of the Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts as well, but those who shout about human rights have failed to take notice of it," the President added.

President Rajapaksa made these remarks during a meeting with women representatives and Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna activists at the Presidential Secretariat on Thursday (March 18).

A large number of participants representing SLPP Women's organisations from all the districts and women members of the Pradeshiya Sabhas were present at the discussion.

The President started the discussion by commending the SLPP Women's organisations for their contribution in ensuring his and his Government's victory at elections.

The President requested everyone to analyze and compare the policies of the Government and their benefits when evaluating the progress of his administration.

"The benefits of agriculture-based economic development are being distributed among all people. It will be beneficial for both farmers as well as the consumer. We have done plenty of work after assuming office. The abolition of the PAYE tax resulted in increasing the income of public employees. Those who do not see this progress are trying to spread falsehoods and lead the country back to an abyss," the President added.

"The Government cannot remain silent when it recognises the problems that affect the people. In order to develop the local dairy industry, grasslands have to be established. If farmers are disowned of their lands used for cultivation for generations, providing them with a practical solution cannot be considered as destruction of the environment. The government has never encouraged deforestation. Renewable sources are projected to meet 70% of energy needs by 2030. That will help environmental conservation to a large extent. The termination of oil palm cultivation stopped the environmental damage that has been caused in many districts.

President Rajapaksa emphasised the need to develop the environment in addition to regulating it.

He pointed out that since coming to power, the Government has done a great deal of work for the benefit of the people and yet the forces hostile to the country are spreading falsehoods by trying to suppress the truth and mislead the people.

"Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa ended the thirty-year war and brought about unprecedented economic development in the country. But the people, who were deceived by the falsehoods propagated by the Opposition, defeated him in 2015. What followed was a catastrophe for the country. National Security was compromised while the economy was in shambles. The sovereignty of the Motherland was betrayed. Now once again we are back on track to restore what we lost," President Rajapaksa noted.

The President said that his sincere effort was to bring prosperity to the people by rebuilding the country and requested the SLPP's women representatives to work together to achieve this goal.

The women representatives who participated in Thursday's meeting apprised the President of a number of issues affecting society in general and their districts in particular. Creating self-employment opportunities, difficulty in obtaining bank loans, microfinance problems, rural housing requirements, Cost of Living, drug menace and children's education were a few issues among them.

The President said that an effective drug control programme is now in place and it will take some time to eradicate the menace from the grassroots level.

SLPP National Organizer Basil Rajapaksa said that specific steps have been taken to create 200,000 self-employment opportunities for women this year.

"The Government has restricted the import of dried fish and Maldiv fish. Women can now work on processing them as an avenue of income. There is also ample scope for self-employment in the agricultural sector," Basil Rajapaksa further added.

Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Leader of the SLPP Women's Front State Minister Sita Arambepola, Members of Parliament Geetha Kumarasinghe, Kokila Gunawardena, Manjula Dissanayake, Rajika Wickramasinghe, Muditha Prarashanthi and Diana Gamage were also present at the discussion.

## Case against Vijayakala... From page 01

Speaking at an event at the Weerasingham Hall in Jaffna on July 2, former State Minister Maheswaran called for the reorganization of the outlawed terrorist group LTTE in order to curb the rising crime in the North.

## Land cleared by my father... From page 01

Kiriella said that the land was bought by her father 30 years ago and the ownership of the relevant land was delegated to her by way of Gift Deed.

Chamindrani Kiriella said that buildings have been put up in the land adjoining her land in Hantana and the authorities have failed to look into these constructions too.

## JVP denounces alleged... From page 01

made this observation during a press briefing held at the JVP headquarters in Battaramulla yesterday (19).

Rathnayake pointed out, "This 19-year-old school girl spoke about what she sees with her own eyes. Then the Police and the Wildlife Officers who conveniently bypass the forest, reach the girl and carry out intimidating questioning. They don't question the people who destroy the forest. So the warning they sent is for the people not to question the status quo. People are forced to keep their eyes and mouths shut before injustices. Acts like these can be misused by the so called human right activists who are producing cases against Sri Lanka before the UNHRC."

Speaking further Rathnayake noted, "A very harmful gazette notification was issued on March 12, 2021 under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. According to it, if the police or the government thinks that a person has extremist views, they can be detained for one year for rehabilitation. After that, if necessary, they can be rehabilitated for another six months without trial. These are done without a court order. As the JVP, we are against ethnicity based extremism, religious extremism and any other kind of extremism. Extremism can be eradicated through education, reconciliation, coexistence and equality. In that situation, if a group spreads extremism, they can be isolated and legal action can be taken. But if the government feels like someone is against them, that person can be declared an extremist misusing this gazette. According to this gazette even those who the government thinks are environmental extremists can be sent for rehabilitation for two years."

Rathnayake also observed that many of those arrested in connection with the Easter Sunday terror attack have been charged with other offenses and it shows that the real purpose of the Government is to hunt down those who speak out against them.



## Minister Rohitha released... From page 01

Defence Counsel Kalinga Indatissa PC had brought to the attention that the Bribery Commission had filed indictments against the accused without obtaining directions from all Commissioners of the Bribery Commission as per the Bribery Commission Act. He also complained that indictments had been filed against the accused without conducting a comprehensive investigation into the alleged incidents. Indatissa alleged that the failure to initiate a comprehensive investigation transpired during the course of the prosecution trial.

In response to the defence submissions, the Bribery Commission yesterday announced that it would not proceed with the case and thereby sought the Court's permission to withdraw the indictments. Taking into consideration the facts, High Court Judge Adithya Patabendige ordered to release Minister Abeygunawardena from the corruption case.

The Director General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption had filed an indictment in the Colombo High Court on two counts against former Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena for the unlawful acquisition of assets estimated at Rs.41.1 million.

In his indictment, the Director General of the Bribery Commission alleged that the former Minister had committed this offence by way of undeclared assets in between 2004 to 2006.

The Director General alleged that the former Minister had unlawfully made 66 monetary transactions, constructed a house and purchased a jeep in contravention to the section 23(a) of the Bribery Act. The Director General further alleged that former Minister Abeygunawardena had owned these properties-deemed under the provision of the Act to be property acquired by bribery. President's Counsel Kalinga Indatissa appeared for Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena. Deputy Solicitor General Sudarshana de Silva appeared for the Bribery Commission.



## Palk Bay Swimming... From page 01

With her successful endeavour to swim across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi in India on March 19, 2021, the 47-year-old ace swimmer will become the second woman in the world and the 13th swimmer overall to have accomplished the challenging feat, a release issued the Indian High Commission in Colombo said yesterday.

Syamala Goli represented Telangana in the 2020 FINA World Masters Championship in Gwangju, South Korea. In November 2020, she swam a 30 km stretch in the Great Ganges River in Patna and secured 6th position with a timing of 110 minutes.

Multi talented, Syamala, who is also an animation film producer, director and writer, picked up swimming only four years ago. She has been preparing for the Palk Strait Swimming Expedition under the guidance of her coach Ayush Yadav at SATS swimming pool in Gachibowli (Hyderabad). Syamala strongly believes that her crossing the Palk Strait will be an achievement for the whole of womanhood and hopes that this would inspire women to aim higher and believe that nothing is impossible.

Murugapillai Navratnaswami was the first Sri Lankan ever to swim the Palk Straits in 1954. He took 28 hours from VVT to Point Calimere.

Navaratnaswami did the swim one-way across the Palk Straits in 1954. Among those who congratulated him were then Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Queen Elizabeth.



## Any attempt to portray CB... From page 01

the poll under the old or new system will be determined in Parliament with a two thirds majority.

He said that all of them have been remanded by the Court in view of the request made by the Attorney General's Department not to grant bail to the accused and that the Court will consider granting bail in the future based on the submissions made by their lawyers.

He further said that any Government would reduce or increase taxes and that a group of businessmen had benefited by the reduction in taxes on sugar but the Government had not reduced taxes to make a profit for them.

He said that businesses would have to incur profits as well as losses due to the increase and decrease in taxes.



## Ravi, seven others to be... From page 01

were produced before Court while former Minister Ravi Karunanayake was not produced.

The Bench ordered that the case be taken up again on March 25 as all the accused who were in jail due to problems in filing summons had not been produced before the Court.

The indictments were filed against ten accused in the Colombo High Court by the Attorney General. They are; Perpetual Treasuries Private Ltd, former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, former CBSL Governor Arjuna Mahendran, Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL) beneficiary owner Arjun Aloysius, PTL Chief dealer Kasun Palisena, PTL Chairman Jeffrey Joseph Aloysius, Chitta Ranjan Hulugalle, Muthuraja Surendran, Ajahn Gardiye Punchihewa, Badugoda Hewa Indika Saman Kumara.

The Attorney General alleged that the Perpetual Treasuries Limited used the Central Bank's important undisclosed information to artificially alter the final outcome of the Treasury Bond auction, as it has had a huge impact on the overall national economy as a result of the subtle and systematic conduct of the offenses related to this fraud and has caused injustice to other primary sellers in the bond market and the PTL has acted cunningly and made a huge profit and conspired to cause a huge loss to the Government.



## Ranil instructs NYF... From page 01

Wickremesinghe has instructed party officials to take steps to give more opportunities to newcomers to the party's main organisations, as some members of the party's main branches have joined the Samagi Jana Balawegaya.



## Certain media... From page 01

The Minister instructed that the existing provisions be amended to provide for severe punishment, especially for those who harm the environment and that steps have to be taken to include new clauses that are not currently included in the Environmental Act but are important for environmental safety.

He stressed that people who do not plant at least one tree to protect the environment should never be forgiven if they destroy acres of forest. The Minister was speaking at the Progress Review Meeting of the Central Environmental Authority, the Central Environmental Authority and the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau held at the Ministry premises recently.

Ministry Secretary Dr. Anil Jasinghe is to finalize the preparation of this Environmental Act as soon as possible with the aim of strengthening the National Environmental Act and preventing possible environmental damage even in the future.



## SIS Chief lodges... From page 01

that he had never met Saharan Hashim under any circumstances. Further, Nalin Bandara had alleged that Sallay had facilitated Hashim to travel to various countries including Malaysia, India and Indonesia prior to the 2019 Easter bombings in Sri Lanka. MP Bandara had also claimed that although Sallay was aware of several of Zaharan Hashim's activities, he had not been summoned before the Presidential Commission investigating the Easter Sunday attacks.

However, Major Gen. Sallay has said in his complaint that this information given by MP Bandara is completely false and misleading, adding that he had been summoned before the Presidential Commission on three occasions and had given statements. "Suresh Sallay has said that the statement made by MP Bandara at the press briefing is absolutely false and baseless. Therefore, Maj. Gen. Sallay has requested a full investigation by the CID," DIG Ajith Rohana said.

He said that Sallay had complained that such statements are detrimental to racial harmony and that it gives false notion that he may have had some connection with Zaharan Hashim and this could put him and his family in danger and they could be targeted.

The SIS Director also stated that the statement made by MP Bandara has tarnished the image and the status of the SIS and therefore requested a full-scale investigation in respect to his complaint.

Therefore, DIG Ajith Rohana said that electronic evidence would be utilised in the investigations and further legal action would be taken accordingly.



## Obituaries

**DE FONSEKA - WIRARATNA AMITHA** - Beloved husband of Ranjani De Fonseka, loving father of Tanushka and Thuresh, father-in-law of Malka, loving grandfather of Taliya, Minnelle, Travis and Mikayla, fond brother of Chintha Gunasekara, Geetha Dias, Saroja Perera, Tela Wiraratna and Anoma De Silva. Remains lie at **Jayarathne Funeral Parlour, Borella**. Cortege leaves for Cremation at General Cemetery, Borella on Saturday March 20th 2021 at 10.30 a.m. 021786



# Daily News



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SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021

## Boost for Sri Lanka Bangladesh ties

**B**angladesh has come a long way since it was established in 1971, 50 years ago. Still the 'newest' nation in South Asia, modern Bangladesh has been hailed as an emerging economic tiger by leading world economists.

This is an amazing achievement for a country that has had its fair share of troubles from natural disasters to insurgent activity. It would not be incorrect to say that this nation of 163 million is well on its way to realizing the lofty aspirations of its founder and first President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose birth centenary fell on March 17. Coincidentally, his daughter Sheikh Hasina is the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

It is in this context that Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's official visit to Bangladesh for its Golden Jubilee celebrations assumes a greater significance. The visit offers a golden opportunity to develop diplomatic, economic/trade and socio-cultural ties between the two friendly neighbouring nations.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Hasina, icons of political giants in their respective countries, have a great personal, political and professional relationship going back several decades. Likewise, the two countries share religious, cultural and linguistic ties that go back several centuries. For example, both Sinhala and Bengali are deeply rooted in Sanskrit. Moreover, they are 'friendly rivals' in international cricket, Sri Lanka being one of the countries that vociferously supported Bangladesh's bid to gain ICC Test status.

Both countries are founding members of SAARC, whose concept was proposed by Bangladesh in the early 80s and whose first meeting was incidentally held in Dhaka in December 1985. The two countries have since played a major role in the regional grouping and also in other regional blocs including BIMSTEC, whose secretariat is located in Dhaka. The two countries are actively involved in many Indian Ocean Rim initiatives as well.

However, there is plenty of scope for the relationship to grow. There should be enhanced people-to-people contact between both countries. Direct air links must be enhanced once the pandemic ends.

Two-way trade between the two countries is abysmally low by international standards, hovering around US\$ 180 million per annum. This should be increased to around US\$ 500 million in the medium term. Nevertheless, Sri Lanka is one of the leading investors in Bangladesh, especially in the garments sector and nearly 30,000 Sri Lankan expats work there. Sri Lanka's total investment in Bangladesh is around US\$ 348 million. More Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is flowing into Bangladesh, thanks to a friendly investment climate and relatively affordable labour, which is 75% cheaper than in China.

The Bangladeshi economy is growing at a phenomenal rate, since the advent of Sheikh Hasina as Prime Minister in 2008. It has been hailed for developing expertise in several sectors like agriculture, solar power (five million houses are already powered by the Sun), inland fisheries, pharmaceuticals, IT, disaster prevention and disaster management. The Bangladesh pharmaceutical industry was valued at only US\$ 1.5 billion in 2013, but exceeded US\$ 10 billion in 2020. According to recent surveys, it is now the fourth-largest rice producer, the second-largest jute producer, the fourth-largest mango producer, fifth-largest vegetable producer and the fourth-largest inland fisheries producer in the world.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the World Economic Forum (WEF) in October 2019: "Today, Bangladesh offers the most liberal investment regime in South Asia – in terms of legal protection of foreign investment, generous fiscal incentives, concessions on machinery imports, an unrestricted exit policy, full repatriation of dividends and capital on exit. We are establishing 100 Special Economic Zones with one-stop service across Bangladesh. Twelve of the zones are already functioning. Two zones are reserved for Indian investors. A number of high-tech parks are also ready for technology and innovative enterprises."

In fact, Bangladesh is now manufacturing and exporting industrial robots to more advanced countries such as South Korea, a feat no other South Asian nation has managed so far. It has ensured 100% ICT access for people at the grassroots level and as a result, Bangladesh has the fifth-largest internet user population in Asia-Pacific.

Writing about the reasons for Bangladesh's radical transformation, Cornell University economist Kaushik Basu said: "Bangladesh's economic transformation was driven in large part by social changes, starting with the empowerment of women. Bangladesh has made significant strides towards educating girls and giving women a greater voice, both in the household and the public sphere. These efforts have translated into improvements in children's health and education."

There are many ways and areas in which both countries can share their drive for development. Agriculture is one of the main areas where Sri Lanka can draw lessons from Bangladesh, which has increased food production from 10 million tons in 1972-73 to 39 million tons in 2016. In the field of inland fisheries too, Sri Lanka can gain from Bangladesh, which has one of the largest freshwater fisheries industries. Bangladesh in turn can look forward to tapping Sri Lanka's expertise to develop its nascent tourism industry. Thus there is no doubt that the visit of Prime Minister Rajapaksa to Bangladesh will rekindle the age-old relationship and take it to even greater heights.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**Bangladesh is not a rich country, but we have a big heart. - Sheikh Hasina**



# RESTORING OUR FORESTS: PATH TO RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING

MARIA HELENA SEMEDO

**T**omorrow (21) we mark the International Day of Forests, and never before has there been greater reason to focus our attention on these precious natural resources that cover a third of the Earth's land area.

We owe so much to forests. Over the last year, forests have been helping to keep people safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of us have relied on essential forest products made from paper and cardboard, including personal protective equipment and packaging for home deliveries. For others, forests have offered a space to exercise outdoors, boosting our health and spirits.

But for vulnerable people around the world, forests have been acting as vital safety nets, providing food sources and income when supply chains are disrupted.

This is in addition to the extraordinary benefits forests always provide: acting as carbon sinks, purifying our water, supplying food, fuel and medicinal plants to well over a billion people, and supporting the livelihoods of hundreds of millions more.

### Wake-up call

Nevertheless, COVID-19 has served as a wake-up call to the fact that the health of animals, people and the environment are interconnected.

We must recognize that deforestation and the unsustainable use of the world's forests significantly increase the risk of diseases caused by pathogens jumping from animals to humans.

Approximately 70 percent of emerging infectious diseases, and almost all recent epidemics, have originated in animals, especially wildlife.

When forests are cut down to expand cropland or pastures for grazing, and when urban demand for wild meat as a luxury item drives overexploitation, contact between humans, livestock, and wildlife increases. And so does the risk of the next big pandemic.

The message is clear: healthy forests mean healthy people.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organise activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.



### Healthy forests mean healthy people.

Yet our forests remain under threat. In the last 30 years, we have lost 420 million hectares of forest through deforestation and conversion to other land use, primarily driven by agricultural expansion.

This destruction risks the health of the global population, releases climate-warming gases, threatens plants and animals with extinction and endangers the livelihoods of people who depend on forests.

### What can we do?

So what can we do to keep forests, and ourselves, healthy?

First, we need to halt practices that drive large-scale conversion of forests to agriculture, recognizing that it is possible to feed the growing global

population without cutting down forests.

Second, we must crack down on the illegal wildlife trade, while respecting that wild animals remain an essential source of food and income for millions of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Third, we need to invest in restoring the world's degraded forests and landscapes to re-establish healthy ecosystems – the focus of this year's International Day of Forests.

Currently, around two billion hectares – an area twice the size of China – are degraded due to overuse, drought and unsustainable forest and land management practices.

The good news is that we can restore degraded land on a large scale. The Great Green Wall for the Sahara

■ Forests are home to about 80 percent of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, with more than 60,000 tree species.

■ Around 1.6 billion people depend directly on forests for food, shelter, energy, medicines and income.

■ The world is losing 10 million hectares of forest each year – about the size of Iceland – which accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

■ Land degradation affects almost 2 billion hectares – an area larger than South America

■ Spending time around trees helps boost our immune system, lowers blood pressure and promotes relaxation.

■ Many of the medicines we rely on today come from forests. Around 25 percent of medicinal drugs used in developed countries are plant-based, while in developing countries, it can be as much as 80 percent.

■ It is estimated that some two billion hectares of degraded land worldwide have the potential to be revived. That is roughly twice the area of Europe.

■ At present, 60 percent of all infectious diseases and 75 per cent of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic. These diseases originate from the transfer of pathogens from animals to humans, and they usually occur when natural landscapes, such as forests, are being cleared.

and the Sahel Initiative, led by the African Union, is one example. By 2030, it aims to restore 100 million hectares across Africa's drylands with local tree species and vegetation, greening landscapes while sequestering 250 million tonnes of carbon and creating 10 million green jobs.

And globally, ambitious targets have already been set: the Bonn Challenge calls for the restoration of 350 million hectares by 2030, while the Sustainable Development Goals go further still, aiming for land degradation neutrality by 2030.

So far, more than 60 countries and entities have committed to restoring over 210 million hectares of degraded land – an area almost two-thirds the size of India.

However, we need to step up the pace to meet targets and turn pledges to action.

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration begins this year and is an opportunity to upscale forest restoration across hundreds of millions of hectares, healing degraded lands. It also provides an opportunity for many to benefit from the green jobs and income-generating possibilities that restoration presents, helping with economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We should also remember that every tree counts. Small-scale planting and restoration projects can positively impact human health. Urban greening creates cleaner air, provides shade and benefits the mental and physical well-being of people in cities. Each of us has the opportunity to make a difference on a micro level, from backyards to community gardens.

Let the International Day of Forests herald a fresh start to restore our forests and create a healthier world for us all.

*(The writer is Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations)*



A tree planting programme

# US - RUSSIA: TENSION ON THE RISE

There is rising tension between the US and Russia following an interview in which President Joe Biden described Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "killer".

Russia has called its ambassador to the US back to Moscow for consultations, in what is seen as the first major diplomatic crisis for President Biden.

In an interview with ABC News, Biden was asked about a US intelligence report that the Russian leader tried to harm his candidacy in the November 2020 election and promote that of Donald Trump.

"He will pay a price," the 78-year-old Biden said.

Asked if he thought Putin, who has been accused of ordering the poisoning of Opposition Leader Alexei Navalny and other rivals, is a "killer," Biden said: "I do."

The comments were aired as the US Commerce Department announced it was toughening export restrictions imposed on Russia as punishment for Navalny's poisoning.

Russia responded by summoning its envoy home, though the State Department did not reciprocate by recalling its own ambassador to Moscow.

"The Russian ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Antonov, has been invited to come to Moscow for consultations conducted with the aim of analyzing what should be done and where to go in the context of ties with the United States," the Russian foreign ministry said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told RIA Novosti that "responsibility for further deterioration of Russian-American ties fully rests with the United States."

In Washington, the State Department noted the Russian move and said the United States will "remain clear-eyed about the challenges that Russia poses."

A State Department spokeswoman has said the US envoy would remain in Moscow in the hopes of maintaining "open channels of communication" and in order to "reduce the risk of miscalculation between our countries."

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki was asked by reporters whether the president considers Putin literally or just metaphorically a killer.

"He does not hold back on his concerns about what we see as malign and problematic actions," Psaki said, citing election interference, Navalny's poisoning, cyber attacks and bounties on US troops in Afghanistan.

"He's not going to hold back in his direct communications, nor is he going to hold back publicly," she said. "We are not going to look the other way as we saw a little bit over the last four years."

Biden told ABC News he had a "long talk" with Putin after taking office in January. "The conversation started off, I said, 'I know you and you know me. If I establish this occurred, then be prepared,'" Biden said.

Biden's assessment that Putin is a "killer" marked a stark contrast with Trump's steadfast refusal to say anything negative about the Russian president.

In a 2017 interview with Fox News, Trump was asked about Putin being a "killer." "There are a lot of killers," he replied. "You think our country's so innocent?"

Despite his thoughts about the Russian leader, Biden said "there are places where it's in our mutual interest to work together."

"That's why I renewed the START agreement with him," he said of the nuclear treaty. "That occurred while he's doing this, but that's overwhelmingly in the interest of humanity, that we diminish the prospect of a nuclear exchange."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed the US determination that Russia had targeted election infrastructure during the 2020 presidential election as "absolutely groundless and unsubstantiated" and an excuse for new sanctions.

After Biden's victory over Trump, Putin was among the last world leaders to congratulate the newly elected Democratic president.

Tensions between the former Cold War rivals have soared in recent months over hacking allegations and US demands that Russia free Navalny.

## UK: Nuclear Power change

The UK is prepared to launch nuclear weapons if the country was faced with an exceptionally destructive attack using cyber or other "emerging technologies", according to the integrated defence review, in the new UK Defence Policy announced by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

This marks a change from existing UK policy, which had been that Trident missiles could only be launched against another nuclear power, or potentially in response to extreme chemical or biological threats.

