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ORGANISED FORCES PROPAGATING FALSEHOODS, MISCONCEPTIONS - PRESIDENT

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Saturday said that the group which spread falsehoods about white vans, crocodiles and sharks are now trying to propagate falsehoods and misconceptions with regard to the environment after their failure in their previous attempt.

The President said that people

should counter these organised local and foreign forces that circulate these falsehoods against him and his government in order to protect the ideology of the people that brought him to power.

"I always maintain that, the individual Gotabaya Rajapaksa is not important. What matters is the ideology

and force that brought me here. We should protect that ideology.

The aim of the false propaganda now being carried out by the hostile forces is to defeat this ideology.

What I do is fulfilling the promises I made to the people" Presi-dent Rajapaksa said. 10 MgE 02



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Midea

CARDINAL SAYS ASHAMED OF FORMER PRESIDENT 'NO RIGHT TO SEEK PUBLIC OFFICE ÁGAIN'

URGES IMMEDIATE LEGAL ACTION

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith yesterday questioned as to how a former President is planning to contest an election after acting in an irresponsible manner.

"There is information that a former President is going to contest the elections. We are ashamed of that. I would like to ask how he is going to contest the election with his

clothes on. How could it be possible for him to contest again and become a Party Leader after acting irresponsibly once," the Archbishop questioned.

The Archbishop requested the Government to take legal action against former President Maithripala Sirisena as recommended by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Attacks (Easter PCoI). TO PAGE 02





Parliament meets full week beginning today

Parliament sittings will commence wardena to allow 50 Questions for today (5) at 10.00 am. The entire Oral Answers by MPs today (5). day has been allotted for Questions for Oral Answers by the Members of the Select Committee of Parliaof Parliament. Sessions will be held ment to identify appropriate reforms upto Friday.

Secretary General of Parliament system and to recommend neces-

The Motion for the appointment of the election laws and the electoral

The National 'Aluth Sahal Mangalya' (New Rice Festival) one of the most venerated ancient agricultural rituals to offer the maiden harvest of the Maha season to the Buddha was held yesterday (4) under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the sacred Sri Maha Bodhiya premises. The event was organised by the Agriculture Ministry and the Agrarian Services Department for the 54th occasion under the guidance of Chief Incumbent of Atamasthana Ven. Prof. Pallegama Sirinivasa Nayaka Thera. Agriculture Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamage and State Minister Shasheendra Rajapaksa were among those present. (Picture by President's Media Division).

False propaganda has delayed Sinopharm vaccine



India yesterday stressed that no export ban has been imposed on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines and supplies to many countries in various regions of the world took place last week too.

Sri Lanka is among 80 countries to which a total of over 64 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines made in India have been supplied, as bilateral gifts, through the COVAX facility and on commercial orders many of which were placed last year, a release issued by the Indian High Commission in Colombo quoting a Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said. TO PAGE O2

decision was arrived at the Committee on Parliamentary Business given the motion moved by Minister and Leader of the House Dinesh Guna-

Dhammika Dasanayake said this sary amendments is scheduled to be moved in Parliament today as well, the Secretary General said.

Secretary General Dasanayake said that the Committee 10 PAGE 02

Sale of mixed coconut oil will be banned - Minister

M.P.KUMARA, Kotadeniyawa group

A new gazette notification will be issued soon preventing the sale of mixed coconut oil, Industry Minister Wimal Weerawansa said.

He said that the previous government had allowed blending other oils with coconut oil through a gazette notification.Weerawansa stated that steps have already been taken to provide high quality hygienic coconut oil to the people instead of carcinogenic coconut oil. TOPAGE **O2**

AMILA PRABATH WANASINGHE

Health State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana stated that a political group working against the Chinese vaccine has spread false propaganda among the people.

He said the World

Health Organization (WHO) does not approve vaccinations but lists them according to the data available for vaccinations. Due to the false propaganda carried out by these groups, members of expert committees studying this vaccine in Sri Lanka have been discouraged and as a result there has been a delay in administering the Chinese vaccine to Sri Lankans.

He said that Sri Lanka had received 600,000 vaccines from the Chinese government at the request of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and only Chinese nationals in Sri Lanka have been approved to be vaccinated. TO PAGE **O2**

All must receive second jab as planned - JVP

Former JVP MP Dr.Nalinda Jayathissa said the government should have adequate AstraZeneca vaccines stocked for the second jab.