The new Defence Policy says Britain would "reserve the right" to use nuclear weapons in the face of "weapons of mass destruction", which includes "emerging technologies that could have a comparable impact" to chemical or biological weapons.

It sets the UK in a different direction to the US, where the newly elected president, Joe Biden, had floated the idea during his election campaign of making the "sole purpose" of nuclear weapons to deter or if necessary to retaliate against a nuclear attack.

Discussion about Britain's new nuclear policy unveiled by Boris Johnson, reversing 30 years of modest disarmament since the end of the cold war, dominated the publication of a 100-page integrated review of defence and foreign policy.

It confirmed leaks from Monday night that the UK would allow the cap on its nuclear weapon stockpile to rise to 260 from a target of 180 "by the mid-2020s" - and that the UK would abandon a second pledge to hold a lower number of operational warheads, previously set at 120.

Opposition Leader Sir Keir Starmer of the Labour Party, said the UK had abandoned previous pledges made by a succession of governments to reduce the nuclear stockpile with only the most cursory explanation... "This review breaks the goal of successive prime ministers and cross-party efforts to reduce our nuclear stockpile. It doesn't explain when, why, or for what strategic purpose," the Labour leader told the Commons.

Defence sources said the decision to lift the warhead cap by over 40% was motivated by a



Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden

## ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

desire to be more assertive about nuclear weapons. "If we have them, let's not apologise for it, let's own it," an insider added.

### Myanmar: More than 200 killed

Myanmar remains plunged into chaos by the military's coup, as hundreds of thousands of people refuse to work and others take to the streets in a mass civil disobedience movement to restore democracy and secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other elected leaders.

As protests increase the attacks on the protesters by the military and police have also increased, with more than 200 persons now reported to be killed, with many hundred injured and thousands arrested.

On Wednesday, the country's powerful Buddhist monks' association urged an end to the violence and accused an "armed minority" of torture and killings of innocent civilians.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), which has been tracking arrests and fatalities since the coup, says at least 217 people have been killed in the protests.

Some 37 journalists have been arrested, including 19 who remain in detention, the United Nations' human rights office in Geneva said on Tuesday.

Aung San Suu Kyi is set to face new charges of corruption from the generals who seized power in a coup on February 1. The 75-year-old Nobel laureate, who was taken into custody along with other top aides as the military took control of the country, has already been charged with owning unlicensed walkie-talkies and violating coronavirus restrictions.

The military says she had illegally obtained \$600,000 and more than 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) of gold bars from a business agent.

"Those accusations are groundless and illogical," Suu Kyi's lawyer Khin Maung Zaw told the media.

As Chinese owned factories were attacked by protesters, the Chinese embassy said many Chinese staff were injured and trapped in arson attacks by unidentified assailants on garment factories in Hlaingtharyar and that it had called on Myanmar to protect Chinese property and citizens. China is viewed by the protesters as being supportive of the military junta that has taken power.

### Bolivia turmoil

Bolivia's conservative ex-interim president, Jeanine Anez, who led the country for a year, has been arrested as officials of the restored

leftist government target those who helped ousted socialist leader Evo Morales in 2019.

Jeanine Anez, was detained early on Saturday morning in her home town of Trinidad and was flown to the capital, La Paz, where she appeared before a prosecutor.

"This is an abuse," she told reporters after the appearance. "There was no coup d'etat, but a constitutional succession," she said.

From a police cell in La Paz, Anez called on the Organisation of American States and the European Union to send missions to Bolivia to evaluate what she called "an illegal detention".

The arrest of Anez and warrants against numerous other former officials further worsened political tensions in a South American country already torn by perceived wrongs suffered by both sides.

Arrest warrants were issued for more than a dozen former officials. Those include several ex-Cabinet ministers, as well as former military leader William Kaliman and the police chief who had urged Morales to resign in November 2019 after the country was swept by protests against the country's first indigenous president.

The imprisonment of Anez, a conservative who became interim leader after Morales fled under pressure from the military, was met with jubilation by some. Many on Latin America's left celebrated the downfall of a politician they allege played a central role in the coup they say forced Bolivia's first indigenous president from power.

Few doubt Anez has serious questions to answer over the persecution of political rivals and human rights abuses that took place during her year-long stint as interim president, which began after Morales's escape to Mexico and ended last November after the sensational electoral fightback that returned his party to power and allowed him to return home.

### US warns China

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned China on Tuesday against using "coercion and aggression" using his first trip abroad to shore up Asian alliances.

His visit to Tokyo with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is the first overseas visit by top members of President Joe Biden's Cabinet. It follows last week's summit of the leaders of the Quad grouping of the United States, Japan, Australia and India.

China's extensive territorial claims in the East and South China Seas have become a priority issue in an increasingly testy Sino-US.



Bolivian ex-interim president, Jeanine Anez



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte

relationship and are an important security concern for Japan.

"We will push back, if necessary, when China uses coercion and aggression to get its way," Blinken said.

Blinken's comments come ahead of meetings in Alaska on Thursday that will bring together for the first time senior Biden administration officials and their Chinese counterparts to discuss frayed ties between the world's top two economies.

Washington has criticised what it called Beijing's attempts to bully neighbours with competing interests. China has denounced what it called U.S. efforts to foment unrest in the region and interfere in what it calls its internal affairs.

In the statement issued with their Japanese counterparts, Blinken and Austin said, "China's behaviour, where inconsistent with the existing international order, presents political, economic, military and technological challenges to the alliance and to the international community."

The two countries committed themselves to opposing coercion and destabilizing behaviour towards others in the region that undermines

the rules-based international system, they added.

North Korea was in sharp focus after the White House said Pyongyang had rebuffed efforts at dialogue.

North Korea, which pursues nuclear and missile programmes in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions, warned the Biden administration against "causing a stink" if it wanted peace, state media said on Tuesday.

Blinken underscored the importance of working closely with Japan and South Korea on the denuclearization of North Korea.

"We have no greater strategic advantage when it comes to North Korea than this alliance," he said. "We approach that challenge as an alliance and we've got to do that if we are going to be effective."

The ministers also discussed Washington's "unwavering commitment" to defend Japan in its dispute with China over islets in the East China Sea and repeated their opposition to China's "unlawful" maritime claims in the South China Sea.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a regular news briefing that U.S.-Japan ties "shouldn't target or undermine the interests of any third party," and should boost "peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific".

Blinken expressed concern over the Myanmar military's attempt to overturn the results of a democratic election, and its crackdown on peaceful protesters.

He also reaffirmed Washington's commitment to human rights, adding, "China uses coercion and aggression to systematically erode autonomy in Hong Kong, undercut democracy in Taiwan, abusing human rights in Xinjiang and Tibet."

### Dutch elections

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's party has won the most seats in parliamentary elections.

Victory hands Mr. Rutte a mandate to form a new coalition government led by his centre-right VVD party, with a fourth term as prime minister. His last government resigned in January over a child welfare fraud scandal.

While his party was set to win 35 out of 150 seats, the centre-left D66 was the other big winner of the night with 24 seats.

"The voters of the Netherlands have given my party an overwhelming vote of confidence," Mr. Rutte told reporters in Parliament. He conceded that "not everything has gone well in the last 10 years" but said the main challenge was to rebuild the country after the Covid-19 pandemic. "I have the energy for another 10 years," he said.

The two parties that currently form a caretaker coalition with his liberal VVD are likely partners in a new government, but the support of the liberal D66 and the CDA are not enough to form a majority. The coalition process could go on for some time.

### COVID - Vaccine issue

The spread of COVID-19 continues, with signs of a third wave of infections in Europe, and a major issue over the use and distribution of the AstraZeneca vaccine produced in Europe.

The global infection of COVID-19 this week was 121,295,609 and 2,682,406 deaths at the time of writing. The US remains the highest affected with 29,608,026 infected and 538,093 deaths. The other countries that follow are Brazil - 11,693,838 (284,775), India - 11,474,605 (159,216, UK - 4,287,996 (126,068), France - 4,169,290 (91,340), and Italy - 3,281,810 (104,432).

There is increased concern over the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine, with reports on a few persons who have received this vaccination, undergoing blood clots.

Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, along with non EU-members Iceland and Norway, have all so far either temporarily halted the vaccine or banned the use of particular batches.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) - the medicines regulator - is due to announce the findings of its investigation into cases of bleeding, blood clots and low platelet counts in 30 of the vaccine's recipients that have led many European countries to suspend it.

The agency's head, Emer Cooke, on Tuesday reiterated it was convinced the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweighed the risks and had seen no indication the shot had caused the unusual blood events. Nonetheless, she said, the events were "a serious concern" needing "serious and detailed scientific evaluation".

The World Health Organisation has also backed the vaccine, while AstraZeneca has said that 17 million people in the EU and UK have received the vaccine and the number of cases of blood clots reported "is lower than the hundreds of cases that would be expected among the general population".

Governments have insisted that the decisions were taken out of "an abundance of caution" and to maintain public confidence in the shot. But amid a still-slaggy European vaccination campaign and as infections pick up again in several countries, many experts have criticised them as essentially political, and likely to cost lives.

There is also much concern after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, warned that the EU would not hesitate to take action, including possible export restrictions, to ensure it receives the supplies of coronavirus vaccines the 27-nation bloc was promised.

She said the EU has approved the export of some 41 million vaccine doses to 33 countries in the past six weeks and believes that it stands at the forefront of international vaccine-sharing efforts.

"We are exporting to countries that are themselves producing vaccines, and we think this is an invitation to be open, so that we also see exports from those countries coming back to the European Union," von der Leyen said. "Open roads run in both directions," she said. "We want to see reciprocity and proportionality in exports, and we are ready to use whatever tool we need to deliver on that."

Von der Leyen did not name any countries, but her warning appeared to be a veiled threat to the United Kingdom.



Myanmar coup: Protesters defy military warning in mass strike.

# Fifteenth 'Discussion with the Village' programme today

The 15th in the series of 'Discussion with the Village' programme, which will be presided over by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, will be held today in the Yombuwelenna Village of the Nuwara Eliya District. People's representatives, including ministers, MPs, ministry secretaries, and heads institutions are to participate in this public forum, which will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The goal of the 'Discussion with the Village' programme is for the President to meet the grassroot-level workers and witness the difficul-

ties they face in order to uplift the rural sector.

The rural folk, which constitute about 75% of the population of Sri Lanka, still suffer from a wide variety of problems, including economic and social issues. Landlessness, absence of proper title deeds, shortage of water for drinking and cultivation purposes, undeveloped status of roads and other transport issues, health and education issues, the human-elephant conflict, and bureaucratic lethargy are a few of the major issues affecting them.

The objective of the programme is

to reach out to the people of the villages, understand their problems, and find solutions through their own suggestions. Problems that can be solved on the spot are to be instantly addressed. The rest, which would take time to deal with, are noted down to find solutions later.

President Rajapaksa is of the view that understanding the issues that affect the rural people from a one-sided perspective is one of the reasons for the delay in giving solutions for their issues. Officials see the problem from their own perspective and villagers according to their sentiments.

The President believes that the process of providing solutions could be expedited by correctly identifying all aspects of the problem. This approach has been used in previous 'Discussion with the Village' programmes to provide immediate and long-term solutions to a number of issues.

The 'Discussion with the Village' programme commenced on September 25, 2020, from the Badulla District. Thereafter, programmes were organised covering the Matale, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Ampara, Polonnaruwa, Kalutara, Moneragala,

Kegalle, Kandy, Puttalam, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, and Galle districts.

The Yombuwelenna Grama Niladhari Division, which has been selected for tomorrow's 'Discussion with the Village' programme, is located 13km away from the Walapane town. It is one of the most affected villages out of the Grama Niladhari Divisions that belong to Walapane Divisional Secretariat Division. It has a population of 397, comprising 139 families. Cultivation of paddy and vegetables are the main livelihoods of the villagers.

The people living in Yombuwelenna and other surrounding villages suffer from a number of common problems.

Issues related to the road network and transportation, inadequate school infrastructure, lack of health and sanitation facilities, and the shortage of clean drinking water are among the major issues affecting them.

The problems that young people in this area confront are lack of opportunities for formal vocational training and a lack of support for self-employment.

## BOI Chairman discusses enhancement of bilateral ties with Korean Ambassador



Board of Investment Chairman Sanjaya Mohottala, Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin Jeong, and representatives of the Korean Businessmen's Association and the Korean Resident's Association.

Board of Investment Chairman Sanjaya Mohottala called on Korean Ambassador to Sri Lanka Santhush Woonjin Jeong to discuss bilateral relations at the Embassy on Thursday. Representatives of the Korean Businessmen's Association and the Korean Resident's Association also participated in the event.

Korean investors have played a significant role in developing two-way trade and investments in ways that benefit both countries, Ambassador Jeong said. He added that investors have helped strengthen the commercial ties between Korea and Sri Lanka.

Since the COVID-19 pan-

demie, the global economy has experienced a negative impact. Korean investors have faced many challenges amidst travel restrictions and disruptions in global supply chains. The Chairman of BOI agreed to expedite the resolution process of the challenges faced by Korean investors due to the pandemic.

The Ambassador and the Korean business delegation expressed their gratitude to the continuous assistance extended by the Board of Investment in coordinating and facilitating two-way trade and investments.

The Ambassador further stated that Foreign Direct

Investments (FDIs) are key strategic pivots in elevating and advancing the overall economy of Sri Lanka.

Ambassador Jeong added that Sri Lanka is safe and well-poised to receive Foreign Direct Investments and Foreign Institutional Investments, particularly from Korea, as the two countries have been engaged in economic and commercial activities for over 40 years.

The Ambassador said he is confident that the active role of the Board of Investment will attract more investment opportunities, thus paving the way to consolidating strong bilateral ties.

## Special ceremony for female entrepreneurs marking Women's Month held

Women entrepreneurs play a critical role in Sri Lanka's economy, and in uplifting the livelihoods of women in their communities, particularly amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Commemorating Women's Month, UN Women in Sri Lanka and the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka participated in the recent ceremony organised by the State Ministry of Women and Child Development

and the Women's Bureau to recognise the efforts of women entrepreneurs and Women Development Officers in Sri Lanka.

As part of a larger strategy in accelerating progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the country, UN Women in Sri Lanka, in partnership with the Government of Japan and the State

Ministry, works to establish an enable an environment for the formulation and implementation of policies in relation to women, peace, and security whilst ensuring that women's economic empowerment is at the heart of COVID-19 response and recovery through capacity-building and training to sustain their businesses in times of crisis. The event was attended by

State Minister Piyal Nishantha de Silva, State Secretary; K.M.S.D. Jayasekara, Additional Secretary (Development); Champa Upasena, Director of the Women's Bureau; Akira Hokamura, Adviser at the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka; as well as Pradeepa Kulasekera and Avanthi Kalansooriya, Project Officers at UN Women in Sri Lanka.

## 'Rishad not a member of Samagi Jana Balawegaya'

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Rishad Bathiudeen, who is allegedly responsible for the deforestation of Wilpattu reserve, is not a member of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), SJB MP Hirunika Premachandra said at a media briefing held at the Opposition Leader's Office, yesterday.

The press conference was held at the office of the Leader of the Opposition as a demonstration of support to young environmental activist Bhagya Abeyratne, who was allegedly threatened for her claims that parts of the Sinharaja forest had been cleared.

Responding to the media, MP Premachandra said that Bathiudeen was only the leader of a different party. She said he had nothing to do with Samagi Jana Balawegaya, and that he formed an alliance with

the Samagi Jana Balawegaya only for the election. She added that all parties would form alliances during election periods.

The MP said, "Rishad Bathiudeen is a leader of a Muslim party. The Good Governance Government was defeated because of these actions that took place at that time. That is why the President received Rs.6.9 million votes. However, who gave the reserved lands in Wilpattu to Rishad Bathiudeen?"

"There are court orders regarding the incident where he allegedly destroyed the Wilpattu reserve. If he does not comply, the court will have to issue orders. It has nothing to do with the Samagi Jana Balawegaya. We request the President to protect the environment and allow our breath," she added.



MP Imthiaz Baker Markar called on Egyptian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Hussein El Saharty recently. The Ambassador ensured that Egypt stands ready to strengthen educational exchange programmes in multiple academic fields with the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. A framed picture of Masjid Abrar of Beruwala, the first mosque in Sri Lanka, which was built 1,100 years ago, was also handed over to Ambassador El Saharty.

**18.03.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 748,274**  
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS 30,765,230.00**  
**Rs.2,000,000.00 PRIZES 02 Rs.1,00,000.00 PRIZES 32**

**MEGA POWER OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
 DRAW NUMBER : 793  
 DATE : 18.03.2021

English Letter: **K** Winning Number: **26 08 48 55 80**

PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE MONEY	NO. OF WINNERS
1st PRIZE: If all 4 Numbers are correct	1,300,000.00	05
2nd PRIZE: If 3 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100,000.00	167
3rd PRIZE: If all 3 Numbers are correct	1,000.00	222
4th PRIZE: If only 2 Numbers with English Letter is correct	100.00	5,762
5th PRIZE: If only 2 Numbers are correct	60.00	3,751
6th PRIZE: If only 1 Number with English Letter is correct	20.00	93,617
7th PRIZE: If only 1 Number are correct	20.00	17,200

**NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE Rs. 123,383,108.40**  
**NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE Rs. 20,938,204.80**  
**NEXT GRAND SUPER PRIZE Rs. 10,000,000.00**

**Total Prizes Won in This Draw Rs. 3,660,580.00**

**SEVANA OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
 DATE: 18/03/2021  
 DRAW NUMBER: 323

English Letter: **X** Winning Number: **06 15 27 48**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize: If all numbers are correct	Rs.1,000,000/-	05
2nd Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs.100,000/-	93
3rd Prize: If 3 numbers are correct	Rs.1,000/-	155
4th Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs.200/-	4,246
5th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs.100/-	2,352
6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs.50/-	59,015
7th Prize: If 1 number is correct	Rs.20/-	9,172
8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct	Rs.20/-	9,172

**Total Prize Won in this Draw Rs. 2,529,940/-**  
**Supper Prize for the Next Draw Rs. 14,000,000/-**

**MAHAJANA SAMPATHA OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
 DRAW NUMBER : 4430  
 DATE: 18-03-2021

English Letter: **M** Winning Number: **7 5 0 5 2 2**

PRIZE STRUCTURE	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize: 7 5 0 5 2 2	Rs. 2,000,000/-	02
2nd Prize: 5 0 5 2 2	Rs. 300,000/-	14
3rd Prize: 0 5 2 2	Rs. 10,000/-	131
4th Prize: 5 2 2	Rs. 1,000/-	1,336
5th Prize: 7 5	Rs. 100/-	13,289
6th Prize: 2	Rs. 20/-	131,613

**Value of prizes won in this draw - Rs. 14,103,950.00**

**The Super Prize of next draw Rs. 16,654,242.00**

**DHANA NIDHANAYA Official Results**  
 Date - 18/03/2021  
 Draw Number - 467

English Letter: **W** Winning Number: **27 46 50 65**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
1st Prize: If all numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000,000.00	-
2nd Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 100,000.00	04
3rd Prize: If English Letter and 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 3,000.00	104
4th Prize: If any 2 numbers are correct	Rs. 1,000.00	242
5th Prize: If any 1 number is correct	Rs. 100.00	5,442
6th Prize: If English Letter and 1 number is correct	Rs. 60.00	3,024
7th Prize: If 1 number is correct	Rs. 20.00	92,863
8th Prize: If only English Letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	17,371

**Total prize money won in this draw Rs. 4,920,540.00**  
**Number of Prize Winners in this draw 119,657**

**Next Draw Super Prize 88,490,625.20**

**Govisetha OFFICIAL RESULTS**  
 DRAW NUMBER: 2725 DRAW DATE: 18/03/2021

English Letter: **E** Winning Numbers: **04 12 31 61**

COMBINATION	PRIZE	NO. OF WINNERS
3 PRIZE: If all 4 numbers correct	Rs. 1,300,000.00	-
2 PRIZE: If letter & any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 100,000.00	04
1 PRIZE: If any 3 numbers correct	Rs. 2,000.00	100
4 PRIZE: If letter & any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 1,000.00	420
5 PRIZE: If any 2 numbers correct	Rs. 100.00	10,406
6 PRIZE: If letter & any number correct	Rs. 40.00	9,164
7 PRIZE: If any number correct	Rs. 20.00	170,364
8 PRIZE: If only the letter is correct	Rs. 20.00	31,100

**TOTAL WINNERS OF THIS DRAW 219,345**  
**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY WON IN THIS DRAW Rs. 6,550,220.00**  
**SUPER PRIZE FOR THE NEXT DRAW Rs. 75,943,753.20**



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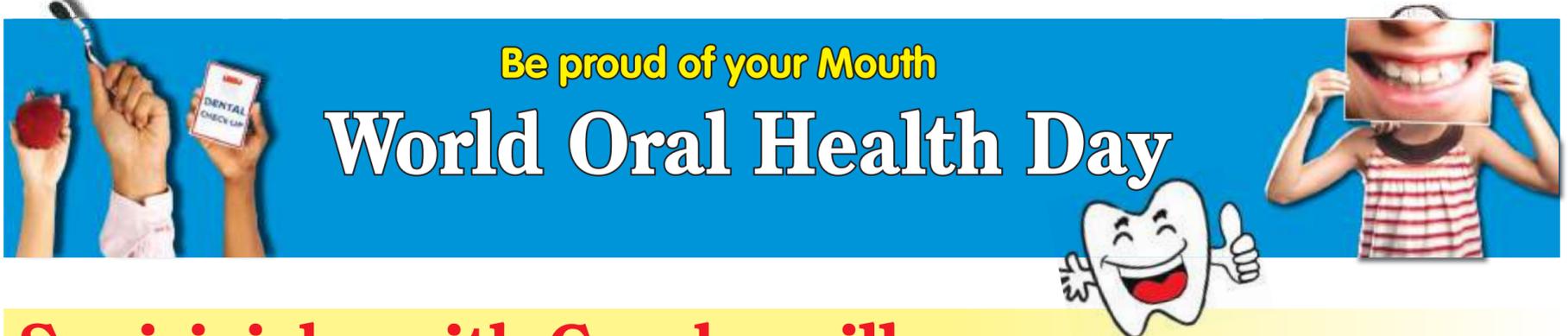


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## Supirivicky with Goraka will keep your teeth looking young everyday...

A beautiful smile can please the world and it is the best way to make a lasting impression. A fine smile is a sign of good oral health and it largely affects your overall body health too.

Our eating habits, cleanliness, oral care habits such as the toothpaste and toothbrush that we use and the way we brush our teeth are some of the main determinants of good oral health. Though the modern society nowadays pays more attention on oral health, the importance of oral care has been one of the main health focuses for many generations. Hela Ayurveda carries ample evidence of ayurveda formulas and medicines for good oral health.

Supirivicky Ayurveda Toothpaste is the first Ayurvedic toothpaste to be introduced to the South Asian market.

Supirivicky contains nine ayurveda herbs that strengthen the teeth and gums, including the main active ingredient Goraka (garcinia), which helps to keep teeth strong for lifetime. Hela Ayurveda knowledge on medicinal value of Goraka to treatment of dental diseases has

been passed down from generation to generation. The 'Garcinol' in Goraka gourd helps to strengthens soft gums and teeth.

The active properties of nine Ayurveda herbs formula in Supirivicky prevents enamel erosion, tooth decay, tooth cavities and tooth sensitivity. Clove and cinnamon in Supirivicky helps to destroy bacteria that cause oral diseases.

Antioxidants rich Supirivicky protects and strengthen the gums and teeth, prevents gingivitis and gum bleeding, heals gum boils and sores and increases saliva production to ensure good oral health. Supirivicky eliminates bad breath and keeps your mouth fresh throughout the day.

Supirivicky mouthwash, which contains cinnamon, clove oil and castor oil, soothes oral diseases and keeps the mouth fresh throughout the day.

## GORAKA

- Due to Amla rasa it can stimulate the secretion of saliva and strengthen the normal flora as well as maintain pH balance within the mouth.
- Since it is 'Krimighna' it has an antimicrobial action which can prevent dental caries.
- Helps to normalize atmosphere of oral cavity by reducing acidic affect produced by sweets.
- Ground freshly and applied as a paste on gums for curing pains and inflammation.
- An ingredient of oils used for applying on the gums and loosened teeth.



## Good oral hygiene habits

1. Brush your teeth with Supirivicky Ayurveda Toothpaste twice a day
2. Thoroughly clean the tongue while brushing teeth
3. Minimize sugary and acidic foods
4. Gargle your throat twice daily with Supirivicky mouth wash
5. Drink plenty of water.

## Supirivicky with Goraka will keep your teeth, Looking Young Everyday



## GORAKA STRENGTHEN TEETH & GUMS (GARCINIA)

Garcinia Cambogia also known as Malabar Tamarind is a native plant to Southeast Asia. For generations, **Garcinia has been known for its medicinal values that helps to strengthen teeth & gums. Supirivicky Ayurveda Toothpaste with 09 herbs, protects your teeth and gums for lifetime, keeps them look young everyday.**

- ✓ Prevents enamel erosion
- ✓ Prevents tooth decay and cavities
- ✓ Prevents teeth discolouration
- ✓ Destroy bad bacteria and germs
- ✓ Prevents gingivitis
- ✓ Improve saliva production
- ✓ Antioxidants protects gingival cells
- ✓ Heal gum boils and bleeding
- ✓ Prevents teeth sensitivity
- ✓ Fresher breath all day



Brush twice daily with Supirivicky for strong Teeth and Gums.

MRP. Rs 60/- Upwards

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f siddhalepagroup @ 077 073 6910

## What is Good Oral Hygiene?

Good oral hygiene results in a mouth that looks and smells healthy. This means:

- Your teeth are clean and free of debris
- Gums are firmly held against teeth and do not hurt or bleed when you brush or floss
- Bad breath is not a constant problem

If your gums do hurt or bleed while brushing or flossing, or you are experiencing persistent bad breath, see your dentist. Any of these conditions may indicate a problem.

Your dental professional can help you learn good oral hygiene techniques and can help point out areas of your mouth that may require extra attention during brushing and flossing.

### How Is Good Oral Hygiene Practiced?

Maintaining good oral hygiene is one of the most important things you can do for your teeth and gums. Healthy teeth not only enable you to look and feel good, they make it possible to eat and speak properly. Good oral health is important to your overall well-being.

Daily preventive care, including proper brushing and flossing, will help stop problems before they develop and is much less painful, expensive, and worrisome than treating conditions that have been allowed to progress.

In between regular visits to the dentist, there are simple steps that each of us can take to greatly decrease the risk of developing tooth decay, gum disease and other dental problems. These include:

- Brushing thoroughly twice a day and flossing daily
- Eating a balanced diet and limiting snacks between meals
- Using dental products that contain fluoride, including toothpaste
- Rinsing with a fluoride mouth rinse if your dentist tells you to
- Making sure that children under 12 drink fluoridated water or take a fluoride supplement if they live in a non-fluoridated area.

021 Colgate-Palmolive Company

**5 SIMPLE TIPS FOR A HEALTHY SMILE**

- Brush And Floss**  
Ensure to brush and floss twice daily. Brush in a circular motion for 2 minutes and change your toothbrush every 3 months.
- Rinse Thoroughly**  
Anti-bacterial rinses are the best way to keep your teeth healthy. Use them after meals to shield your teeth and enamel.
- Avoid Tobacco**  
Smoking and tobacco chewing can stain your teeth. Tobacco use increases the risk of gum disease and oral cancer.
- Dental Check Ups**  
A regular visit to the dentist helps in detecting the problem at an early stage. Routine dental checkups prevent the spread of bacteria and tooth decay.
- Eat Healthy**  
Load up with foods rich in calcium and phosphorus for stronger teeth. Stay away from sugary foods as these foods damage enamel.



# Be proud of your Mouth World Oral Health Day

## Oral health key facts

- Oral diseases pose a major health burden for many countries and affect people throughout their lifetime, causing pain, discomfort, disfigurement and even death.
- These diseases share common risk factors with other major noncommunicable diseases.
- It is estimated that oral diseases affect nearly 3.5 billion people.
- Untreated dental caries (tooth decay) in permanent teeth is the most common health condition according to the Global Burden of Disease 2017.
- More than 530 million children suffer from dental caries of primary teeth (milk teeth).
- Severe periodontal (gum) disease, which may result in tooth loss, is also very common, with almost 10% of the global population affected.
- Oral cancer (cancer of the lip or mouth) is one of the three most common cancers in some countries of Asia and the Pacific.
- Treatment for oral health conditions is expensive and usually not part of universal health coverage (UHC). In most high-income countries, dental treatment averages 5% of total health expenditure and 20% of out-of-pocket health expenditure.
- Most low- and middle-income countries are unable to provide services to prevent and treat oral health conditions.
- Factors contributing to oral diseases are an unhealthy diet high in sugar, use of tobacco and harmful use of alcohol.
- Most oral health conditions are largely preventable and can be treated in their early stages.

### Oral health conditions

The majority of oral health conditions are: dental caries (tooth decay), periodontal diseases, oral cancers, oral manifestations of HIV, oro-dental trauma, cleft lip and palate, and noma (severe gangrenous disease starting in the mouth mostly affecting children). Most oral health conditions are largely preventable and can be treated in their early stages.

The Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 estimated that oral diseases affect close to 3.5 billion people worldwide, with caries of permanent teeth being the most common condition. Globally, it is estimated that 2.3 billion people suffer from caries of permanent teeth and more than 530 million children suffer from caries of primary teeth.

In most low- and middle-income countries, with increasing urbanization and changes in living conditions, the prevalence of oral diseases continues to increase. This is primarily due to inadequate exposure to fluoride (in the water supply and oral hygiene products such as toothpaste) and poor access to oral health care services in the community. Marketing of food and beverages high in sugar, as well as tobacco and alcohol, has led to a growing consumption of products that contribute to oral health conditions and other noncommunicable diseases.

### Periodontal (gum) disease

Periodontal disease affects the tissues that both surround and support the tooth. The disease is characterized by bleeding or swollen gums (gingivitis), pain and sometimes bad breath. In its more severe form, the gum can come away from the tooth and supporting bone, causing teeth to become loose and sometimes fall out. Severe periodontal diseases are estimated to affect nearly 10% of the global population. The main causes of periodontal disease are poor oral hygiene and tobacco use.

### Oro-dental trauma

Oro-dental trauma results from injury to the teeth, mouth and oral cavity. Around 20% of people suffer from trauma to teeth at some point in their life.7 Oro-dental trauma can be caused by oral factors such as lack of alignment of teeth and environmental factors (such as unsafe playgrounds, risk-taking behaviour and violence). Treatment is costly and lengthy and sometimes can even lead to tooth loss, resulting in complications for facial and psychological development and quality of life.

### Noma

Noma is a severe gangrenous disease of the mouth and the face. It mostly affects children between the ages of 2 and 6 years suffering from malnutrition, affected by infectious disease, living in extreme poverty with poor oral hygiene and/or with weakened immune systems.

Noma is mostly found in sub-Saharan Africa, although cases have also been reported in Latin America and Asia. Noma starts as a soft tissue lesion (a sore) of the gums, inside the mouth. The initial gum lesion then develops into an acute necrotizing gingivitis that progresses rapidly, destroying the soft tissues and further progressing to involve the hard tissues and skin of the face.

World Health Organization



Advertising Supplement Department

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Coordinated by :- **Saman Athauda**



Life-giving words have the power to uplift a nation!

A message on World Oral Health Day by Clogard, who has uplifted the oral health of our nation for generations.



NO. 1 SRI LANKAN CAVITY PROTECTOR\*

\* The No.1 Sri Lankan brand according to Kantar Worldpanel report (2020).



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa arriving at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa being welcomed by his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina.

# GRAND WELCOME FOR PM IN BANGLADESH

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning on a two-day official visit, the second of the world leaders to attend the celebrations of the birth centenary of founder of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence (1971-2021). A flight of SriLankan Airlines, carrying the Sri Lankan Premier along with his

entourage, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HISA) at 9.45 a.m. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomed him at the VVIP tarmac of the airport by presenting him with a bouquet. PM Mahinda Rajapaksa was given a guard of honour by a contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force at the airport.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina witnessed the State honour guard from a makeshift dais while the national anthem of the respective countries were played. Ministers, State Ministers, civil and military high officials among others were present at the airport. From the airport, the visiting Sri Lankan Premier visited the National Memorial in

Savar to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Premier Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to Dhaka will be followed by the Heads of State and Government of Nepal, Bhutan and India. In the afternoon, the Sri Lankan Premier attended the National Parade Square function at Tejgaon as the Guest of Honour. In the evening, he will meet President M. Abdull Hamid at Bangabhaban.

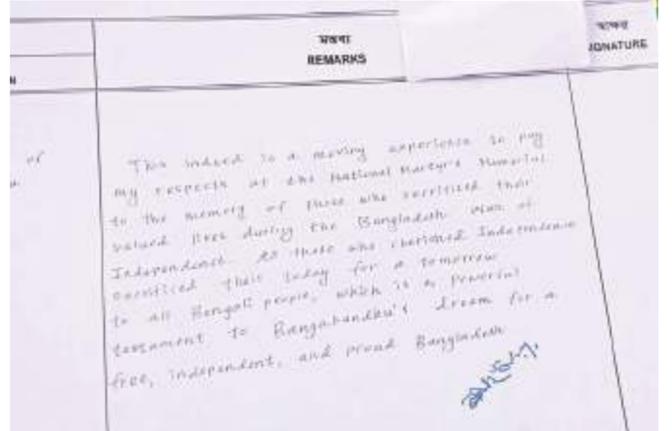
Bangladesh Premier at Grand Ball Room of Hotel Inter Continental. Today (Saturday), PM Rajapaksa will have bilateral talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office and then there will be a signing of several MoUs. Both leaders will witness the signing ceremony. In the afternoon, he will meet President M. Abdull Hamid at Bangabhaban.



Prime Minister Rajapaksa and his Bangladesh counterpart Hasina witnessing the State honour guard while the national anthem of the respective countries were played.



Premier Rajapaksa being welcomed by Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi delegates at the airport.



A remark by Premier Mahinda Rajapaksa in the Golden Book.



PM Rajapaksa planting a sapling to mark the event.



Premier Rajapaksa paying tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War of Bangladesh at the National Memorial in Savar.

# PM to reward honest schoolgirl

HIRIYALA GROUP CORR.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa who learnt a good deed done by a schoolgirl has instructed Rural Housing, Construction and Building Material Industries State Minister Indika Anuruddha Herath to take action to construct a new house for her family with the assistance of the National Housing Development Authority. The construction work is in progress now.

H.M. Deepthi Subhashini of Kapuhena of Wadupola, Ibbagamuwa, a Grade 7 schoolgirl, is living in a wattle and daub house. She found Rs. 20,000 in a textbook that was given to her by the Ibbagamuwa Maha Vidyalaya. Her class teacher together with Principal Kanthi Rukunayake handed over the money to the owner.

Subhashini received a set of textbooks from the school when the schools commenced following the closure due to the Corona



Little Subhashini handing over the money to the owner.



Subhashini's house

pandemic situation. The books were used by the previous batch. On the day she received the books she had turned the pages of one of these books.

To her surprise, she had found some money inside it.

She had then handed over the

book with the money to her class teacher.

When counted, the class teacher found that there was Rs. 20,000. The class teacher had taken the student to the principal with the money. The name of the student who had used this book

last year was written on the cover page. So, the school authorities identified the student and his parents who owned the money. The money was returned to them.

Subhashini lives with her family of four in a wattle and daub house constructed on a plot of

land donated by a friend of her father Ajith Wasantha (50). His eyesight is poor and he is unable to do any job. Therefore, he earns the bread for the family by singing songs on buses. Their lives have become more difficult following the Corona outbreak.



## Wildlife Dept. probes wildlife destruction in Matale



The trap that was used to capture the leopard



The leopard that was killed recently in Nikoloi Rattota

NAULA GROUP CORR.

The Wildlife Department said an extensive investigation has been launched into various types of harassment of wild animals subsequent to the incident of killing a leopard which was reported from the Matale District.

Consequent to the stoning and killing of a leopard which had been caught in a trap in the Nikoloi area of Rattota - Matale, the site office of the Rajgammana Wildlife Department has made this decision.

Range Officer P.M.B. Tennakoon said that

many individuals were taken into custody in connection with harassing wild animals in different ways.

Tennakoon said that a number of special investigations have been launched jointly with the wildlife offices in the Matale District regarding the hunting of wildlife in the Knuckles zone, including species of parrots, star tortoises, Selalihini birds (Grackles or hill mynahs), grizzled giant squirrels (*dandu lena*), barking deer (*weli muwa*), species of reptiles and wild boar.

# Artifacts unearthed at Galle Fort

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE

Galle Central Special Corr.

Archaeological excavations carried out in parallel to the Galle Fort Conservation Project have uncovered a large number of antiquities, including broken pieces of special plates.

Doctor of Philosophy in Prehistory at the Sydney University, Australia Nimal Perera, who is in charge of the archaeological excavations, said this project has revealed a lot of valuable information.

Dr. Nimal Perera further stated that it has been revealed that the dish had been made in Italy. On the back of this dish is a note logo that includes the word "Medici". The Medici is a very prominent aristocratic family in Italy. The Medici family is the royalty of the country and had been involved in various businesses during the European Renaissance. Examination of their information reveals that even Popes were descended from this family. There had also been a type of flower pots named after their family and it is a special feature that in the bro-



Excavation and conservation work near the arch



Animal remains and porcelain pottery parts found during excavation at Galle Fort.

ken plate found in the Galle Fort carries the name Medici. The numbers 1,5,5,1 are also written on the plate. However, it has not yet been confirmed the exact year of the dish production. Archaeologist Nadeera Harshajith, an external lecturer at the Rajarata University, said the dish might have been imported by Europeans. He presumes that the Medici family in Italy might have had business relations with the Portuguese and Dutch in Sri Lanka.

However, further investigations are to be carried out. Excavations at the site have uncovered a large number of broken pottery, glass, chimneys, iron fragments, and animal bones.

The Urban Development Authority and the Department of Archeology jointly implement the Galle Fort Conservation Project.

Archaeological excavations at several sites, including the arch-shaped structures in the fort, uncovered important information about the equip-

ment used by the European nations and the foodstuff they had, Dr. Perera further said.

Excavations have uncovered a large number of fragments of wine bottles and porcelain tobacco pipes.

Examination of discarded bones reveals evidence that all edible animals, including cattle, sheep, pigs, crocodiles, fish, and oysters, were eaten by Europeans living in the Fort.

Excavations have also

uncovered some metal parts such as horseshoes, nails and chains.

"Conservation work is being carried out at the main entrance to the Fort. The topsoil for the arch was removed and excavated up to the arch wall on both sides. Then the side-walls of the arch were reinforced and the arch was reinforced with a specially prepared mortar mixture on top. This particular dish was found there.

The gates of the fort are closed these days. I had to do this as a precaution for the water leaking out of this gate. The gate will be reopened as soon as conservation work is completed," Dr. Nilan Cooray, Chartered Architect, who is the Consultant on the Fort Conservation Project, further elaborated.

Excavations at the upper part of the gate, built by the British in the centre of the Fort, also uncovered a two-door design that could be used to lift or lower the door. However, archaeologists argue that no door was ever erected at the site.

# Tourists without facemasks, an issue in Kataragama

M. NELSON PIYARATNE

Kataragama Group Corr.

Most of the foreign tourists visiting Kataragama are reluctant to wear facemasks despite the continuous awareness programmes conducted by the authorities.

When contacted Medical Officer of Health (MOH) of Kataragama Dr. L.A. Devanarayana said that steps would be taken to resolve this problem.



A foreign tourist sitting casually in front of a shop without a facemask in Kataragama.

# Eight Ayurvedic doctors for Eastern Province

I.L. RIZAN

Addalachenai Central Correspondent

Eight Ayurvedic doctors received letters of appointment from the Eastern Province Indigenous Department Commissioner Dr. R. Srithar to follow their internship.

The ceremony was held at the Indigenous Medicine Department office in Trincomalee recently.

Four doctors will serve at Kappalthurai in the Trincomalee District, three at Sathrukondan in the Batticaloa District and one in the Ampara District.

All these doctors will serve at drug manufacturing factories.



An Ayurvedic doctor receiving the letter of appointment

# Wari Saubhagya programme begins in Galewela

A.A.L. DIAS

Matale District Group Corr.

The Government has taken steps to rehabilitate the rural tanks and anicuts in the Matale District under the irrigation scheme *Wari Saubhagya* with the objective of improving agricultural activities and uplifting the rural economy and the renovation work of 38 minor tanks in the district has already commenced this year, Matale District Parliamentary Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon said.

He was speaking at the inception of the renovation work of the Puwakpitiya tank in the Galewela Divisional Secretariat area recently.



Chief Incumbent of the Bambawa Rajamaha Viharaya Ven. Lenawa Mangala Thera and Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon on the occasion.

He further stated that the highest number of tanks which is being repaired under this programme is in the Dambulla Electorate. He added 24 tanks

are being renovated in Dambulla.

In addition, plans have already been made to develop Galewela town along with Dam-

bulle. It is essential to upgrade the Galewela Divisional Hospital as a major hospital in the area.

He said the main objective is to widen the roads in Galewela town to 55 feet and construct four lanes. "This will greatly reduce the existing traffic congestion in the town limit. The support of the people is essential to carry out such development activities. We have to think anew in order to carry out these new development activities" the MP said.

"The people who obtained preferential votes from this area during the last elections should also support this development.

Plans are afoot to renovate the small tank located in the center of Galewela, a major town on the A6 road, and to build a walking lane around it," he said.

Tennakoon added that the Galewela town will be gradually improved in the future with all infrastructure facilities.

Chief Incumbent of the Bambawa Rajamaha Viharaya Ven. Lenawa Mangala Thera, Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon, Galewela Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman M.P.R. Jayathilake and other irrigation officials were also present.

# CAA thwarts rice mafia in Kekirawa

AMILA PRABHATH WANASINGHE

Anuradhapura Additional District Corr.

Anuradhapura Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) officers on Thursday evening seized a stock of rice stored in a rice production place in Thibbatuwewa, Kekirawa which had been prepared to be released to the market with false information on the packaging.

The officers took steps to seal the place and the suspects are scheduled to be produced at the Kekirawa Magistrate's Court on March 25. The raid carried out on a tip-



The raid being conducted.

off revealed the batch number, date of manufacture and expiry date had been altered on this stock of rice.

"The date of manufacture, expiry date and batch number on the orig-

inal packages were erased and stickers with new details had been pasted on top and prepared to be sent to the market," officers said.

At the same time, no selling price was marked on any of the bags, the officers said. Among the bags taken into the custody of officers of the Consumer Affairs Authority were samba rice in 25kg packs and about 5,500 kg of keeri samba rice. Senior Investigating Officer in Charge of the Anuradhapura Consumer Affairs Authority, B.A.C.P. Perera, Investigating Officers, A.M.S.K. Abey-singhe, Chathura Wanninayake, W.M.P.K. Wijepala, W.D.S. Chathurani and R.S.M. Rishmi carried out the raid.

# MP Sritharan gives statement

## Court order violated

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE

Northern Province Special Corr.

The Mannar Police has taken a statement from Kilinochchi TNA Parliamentarian S. Sritharan for violating a Court order issued by the Mannar Magistrate Court.

The Police said legal steps would be taken against him in due course.

According to Police, he had organized a protest breaching a Court order and regulations to prevent the spread of Corona epidemic. Police said during the protest he had made statements to foreign media against the Government while making the public to exhibit placards against the Government.

# Red light from CAA to errant traders

S.M. WIJAYARATNE

Kurunegala Corr.

Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) Chairman Shantha Dissanayake has launched a special operation to arrest the traders who are planning to sell rice at exorbitant prices during the forthcoming Sinhala and New Year festive season.

Accordingly, about 1,200 CAA investigation officers would be deployed country-wide for this purpose.

"It is clear that there are enough stocks of paddy in the country to meet the needs of rice of the people. However, both large-scale

rice mill owners and wholesale rice selling companies have created an artificial shortage of rice in the country to exploit the innocent consumers," CAA Chairman said.

Speaking to the *Daily News* yesterday (19) in Kurunegala, he said, "the Government has declared a fixed rate for rice to protect both the consumer and the traders alike. Therefore, the exploitation of consumers by traders unfairly cannot be allowed. I request the public to inform us immediately if traders who sell rice at higher prices are identified."

# Foreigner nabbed over vandalism

S.M. WIJAYARATNE

Kurunegala Corr.

Kuliyapitiya Police officers arrested an Indian who had demolished the heads of some statues of Buddha that were placed at a shrine in the Rathmalewatta area on Wednesday late evening. The suspect was arrested on the following day (18).

Police investigations revealed that the suspect was a narcotic and drug addict. The suspect has come to Sri Lanka about 16 years ago and he has got married to a Lankan woman.

Kurunegala District SLPP Parliamentarian Samanpriya Herath and

Kuliyapitiya PS Chairman Wijesiri Ekanayake too visited the place along with the police.

Kuliyapitiya SSP Mahinda Dissanayake and MP Herath assured the Buddhists in the area that an impartial investigation would be conducted and legal action would be taken

against the offender. The suspect was to be produced before the Kuliyapitiya Magistrate yesterday (19). A senior police chief in Kurunegala told the media that about 28 cases of vandalism were reported from the Kurunegala District during the past three months.

# Sri Lanka launches first Internet Day with Indian Co-Chair

The digital chapter of the Federation of Information Technology in Sri Lanka (FITIS) is gearing up to launch the first ever 'Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021' this April. The two-day virtual event which will be held in association with the Ministry of Technology and the State Ministry of Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion, will go live on the 6th and 7th of April this year.

Spearheading the Internet Day 2021 under the theme 'Digital Inclusion' are Co-Chairs Zulfer Jiffry, President of the FITIS digital chapter and founder CEO of digital app-based mobility company PickMe; and Lathika Pai, Country Head, Venture Capital & Private Equity Partnerships at Microsoft India, with the support of Aruna Alwis, CEO of FITIS and the project committee.

"Creating an event around the internet is significant for FITIS, as this has become the single most important salvaging factor of the pandemic which impacted all our lives. One of the things that surfaced during this time is that we are not doing enough to bridge the digital divide and be inclusive. It has also become clear that it is not the responsibility of just one set of individuals to create opportunity for all, but more of a community effort to build structures that are inclusive to all levels of society," says Zulfer Jiffry, President of the FITIS digital chapter.

Last year the internet crossed its 25th

**Last year the internet crossed its 25th year milestone and there are almost 4 billion people around the world using it**

year milestone and there are almost 4 billion people around the world using it. What this highlights is that there is a lot more work to be done for it to reach every nook and cranny. The internet is particularly absent or very low amongst marginalized communities who are more vulnerable to the volatilities of day-to-day life.

The digital chapter of FITIS has tied up its goals in this respect with the roadmap for digital cooperation released by the Secretary-General of the UN. The roadmap charts a way forward for universal, affordable, and meaningful access to the internet by 2030; for human rights to be respected online; and for people to be protected from online harms and digital security threats.