Those who received the first jab should be given the second dose after April 19 and the



intervene to ensure that they receive the second jab without delay," he said. He added that

vaccination was the best option available to protect from

the virus. "Sri Lanka has received 1,264,000 vaccines from India and 500,000 of them was received as a grant and the rest was purchased from the Serum Institute that produces the vaccine. TO PAGE 02 must



Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva said a new Constitution must address the issue of political party registrations based on race and ethnicity. Registration of political parties has Silva said. TOPAGE 02

ASELA KURULUWANSA and DINULI FRANCISCO

become a mere eyewash since after the registration of certain parties, the leaders sell their parties nearing elections, SLFP Senior Vice President, Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de

Country must expose UNHRC's double standards - Prelate

Tough laws on registering parties needed - Minister

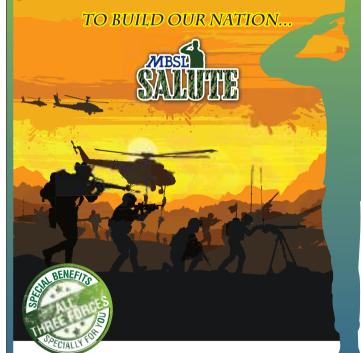
ASELA KURULUWANSA and **DINULI FRANCISCO**

The Mahanayake of Asgiri Chapter Most Ven. Warakagoda Sri Gnanaratana Thera stated that the whole country should rally against the reso-

lution passed by the Geneva Human will benefit. The Mahanayake Thera Rights Council against Sri Lanka, irrespective of party affiliations.

He also said that if we are not the Asgiriya Maha Viharaya yesterunited as a country at this criti- day (4) and received the blessings of cal juncture, the forces against us the Chief Prelate. TO PAGE 02

made this statement when Education Minister Prof. G.L Pieris visited



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NEWS

President opens Kanugahawewa Model Village built by Air Force

"Discussion with the Village" brings results in three months

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa vest-ed in the people the "Kanugahawewa Model Village" constructed by the Air Force at the request of the President after listening to the grievances of the villagers during the 04th "Discussion with the Village" programme held in Kebithigollewa.

DN page 2

Kanugahawewa village in the Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariat was selected for the "Discussion with the Village" programme which was held on the 30th of December. LTTE terrorists frequently attacked Kebithigollewa. On June 15, 2006, the LTTE exploded a massive claymore mine targeting a civilian bus enroute to Kebithigollewa killing more than 68 civilians who lived in Kanugahawewa and surrounding villages. From 1995 to 1998 and from 2006 to 2008, the residents of these villages were forced to live in camps due to LTTE terror. Despite the end of that menace, villagers continued to experience many serious economic and social problems. The President instructed the relevant officials on that day to provide solutions for their land issues, repair works in connection with tanks and canals, development of major roads and by roads and to improve health, education and transport issues as soon as possible.

Commander of the Air Force, Air Marshal Sudharshana Pathirana took over the task of meeting the housing needs and other requirements in Kanugahawewa Village to mark the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Air Force. The President entrusted the responsibility of identifying the needs of the area and the task of submitting the plans in this regard to the Chief Incumbent of the village temple, the Divisional Secretary and the Chairman of the Pradeshiya Sabha and the Grama Niladhari.

President Rajapaksa who arrived in Kanugahawewa today first visited the Abhinawarama Temple and engaged in religious observances. Later the President called on the Chief Incumbent of the temple and inquired into the wellbeing of the Nayake Thera.

The President inspected the construction site of the proposed temple, the newly constructed Bodhigaraya and the Awasageya as well as the completed bell tower.

President Rajapaksa who visited the Kanugahawewa Primary School premises handed over the keys of 12 newly built houses and the "Teachers' Quarters" to the owners of the respective houses and the Principal

The SLAF Seva Vanitha Unit donated school uniforms and equipment to the children.

The President also inspected the playground at Kanugahawewa Primary School, the Model Home Gardening Project, the Teachers' Quarters and the eye surgeries performed at the



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday vested in people the "Kanugahawewa Model Village" constructed by the Air Force at the request of the President after listening to the grievances of the villagers during the Fourth "Discussion with the Village" programme held in Kebithigollewa. First Lady Ayoma Rajapaksa handing over the deed to a beneficiary while President Gotabaya Rajapaksa looks on. Minister S.M.Chandrasena, State Ministers Duminda Dissanayake, Shehan Semasinghe, Channa Jayasumana, MPs K.H. Nandasena, K.P.S. Kumarasiri, NCP Governor Maheepala Herath and Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudharshana Pathirana were present. Pictures by Presidential Media Division.