The goals outlined in the roadmap and inculcated by FITIS are not only a call to action for governments of nations but also the private sector, technocrats and technical communities, civil society, and the public at



**Lathika Pai, Co-Chair for the event - Country Head, Venture Capital and Private Equity Partnerships, Microsoft India and Zulfer Jiffry, Co-Chair for the event - CEO, PickMe**

large, in order to address key issues of this digital age. In line with that FITIS has connected with several key players from the government, local and international business and tech communities, educators and experts in different fields to conduct workshops, panel discussions and online activities at the two-day virtual event.

CEO of FITIS Aruna Alwis says that since this is the first time Sri Lanka is initiating an event of this nature, they sought neighboring India's help in getting the event off the ground. "India's expertise in the field of technology is trailblazing, and they have made their Internet Day an annual summit

which is participated by industry leaders across the world in the last 5 years. We were very fortunate to have an expert like Lathika Pai, from Microsoft India, come on board as the co-chair of the event. Together with our own experts and the two Co-Chairs Zulfer and Lathika, we are doing some great work to make our first Internet Day a memorable one that will benefit all participants."

Co-Chair Lathika Pai commented, "Sri Lanka is at a critical inflexion point in digital adoption. It is important for public and private entities to come together to help accelerate this which will result in compounded growth for Sri Lanka's economy."

The two-day event will have approximately 40 virtual sessions where some important topics will be addressed by leaders and experts of the public and private sectors. The topics will include the digital vision for Sri Lanka; the country's digital strategy; bridging divides; the foundation of Sri Lanka's digital economy; connectivity to all, tech startups ecosystem etc., and some sessions will be conducted in Sinhala and Tamil. High-powered panels will moderate discussions and judge interactive competitions for the media, teachers and youth. An art competition for teachers and youth, a panel discussion for media on 'fake news in the age of information,' 'women entrepreneurs,' 'women in agriculture,' and a host of other sessions are amongst the rundown of activities.

All the events will be addressed by industry experts, subject gurus and motivational speakers who will give valuable insights on how the respective groups can benefit from the internet and what digital inclusivity can do for the entire country. The president of the digital chapter of FITIS says they have also sent out an invitation to Bill Gates, the founder of the Microsoft Corporation to address the event and await his response.

Overall, the Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021 is moving towards a great kick off with the goal of making Sri Lanka Internet Day an annual event that all stakeholders will look forward to.



## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB-2021/04)

### DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

- The Director, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for civil works as described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs.50 MN, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No.04/2016(iii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the CIDA registration and qualification requirements listed below. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director of Irrigation of respective ranges and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

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

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language should be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director of Irrigation, Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam from 22.03.2021 to 12.04.2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500.00 for Lot No :- 01 and other lots' fee shall be Rs 2000.00. The method of payment shall be by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to the Chairman of the respective Procurement Committee as indicated in the table below at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam at or before 13:00 hrs on 15.04.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid as indicated in the form of bid. (Section-4).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Bid Security included in Section-9. The amount and validity of the bid security shall be as per details given in Section-5.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at Department of Irrigation, Northern Province, New Colony Lane, A9 Road, Mankulam commencing at 10.00 hrs on 05.04.2021.

The Table referred to above is:

Lot No.	Title of Contract & Contract Identification Number	PC	Proposed contract Price (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security Amount (Rs)	Construction Period (Days)	Required CIDA Grade
<b>Mullaitivu District</b>						
1	Improvements to Head works at Maruthankulam Tank REC/Mul/VVK/2021/04	RPC	14.815	290,000.00	180	C6 or C5 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
2	Improvements to Head works at Thannimurippu Tank REC/Mul/MIK/2021/02	Div. PC	2.778	50,000.00	180	C8 or C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
<b>Kilinochchi District</b>						
3	Improvement Activities to the Headworks of Piramanthalaru Tank REC/KOC/KIE/2021/01	Div. PC	2.315	45,000.00	90	C8 or C7 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
4	Improvement Activities to the Downstream of Kanagambikai Irrigation System. REC/KOC/KIE/2021/02	Div. PC	0.925	18,000.00	75	C9 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
<b>Jaffna District</b>						
5	Improvements to Island and Coastal Area SWE Scheme. REC/KOC/JAF/2021/03	Div. PC	1.389	25,000.00	60	C9 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
<b>Vavuniya District</b>						
6	Improvements to Aliyamaruthamadu REC/VAV/VAV/2021/01	Div. PC	1.380	25,000.00	90	C9 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
<b>Mannar District</b>						
7	Improvements to FC19 Agriculture road & RB Main Canal Desilting in Periyapandivirichchan Tank & Improvements to Canal System in Thachanamaruthamadu Tank REC/VAV/MAN/2021/Pack 1	Div. PC	1.810	35,000.00	90	C9 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals
8	Improvements to downstream work at LB Main Canal (Reservation Block) in Periyamadu Tank & Improvements to Road in Adambankulam Tank REC/VAV/MAN/2021/Pack 2	Div. PC	1.680	33,000.00	90	C9 or C8 Irrigation & Drainage Canals

**PC: Procurement Committee,  
Div. PC: Divisional Procurement Committee**

**RPC: Regional Procurement Committee  
DPC: Department Procurement Committee**

**Director of Irrigation,  
Irrigation Department,  
Northern Province.  
T.P: 021 2285472, 021 2285652**

**Date: 20.03.2021**

## SLIIT Graduates receive Scholarships from German Universities



**Binura Perera**



Several graduates from SLIIT received scholarships to pursue their postgraduate studies in prestigious universities in Germany. SLIIT recently celebrated the first batch of SLIIT Alumni students who will transfer to Germany for Postgraduate studies. Praveen, Hasal and Varuni have enrolled at the University of Bremen for Postgraduate programmes in MSc Control, Microsystems and Microelectronics. The University of Bremen is among one of Germany's top eleven universities of excellence. Binura Perera is a recipient of the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) Scholarship awarded by the German government for potential leaders from developing countries. Remarkably this scholarship for the renewable energy domain has been awarded to a Sri Lankan after a lapse of 15 years.

After graduating from SLIIT in 2017 with the award for the best performer and a first-class degree in Mechanical Engineering, Binura has

made great strides in creating sustainable energy benchmarks for the apparel industry.

The team achieved the world's second-highest score for a green manufacturing plant (LEED) awarded by the US Green Building Council for the Brandix Batticaloa factory, with several first in Sri Lanka and first in the region projects. Commenting on these scholarships, Prof. Nimal Rajapakse, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of SLIIT said, "This is not only recognition of their academic abilities but also showcases SLIIT's track-record in producing world-class graduates who can compete with the best in the world. We are confident that these graduates will make the best out of this wonderful opportunity and serve our nation after they complete postgraduate studies."

Before studying in Germany, Varuni graduated from SLIIT with a BSc in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, achieving First class hon-

ours. During which she was also awarded the Dean's List recognition for three consecutive years. Since mid-2020, she has been studying for her MSc. in Control, Microsystems and Microelectronics at the University of Bremen, Germany.

Praveen was an Academic Instructor at SLIIT's Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He graduated from SLIIT with a BSc Electrical and Electronic Engineering and was awarded the Dean's List recognition. His research interests include Machine learning, Embedded Systems, Computer Vision and Image processing, etc.

Hasal was employed as an assistant lecturer at SLIIT's Engineering Department after graduating with a BSc. Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He obtained first - class honours. A member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (MIET), Hasal interned as a trainee at the Ceylon Electricity Board and the Airport & Aviation Authority.

## PARKLAND shared working spaces with CO WORK

R I L Property PLC recently launched CO WORK, a 3,000 square foot co-working space located on the 10th floor of the PARKLAND Building located on Park Street, Colombo 02. CO WORK was launched to provide affordable and state of the art smart working spaces for individuals and teams on a temporary, short term or long term basis. It was designed to provide customers with peace of mind work facilities with security, access to the facility through a touchless access system and comfortable COVID-19 compliant work stations.

Speaking at the launch for CO WORK Hiroshini Fernando, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of R I L Property PLC stated that "We feel co-working spaces are fast becoming the norm as more companies are looking to "de-densify" their



occupying the space. Today, visible hygiene is a necessity in making customers feel comfortable in a shared space and we make it happen."

CO WORK is a professional office set up that can be hired for a day, a week or months based on the need of the customer. Membership amenities include a private conference room, meeting rooms, complimentary coffee and water, high-speed Wi-Fi and access to a professional high-speed printer. Access to the location and its facilities is between 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, from Monday to Sunday, however, the facility will be accessible 24/7.

CO WORK is the latest venture by R I L Property PLC, and is located on the 10th floor at PARKLAND Building an elite Grade 'A' commercial office complexes, situated in Colombo 02.

# EU countries to resume AstraZeneca vaccinations

WHO reiterates call to continue use of AstraZeneca jab

Global vaccine jabs top 400 million

**THE NETHERLANDS:** Leading EU countries said they would resume AstraZeneca vaccinations after the European medical regulator said the jab is "safe and effective" and not associated with a higher blood clot risk after days of commotion around the shot.

The closely-watched announcement from the European Medicines Agency (EMA) came after the WHO and Britain's health watchdog both said the vaccine was safe, adding that it was far riskier to not get the shot as several countries face a worrying rise in coronavirus cases.

After the EMA's announcement a raft of European countries said they would soon resume vaccinations, including Germany, France, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

The World Health Organization on Thursday renewed a call for countries to continue the use of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine.

"The benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine far outweigh its risks and its use should continue, to save lives," the WHO's Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge told a press conference.

However Norway and Sweden said they were not ready to resume using the vaccine.

So far, more than 400 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered globally, mostly in wealthier nations that have secured contracts with drug makers.

AstraZeneca's shot, among the cheapest available and easier to store and transport than some of its rivals, has been billed as the vaccine of choice for poorer nations.

It is currently a vital part of Covax, which was set up to procure COVID-19 vaccines and ensure their equitable distribution around the world.

The EMA's chief Emer Cooke said Thursday that after an investigation into the AstraZeneca jab, its "committee has come to a clear scientific conclusion: this is a safe and effective vaccine".

"The committee also concluded that the vaccine is not associated with an increase in the overall risk of thromboembolic events or blood clots," she added.

However, the agency said it "cannot rule out definitively" a link to a rare clotting disorder.

The UK health regulator also said there were no links between blood clots and the Pfizer vaccine. - AFP



## COVID-19 may become 'seasonal disease', says UN



**SWITZERLAND:** COVID-19 appears likely to develop into a seasonal disease, the United Nations said Thursday, cautioning though against relaxing pandemic-related measures simply based on meteorological factors.

More than a year after the novel coronavirus first surfaced in China, a number of mysteries still surround the spread of the disease that has killed nearly 2.7 million people worldwide.

In its first report, an expert team tasked with trying to shed light on one of those mysteries by examining potential meteorological and air quality influences on the spread of Covid-19, found some indications the disease would develop into a seasonal menace.

The 16-member team set up by the UN World Meteorological Organization pointed out that respiratory viral infections are often seasonal, "in particular the autumn-winter peak for influenza and cold-causing coronaviruses in temperate climates."

"This has fuelled expectations that, if it persists for many years, COVID-19 will prove to be a strongly seasonal disease," it said in a statement.

Modelling studies anticipate that transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 disease, "may become seasonal over time".

But COVID-19 transmission dynamics so far appear to have been influenced mainly by government interventions like mask mandates and travel restrictions,

they said, rather than the weather. The task team therefore insisted that weather and climate conditions alone should for now not be the trigger for loosening anti-COVID restrictions.

"At this stage, evidence does not support the use of meteorological and air quality factors as a basis for governments to relax their interventions aimed at reducing transmission," said task team co-chair Ben Zaitchik of the earth and planetary sciences department at The John Hopkins University in the United States. He pointed out that during the first year of the pandemic, infections in some places rose in warm seasons, "and there is no evidence that this couldn't happen again in the coming year". The experts, who focused only on outdoor meteorology and air quality conditions in the report, said laboratory studies had provided some evidence the virus survives longer in cold, dry weather and when there is low ultraviolet radiation.

But it remained unclear whether meteorological influences "have a meaningful influence on transmission rates under real world conditions".

They also highlighted that evidence around the impact of air quality on the virus remained "inconclusive".

There was some preliminary evidence that poor air quality increases Covid-19 mortality rates, "but not that pollution directly impacts airborne transmission of SARS-CoV-2". - AFP

## Refugees face long 'struggle' for COVID vaccines

**SWITZERLAND:** The UN said Thursday that vaccinating some of the world's most vulnerable refugees could drag on beyond 2022 due to the slow roll-out of COVID-19 jabs in host countries.

UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, said many urban refugees were driven into a downward spiral of poverty last year by the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile the capacity for dealing with COVID-19 among refugees in rural areas was very limited.

The UNHCR is seeking \$455 million (382 million euros) to tackle the additional problems posed in protecting refugees from the effects of the pandemic.

"Now the struggle is for vaccines," Sajjad Malik, UNHCR's resilience and solutions

director, told reporters. "2021 is the beginning but it may very much go into 2022 and beyond because the vaccine is trickling down very slowly into these countries."

There are around 80 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, according to UNHCR's latest statistics.

These include 45.7 million internally displaced people, 26.3 million refugees and 4.2 million asylum seekers.

Despite early fears that refugee camps would prove ideal breeding grounds for the virus, the situation for refugees tends to mirror that of their host communities, Malik said.

Some 48 percent of child refugees were out of school due to the pandemic - with girls more heavily affected. - AFP



A paramedic from Israel's Magen David Adom medical services administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a Palestinian at the Shuafat refugee camp.

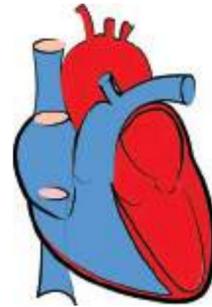
## Boy gets heart transplant after 17 months in hospital

**ITALY:** A seven-year-old boy has received a heart transplant after spending 17 months being kept alive by an artificial heart in an Italian children's hospital, the facility said Wednesday.

The young patient was "successfully operated on after 525 days of hospitalisation" the Regina Margherita Hospital in the northwestern city of Turin said.

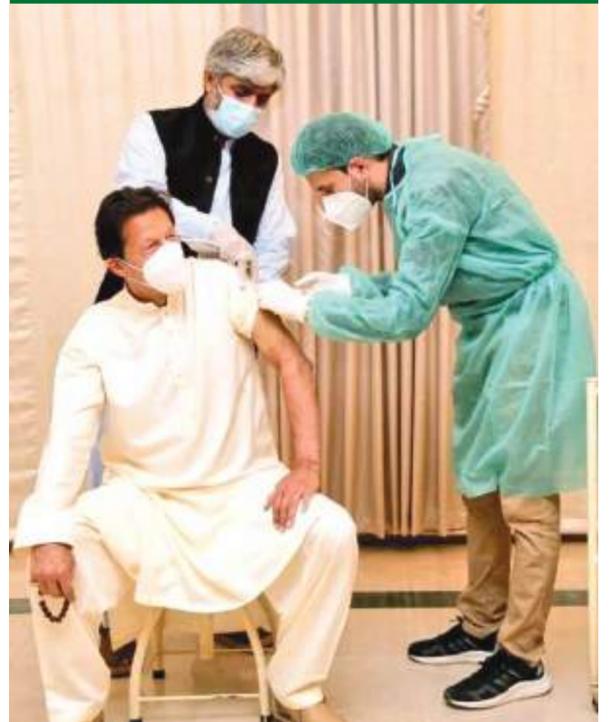
The hospitalisation period was "a real record with a happy ending," it said a statement. The boy was dismissed "a few days ago", the hospital added. Originally from Morocco, he arrived in Italy - where his father had moved for work reasons - in the summer of 2019, after developing symptoms of heart failure.

His condition worsened quickly, leading to cardiac arrest. He survived after doctors put him on a life support machine and implanted him



with an artificial heart. It then took a long time to perform a heart transplant "because there aren't that many organs available for young children", a hospital spokesman told AFP. During his stay, the boy "developed a taste for Italian cuisine" and learnt Italian, while his parents, who stayed with him throughout, had another son, the hospital said. - AFP

## Imran receives Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine jab



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan receives a dose of the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Islamabad, Pakistan on Thursday. - XINHUA

**PAKISTAN:** Days after the Pakistani President received a Sinopharm vaccine jab, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday also received his COVID-19 jab with Sinopharm vaccine. Khan, 68, received his COVID-19 jab in Islamabad, Special Assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Health Faisal Sultan confirmed.

The Pakistani prime minister was administered the vaccine dose during the second phase of the vaccination process in the country in which people over 60 years of age are receiving vaccine doses.

On the occasion, Khan stressed that people across the country should follow the standard operating procedures to fight against the third wave of COVID-19 in the country, according to a statement from the Prime Minister Office.

On Monday, Pakistani President Arif Alvi and his wife Samina Alvi received their COVID-19 jabs with the Sinopharm vaccine in Islamabad.

Pakistan on Wednesday received the second batch of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government.

Pakistan officially launched its National COVID Immunization Program across the country in early February shortly after receiving the Chinese government-donated Sinopharm vaccines, with the frontline healthcare workers given the priority for inoculation. - XINHUA

## Mexico announces COVID border restrictions

**MEXICO:** Mexico announced Thursday restrictions on non-essential crossings at its border with Guatemala to curb the spread of COVID-19, a move that coincides with increased migrant flows towards the United States.

The government also prolonged the closure of its northern border with the United States to all but essential land traffic in response to a pandemic that has left more than 196,000 people dead in Mexico.

"To prevent the spread of COVID-19... restrictions will be imposed on land transit for non-essential activities on the northern and southern borders," the foreign ministry said on Twitter. It said the restrictions would begin on Friday and remain in effect at least until April 21. The Mexican-US border has been closed to non-essential land traffic such as tourists and occasional visitors for the past year, but it is the first time such measures have been imposed on the border with Guatemala.

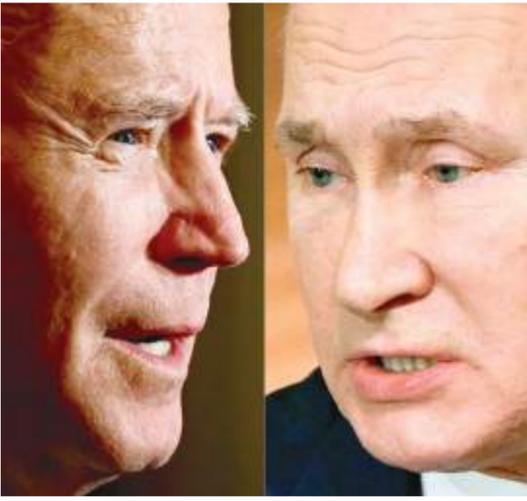
Mexico's southern border has been patrolled since 2019 by the National Guard to stop migrant caravans crossing over. The new border restrictions coincide with an increase in arrivals of migrants, mainly Central Americans, heading to the United States to flee violence and poverty in their countries. US President Joe Biden this week urged migrants not to come to the United States. - AFP



Central American migrants travelling to Tijuana, Mexico on their way to the US border.



# 'TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE': Putin blasts Biden over 'killer' comment



The war of words between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin has been described as a 'watershed moment' in relations between the US and Russia.

**RUSSIA:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday mocked Joe Biden for calling him a "killer" - saying "it takes one to know one" - as ties between Moscow and Washington sank to new lows.

US President Biden's comments sparked the biggest crisis between Russia and the United States in years, with Moscow recalling its ambassador for consultations and warning that ties were on the brink of outright "collapse".

But speaking during an event marking seven years since Russia's annexation of Crimea, Putin ruled out severing ties with the United States altogether and lobbed a jab at the 78-year-old US leader.

"We always see in another person our own qualities and think that he is the same as us," Putin said, referring to Biden's "killer" comment.

"It takes one to know one," Putin added, citing a saying from

his Soviet-era childhood in Saint Petersburg.

Putin added that he wished Biden health. "I'm saying this without irony, not as a joke."

Later on Thursday, Putin invited Biden to hold a live online conversation either on Friday or Monday.

He said it would be an "open direct discussion" that would be "interesting" for the people of Russia and the United States.

In the interview with ABC News on Wednesday, Biden said Putin would "pay a price" for trying to undermine his candidacy in the US election in 2020.

Asked if he thought Putin was "a killer", Biden replied: "I do."

The White House on Thursday said Biden does not regret his comment.

"No, the President gave a direct answer to a direct question," Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters.

When asked about the possibility of virtual talks, Psaki did not

give an immediate answer but indicated that Biden was traveling on Friday and was "quite busy".

Biden's comments stood in stark contrast with his predecessor, Donald Trump, who was often accused of going soft on Putin. In recent years Russia's relationship with Washington has gone from bad to worse, and there were calls in Moscow for Russia to pause diplomatic relations.

Putin said Thursday however that Moscow would continue working with the United States on terms "beneficial" to Russia.

"We can defend our interests," Putin said. "And they will have to deal with it," he said.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov, speaking earlier, described Biden's remarks as "very bad".

"It is clear that he does not want to get the relationship with our country back on track," Peskov said. - AFP

## Nineteen die in Madagascar after eating turtle flesh

**MADAGASCAR:** Nineteen people, nine of them children, have died from food poisoning in Madagascar after eating a turtle, sources said Thursday.

Thirty-four people were hospitalized on Monday in Vatomantry, in the east of the island, after eating the protected species, the Health and Food Safety Control Agency said.

Ten of them died, it said.

Another nine people, all of them children, died

at home after eating meat from the same turtle, region's governor said.

Health authorities have warned against eating turtles, as well two dozen species of fish, which feed on algae that can be toxic during the November-March hot season.

Dozens of food poisonings occur each year in coastal Madagascar and deaths are common.

Sixteen fatalities were recorded in two incidents in the 2017-18 hot season. - AFP



## Atlanta shootings expose fear in Asian-American community

**US:** Asian-American communities were on alert Thursday after a shooting rampage that left six women of Asian origin dead and stoked fears in a population already alarmed by a surge in hate crimes during the coronavirus pandemic.

Three massage parlors around Atlanta were targeted Tuesday, before a 21-year-old man suspected of the killings was arrested in southwest Georgia hours later.

"It's heartbreaking," said Andrew Yang, a former Democratic Presidential hopeful who is running for mayor of New York.

"I've been Asian all my life, and I remember - vividly - growing up with this constant sense of invisibility, mockery, disdain, a sense that you cannot be American if you

have an Asian face," Yang said.

"But this has metastasized into something new and deadly and virulent and hateful," he told a press conference in New York alongside the Black civil rights activist Al Sharpton.

The White House announced that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who were already scheduled to be in Atlanta on Friday, would meet Asian-American leaders to "discuss the ongoing attacks and threats against the community."

Robert Aaron Long, of Woodstock, Georgia, faces eight counts of murder and one charge of aggravated assault for Tuesday's attacks, in which six of the eight people killed were women of Asian descent.

He has admitted carrying out the attacks, according to law enforcement, but claims he was not motivated by racial hatred.

"For many Asian-Americans, Tuesday's shocking events felt like the inevitable culmination of a year in which there were nearly 3,800 reported incidents of anti-Asian hate," Representative Steve Cohen said.

They have grown "increasingly more violent over time as the Covid-19 pandemic worsened," Cohen, a Democratic lawmaker from Tennessee, said.

Georgia is home to nearly 500,000 people of Asian origin, or just over four percent of its population, according to the Asian American Advocacy Fund. - AFP



People march during the "Asian Solidarity March" rally against anti-Asian hate in response to recent anti-Asian crime in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The shooting rampage in Atlanta by a 21-year-old white man left six women of Asian origin dead. - AFP

## US House passes bill including pathway for 'Dreamers'

**US:** The US House of Representatives passed two immigration bills Thursday that would provide legal status for millions of undocumented immigrants known as "Dreamers", but the measures have an uncertain future in the evenly divided Senate.

Rather than trying to ram through comprehensive immigration reform similar to the massive effort that failed in 2013 - and during today's heightened tensions along the US-Mexico border - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi opted for a different strategy.

She aims to coax a pair of more modest measures through Congress and towards President Joe Biden's desk.

Many of the undocu-

mented immigrants who would be given status under the bills "have worked tirelessly on the frontlines throughout this pandemic to keep our country afloat, fed, and healthy - yet they are forced to live with fear and uncertainty because of their immigration status," Biden said in a statement.

The White House has endorsed the two bills, including one that offers a citizenship pathway for undocumented young people, known as "Dreamers," who were brought to the United States as children.

The American Dream and Promise Act passed on a vote of 228 to 197, with support from nine Republicans.

The other formalizes the legal status of migrant farmworkers - who the



US Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, speaks about immigration at a press briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on Thursday. - AFP

## Bushfires spewed as much smoke into stratosphere as volcano - study

**US:** The bushfires that ravaged Australia between 2019 and 2020 were so huge that they spewed as much smoke into the stratosphere as a large volcanic eruption, with serious consequences for the environment, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Science.

The stratosphere is the second layer of the atmosphere, right above the troposphere - where we live.

"For us it was a huge surprise" to see such a significant effect, study co-author Ilan Koren, a professor at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, told AFP.

"I never saw such an injection (of smoke) to the stratosphere," he said.

The amount of smoke released into the atmosphere by the fires is comparable to that put out by the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991, which was the second-largest of the 20th century.

Researchers noted that the smoke drifted away from Australia to the east, and then returned again from the west two weeks later.

"We could see the smoke completing a whole circulation in two weeks," Koren said. "I never saw such a strong event spread so fast." - AFP



Fighting devastating bushfires in Australia in 2019.

## Indian passenger train 'rolls backwards for 35 km'

**INDIA:** An Indian passenger train rolled backwards for 35 kilometres (20 miles), reports said Thursday, in an alarming but injury-free incident caught in a video that went viral on social media.

The "mechanical failure" hit service from New Delhi to Tanakpur, Uttara-

khand state, after the driver slammed on the brakes to avoid hitting an animal on the tracks, the NDTV channel reported.

The rail company later said the animal in question was a cow.

Reports said the out-of-control train reversed almost 35 kilometres, but the railways ministry did

not immediately confirm the distance.

Fatal accidents are common on India's vast but often dilapidated railway network, although in Wednesday's incident there were no injuries or deaths.

A tight-lipped statement from North Eastern Railway said only that an "incident" on Wednesday

occurred "due to cattle run over". It did not elaborate on how the train was brought under control.

"Train stopped just short of Khatima yard safely. There was no derailment and all passengers were transported to Tanakpur safely," it said, adding that the driver and the guard had been suspended. - AFP



## Indian drugmaker to produce 200 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V

**RUSSIA:** The developer of Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine said Friday it had signed a partnership with an India-based drugmaker for the production of 200 million doses of the two-dose jab.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which backed the development of Sputnik V, said in a statement it had partnered with Stelis Biophar-

ma "to produce and supply a minimum of 200 million doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine". Stelis Biopharma is expected to be able to start supplying the vaccine from the second half of the year.

RDIF, added that Stelis - the biopharma unit of global pharmaceutical company Strides - will work with the Russian wealth fund to provide

supplies "beyond the initial agreement".

RDIF head Kirill Dmitriev said that the "significant vaccine volumes" produced with Stelis "will help widen access to the vaccine on a global scale".

RDIF said Friday that 52 countries have approved the use of Russia's Sputnik V, named after the Soviet-era satellite.

Moscow registered the jab in August before large-scale clinical trials, but leading medical journal The Lancet has since said it is safe and over 90 percent effective.

Some Western countries have been wary of Sputnik over concerns the Kremlin would use it as a soft power tool to advance its interests. - AFP

## Thailand prepares for Myanmar exodus

**MYANMAR:** Roads out of Myanmar's biggest city were choked Friday with people fleeing the junta's deadly crackdown on anti-coup dissent, as authorities in neighbouring Thailand said they were preparing for an influx of refugees.

On Friday, local media showed traffic clogging up a main highway going north out of Yangon, report-

ing that people were fleeing the city for rural areas. Across the Myanmar border in Thailand's Tak province, authorities said they were preparing shelters for an influx of potential refugees.

"If many Myanmar people flow across the border because of an urgent case, we have prepared the measures... to receive them," said provincial governor Pongrat

Promrat. He said Tak Province would be able to support about 30,000 to 50,000 people, though he confirmed that no one appears to have flooded across the border yet.

About 90,000 refugees from Myanmar already live along the porous border, fleeing decades of civil war between the military and ethnic armed groups. - AFP



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM**  
**SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SLTDA)**  
**Invitation for Bid (IFB)**

**DISPOSAL OF A USED MOTOR CAR (NISSAN SUNNY – KB - 6646)**

F/DPC/2021/07

- The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority invites sealed proposals from the interested Bidders on Disposal of a used Motor Car (Nissan Sunny).
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be downloaded from the SLTDA Website (<https://sltta.gov.lk/tender>) by interested bidders from **19th March 2021 to 09th April 2021**.
- The payment of non-refundable fee **LKR 2000.00** should be deposited to the Bank **AC No. 7119413**, Bank of Ceylon, Corporate Branch, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (**Note: Please Fill the Depositors Details and Purpose of Deposit in the Cash Deposit Slip as "Non Refundable Tender Fee" and it is mandatory to submit the aforesaid original cash deposit slip with the Bid. The payment should be made in cash and other payments are not allowed**)
- The vehicle can be inspected at the SLTDA premises with authorized officer from **22nd March 2021 to 07th April 2021** during 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m on working days.
- Sealed Bids with the duplicate to be delivered to **Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, No.80, Galle Road, Colombo 03** on or before **09th April 2021 at 2.00 p.m.** It should be written as **"Disposal of a used Motor Car (Nissan Sunny – KB - 6646)"** at the left-hand corner of the Envelop. Late Bids will be rejected and Bids will be opened soon after closing at the **Lobby at Ground Floor, SLTDA, 80, Galle Road, Colombo 03** in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 91 days from the date of closing of bids.
- Bids shall be submitted with a **Refundable Guarantee** for a value of **Sri Lankan Rupees Twenty Thousand (LKR 20,000.00)** and should be deposited to the Bank **AC No. 7119413**, Bank of Ceylon, Corporate Branch, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (**Note: Please Fill the Depositors Details and Purpose of Deposit in the Cash Deposit Slip as "Refundable Tender Fee" and it is mandatory to submit the aforesaid original cash deposit slip with the Bid. The payment should be made in cash and other payments are not allowed**)
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Director (Procurement), Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, No.80, Galle Road, Colombo 03; Telephone 0112426800 (Ext 305/277/303) / Facsimile No: 0112437954, Electronic mail address: [amilam@srilanka.travel](mailto:amilam@srilanka.travel)
- The awarded Bidder should pay 25% of the Bid Price to reserve the vehicle at the receipt of acceptance. And remaining 75% amount shall be settled within 7 days of the receipt of acceptance. If the Bidder failed to settle the whole amount within 7 days the paid 25% payment and the Refundable deposit will be deposited to a SLTDA account.
- The Departmental Procurement Committee's decision will be the final decision. Further, SLTDA has the right to accept or reject any bid without adducing any reason.

**Chairman**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee**  
**Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority**  
**No. 80, Galle Road, Colombo 03.**



**MINISTRY OF PADDY AND CEREALS, ORGANIC FOOD,  
VEGETABLES, FRUITS, CHILLIES, ONIONS AND POTATOES,  
SEED PRODUCTION AND HIGH TECH AGRICULTURE**

**Calling Applications for lease of Business Premises at the  
Dedicated Economic Center - Welisara**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

Sealed bids are invited from eligible manufacturers / entrepreneurs to be awarded on the following business premises lease basis at the Welisara Dedicated Economic Center

	Shop No.	Shop Size (square meters)	Materials to be marked	Government charged monthly estimated tax amount (Rs.)
1.	C - 21	16.158	Fruits/Keera/Coconut/Dry Fish	7,250.00
2.	T - 4 (Temporary)	2	Lottery	2,000.00

Business premises will be leased for a period of six (06) years and renewed every six (06 out of 06) years and the monthly rent will be revised every three years (03 out of 03) as per the government estimate.

Only those who are financially capable of paying continuous rent, water and electricity charges and assessment fees, transport facilities and other legal requirements and who are able to engage in fair and competitive trading in accordance with government regulations should submit a bid.

A particular Economic Center lessee or his family member will not be eligible for this.

The application fee is Rs. 2,000 / - Non-Refundable and Refundable Procurement Guarantee Rs.5000/- deposit to People's Bank, **'Welisara Dedicated Economic Center Management Trust' Account No. 222-1-001-1-0977112**, Wattala Branch and applications can be obtained by submitting the payment receipt to the office of the Welisara Dedicated Economic Center. On the top left hand corner of the envelope the caption should be clearly marked as **'Invitation of Quotations for business premises at Dedicated Economic Center-Welisara 2021'**.

Successful bidders should enter into an agreement, for the business premises given on lease basis and lessees should utilize the premise for relevant business purposes, and subleasing or alienation of the properties in any form whatsoever is strictly prohibited. On giving these business premises on lease for marketing of approved products and entrepreneurs who are residents of the relevant area will be given preference.

Suitable business persons will be selected by an interview, through a prior examination, of the applicants, financial and business (entrepreneurial) and other capabilities and qualifications indicated. Welisara Dedicated Economic Center Management Trust, reserves the right on the selection of suitable persons or accepting or rejection of any application.

Applications received after 10.00 am on 07/04/2021 will be rejected. We are not responsible for delays in the mail.

**P.D.T.C. Rajika**  
**Secretary,**  
**Management Trust**  
**Divisional Secretary - Wattala**  
**18.03.2021**

**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**PROVISION OF PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE  
TO THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA  
YEAR 2021-2023**

**CONTRACT NO: BOI/ADMN/S&S/Q/02/2021**

- The Chairman Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from the eligible and qualified Bidders for the provision of Private Security Services for Offices, Zones and Industrial Parks of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka as given below.

The services are required for the following locations.

- Export Processing Zones at;**  
Katunayake, Seethawaka, Horana, Wathupitiwala, Mirigama, Mawathagama, Polgahawela, Keragala - Biyagama Perth Paradise - Horana
- Industrial Parks at;**  
Malwatta, Kandy (Pallekale)
- Head Office and Regional Offices at;**  
World Trade Centre - Colombo 01, Trincomalee, Jaffna

- To be eligible for Contract award, Bidders should have;
  - Minimum of three (03) years experience in providing Security Services for at least one (01) office complex or Industrial complex.
  - Provided Security Services for an Office Complex or an Industrial Complex where at least 1000 workforce available at a time in maximum of two (2) locations.
- The Intended Service Period is two (02) years.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Security & Fire) of BOI on Telephone No. 011 2346159, 011 2427267, Fax: 011 2336289, E-mail: [asokaa@boi.lk](mailto:asokaa@boi.lk) or 011 2387150, 011 2427181.
- Bidding Document may be inspected during working days at the Stores & Supplies Unit, Administration Department, Level 09, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Colombo 01 from 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours up to 08.04.2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Document may be purchased by interested Bidders from the Stores & Supplies Unit on the submission of a written request on a business letterhead upon making a non-refundable payment of Rs.3000/- plus VAT in cash to the Shroff of BOI at Level 8, during working days between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours from 22.03.2021 until 08.04.2021.
- Bidders may bid for **all locations or one or more locations** using the same Bidding Document. Bids will be evaluated separately for different locations.
- Sealed Bids addressed to **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee II, C/o Director (Administration), Administration Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 09, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Colombo 01** shall be sent either by registered post or shall be deposited in the Tender Box placed at the Stores & Supplies Unit of the above address to be reached on or **before 10:00 hours on 09.04.2021**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time of Bids at the above address in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 09.07.2021.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as specified in Section II of the Bidding Document and shall be valid up to 09.08.2021.

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

# Employment Opportunities

**Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd**

**VACANCIES**

**Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following vacancies existing in Lanka Coal (Pvt) Ltd.**

**1. Management Assistant (01)**

Shall have passed G.C.E Ordinary Level Examination at one sitting with Credit Passes for at least 05 subjects including Sinhala/ Tamil Language, Mathematics and English and shall have passed G.C.E. A/L at one sitting (in three subjects under new syllabus and four subjects under old syllabus)

or

Shall have passed G.C.E Ordinary Level Examination at one sitting with Credit Passes for at least 05 subjects including Sinhala/ Tamil Language, Mathematics and English and at least 2 years experience in the post of Management Assistant at a recognized institute.

**AGE** : Shall be not less than 18 years and not more than 40 years of age as at **04<sup>th</sup> April 2021** (Age is not considered for internal promotions)

**Additional Qualifications** : Good communication skills in english both written and spoken preferably with IT knowledge.

**Salary Scale** : **SM- 4Rs.47,660/= - 5xRs.635/= - 10xRs.650/= - Rs.57,335/=**

**2. Office Aide (01)**

Shall have passed six subjects including Sinhala / Tamil and Mathematics with at least two credit passes at G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination in maximum of two sittings

or

Shall have obtained a Certificate of Proficiency not lower than the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level for the post of Office Assistant issued by a Technical Vocational Training Institute recognized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC)

**AGE** : Must be not less than 18 years and not more than 45 years of age as at **April 04, 2021**.

**Salary Scale** : **SN-5 - 43,715, 15x540 - 51,815**

**Nature of the Appointment :**

These posts are permanent, entitled for Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund.

**Other**

- All applicants shall be citizens of Sri Lanka.
- Shall have the physical and mental fitness required to perform the duties assigned to the post.
- Should be of an excellent moral character.

All the applicants should forward self prepared applications along with the copies of educational and professional qualifications required for the relevant post with the contact details - name, address and telephone no- of two non related referees on or before **04<sup>th</sup> April 2021** only via registered post to reach **"Acting General Manager, Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd, No 51/3, Suranimala Place, Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela, Dehiwela."**

It is essential to mention "Application for (the post you apply for)" on top left corner of the envelope. One applicant can apply for only one post and applications received after **04<sup>th</sup> April 2021** shall be rejected.

**Chairman and Managing Director**  
**Lanka Coal Company (Pvt) Ltd,**  
**No 51/3, Suranimala Place, Dutugemunu Street,**  
**Kohuwela, Dehiwela.**  
**[www.lankacoal.lk](http://www.lankacoal.lk)**

**The Housewives' companion**  
**Classifieds on**  
**Daily News**

**A+ (Ika)/Stable Outlook**  
Fitch Ratings Lanka Limited

# Financial Statements

## For the Year Ended 31 December, 2020

**NDB bank**  
Our Commitment. Your Success.

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

	BANK				GROUP						
	Period ended	Period ended	Change	Quarter ended	Period ended	Period ended	Change	Quarter ended			
	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	%	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	%	31/12/2020	31/12/2019			
	LKR '000	LKR '000		LKR '000	LKR '000		LKR '000	LKR '000			
	(Audited)	(Audited)		(Audited)	(Audited)		(Audited)	(Audited)			
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>60,657,705</b>	<b>59,113,537</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14,360,269</b>	<b>15,200,412</b>		<b>61,632,070</b>	<b>60,237,165</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14,990,178</b>	<b>15,705,533</b>
Interest Income	53,003,875	53,174,791	(0)	12,595,803	13,751,146		53,153,100	53,401,614	(0)	12,623,655	13,805,534
Interest Expenses	35,255,426	35,467,033	(1)	8,114,743	9,134,970		35,228,223	35,430,833	(1)	8,109,495	9,126,218
<b>Net Interest Income</b>	<b>17,748,449</b>	<b>17,707,758</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,481,060</b>	<b>4,616,176</b>		<b>17,924,877</b>	<b>17,970,781</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>4,514,160</b>	<b>4,679,316</b>
<b>Net Fee and Commission Income</b>	<b>4,250,284</b>	<b>3,909,229</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,346,635</b>	<b>1,156,300</b>		<b>5,434,045</b>	<b>4,868,944</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,755,289</b>	<b>1,393,941</b>
Net gain/(loss) from trading	967,284	990,160	(2)	188,477	223,630		967,284	990,160	(2)	188,477	223,630
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets at fair value through Profit or Loss	96,353	23,437	311	96,398	20,586		113,683	79,072	44	169,321	76,184
Net gains/(losses) from derecognition of financial assets	1,486,023	695,547	114	23,329	32,067		1,486,023	695,547	114	20,396	22,796
Other operating income	853,886	320,373	167	109,627	16,684		477,658	201,828	137	232,763	183,448
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>25,402,279</b>	<b>23,646,504</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6,245,526</b>	<b>6,065,443</b>		<b>26,403,847</b>	<b>24,806,332</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6,880,683</b>	<b>6,579,315</b>
<b>Impairment charges</b>											
Individual Impairment	3,840,595	2,721,578	41	1,150,372	602,299		3,840,595	2,721,578	41	1,150,372	602,299
Collective Impairment	2,390,546	1,123,979	113	932,962	562,620		2,390,546	1,123,979	113	932,962	562,620
Others	565,195	312,224	81	287,696	126,601		562,506	559,919	0	295,992	191,949
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,796,336</b>	<b>4,157,781</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2,371,030</b>	<b>1,291,520</b>		<b>6,793,647</b>	<b>4,405,476</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2,379,326</b>	<b>1,356,868</b>
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>18,605,943</b>	<b>19,488,723</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>3,874,496</b>	<b>4,773,923</b>		<b>19,610,200</b>	<b>20,400,856</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>4,501,357</b>	<b>5,222,447</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>											
Personnel Expenses	5,171,547	4,957,146	4	1,316,606	1,254,911		5,748,453	5,459,822	5	1,504,696	1,360,575
Depreciation and amortization	818,582	761,019	8	407,141	367,873		931,599	883,323	5	461,099	425,654
Other Expenses	3,409,324	3,716,314	(8)	656,877	658,395		3,720,998	4,065,345	(8)	720,780	715,915
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>9,399,453</b>	<b>9,434,479</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>2,380,626</b>	<b>2,281,179</b>		<b>10,401,050</b>	<b>10,408,490</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>2,686,575</b>	<b>2,502,144</b>
<b>Operating Profit Before VAT, NBT &amp; DRL on Financial Services</b>	<b>9,206,490</b>	<b>10,054,244</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>1,493,870</b>	<b>2,492,744</b>		<b>9,209,150</b>	<b>9,992,366</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>1,814,782</b>	<b>2,720,303</b>
Less: Value Added Tax (VAT) on Financial services	1,818,832	1,837,750	(1)	345,826	463,700		1,818,832	1,837,750	(1)	345,826	463,700
Nation Building Tax (NBT) on Financial services	-	230,710	(100)	-	45,770		-	230,710	(100)	-	45,770
Debt Repayment Levy	-	1,002,980	(100)	-	245,660		-	1,002,980	(100)	-	245,660
<b>Operating Profit After Tax on Financial Services</b>	<b>7,387,658</b>	<b>6,982,804</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,148,045</b>	<b>1,737,614</b>		<b>7,390,318</b>	<b>6,920,926</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,468,956</b>	<b>1,965,173</b>
Share of associate companies' profits/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Profit Before Taxation</b>	<b>7,387,658</b>	<b>6,982,804</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,148,045</b>	<b>1,737,614</b>		<b>7,390,318</b>	<b>6,920,926</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,468,956</b>	<b>1,965,173</b>
Less: Income tax expenses	1,857,182	1,871,204	(1)	94,515	(23,278)		2,172,970	2,035,515	7	167,223	62,360
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>5,530,476</b>	<b>5,111,600</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,053,530</b>	<b>1,760,892</b>		<b>5,217,348</b>	<b>4,885,011</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,301,733</b>	<b>1,902,813</b>
<b>Profit Attributable to:</b>											
Equity Holders of the parent	5,530,476	5,111,600	8	1,053,530	1,760,892		5,116,806	4,775,932	7	1,247,825	1,838,645
Non Controlling Interests	-	-	-	-	-		100,542	109,079	(8)	53,908	64,167
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>5,530,476</b>	<b>5,111,600</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,053,530</b>	<b>1,760,892</b>		<b>5,217,348</b>	<b>4,885,011</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,301,733</b>	<b>1,902,813</b>
Basic Earnings per share (in LKR)	23.77	21.97	8	4.53	7.57		21.99	20.53	7	5.63	7.90
Diluted Earnings per share (in LKR)	23.77	21.97	8	4.53	7.57		21.99	20.53	7	5.63	7.90

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	BANK				GROUP						
	Period ended	Period ended	Change	Quarter ended	Period ended	Period ended	Change	Quarter ended			
	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	%	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	%	31/12/2020	31/12/2019			
	LKR '000	LKR '000		LKR '000	LKR '000		LKR '000	LKR '000			
	(Audited)	(Audited)		(Audited)	(Audited)		(Audited)	(Audited)			
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>5,530,476</b>	<b>5,111,600</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,053,530</b>	<b>1,760,892</b>		<b>5,217,348</b>	<b>4,885,011</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,301,733</b>	<b>1,902,813</b>
<b>Items that will be reclassified to Income Statement</b>											
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-	-		10,880	(7,052)	254	3,857	(1,674)
Net gains/(losses) on investments in debt Instruments measured at fair value through other Comprehensive Income	8,188	1,227,304	(99)	(163,746)	259,558		5,866	1,219,194	(100)	135,466	211,035
Changes in Impairment allowance for Expected credit losses	(4,193)	33,469	(113)	45,584	19,806		(311,450)	264,848	(218)	(260,904)	76,308
Net gains/(losses) on cash flow hedges	1,613	(102,924)	102	70,649	234,735		1,613	(102,924)	102	70,649	234,735
Less: Tax expense relating to items that will be reclassified to Income Statements	340,178	(668,675)	151	58,612	(67,129)		332,575	(619,856)	154	51,100	(6,929)
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,786</b>	<b>489,174</b>	<b>(29)</b>	<b>11,098</b>	<b>446,970</b>		<b>39,484</b>	<b>754,210</b>	<b>(95)</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>513,474</b>
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to Income Statement</b>											
Net gains/(losses) on investments in equity Instruments measured at fair value through other Comprehensive Income	(143,533)	(376,829)	62	(15,679)	59,515		(143,533)	(376,829)	62	(15,679)	59,515
Revaluation of freehold Land & Buildings	68,804	307,211	(78)	68,804	307,211		90,499	320,991	(72)	90,499	320,991
Actuarial losses on defined benefit plans	(58,565)	(287,717)	80	(58,565)	(287,717)		(53,822)	(307,371)	82	(53,822)	(307,371)
Less: Tax expense relating to items that will not be reclassified to Income Statements	(11,020)	(47,923)	77	(11,020)	(47,923)		(19,404)	(41,315)	53	(19,404)	(41,315)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(144,314)</b>	<b>(405,258)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>(16,460)</b>	<b>31,086</b>		<b>(126,260)</b>	<b>(404,524)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1,594</b>	<b>31,820</b>
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income after Tax</b>	<b>201,472</b>	<b>83,916</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>(5,361)</b>	<b>478,057</b>		<b>(86,776)</b>	<b>349,686</b>	<b>(125)</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>545,295</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	<b>5,731,948</b>	<b>5,195,516</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,048,170</b>	<b>2,238,949</b>		<b>5,130,572</b>	<b>5,234,697</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>1,303,495</b>	<b>2,448,108</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>											
Equity holders of the parent	5,731,948	5,195,516	10	1,048,170	2,238,949		5,027,648	5,125,737	(2)	1,243,878	2,383,933
Non Controlling Interests	-	-	-	-	-		102,924	108,960	(4)	59,617	64,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,731,948</b>	<b>5,195,516</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,048,170</b>	<b>2,238,949</b>		<b>5,130,572</b>	<b>5,234,697</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>1,303,495</b>	<b>2,448,108</b>