Mobile Eye Hospital. Families who had been in possession of government lands without clear ownership started receiving grants recently. The President symbolically handed over deeds to five persons in Kanugahawewa vil-

lage. The President then visited the 'Kanugahawewa Model Village' and inspected a newly constructed house and also the newly erected 15 km long elephant fence at the Kanugahawewa Model Village.

President Rajapaksa who visited a nearby house engaged in a cordial discussion with the residents and inquired into their well-being. Minister S.M.Chandrasena, State Ministers Duminda Dissanayake,

Shehan Semasinghe, Channa Jayasumana, MPs K.H.Nandasena, K.P.S. Kumarasiri, North Central Province Governor Maheepala Herath and a number of Air Force officials were also present.

No export ban on India's... From page 01

The release said that no country has shared with the world COVID-19 vaccines in such a large quantity while vaccinating its own population.

"More than 1.25 million doses of Made-in-India COVISHIELD vaccine have so far been delivered to Sri Lanka. Production of COVID-19 vaccines in India is being ramped up further to meet

domestic requirement and global demand," the release said.

Organised forces propagating... From page 01

The President made these remarks addressing the gathering at the opening of the 17th "Discussion with the Village" program held at the Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya premises in the Vedivaithyakallu Grama Niladhari Division of the Vavuniva North Divisional Secretariat Division in the Vavuniya District, Northern Province on Saturday morning He added that he is building a green economy on the ruins of a collapsed economy that he inherited when he came in to the office despite the difficulties he has to face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The President called on the people to find fault with him if he fails to provide solutions to the problems during his tenure. President Rajapaksa reflecting on the current discourse in the country stated that the standards of all goods imported for con-



Summit in mid-August, with dates still to be finalized, Government AstraZeneca sources said.

This will be the fifth summit of the grouping after the 2018 session which took place in Kathmandu.

BIMSTEC Heads of Government

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) has seven members - India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Formed in 1997, the grouping is more than 20 years old.

While the authorities are hoping to conduct the summit offline, the final decision will be taken considering the coronavirus pandemic. Sri Lanka, as the chair of the grouping this year, is eyeing a physical sum-

Sri Lanka is planning to host the the BIMSTEC Charter, BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity and BIMSTEC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters. Grouping is also working on the finalisation of the BIMSTEC Coastal Shipping Agreement and the

Motor Vehicles Agreement. At the foreign minister virtual meet, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "BIMSTEC over the years has emerged as a promising sub-regional grouping with growing strategic and economic interests of the Member States, as well as of the international community in the Bay of Bengal region."

In 2019, India had invited BIM-STEC heads of government and states for PM Modi's oath taking ceremony for his second term. After

Do not let the government go astray - State Minister

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,

Galle Central special correspondent If this government is going in the wrong direction we should divert the government in the correct direction, Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of Chemical Fertilizer and Insecticide Use State Minister Mohan P. De Silva said.

He was addressing trade union delegates in Galle. "Not only did we begin the Sri Lanka People's Front, but we dynamically drove it forward. We commend the incomparable strength you have given as trade union representatives to take it forward very vigorously. We need to talk openly about this regime," he said.

You fought hard to protect the Eastern Jetty. We were also a little

you unconditionally and take this government on the right path, he assured.We have prepared a programme for the Galle District under the leadership of Minister Ramesh Pathirana. We have stood up for you. Some people think that this government and the Sri Lanka People's Front on came along a rosy way or on an easy way. It is wrong.

Our State Ministers always stand by your issues.Problems are solved with the advice of trade union leaders. When working in our Ministries we always listen to trade unions and work. However I would like to state that our trade unions do not support the implementation of the Prosperity Vision. Do pay your attention to that.

As we have given our support to

The President stated that it is the responsibility of the relevant institutions to carry out continuous inspections and check the quality of consum-

sumption is regularly

inspected. The recent

discovery of coconut

oil unsuitable for con-

sumption is a result

of these inspections.

er goods

Explaining the role he played during the period after coming into power, the President noted that palm oil cultivation which caused adverse effects to the environment was banned.

With the recognition of healthy effects of coconut oil consumption, the import of palm oil was halted. Space for drug trafficking into the country has been largely closed. The relevant Units have been able to seize narcotic and other substances that are unfit to consume in their raids.