### DIRECTORS INTEREST IN SHARES OF NDB AS AT 31.12.2020

NAME	NO. OF SHARES
MR. ESHANA DE SILVA	-
MR. DIMANTHA SENEVIRATNE	17,697
MR. SRIYAN COORAY	-
MR. BERNARD SINNIJAH	-
DR. DINUSHA PANDITARATNE	-
MR. SRIJEEVA MUDALIGE	-
MS. HIRANSA KALUTHANTRI	-
MR. HIRAN PERERA	-
MR. KUSHAN DALWIS, PC	-

### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	BANK	GROUP	Other Reserves						Total Equity
			Statutory Reserve	Revaluation Reserve	Fair Value Reserve	Cash flow Hedge Reserve	General Reserve	Retained Earnings	
	As at 31 Dec 2020	As at 31 Dec 2019	As at 31 Dec 2020	As at 31 Dec 2019	As at 31 Dec 2020	As at 31 Dec 2019	As at 31 Dec 2020	As at 31 Dec 2019	
	LKR '000	LKR '000	LKR '000	LKR '000	LKR '000	LKR '000	LKR '000	LKR '000	
<b>BANK</b>									
Balance as at 1 January 2019	6,469,323	1,636,479	1,041,261	(1,022,229)	10,311	5,805,707	20,966,190	34,998,042	
Transitional Impact on the adoption of SLFRS 16	-	-	-	-	-	-	(259,925)	(259,925)	
Restated opening balance under SLFRS 16	6,469,323	1,636,479	1,041,261	(1,022,229)	10,311	5,805,707	20,706,265	34,738,117	
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>									
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	5,111,600	5,111,600	5,111,600	
Other Comprehensive Income before Tax	-	-	307,211	850,475	(102,924)	(254,248)	800,514	800,514	
Tax on Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	(86,019)	(682,613)	-	52,034	(716,598)	(716,598)	
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	-	-	221,192	167,862	(102,924)	-	4,909,386	5,195,516	
Transfer to statutory reserve fund	-	260,000	-	-	-	(260,000)	-	-	
Final Dividend for the year 2018 - Scrip	1,216,011	-	-	-	-	(1,367,061)	(151,050)	(151,049)	
Final Dividend for the year 2018 - Cash	-	-	-	-	-	(298,747)	(298,747)	(298,747)	
<b>Balance as at 31 Dec 2019</b>	<b>7,685,334</b>	<b>1,896,479</b>	<b>1,262,453</b>	<b>(854,367)</b>	<b>(1,613)</b>	<b>5,805,707</b>	<b>23,689,843</b>	<b>39,483,837</b>	
<b>GROUP</b>									
Balance as at 1 January 2020	7,685,334	1,896,479	1,262,453	(854,367)	(1,613)	5,805,707	23,689,843	39,483,836	
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>									
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	5,530,476	5,530,476	5,530,476	
Other Comprehensive Income before Tax	-	-	68,804</						

**A+ (Ika)/Stable Outlook**  
Fitch Ratings Lanka Limited

# Financial Statements

## For the Year Ended 31 December, 2020

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### SEGMENTAL ANALYSIS - GROUP

For the period ended 31 December	Banking		Capital Markets		Property Investment		Others		Consolidated	
	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000
Revenue	53,003,875	53,174,791	122,022	190,623	-	-	-	-	53,125,897	53,365,414
Interest Income	4,250,284	3,909,229	838,043	610,601	212,735	179,744	93,609	129,171	5,394,671	4,828,745
Net Fee and Commission Income	967,284	990,160	-	-	-	-	-	-	967,284	990,160
Net gain/(loss) from trading	96,353	23,437	17,330	55,635	-	-	-	-	113,683	79,072
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets at fair value Through Profit or Loss	1,486,023	695,547	277	-	-	-	-	-	1,486,300	695,547
Other Operating Income	353,144	(53,976)	16,401	93,584	108,113	162,220	-	-	477,658	201,828
Total revenue from external customers	60,156,963	58,739,188	994,073	950,443	320,848	341,964	93,609	129,171	61,565,493	60,160,766
Inter-segment Revenue	-	-	2,474	11,109	64,103	65,290	-	-	66,577	76,399
Total Revenue	60,156,963	58,739,188	996,547	961,552	384,951	407,254	93,609	129,171	61,632,070	60,237,165
Impairment (charge)/reversal for loans & other losses	(6,793,647)	(4,157,781)	-	(247,695)	-	-	-	-	(6,793,647)	(4,405,476)
Segment expenses	(44,630,365)	(44,865,316)	(884,061)	(837,799)	(33,059)	(28,359)	(81,788)	(107,849)	(45,629,273)	(45,839,323)
Total segment expenses	(51,424,012)	(49,023,097)	(884,061)	(1,085,494)	(33,059)	(28,359)	(81,788)	(107,849)	(52,422,920)	(50,244,799)
Segment results	8,732,951	9,716,091	112,486	(123,942)	351,892	378,895	11,821	21,322	9,209,150	9,992,366
Income tax expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,172,970	2,035,915
Taxes on financial services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,818,832	3,071,440
Profit after taxation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,217,348	4,885,011
Other information	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Segment assets	626,834,254	529,587,542	2,372,457	3,311,447	2,803,497	2,580,015	121,410	120,629	632,131,618	535,599,626
Consolidated total assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	632,131,618	535,599,626
Segment liabilities	581,410,252	489,706,787	848,177	715,045	673,597	630,425	(3,800)	8,739	582,928,226	491,060,996
Consolidated total liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	582,928,226	491,060,996
Segmental Cash flows	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash flows from operating activities	78,875,069	14,869,405	314,470	(277,668)	70,475	128,161	(47,230)	13,613	79,212,784	14,733,511
Cash flows from investing activities	(63,052,775)	(17,919,819)	(386,354)	83,512	(8,110)	(1,742)	(804)	6,158	(63,448,043)	(17,831,891)
Cash flows from financing activities	(4,927,339)	(6,728,421)	39,117	18,500	(68,117)	(126,052)	-	-	(4,956,338)	(6,836,423)

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

For the period ended 31 December	BANK		GROUP	
	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000	2020 LKR '000	2019 LKR '000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Interest received	50,953,861	48,177,253	51,107,977	48,357,057
Fee based income received	4,257,929	3,927,886	5,443,759	4,716,160
Dividend income received	572,267	419,938	97,941	76,462
Other Operating income received	2,738,510	1,562,829	2,761,515	1,569,068
Interest paid	(35,090,639)	(32,959,532)	(35,092,828)	(32,955,191)
Personnel costs paid	(9,016,210)	(4,867,086)	(9,591,500)	(5,228,060)
Other expenses paid	(3,659,444)	(4,233,990)	(4,022,492)	(4,568,109)
Operating Profit before changes in operating assets and liabilities	14,756,274	12,037,298	14,704,372	11,959,387
(Increase)/decrease in operating assets				
Deposits held for regulatory or monetary control purposes	7,074,476	1,659,812	7,074,476	1,659,812
Financial Assets at amortised cost - loans and receivables to other customers	(33,757,683)	(50,965,915)	(33,757,683)	(50,966,827)
Net (increase)/decrease in operating assets	(26,681,409)	(48,928,617)	(26,681,409)	(48,928,617)
(Increase)/decrease in operating liabilities				
Financial liabilities at amortised cost - due to depositors	84,678,922	55,691,828	84,678,922	55,691,828
Financial liabilities at amortised cost - due to debt securities holders	49,383	(5,613,250)	49,383	(5,613,250)
Financial liabilities at amortised cost - due to other borrowers	11,746,713	(1,924,850)	11,746,713	(1,924,850)
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(366,601)	(344,416)	(427,069)	(403,516)
Net increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	(646,493)	(2,662,494)	(172,338)	(1,888,692)
Net cash generated from operating activities before taxation	83,248,813	9,496,238	83,760,885	9,362,150
Tax on Financial Services paid	(1,618,514)	(1,906,763)	(1,618,514)	(1,906,763)
Income taxes paid	(2,255,230)	(2,821,656)	(2,928,685)	(3,017,590)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	78,875,069	4,632,799	79,212,784	4,437,797
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Net changes in Financial Investments	(62,103,594)	(16,792,449)	(62,440,207)	(16,657,445)
Purchase of Intangible assets	(525,167)	(477,826)	(525,437)	(479,066)
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(426,776)	(650,538)	(485,200)	(698,320)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	2,762	994	2,921	3,050
Net cash (used in)/from investing activities	(63,052,775)	(17,919,819)	(63,448,043)	(17,831,891)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Repayment of debts securities issued	(10,000,000)	-	(10,000,000)	-
Interest paid on debts securities issued	(1,004,127)	(1,750,930)	(1,004,127)	(1,750,930)
Proceeds from debt securities issued	6,500,000	5,561,200	6,500,000	5,561,200
Dividends paid to non-controlling interests	-	-	(28,999)	(48,902)
Dividends paid to shareholders of the Bank	(423,212)	(302,077)	(423,212)	(302,077)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(4,927,339)	3,508,193	(4,956,338)	3,459,291
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	10,894,955	(9,778,835)	10,808,403	(9,934,803)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>				
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	11,994,515	21,774,885	12,372,406	22,308,744
AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	22,889,470	11,996,050	23,180,809	12,373,941
<b>RECONCILIATION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	10,487,608	5,703,468	10,778,947	6,081,359
Placements with banks	12,401,862	6,292,582	12,401,862	6,292,582
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period (Gross)	22,889,470	11,996,050	23,180,809	12,373,941
Less: Impairment Charges	(329)	(1,535)	(329)	(1,535)
Cash and cash equivalents as per Statement of Financial Position (Net)	22,889,141	11,994,515	23,180,480	12,372,406

### 10. ANALYSIS OF LOANS & ADVANCES, COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND IMPAIRMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 10.1 PRODUCT WISE GROSS LOANS AND RECEIVABLES

	Bank		Group	
	As at 31/12/2020 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2019 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2020 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2019 LKR '000
<b>By product - Domestic Currency</b>				
Term loans	131,858,232	113,984,744	131,858,232	113,984,744
Medium and short term loans	57,407,760	45,889,420	57,407,760	45,889,420
Overdrafts	44,610,265	50,324,543	44,603,265	50,255,807
Trade Finance	15,980,014	16,111,316	15,980,014	16,111,316
Consumer loans	46,455,852	37,915,878	46,455,852	37,915,878
Lease rentals receivable	28,859,756	25,842,041	28,859,756	25,842,041
Housing loans	17,286,471	15,860,023	17,286,471	15,860,023
Islamic Banking facilities	8,209,166	8,742,843	8,209,166	8,742,843
Credit cards	6,834,834	6,212,728	6,834,834	6,212,728
AF Loans	3,470,062	3,760,515	3,470,062	3,760,515
Staff loans	2,236,689	1,970,459	2,320,013	2,062,404
Pawning	2,848,203	1,117,274	2,848,203	1,117,274
Hire Purchase	6,487	13,156	6,487	13,156
Sub total	366,063,792	327,744,940	366,140,116	327,768,151
<b>By product - Foreign Currency</b>				
Term loans	8,511,276	7,519,992	8,511,276	7,519,992
Overdrafts	3,849,863	3,178,970	3,849,863	3,178,970
Medium and short term loans	38,318,879	40,777,560	38,318,879	40,777,560
Trade Finance	23,122,436	27,246,038	23,122,436	27,246,038
Islamic Banking facilities	3,624,194	3,741,555	3,624,194	3,741,555
Housing loans	46,538	30,773	46,538	30,773
Sub total	77,473,185	82,494,889	77,473,185	82,494,889
<b>Total</b>	443,536,977	409,239,829	443,613,301	409,263,040

#### 10.2 PRODUCT WISE COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES CONSIDERED FOR IMPAIRMENT

	Bank		Group	
	As at 31/12/2020 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2019 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2020 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2019 LKR '000
<b>By product - Domestic Currency</b>				
Guarantees	31,618,678	29,728,454	31,572,727	29,682,503
Performance Bonds	10,748,931	8,860,859	10,748,931	8,860,859
Documentary Credits	1,106,267	191,484	1,106,267	191,484
Acceptances	76,573	100,110	76,573	100,110
Undrawn commitments	120,787,881	109,734,383	120,937,965	109,902,471
Sub Total	164,338,330	148,615,290	164,442,463	148,737,427
<b>By product - Foreign Currency</b>				
Guarantees	13,477,010	10,832,955	13,477,010	10,832,955
Performance Bonds	6,144,458	6,428,518	6,144,458	6,428,518
Documentary Credits	17,209,824	10,683,864	17,209,824	10,683,864
Acceptances	14,694,372	8,659,851	14,694,372	8,659,851
Undrawn commitments	1,004,606	1,352,426	1,004,606	1,352,426
Sub Total	52,530,270	37,957,614	52,530,270	37,957,614
<b>Total</b>	216,868,600	186,572,904	216,972,733	186,695,041

	Bank		Group	
	As at 31/12/2020 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2019 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2020 LKR '000	As at 31/12/2019 LKR '000
<b>Gross loans and advances, Commitments and Contingencies</b>	660,405,577	595,794,336	660,586,034	595,939,684
(Less): Accumulated impairment under stage 1	3,472,657	2,682,507	3,472,657	2,682,507
Accumulated impairment under stage 2	2,743,989	1,674,451	2,743,989	1,674,451
Accumulated impairment under stage 3	11,714,823	8,215,663	11,714,823	8,215,663
<b>Net value of loans and advances, commitments and contingencies</b>	642,474,108	583,221,714	642,654,565	583,367,063

### RATED UNSECURED SUBORDINATED REDEEMABLE DEBENTURES

Type of Debenture	CSE Listing	Interest payable frequency	Balance as at 31 December 2020 LKR Mn	Market Value		Quarter end LKR	Interest Rate		Interest Rate of comparable Government Security %	Other ratios as at last trade	
				Highest LKR	Lowest LKR		Coupon Rate %	Effective Annual Yield %		Interest Yield %	Yield to Maturity %
<b>Fixed rate - Debenture September 2020</b>											
Sep 2020/ Sep 2025	Listed	Annually	6,637	Not traded during the quarter			9.50	9.16	6.57	Not traded during the quarter	
<b>Fixed rate - Debenture March 2019</b>											
A - Mar 2019/Mar 2024	Listed	Semi-annually	1,281	Not traded during the quarter			13.50	13.16	11.04	Not traded during the quarter	
B - Mar 2019/Mar 2024	Listed	Annually	4,754	Not traded during the quarter			13.95	13.15	11.04</		



## DEDICATED ECONOMIC CENTER WELISARA

### PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sealed Bids will be received for following development at Dedicated Economic Center, Welisara. Bids are to be accepted separately by the Accountant at the Divisional Secretariat Wattala up to 10.00 a.m. on 07.04.2021 and Bids will be opened immediately after the closing.

- Project**
- 1) The project of the Colour washing & painting of buildings.
  - 2) The project of the development of the 1000 ft 2 area of the ft building including room for the officers of civil defence.
  - 3) The project of the development road between courts & the 3rd building including related work.
  - 4) Rectification of drains at the premises.
  - 5) Rectification of roof gutters and down pipes of building.

**Registration** - Registration certificate & Other certificates

**Bid Security** - Bank Guarantee of Rs. 100,000.00 (Valid for 90 days)

**Document Fee** - Rs. 2,000.00

**Contract Period** - 90 days

Bid forms could be obtained from the Dedicated Economic Center, Welisara on payment, of the abovementioned document fee and by producing a request letter along with the registration certificate and other certificates above, before 06.04.2021 from 10.00 a.m to 3.00 p.m on working days of the week.

Completed bid forms should be forwarded in duplicate. Completed tenders should be sent by registered post to the Secretary, Management Trust /, Divisional Secretary, Wattala or by hand and placed in the tender box kept at the Wattala Divisional Secretariat. The project should be mentioned in the upper left corner of the application envelope. Further details could be obtained from The Manager, Dedicated Economic Center, Welisara during office hours over Telephone No: 011- 2981896 and one application should be submitted for each project.

Please note that decision of the Procurement Committee in receiving or rejecting the bids is final.

**P.D.T.C. Rajika**  
Secretary,  
Management Trust  
Divisional Secretary  
Wattala  
18.03.2021

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## State Development & Construction Corporation (SD&CC)

Under Ministry of Highways  
(State Ministry of Rural Roads and  
other Infrastructure Facilities)

### TENDER NOTICE

#### Running of Canteen at the Concrete Yard of the Corporation at Weragantota

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by the Chairman, Corporation Procurement Committee, of the State Development and Construction Corporation (SD&CC), to run and maintain the above canteen, for a period of one (01) year.

Tender documents could be obtained by interested tenderers during office hours up to 12.00 noon on 05.04.2021, on production of the receipt for the payment of a tender form fee of Rs. 540.00 made to the Cashier of the Corporation, to the head of Division, Supplies Department of the Corporation or the Project Engineer, Concrete Yard, Weragantota.

Duly completed tenders, marked as the "Tender for the Contract of Running of Canteen" on top left-hand corner of the envelope, containing tenders, should either be sent by registered post, addressed to the Chairman, Corporation Procurement Committee, State Development and Construction Corporation, No. 07, Borupana Road, Ratmalana or deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the Head of Division, Supplies Department, to be received on or before 2.00 p.m. on 06.04.2021.

Further details, in this regard, could be obtained from the Head of Division, Supplies Department, or Project Engineer, Concrete Yard, Weragantota.

Telephone : 011-2607566 / 055-2257101.

**Chairman,**  
**Corporation Procurement Committee,**  
**State Development & Construction Corporation (SD & CC)**  
**No. 7, Borupana Road,**  
**Ratmalana.**

## KANDY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### Supply and Installation of a New Water Pump for R2 Pump House

Sealed bids are invited until 08.04.2021 for the supply and Installation of a New Water Pump for R2 Pump House of the Kandy Municipal Council. Qualified bidders should submit the receipt obtained upon payment or the Money Order along with the letter of request for documents and a copy of the Registration Certificate either under the Business Registration Ordinance or the Companies Act to obtain bid documents.

Item	Quantity	Bid Ref. No.
01 Supply and Installation of a New Water Pump for R2 Pump House	01	CPC/KMC/FD/S/PC 02/2021/09
Minimum Requirements of the Pump		
- Minimum Power - 260 kw		
- Pump Head - 85 m		
- Flow Rate - 900m <sup>3</sup> /h		
- With USD Panel Board		

No.	Bid Reference No.	CPC/KMC/FD/S/PC 02/2021/009
01	Amount of the Bid Document	Rs. 3,780.00 (All Taxes Included) ❖ Bid documents may be obtained upon payment to the Shroff of the Kandy Municipal Council or ❖ If paid by a Money Order it should be sent in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Kandy" to be received on or before 31.03.2021.
02	Date of Commencement of Issuing Bid Documents	Between 9.00 a.m. and 2.45 p.m. on working days from 22.03.2021
03	Last Date and Time of Issuing Bid Documents	Up to 2.45 p.m. on 07.04.2021
04	Last Date and Time for accepting of Bids	At or before 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021
05	Bid Security	A bid security in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Kandy" to the value of Rs. 300,000.00 obtained from a commercial bank recognized by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka should be submitted with the perfected bid and the bid security should be valid for six (06) months. (valid from 08.04.2021 until 07.10.2021)
06	Date, Time and Place of Opening of Bids	At 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021 at the Kandy Municipal Council Hall. Bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
07	Place where the bid documents are issued	Municipal Supplies Division, Municipal Council, Kandy
08	Place where perfected bids are received	If hand delivered it should be deposited in the Bid Box kept in the care of Chief Municipal Accountant at or before 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021 If sent by registered post it should reach at or before 10.00 a.m. on 08.04.2021

Kandy Municipal Council reserves the right to take the final decision regarding the bids.

Bid documents may be inspected free of charge and further details may be obtained from the Chief Engineer (Water Supply and Drainage) on Tel. No. 081-22 22 275 or 071 02 50 055

**Amila Navaratne**  
Municipal Commissioner  
Municipal Council, Kandy

18.03.2021

### TENDER NOTICE



#### Accelerating Higher Educational Expansion and Development Operation (AHEAD) Operational Technical Secretariat (OTS)

#### RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA MIHINTALE

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of AHEAD Project, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for following proposed project.

Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Deputy Director (Procurement), AHEAD Project of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka at Mihintale.

Project Title	File Reference No.	Minimum Qualifications	Non-Refundable Document Fee (Rs.)	Bid Bond Amount (Rs.)
Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of 60 Nos. of Desktop Computers for Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale.	AHEAD/RA2/IT/RJT/FSSH/GOODS/01	Bidder shall possess at least 05 years' experience in relevant business field	2,500/=	80,000/= (Bid validity period up to 02.08.2021)

1. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedure.
2. To be eligible for contract award the Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and possess the valid certificate of Business Registration in the relevant field issued by a legal authority.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language shall be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written request to the Deputy Director (Procurement), OTS Office, AHEAD Project, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale upon payment of a **non-refundable** fee as stated above **until 3.00 p.m. on each working day from 22nd March 2021 to 16th April 2021**. The method of payment shall be by a bank deposit made to Account No. **008-1-001-8-1725841** in People's Bank, Anuradhapura in favour of the Bursar, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Wherever necessary they should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987.
4. Bids shall be accompanied by the Bid Security as stated in the above table.
5. Completed Bids shall be forwarded in two copies marked as "ORIGINAL" and "DUPLICATE". The original and duplicate shall be enclosed in separate sealed envelopes and re-enclosed in one sealed envelope marked as "AHEAD/RA2/IT/RJT/FSSH/GOODS/01" on top left hand corner. Also, mention the closing date and time of bid under the Quotation No. on left-hand corner of the envelope.
6. Bids must be delivered by hand inserting into the Tender Box kept at the **OTS Office, AHEAD Project, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale** or sent by registered post addressed to the **Director (OTS), OTS Office, AHEAD Project, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale to be received on or before 2.30 p.m. on 19th April, 2021**.
7. Bids will be closed at **2.30 p.m. on 19th April 2021**. Late Bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Director (OTS), AHEAD Project, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka two days after the closing of Bids (21st April 2021) and bidding price will be notified by email due to Covid-19 pandemic situation.
8. Delivery period of an item should be within 60 days from signing of agreement / purchase order.
9. The decision of the Department Procurement Committee shall be the final.
10. For further clarifications, bidders may contact Deputy Director (Procurement) through **025-2266321**.

**Chairman of Department Procurement Committee**  
**Rajarata University of Sri Lanka,**  
**Mihintale.**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Wellawattage Jagath Sisira Sena de Silva of No. 424/22, Samagi Mawatha, Hokandara South, Hokandara, do hereby inform the Government of Sri Lanka and the General Public that I have changed my name as **Jagath Wellawatte** as from now and will be using it as my name hereinafter.

**JAGATH WELLAWATTE**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Saleha Shabbir Masalawala, residing at No. 88, Sirigal Avenue, Kohuwala, Kalubowila, in Dehiwala Divisional Secretariat Division in Colombo District, do hereby inform the Government of Sri Lanka and the General Public that I have changed my name as **Sara Shabbir Masalawala** and will be using that name hereinafter.

**SARA SHABBAR MASALAWALA**

**Repeat  
Your  
Ad  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, that the under mentioned Private Limited Liability Company was incorporated on the 10th September 2020.

Former Name of the Company: **DIAMOND MARKETING (PVT) LTD**  
New Name of the Company: **DIAMOND RAINWEAR (PVT) LTD**  
Number of the Company: **PV 17526**

Registered Office:  
No. 400/1, Colombo Road, Pilmathalawa.  
Company Secretary

**Land Acquisition  
(amendment) Act No. 28  
of 1964 (Chapter 460)  
Notice Under Section 7**

My Reference No. -  
**DST/LND/1/ACQ/83**  
Land Mini's Ref. : 4-3/9/2018/CA/371

The land described in the schedule below is required to be acquired for a public purpose. For further details please see the part (iii) of Special Gazette No. 2215/33 dated 17.02.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Schedule	
District	: Hambanthota
Divisional Secretary's	
Division	: Tangalle
Grama Niladhari	
Division	: Polommaruwa North.
Village	: Walganeliya
Name of the Land	: Galgodahena or Pokunahena, Weheragodellahena.
Plan No.	: P.P.A 316/18/15, P.P.A 313/11/9,
Lot No.	: 344, 153

**Iresha Liyanagama,  
Divisional Secretary Division,  
Tangalle.**

At the Divisional Secretariat,  
Office.  
Date: 12.03.2021

**SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY  
TENDER NOTICE**

**SALE OF UNCLEARED CARGO**

DATE OF TENDER : 31.03.2021

TENDER NO : 439

Sealed Quotations are invited for the purchase and removal of the following cargo in the Warehouses & Yards at the Port of Colombo.

**Tender No. 439**

Vehicles	Motor Cycles
Seed LAC	Empty Can with Eoe Lids
Unpolished Granite	Motor Spare Parts
Electric Tricycle	White Polisher
Food items	Kitchen Items (Glassware)
Polypropylene Bag	Natural Stones
Air-Conditioner	Flexi Bag Aqua Wax
Sports Items	Chemicals
Packing Material	Garment / Used Cloths
Tile / Wall Tiles	Carpet
Aluminium Foil	Household Items
Furniture	Metal Furniture
Fabric	Electrical Accessories
Used Machinery	Motor Bicycle Spare Parts
	Other Merchandise etc.

Tender lists can be obtained from the Office of Sale Section, Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority at One Stop Documentation Centre, Canal Yard, No. 15, Lotus Road, Colombo 01 from 10.00 hours on 22.03.2021 to 14.30 hours on 29.03.2021 on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/= (plus VAT).

Visit : [www.slpa.lk](http://www.slpa.lk) for more details.

**Chief Manager (Logistics)  
Sri Lanka Ports Authority,  
Logistics Division,  
No. 15, Lotus Road, Colombo 01.**  
20.03.2021

**BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**DISPOSAL OF IDLING ITEMS LYING AT NWS & DB PREMISES  
IN BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)**

CONTRACT NO : BOI/BEPZ/ES/2021/02

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Disposal of Idling Items Lying at NWS & DB Premises in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ), Walgama, Malwana.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- Those who are interested to dispose of idling items lying at NWS&DB Premises in BEPZ are eligible to submit bids.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana, on Tele: 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **22 March 2021 until 20 April 2021 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rs 1,000.00 + VAT** in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana on or before **15.00 hrs on 21 April 2021**. Please mark clearly on the envelope containing the bid "**Disposal of Idling Items Lying at NWS & DB Premises in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ).**" Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid upto **19 June 2021**.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **11.00 hrs on 26 March 2021** at the office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone at Walgama, Malwana.
- All bids shall be accompanied with a copy of the receipt of refundable bid deposit of **Rs. 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand)** deposited in cash to the Shroff at Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone and Bids submitted without a copy of the receipt of deposit will be rejected.

**CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**



**OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES -  
MULLAITIVU**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS - 2021**

- Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu from eligible and qualified bidders for the works mentioned in the schedule below.
- Bids will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure but only the bidders having a business registration should apply.
- Bidders should not have been blacklisted and should have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) under building construction field in the grades mentioned in the schedule below as per the Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (i) dated 30.09.2016 and should have valid business/company registration.
- Qualification requirements are mentioned in Section 4 of the Bid Documents. Additional information is included in Schedule (Section 5), Schedule (Section 3) of the Bid Documents.
- Eligible interested bidders may obtain further information during office hours from the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu (Tel. No. 021-2290111).
- Interested bidders may obtain bid documents in English language between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs on working days from 19.03.2021 until 08.04.2021 on submission of the perfected "Application for Bid Documents" available in this office upon payment of the amount mentioned in the schedule below in cash as non refundable procurement fee for every procurement mentioned below.
- Bids may either be sent by registered post or deposited in the Procurement Box kept at the Finance Branch of the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu to receive before 10.30 hrs on 09.04.2021. These bids will be opened at 10.30 hrs on 09.04.2021 at the Conference Hall of the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu in the presence of the authorized bidders or their representatives.
- Pre bid meeting will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 31.03.2021 at the Conference Hall of the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu.
- A bid security as mentioned in the Schedule below should accompany the bid.

Bid No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost / (Rs in millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Required Bid Security		Non-refundable fees (Rs.)
					Security Amount	Valid Period	
NP/MU/2021/03/PSSP/B/01	Construction of Ambulance Garage with Driver's Room at DH-Naddankandal	3.20	89 Days	C8 and C7 (Buildings)	33,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/PSDG/B/02	Construction of Mortuary BH Mankulam	8.04	121 Days	C7 and C6 (Buildings)	81,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/PSDG/B/03	Construction of Kitchen BH Mankulam	7.31	117 Days	C7 and C6 (Buildings)	73,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/PSSP/B/04	Modification and Improvement of OPD building at DH- Alampil	6.57	113 Days	C7 and C6 (Buildings)	66,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/PSDG/B/05	Construction of Vehicle Park at AMC Mankulam	0.89	67 Days	C9 and C8 (Buildings)	9,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/PSDG/B/06	Improvement of RMO/AMC Office to accommodate COVID treatment center staff at AMC Mankulam	0.53	57 Days	C9 and C8 (Buildings)	6,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/Line/B/07	Improvement & Renovation of Drug store at RMSD	1.50	74 Days	C9 and C8 (Buildings)	15,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/Line/B/08	Improvement & Renovation the raking system to increase Drug store capacity at BH Mankulam	0.42	47 Days	C9 and C8 (Buildings)	5,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00
NP/MU/2021/03/PSDG/B/09	Improvement of Doctors Summary Quarters at BH Mallavi	0.47	53 Days	C9 and C8 (Buildings)	5,000.00	Till 23.07.2021	2,000.00

**Dr. M. Umashankar  
Chairman  
Regional Procurement Committee  
Office of the Regional Director of Health Services  
Mullaitivu.**

**SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY****Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

**TENDER FOR DRY DOCKING OF M/T NANDIMITHRA FOR  
DOCKING, SPECIAL AND DIRECTIONAL PROPELLER SURVEYS,  
HULL CLEANING, PAINTING AND REPLACEMENT OF SHAFT SEALS**

Tender No. : EW/04/PT/2021/MA/01 - 1

- The Chairman, Department Procurement committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority invites sealed bids from interested parties for **Dry docking of M/T Nandimithra (IMO No. 9226334) for docking, special and directional propeller surveys, hull cleaning, painting and replacement of shaft seals** at a shipyard where necessary facilities are available for dry docking more than 35 m length, 13 m width and 600 GRT vessels.
- Bidders are hereby informed that the provisions of the public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987 are applicable for tender exceeding Rs. 05 million. Accordingly all parties involved in each tender are required to strictly abide by the said act throughout the duration of contract and submit the duly completed registration certificate along with his bid documents.
- The Bidders should have been in the business of similar service at least during the last Five years where should have proven experience in dry docking of vessels or dredger not less than 600 GRT.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Marine), Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 and may inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during office hours.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English Language shall be purchased by interested bidders from Engineering Works Branch, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01, on submission of a written application addressed to the Chief Engineer (Marine) address given below, **from 09.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs on working days from 22.03.2021 to 19.04.2021 upon a payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00** (Inclusive of 8% VAT) by cash.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of **Rs. 230,000.00** and "**Dry docking of M/T Nandimithra (IMO No. 9226334) for docking, special and directional propeller surveys, hull cleaning, painting and replacement of shaft seals - EW/04/PT/2021/MA/01 - 1**" should be clearly indicated on top of the left-corner of the envelope of the sealed Bid.
- Sealed Bids shall either be sent by the registered post addressed to Chief Engineer (Marine), Marine Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 or deposited in the Bid Box kept in same address **at or before 14.00 Hrs on 20.04.2021**. Late bids shall not be accepted.
- Bids will be opened at the same address immediately after the closing of bids and the bidders or their authorized representative may be present at the time of bid opening.

**Chief Engineer (Marine)**

**Marine Engineering Division,  
Sri Lanka Ports Authority  
No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road,  
Colombo 01**

**Telephone : 011-2482330, 011-2342537  
Fax No. 011-2342537**

## BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### BALANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SERVICE BUILDINGS BELONGING TO BOI LOCATED IN BIYAGAMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE (BEPZ)

CONTRACT NO : BOI/BEPZ/ES/2021/02/05.019

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Balance Improvements to the Service Buildings Belonging to BOI located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ).**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements:  
Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Registration  
**Specialty : Building Constructions**  
**Grade : C 7 or above**
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:  
Experience as a Main Contractor for at least one contract of a similar nature equivalent to the proposed work over the period of last 5 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Office of Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana, on Tele: 0112-465214, 0112-465222 and 0112-465206-9 or Fax 0112-465222 and inspect bidding documents from the same address between 09.00 hrs and 16.00 hrs during normal working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone from **22 March 2021 until 20 April 2021 between 09.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 3,000.00 + VAT in cash to the Shroff at the Finance Department of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, C/o Senior Deputy Director (Engineering Services), Engineering Services Department, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana at or before **14.00 hrs on 21 April 2021.** Please mark clearly on the envelope containing the bid "**Balance Improvements to the Service Buildings Belonging to BOI located in Biyagama Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) and Contract No. BOI/BEPZ/ES/2021/02/05.019.**" Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be valid up to **06 July 2021.**
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rupees **Ninety Thousand (Rs. 90,000/-).** Bid Security shall be valid up to 03 August 2021.
- A pre bid meeting will be held at **10.00 hrs on 26 March 2021** at the Office of Director (Zone) of Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Biyagama Export Processing Zone, Walgama, Malwana.

CHAIRMAN  
BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

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### AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PLEDGED GOLD ARTICLES

The Articles which have been pledged in each gold loan schemes, of which the tenures expired as at 13th January 2021, will be auctioned at 10.00 a.m. on 04th April 2021, at the premises of No. 5, R.A. de Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.

#### Branches and Gold Loan Centres

Aluthgama, Batticaloa, Chilaw, Gampaha, Hatton, Jaffna, Ja-ela, Kandy, Bambalapitiya, Negombo, Nugegoda, Ragama, Rathnapura, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Wattala

- All Participants should produce their National Identity Cards.
- The company reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate or postpone the Auction without any further notice.

You may forward your inquires to:

The Manager - Gold Loans  
Swarnamahal Financial Services PLC  
No. 5, R.A. de Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.  
Tel: 011 7534800, Fax: 011 2559823

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Board & Lodging  
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Learn to drive accurately and perfectly within the city without fear most welcome inexperienced driving licence holders.  
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Room for bachelor, rent with attached toilet. 3 months advance. 121/1, Sri Saranankara Road, Dehiwala.  
Tel: 0777499038, 0777337032, 0777983989, 021428

**Real Estate** 602

Luxury Apartments/Houses/Condominiums  
To Let / Lease

**Personal** 524

**Philatelic & Coins**

**Sri Lanka**  
Independent Philatelic Association conducts Trade Fair of old stamps, coins and currencies 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

Apartment for rent, Col-6. Seaview/pool & gym 3 bedrooms, A/C room, fully furnished complete kitchen items, TV with cable connections, hot water bathrooms, washing machine, fridge are included. Easy access to Marine Drive and Galle Road. Can provide minimum 3 months. Please call for rent amount. Shiva Shegar 0771434343. WhatsApp/Imo/Botim available. 021779



### NATIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD (NLDB) PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation of Bids / quotations from local contractors, to the clearance of scrub jungles & thorny hedges and to remove roots and stones level the ground and preparation of the Land of 323 acres, for the proposed project of cultivation of maize and grass, in the Polonnaruwa farm, belonging to the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB).

Bid Reference No.-: 928/landclearance/2021 Closing date :- at 2.30 p.m. on 09.04.2021

Sealed bids are hereby invited by the Chairman, National Livestock Development Board (NLDB), No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05, from local contractors, for the clearance of scrub jungles, thorny hedges, / bushes and to removal the roots and stones, level the ground and soil, and preparation of land of 323 acres for the proposed project of maize and grass cultivation in the Polonnaruwa Farm, at Kaduruwela, of the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB).

Unit	Extent	Works to be done
Kotaliya Beduma	150 acres	Preparation of the site / land to be suitable for cultivation, clearing scrub jungles, bushes, thorny hedges, removing roots and stores & levelling of the site / land / ground.
Sahiwall Unit	54 acres	Preparation of the land / site, to be suitable for cultivation, by clearing of scrub jungles and thorny hedges / bushes, removal of roots and stones, and levelling of the ground.
Near Old Tank / Wewa	19 acres	To clear the scrub jungles, thorny hedges / bushes, removal of roots and stones, level the ground and preparation of the land to be suitable for the cultivation.
Near the 10 houses (Gewal 10)	100 acres	Levelling of the ground
<b>Total</b>	<b>323 acres</b>	

Bidders could quote, after the inspection of the relevant ground / land visiting the Polonnaruwa Farm, before the submission of bids. These inspections should be carried out under the supervision of the farm, without making any hindrance to the daily routine of the duties, of the farm.

Bidding documents could be obtained, during normal office hours, of the week, up to 3.00 p.m. on 08th April 2021, from the Supplies Division of National Livestock Development Board (NLDB), No 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05, upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 (one thousand) per set, made to the Accountant of NLDB.

Any clarification in this regard could be had by submission of a written request, or by contacting by telephone the Supplies Division of the following address.

Bids will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 09th April, 2021, and will be opened immediately thereafter, at the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB), No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05, in the presence of the Contractors / Bidders or their accredited agents, who choose to attend by confirming their identity. Bids should either be sent by registered post to the following address, or deposited in the tender box, kept at the Head Office, to be received on or before the above closing time, and on the top left hand corner of the envelope, enclosing bids should be marked with the caption to the effect "**Clearance of the Land of 323 acres of the Polonnaruwa Farm, by clearing scrub Jungles, Thorny hedges/ Bushes, Removal of Roots and Stones, levelling of the ground to be suitable for cultivation.**"

Chairman,  
National Livestock Development Board (NLDB),  
No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.  
Telephone : 011-2501701/2, / 011-5746308.



### OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES – MULLAITIVU

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### SUPPLY OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - 2021

Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the Regional Department of Health Services, Mullaitivu for the following goods from eligible and qualified distributors / suppliers of medical equipment.

Reference No.	Description	Qty	Bid Security	Reference No.	Description	Qty	Bid Security
PSSP/MEP/2021/01	Autoclave	4	48,000.00	PSSP/MEP/2021/01	Folding Screen	04	16,000.00
PSSP/MEP/2021/02	Bp Apparatus	17	12,000.00		Folding Screen	04	
	BP Apparatus Digital	10			IV Stand	06	
	Stethoscope	03			Medicine Trolley	12	
PSSP/MEP/2021/03	ECG Machine	03	41,000.00	PSSP/MEP/2021/04	Ward Round Trolley	05	16,000.00
	Hand Held	06			Wheel Chair	02	
	Multipara monitor (Basic)	04			Oxygen Regulator	04	
	Nebulizer	03			Stretcher	02	
	Ophthalmoscope	02					
	Pulse Oxymeter (adult)	01					
	Suction Apparatus	01					

- Bidder should be either an individual or institution holding a Business Name Registration Certificate for the distribution for Medical Equipment.
- Bids should be accompanied by a bid security to the amount specified in the table above. Bids without the bid security will be rejected.
- Interested bidders should perfect the "Application for Bid Documents" form obtainable from this office and should pay a non refundable fee of Rs. 2000.00 in cash and may obtain bid documents between 9.00 hrs and 15.00 hrs on working days from 19.03.2021 until 08.04.2021.
- Bids may either be sent by registered post or deposited in the Bid Box kept at the Finance Branch of the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Mullaitivu to receive before 10.30 hrs on 09.04.2021. These bids will be opened at 10.30 hrs on 09.04.2021 in the presence of authorized bidders or their representatives.
- Eligible interested bidders may obtain further information from the Regional Department of Health Services, Mullaitivu during office hours. (Tel. 021-2290111, Fax: 021-2290104).
- Chairman of the Procurement Committee reserves the right to reject the bids received or accept part thereof or to cancel the bid process at any instance free of any liability to the bidders.

Chairman  
Regional Procurement Committee  
Office of the Regional Director of Health Services  
Mullaitivu.

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# Jeewa Galgamuwa the swimmer turned ruggerite



ALTHAF NAWAZ

The players occupying the position of prop-forwards compete for the ball in scrums and line-outs and are generally bigger and stronger than the backs. Props forwards push in the scrums, while the hooker tries to secure the ball for their team by hooking it back with their feet. Jeewa Galgamuwa was one of the players who played in this key position while he was representing school, club and at National level becoming the cynosure of all eyes in the rugby football arena.

Jeewa who is 39 years old was highly influenced by his father Jayalath in getting into sports, being a retired Army officer while mother Manel, a great rugby enthusiast, never missed her son's rugby matches and remained as the biggest fan. His only brother Chathuranga who is a chef by profession works for Perera and Sons. Jeewa was admitted to Kingswood College, Kandy in 1987 and continued his studies until 2000, to complete his academic career. Jeewa was a sports loving lad from his younger days, for which both his par-

ents gave the necessary encouragement and the support to make him a profound sportsman.

Kingswood was a renowned school in the hill capital especially for their sports where Jeewa mingled in several sports in school. He made his sporting debut in swimming by participating in the College Junior, Intermediate and Senior Swimming Squads from 1993 to 1999. During his tenure, he captained the college swimming team in 1997/1998 seasons. He was later awarded the swimming colours in 1999.

He also holds a merit certificate in tennis in 1992, which he took part in when time permitted. While engaging in these sporting disciplines his involvement with rugby was a coincidence. It was Ananda Kasturirachchi, one of the mentors of several sportsmen at Kingswood, who met him at the college library and requested him to attend rugby practices, which subsequently became the beginning of his rugby career.

He played with the Under-15 team under Asela Muthumala, who educated him on the basics in handling the

oval shaped ball. Gradually, he progressed maturing in the game and was an active member in the under-17 team, which was under the watchful eyes of .G.B Gunadasa, the former Army and Sri Lanka winger who ultimately continued coaching them up to the first XV team.

Jeewa was appointed as the Vice-Captain of College Rugby team in 2000, the final year of his school rugby career which spanned from 1996 to 2000.

He started gaining his rewards for his unstinted performance in sports representing his 'Alma Mater', which included 'Best Sportsmen of the Year' in 1999, which was a phenomenal year in his sporting career as he went on to grab the Rugby Colours, annexed the Rugby Star award and went on to receive the prestigious Kingswood 'Crown', which was a unique feat in his school career, which he is still proud of. He ended his school career on a high note after winning the President's Trophy in 2000 under Chamara Vithanage's captaincy. Beating the Thomians 30-26 in the final while he was in action with the college

rugby team he was entrusted to lead the under-19 Sri Lanka Youth Rugby Team in 1999 and in the same year went on the Schools Rugby tour to Thailand. Later he toured Taiwan and won the 'Bowl' Championship. While he was playing for Kingswood among his team mates were Chamara Vithanage, Amjad Buksh, and Malith Hettiarachchi.

While competing for school, he opted to continue his club career and it was Athula Galagoda, to whom he is thankful, for introducing him to Kandy Sports Club as a schoolboy to play in the Kandy under-24 team. He was a member of the Kandy Rugby Team from 2000 to 2008 occupying the prop forward position. While he was progressing as a player, they appointed him as captain in 2007 and Kandy SC remained unbeaten, winning the League, Knockout and the sevens tournament respectively. No sooner he joined Kandy, he was chosen to don the National jersey and remained as a member of the Sri Lanka Rugby Team from 2000 to 2007.

During his tenure, he participated in Asian Games in 2002 in Korea, the

Rugby Asiad in Bangkok in 2003, played the test matches in Malaysia involving the hosts, Kazakhstan and Thailand. He finally was entrusted to captain the Sri Lanka National Rugby team and guided them to emerge runners up losing to Kazakhstan 17-24 in the final of the Rugby Asiad held in Sri Lanka in November 2007.

He was feted for his unstinted performance as a player to receive the "Best Captain" in the Caltex Observer Touchdown Rugby Awards in 2007. He played under the captaincy of some outstanding players like Asoka Jayasena, Pradeep Basnayake, Indrajith Bandaranayake, Haris Omar, Nakala Weerakkody, Sanjeeva Jayasinghe and Sajith Mallikarachchi. The coaches who were instrumental in making them a winning outfit were retired senior DIG Nimal Lewke, late George Simpkin, Johan Taylor (South African) and Rob Yule (New Zealander).

He has several credentials in his illustrious sports career captaining the Dialog Rugby team at Mercantile Sevens in 2008 winning the 'Bowl' Championship. Receiving the leadership award in school prize giving for

the 'Best Leader of the Year in 1999 and serving as a College Prefect from 1998 to 1999.

He likes to extend special thanks to Malik Samarawickrama, Nakala Weerakkody, Saman Kotelawala, Lasantha Wijesuriya from Kandy SC for the support extended during his tenure as a player. At present he is working for a logistics company called Goddards in Auckland in New Zealand. He still plays social rugby for a team called GPRC - Marist Rugby Club in Auckland. Also he is working part time as a Fitness Instructor at Papakura Leisure Centre in Auckland.

His wife Chulangani Galgamuwa stood as a pillar of strength in his ups and downs in life and is enjoying life with his daughters Chenuthi, Neil and Natharie.

## Twelve teams vie for honours in Mayor's Trophy Hockey Tourney



A press conference was held by the organizers, Colombo Municipal Council, play ground department at the BRC auditorium on March 18 regarding the Mayor's Trophy hockey tournament. Mr. Lal Senarath, SS Officer, Mr. Sharm Fernando CEO My Cola Beverages, Mrs. Rukshani Dissanayake, Municipal Commissioner (Attorney at Law), Mashanka Liyanage, Director Sports & Recreation, M J.M. Naushad, Hockey Secretary, K.H.L. Kumara, Senior Sports Officer.

M.H. YAKEEM

The Mayor's Trophy hockey tournament will be worked off from April 1 to 4 at the Astro Turf Reid Avenue, Colombo 7, with a grand opening ceremony on April 1 at 7 am.

Twelve teams are due to take part in this tournament which will be divided into four groups and on a league basis.

In group "A" Old D. Senanayakians, Sports Club, Mastaris SC Matale, BRC, "B" Kandy HA, Air Force, Army, "C" Old Royal SC, Old Nalandians SC, Navy, "D" CH & FC, Colombo Municipal Council and Police will battle it out for this prestigious Trophy. The initiative was taken by the Commissioner, Mrs. Rukshani Dissanayake (Attorney at Law), with the support of Mashanka Liyanage (Director

Sports & Recreation), M.J.M. Naushad who is an Ex National player and an Asian Umpire (Hockey Secretary) is taking great pains to make this a success according to the guidelines given by the Health Ministry to conduct this tournament.

This is mainly to popularize and develop hockey in Sri Lanka and mainly for youngsters in Colombo, to take an interest in this sport which is recognized in the International arena.

It is organised by the, Colombo Municipal Council and the sponsors MAF Cargo, My Cola and SLT are offering fabulous prizes to the winners, runners up and the third placed team to keep this game alive.

## Nadeera Vimashi fine athlete and volleyball player

DILWIN MENDIS  
Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Seventeen year old up and coming Volleyball and Beach Volleyball Player and Best Volleyball Player of the school in 2018 and the under 16 Girls Athletics Champion 2018 Kadaragama Nadeera Vimashi Perera has brought honour and fame to her Alma Mater Wekada Maha Vidyalaya, Yogyana, Dankotuwa. She was born in 2003 and she was admitted to her first school Anurudda Maha Vidyalaya Lunuwila, Wennapuwana and the then Principal was M Dharmapriya and her first class teacher was Mrs. Upamali.

Though Nadeera was keen in sports from her childhood there were no sports activities in her school and in 2014 she was admitted to Grade Six of Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa and in 2015 her parents Vimal Perera and

Anushi Dilrukshi encouraged their daughter to take up to volleyball and she came under her school volleyball coach and Prefect of Games Saman Bandara.

Her first attempt was to participate in the Tikiri Volleyball Tournament in the under 13 age group but their team was unsuccessful. In the same year they won the Divisional Tournament but they lost at the Zonal Tournament. In 2016 they were the Divisional and Zonal Champions. In 2017 and 2018 they came up to the Provincial Level but they could not come up to expectations and in 2019 they were the second runner up in the Inter School Provincial Tournament.

She captained the school under 13, 15, 16 and 18 volleyball teams and at the School Prize Giving she was awarded a merit certificate and a medal and in the school sports meet in 2018 she was adjudged as



the Best Volleyball Player of the year. In the meantime she participated in the under 16 category in the schools sports meet and swept the board winning the 400, 800 and 1500 metre events and she was the Champion Athlete. In the same year her school participated at the Beach



Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Singakkuliya, Yogyana, Dankotuwa Girls Under 18 Volleyball Team the All Island Inter Schools Second Runners Up of Inter Provincial Volleyball Tournament 2019. Standing L/R - Sithmi Thakshila, Sandun Bandara (Prefect of Games and Coach), Vinodya Malsha Suqatting in front L/R - Imashi, Nadeera, Avishka, Maheshika. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

Volleyball Tournament and her school were the All Island Runners Up and her partner was Sithmi Nurasha and in this context her Prin-

## Table tennis tourney in Kegalle

The All Island Open Table Tennis Tournament organized jointly by the Sri Lanka Table Tennis Association and the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Table Tennis Association will be held today and tomorrow at the Kegalle Municipal Council Indoor Stadium.

Around 200 players, including some of the island's top rankers, will take part in the men's and women's under-15 and under-18 singles events. Due to the current pandemic situation, it is not possible to hold doubles matches, so all matches will be held as singles matches.

Also, the organizing committee will implement strict health care measures under the supervision of the health sector throughout the tournament against spreading Coronavirus.

The award ceremony will be held under the patronage of President of the Sri Lanka Table Tennis Association Plantations State Minister Kanaka Herath.

## Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear Wimaladasa - the village athlete turned Asian champion

Wickremasinghe Wimaladasa who represented Sri Lanka in the 400m event at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972 was born in Nugawela in Alawwa on August 29, 1943.

He received his early education at the Narammala Central College. While at school he displayed his prowess in the 100m and 200m events and won the Kurunegala District Championship in these events.

He joined the Army after leaving school in 1963 and there he was able to improve on his natural talents. It was the Army that transformed Wimaladasa, the village athlete into an Asian champion.

He won the 100m and the 200m races in the Army Meet in 1966 and entered

big-time athletics. That year he won the 100m sprint and the 200m sprint events.

In the 200m race he equalled Duncan White's record. In 1968, he recorded a time of 49.4s for the 400m and bettered the record of 49.8s set up by Lakshman de Alwis in 1964.

He went on to better this time to 47.3s setting up seven new records in the process. Wimaladasa participated in the Asian Games in 1966 and in 1968.

In 1969 and 1970 he participated in Athletics Meets held in India, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. His first major international triumph was winning the Silver Medal for the 400m at the Asian Games in 1970.

This victory made him more determined to win the

Gold Medal at the Asian Games and in 1974 in Teheran he won the Gold Medal for this event setting up a new Asian record of 46.02s.

Having being a member of the Gold Medal winning Relay Team of 4x400m at the same Games, he increased his own tally of Gold Medals to two.

Because of his victories he was hailed as another Rosa. In 1970, Wimaladasa was awarded a scholarship to East Germany.

In Germany, he participated in over 25 competitions and ran against internationally reputed athletes.

Prior to the Olympic Games in 1972, he received special training in both East Germany and West Germany.

At the Munich Olympic



Wickremasinghe Wimaladasa

Games in 1972 he participated in the 400m event and became the only Sri Lankan to qualify for the semi-finals in an athletic event after Duncan White. Wimaladasa was assisted in his athletic activities by a reputed coach, Anthony Abeysinghe.

Wimaladasa married in 1969 and is the father of two sons, Vijith Shiromal and Indika Shiromal. He was bestowed with the award Deshamanya by former President J.R. Jayewardene.

(C.D)

## SLT Mobitel to power Mahagastota Festival of Speed

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Reiterating its commitment to supporting sports and empowering talents to inspire athletes, SLT-Mobitel will power the much-awaited 87th SLT-Mobitel Mahagastota Festival of Speed 2021 as the title sponsor.

SLT-Mobitel is sponsoring this legendary event, which dates back to 1934, for the third consecutive year, after powering the races in 2018 and 2019. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health constraints most leading racing events scheduled for 2020 did not take place. The SLT-Mobitel Mahagastota festival of speed is scheduled to be held on April 3 and 4 at Mahagastota, Nuwara Eliya.

Mobitel Chief Executive Officer Chandika Vitharana handed over the official sponsorship to Ceylon Motor Sports Club (CMSC) President Niroshan Pereira, the event partners for this highly-anticipated sporting event.

This year's event will showcase motorcycles and a classic car event on April, 3 followed by a Motorcar event on



Mobitel Chief Executive Officer Chandika Vitharana handing over the sponsorship to CMSC President Niroshan Pereira, accompanied by CMSC Vice President Shafraz Junaid

April 4. An awards ceremony and the presenting of trophies and certificates to winners will take place on both days.

The Mahagastota Hill Climb has a rich heritage of over eight decades and named as the birth place of organised motor racing in Sri Lanka. CMSC, as the race organiser is well-respected as among the oldest sporting clubs in the country.

Their first meet was a Hill Climb at the Mahagastota Estate in Nuwara Eliya on 28 September 1934, and since then the races have featured as a regular annual event, giving birth to young talented racers throughout.

## Manjula likely to take over as president of OTSC



HAFIZ MARIKAR

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Trinitians Sports Club will take place today at the club house at 10 a.m., OTSC will elect their new president. According to news, it is going to be former Trinity College tennis player Manjula Weeraratne, who will take up the position and will succeed Lakmal Tennekoon who did a grand job in the last three years. Primal Wijesinghe is likely to come in as Vice President, hard working Dr. Indika Rathnathilake is

sure to continue as secretary with Milinda Jayewardene as Treasurer.

The outgoing office-bearers are - President - Lakmal Tennekoon, Vice Presidents - Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake and Rajindra Gamage, Secretary - Dr. Indika Rathnathilake, Treasurer - Manjula Weeraratne, Sports Secretary - Thusitha de Silva, Social Secretary - Asanka Ranawana, Bar Secretary - Primal Wijesinghe Committee Members - P. Kapilnath, Asitha Wagodapola, Sanjeeva Weerakody and R. Divaharan.

Old Trinitians Sports Club (OTSC), under the presidency of Lakmal Tennekoon a former Kandy SC ruggerite with the backing of his

committee and old boys gave a big hand for sports and also gave a face lift to the club house. . . At one time they played rugby which was introduced by Maurice Perera and a few others, which went places. OTSC was affiliated to local sports bodies and took part in both indoor and outdoor sports activities, such as Carrom, Table Tennis, Badminton, Cricket, and Basketball and also at one time played rugger in the "A" division competition, football, hockey etc. Once again they are keen in giving a fillip for rugger, cricket, hockey and tennis. Last year they played cricket in the Division III tournament after a long time, and won several matches. The side was

led by Clifford Fernando and was managed by Asanka Ranawana.

The club is housed in the picturesque environs of Asgiriya with sylvan surroundings reminiscent of an English cricket club. For this club house the man who did the entire spade work was late H.M. Halimdeen who also promoted all sports. It must be remembered that during the presidency of Bimal Fernando, women's football too was introduced and matches played.

The Old Trinitians Sports Club was formally inaugurated on July 19 1980 with A.G.G. Perera as the first president and the former principal Leonard de Alwis as the secretary, with

53 members elected as founder members.

In 1981, under Dr. S.B. Ellepola's presidency with Keerthi Ratnayake as secretary, a team was entered for the Daily News Trophy Cricket Tournament with Deva Amunugama doing the needful from the pavilion. This tournament was conducted by the Board of Control for Cricket. The expenses for the season were covered through the profits made from a dance sponsored by Colombo Paints Ltd. In 1982, H.M. Halimdeen came in as president, with S. Blok as the secretary. During this period the club was in luck's way with the transformation of Asgiriya as a Test venue. The President, Board of Control for

Cricket, Old Trinitian, Gamini Dissanayake was also the President of the Trinity OBU.

H.M. Halimdeen realized that there was an opportunity of having a club house ideally located near the new stadium. Through the blessing of OBA President, Gamini Dissanayake, who was the chairman of the Asgiriya ground project, the OTSC was able to purchase an old government building for the club premises and with this acquisition the club came into being. The OTSC building came through the generous support coming from Old Trinitian, Nahil Wijesuriya, who came forward and built the magnificent club house.

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(MARCH 20)  
**LOCAL EVENTS**  
**CRICKET** (SLC T20  
Tournament final):  
SSC vs Army CC at  
SSC Grounds  
(Inter-Schools U-19  
Tournament)  
St. Peter's vs  
Dharmaraja at  
Bambalapatiya  
Wesley vs St. Joseph's  
at Campbell Park  
**FOREIGN EVENTS**  
**CRICKET**  
New Zealand vs Bangla-  
desh (1st ODI) at Dun-  
edin  
Afghanistan vs Zimba-  
bwe (3rd T20) at Abu  
Dhabi  
India vs England (5th  
T20) at Ahmedabad  
India Women vs South  
Africa Women (1st T20)  
at Lucknow  
**FOOTBALL** (Premier  
League):  
Brighton and Hove Albi-  
on vs Newcastle United  
(FA Cup Sixth Round):  
AFC Bournemouth vs  
Southampton  
Everton vs Manchester  
City  
**CYCLING** (UCI World  
Tour):  
Milano to Sanremo  
**BOXING** (WBO World  
cruiserweight title):  
Lawrence Okolie vs  
Krzysztof Glowacki  
(Super-welterweight):  
Anthony Fowler vs Jorge  
Forte  
(Commonwealth and  
British cruiserweight  
titles):  
Chris Billam-Smith vs  
Deion Jumah  
(MARCH 20 AND 21)  
**LOCAL EVENTS**  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
Galaxy Trophy  
Tournament at  
Volleyball House, Dadel-  
la  
**FOREIGN EVENTS**  
**CRICKET**  
(Sheffield Shield):  
Tasmania vs New South  
Wales at Hobart  
**TENNIS**  
Dubai Championships at  
Dubai Duty Free Tennis  
Centre  
Mexican Open at  
Princess Mundo  
Imperial  
Monterrey Open at Son-  
oma Club, Mexico  
St. Petersburg Ladies'  
Trophy at Sibur Arena  
**BADMINTON**  
All-England Tournament  
at Birmingham  
**GOLF**  
The Honda Classic at  
PGA National  
Champion Course, Flori-  
da  
Kenya Open at Karen  
CC, Nairobi  
(MARCH 21)  
**FOREIGN EVENTS**  
**CRICKET** (World Test  
Championship):  
West Indies vs Sri Lanka  
(1st Test) at Antigua (1st  
day)  
India Women vs South  
Africa Women (2nd T20)  
at Lucknow  
Road Safety Cricket  
Series final at Mumbai  
**FOOTBALL** (Premier  
League):  
West Ham United vs  
Arsenal  
Aston Villa vs Tottenham  
Hotspur  
(FA Cup Sixth Round):  
Chelsea vs Sheffield  
United  
Leicester City vs  
Manchester United

# St. Peter's claim major honours as Trinity follow on

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**  
St. Peter's College, Bambalapatiya took major honours in their Under-19 Inter-Schools Cricket Tournament fixture against Trinity which ended in a draw at Bambalapatiya yesterday.  
After St. Peter's had piled up 277 for nine in their first innings, the Trinities were bundled out for 169 in reply and they were forced to follow on.  
Right-arm paceman Danal Hemananda was the most successful bowler as he finished with five for 62 while Wanuja Kumara took three for 34.  
The Trinities were struggling in their second innings at 188 for eight wickets at close with Skipper Abhishek Ananadakumar (53) and Umair Raizan (56) adding 50 for the fourth wicket.  
Meanwhile, Rayan Fernando hit a fluent 127 with 13 fours

and two sixes for S. Thomas' College in their drawn game against Ananda College at Ananda Mawatha yesterday.  
The Thomains made 236 for eight declared in their first innings while Ananda were 90 for one at close with opener Nusal Dharmaratne scoring an unbeaten 60 with nine fours.  
St. Joseph's College made a formidable 223 for two at close in their game against Wesley College which commenced at Campbell Park yesterday.  
Shevon Daniel made an unbeaten 134 with 15 fours and three sixes while Sheran Fonseka made 73 with the pair adding 186 for the second wicket.  
**Chief scores**  
● **At Bambalapatiya** (Match drawn) **St. Peter's:** 277/9 decl **Trinity:** 169 (Umair Raizan 56, Thewin Amarasinghe 28,

Pawan Pathiraja 21, Danal Hemananda 5/62, Wanuja Kumara 3/34) and 188/8 (Umair Raizan 56, Abhishek Ananadakumar 53, Wanuja Kumara 3/51, Danal Hemananda 2/14, Jesuran Benjamin 2/34).  
● **At Ananda Mawatha** (Match drawn) **Ananda:** 217 and 90/1 (Anuda Jayaweera 28, Nusal Dharmaratne 60 n.o.)  
**S. Thomas':** 236/8 decl (Rayan Fernando 127, Manith Perera 33, Nethma Samaraweera 3/64, Saviru Bandara 2/52).  
● **At Campbell Park St. Joseph's:** 223/2 (Sheran Fonseka 73, Shevon Daniel 134 n.o.) vs Wesley.  
● **At Moratuwa St. Sebastian's:** 166 (Bihanga Mendis 31, Sandeesh Fernando 42, Amshi de Silva 2/49, Tharinda Nirmal 3/44, Nalaka Jayawardena 2/36)  
**Richmond:** 8/0.

## New cricket Selection Committee

The Cricket Committee headed by Aravinda de Silva is to recommend the names of National Cricket Selectors. The Cricketinghe, Romesh Kaluvitharana, and Hemantha Devapriya to serve as National Cricket Selectors. The Cricket Committee is to make this recommendation to the Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa next week. (AN)



St. Peter's College fielders make a successful appeal for a leg before decision. Picture by Hirantha Gunathilaka

## "I wish I could have been in SL to celebrate the event" - Alex Kountouri



**INDIKA WELAGEDARA**  
Australia's Alex Kountouri, who was a physio in charge of the 1996 World Cup winning Sri Lankan cricket team, has retained the 25-year old friendships with the team members.  
"I wish I could have been in SL to celebrate the event and catch up with the many friends there, but happy to reflect on some great memories. There is a strong bond and

friendship with the 1996 winning team that remains even after 25 years." said Kountouri.  
"I was fortunate enough to be part of the 1996 WC winning team. It was a very important moment for Sri Lanka and I am proud and happy to have been part of this journey". "I wish the 1996 WC team members and SLC all the best in celebrating the event and wish them success" concluded Kountouri.

## Late Minister Dissanayake remembered at book launch

Veteran author and sports journalist Sarath Jayasinghe launched his latest book titled 'ODI Cricket History of Sri Lanka to commemorate the 79th Birth Anniversary of late Minister Gamini Dissanayake at the Sports Ministry Auditorium yesterday.  
The Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation, with their Board of Trustees, jointly organised this book launch to commemorate late Gamini Dissanayake's 79th Birth Anniversary which falls today.  
The book consists of six sections starting from late Dissanayake's efforts towards gaining Test Cricket



Mrs. Shiranthi Rajapaksa (centre) handing over the first copy of the book to Navin Dissanayake (left) in the presence of Sarath Jayasinghe (Pic by Rukmal Gamage)

status and various other historic events regard to cricket in the country.  
Navin Dissanayake the elder son of late Gamini Dissanayake graced the occasion with his younger brother Mayantha and sister Varuni Dissanayake.  
In the absence of Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, his mother Mrs. Shiranthi Rajapaksa graced the occasion as Chief Guest.  
Minister Namal Rajapaksa who expressed his thoughts on Zoom, commended the services of late Minister Dissanayake for playing a major role in obtaining ICC status in 1981. (AN)

## West Indies President's XI-SL warm-up ends in draw

Half-centuries from Kyle Mayers and Roston Chase were the highlights as the two-day practice fixture between the Cricket West Indies (CWI) President's XI and Sri Lanka ended in a predictable draw in Antigua on Thursday.  
Left-hander Mayers made a typically stroke-filled 57 off just 66 balls as the President's XI took a first innings lead of 122.  
He used the match as ideal preparations for the first Test match which starts on Sunday at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.  
They started the second day on 103 for one and made 294 in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings 172. In the second innings, the visitors were 56 for no loss when the match was called off at 4.50 p.m.  
Mayers hit 11 fours, mainly fierce cuts, and powerful drives, and added 76 for the fourth wicket with Shamrah Brooks, who made 19 before he was magnificently snapped up at slip by Lahiru Thirimanne off-spinner Dananjaya de Silva (3/26).  
Chase then came to the crease and showed his class. The tall right-hander was



Lahiru Thirimanne and Dimuth Karunaratne run between wickets. Picture courtesy SLC

excellent against the spinner as he scored 52 off 81 balls with eight fours. He was especially fluent through the on-side before he was leg-before wicket to left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya (3/69).  
This knock capped a very good match for Chase, who took four for 12 on the opening day with his off-spin.  
In the final session Sri Lanka's openers Thirimanne (27 not out) and Dimuth

Karunaratne (23 not out) battled out the final 13 overs.  
**Chief scores:**  
**Sri Lanka:** 172 and 56/0 (Lahiru Thirimanne 27 n.o., Dimuth Karunaratne 23 n.o.)  
**CWI President's XI:** 294 (Shai Hope 68, Darren Bravo 30, Kyle Mayers 57, Roston Chase 52, Suranga Lakmal 2/14, Lasith Embuldeniya 3/69, Dhananjaya de Silva 3/26). (Agencies)

## Army look to turn tables on SSC in SLC T20 final

**CHRIS DHAMBARAGE**  
Army CC will look to turn tables on the favourites SSC when the two teams clash in the SLC Twenty20 Cricket Tournament final at the SSC Grounds in Maitland Place today.  
Both teams will take the field brimming with confidence after having recorded convincing victories in their respective semi-finals worked off on Thursday at the NCC Grounds.  
SSC defeated the unbeaten CCC outfit by 32 runs while Army CC brought an end to Kurunegala YCC's giant killing performances with a smashing nine-wicket victory.  
The two teams, of course, will be meeting in a T20 contest after a lapse of four years and Army CC will have a psychological advantage hav-

ing defeated SSC by five wickets in 2016 tournament semi-finals.  
In fact, on that occasion, Army CC went on to clinch the title while overcoming Tamil Union by five wickets in the final played at the R. Premadasa Stadium.  
This time they seem to be even more determined after having completed their preliminary round fixtures with five wins out of their six games. Army CC displayed their bowling prowess in the semi-finals when they restricted Kurunegala YCC to 114 for six with pace-man Janith Silva (three for 15) turning out to be the chief wrecker.  
But this time Army CC will be up against a formidable batting line-up with opening batsman Avishka Fernando making his presence felt in the semi-finals.



Charith Asalanka (SSC Captain)



Dushan Vimukthi (Army CC Captain)

## Sadeepa steers St. Sylvester's to victory

Sadeepa Halangoda hit a fine 82 with 10 fours as St. Sylvester's College, Kandy beat Lumbini College on a faster run-rate in their Under-19 Inter-Schools Limited Over Cricket Tournament match played at Colts Grounds yesterday.  
St. Sylvester's made 194 for five wickets and Lumbini College managed to score only 105 in 28.1 overs after they were given a revised target of 176 runs in 40 overs.  
**Chief scores**  
● **At Colts Grounds** (St. Sylvester's won by 70 runs)  
**St. Sylvester's:** 194/9 in 50 overs (Sadeepa Halangoda 82, Thiranjaya Rathanjaya 5/41) **Lumbini:** 105 in 28.1 overs.  
● **At Galle** (St. Aloysius' won by six wickets) **Moratu MV:** 91 30.1 overs. **St. Aloysius':** 93/4 in 18.5 overs.  
● **At Panadura** (Lyceum, Panadura won by five wickets)  
**Welapura MV:** 71 in 20.1 overs **Lyceum:** 73/5 in 18.5 overs.  
● **At Matale** (St. Thomas', Matale won by seven wickets)  
**Asoka MV, Colombo:** 146 in 39.5 overs **St. Thomas':** 149/3 in 26.3 overs (Kavindu Senarathne 90 n.o.).  
● **At Hikkaduwa** (Sri Sumangala MV won by 69 runs)  
**Sri Sumangala:** 153 in 28.3 overs (Himal Hansaka 87, Charith Hasaranga 6/37) **Royal, Nagoda:** 84 in 26.3 overs.  
● **At Dehiwala** (Rajasinghe Central won by four wickets)

**Methodist High School:** 152 in 42.4 overs **Rajasinghe Central:** 154/6 in 31.3 overs  
● **At Ananda Sasthralaya Grounds** (Ananda Sasthralaya won by five wickets)  
**St. John's, Nugodaga:** 178/9 in 45 overs (Manimekhala Rupasinghe 69) **Ananda Sasthralaya:** 180/5 in 35.4 overs (Dulanja Pabasara 76).  
● **At Panadura** (Kegala Vidyalaya on by six wickets)  
**Royal, Panadura:** 123 in 34.2overs **Kegala Vidyalaya:** 125/4 in 24.4 overs (Pulasthi Atapattu 72).  
● **At Horana** (Taxila Central won by seven wickets) **Revatha MV, Balapatiya:** 139 in 43.5 overs **Taxila Central:** 140/3 in 30 overs  
● **At Jaffna** (Rahula, Matara won by four wickets) **St. John's:** 88 in 32 overs **Rahula** 91/6 in 28.5 overs.  
**At Bandarawela** (Badulla MMV won by 85 runs)  
**Badulla MMV:** 276 in 48.4 overs (Kavindu Vimansa 123)  
**Ananda Maithreya National School:** 191 in 47.2 overs.  
● **At Padukka** (Lyceum, Nugodaga won by 56 runs)  
**Lyceum:** 192 in 45.2 overs **C. W. W. Kannangara MMV:** 138 in 38.5 overs.  
● **At Ratnapura** (Sri Palee MV won by eight wickets)  
**Prince College, Ratnapura:** 137/7 in 50 overs **Sri Palee MV:** 142/2 in 36.1 overs (Kavindu Himansa 52). (D.R)

## Pallekele to host SL-Bangladesh Tests

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will play their postponed World Test Championship series at the Pallekele International

Cricket Stadium in Kandy in April/May. The two-Test series was originally scheduled for October/November in 2020

but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
This will be the first time that Sri Lanka are hosting

Bangladesh for a Test series at this venue since the inaugural Test was played here in December, 2010.

The Bangladesh Team will arrive in Sri Lanka on April 12 and will play an Intra-Squad warm-up match from April 21 to 25 at the Chilaw Marians Cricket Grounds in Katunayake.  
The opening Test of the series will be worked off from April 21 to 25 and the second Test will be played from April 29 to May 3. (C.D)



The Pallekele International Cricket Stadium