Sale of mixed coconut oil... From page 01

He was speaking to the media after inspecting the rice flour factory at the Veyangoda Food Department warehouse complex recently. During the reign of Mahinda Rajapaksa, the production of flour from rice was started to encourage rice flour among the people rather than flour. That is according to the policies of the government. But today this industry is in a difficult

At present I am contributing on

situation.

behalf of a third party that converts coconut, cinnamon, etc. into flour and exports it to the export market. But it is not enough in view of the challenges facing the industry at present, the Minister said.

I submitted a Cabinet paper to import copra required for local coconut oil production. This is to provide a solution to the current crisis regarding coconut oil, the Minister said.

Country must expose UNHRC's... From page 01

"The world has seen how the Sri Lankan Army has worked to save the lives of innocent Tamils in the North in the fight against terrorism and this time the pressure exerted on our country by certain pro-LTTE groups can only be defeated if we stand together regardless of race, religion or party affiliations," the Thera further highlighted.

Minister G.L. Peiris said people like Adele Balasingham, who hung cyanide around the necks of schoolchildren and incited them to terrorism, are now living in Britain and those who are accusing Sri Lanka of human rights abuses are following a silent policy regarding those.

He said that even 10 years after the defeat of terrorism, the allegations levelled at Sri Lanka by the Geneva Human Rights Commission is puzzling.

The Minister also stressed that many of the allegations made by the Human Rights Commission were not related to the war and that they had questioned the internal affairs of the country, such as the Constitution and the appointment of the Commanders of the three Armed Forces and added that we must all come to a common agreement to defeat the forces that are operating in this manner against Sri Lanka.

mit. On the agenda will be approval of

Sri Lanka, Thailand will be the host of the grouping. (WION)

Easter Sunday commemorations are held. The Ministry further requests

the public to properly follow the given

health guidelines to prevent the possi-

ble spread of the pandemic during this

Strategic Development Projects Act,

a Resolution for the Revision of Sal-

ary and Allowances of the Director-

Forces on alert during **Easter commemorations** LAHIRU FERNANDO

BIMSTEC to be held mid-August in Colombo

The Defence Ministry has taken action to further strengthen security in the upcoming weeks as Christians commemorate two years since the Easter Sunday Attacks of 2019.

The Ministry in a press release said the Security Forces are on the alert and the Tri-Forces have been instructed to take security measures in coordination with the Sri Lanka Police. The Defence Ministry has also

Parliament meets full From page 01

period.

on Parliamentary Business has also decided to hold the Adjournment debate pertaining to the Final Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to Investigate and Inquire into and Report or Take Necessary Action on the Bomb Attacks on April 21, 2019 to be taken up for the fourth consecutive day on April 7.

In addition, the Committee on Parliamentary Business has also decided to into debate the "Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on the Political Victimisations" on April 8 and 9.

On April 6, three Regulations under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, two orders under the

Tough laws on registering... From page 01

He said that due to the deposit value being low for registering parties, a number of independent groups submit nominations at the polls and as a result ballot papers get stretched and voters face a quandary.

He was speaking at a meeting held at the Grand Kandyan Hotel in Kandy recently.

He said the SLFP had decided to pay special attention to these issues when drafting a new Constitution and that the party had submitted these proposals to the expert committee to draft a new Constitution.

He the SLFP was proposing to increase the deposit amount to Rs.20

million for a parliamentary election, Rs.10 million for a Provincial Council election and Rs. 5 million for a local government election. The Minister said

naming of political parties on the basis of race and religion should see an end.

The Minister stated that the SLFP is of the view that the powers of the Provincial Councils should be further decentralised and that the District Council system should be followed.

shocked at what was going on . It was only later that we realised that you helped to untie the political knot the former government had created.

We urge you to continue your struggle in the same way. If the government goes in the wrong direction, we will join hands with

No right to seek public office... From page 01

He also noted that the Commission Report has named the former President as being responsible for the attack by way of neglecting intelligence information and security measures. Hence there is no need to delay the process of taking legal action. "He should go home and mind his own business."

He urged the Government to implement the recommendations of the Easter PCoI without any undue delay. The Colombo Archbishop was speaking to the media following the Easter Sunday morning mass held at the St.Lucia's Cathedral in Kotahena yesterday.

False propaganda has delayed... From page 01

He also said that in order to give the Chinese vaccine to the people of this country, it is necessary to obtain expert recommendations and data in this regard.

He also said that MP Rajitha Senaratne's statements regarding the Sinopharm vaccine could not be taken into account at a time when the world recognized that the vaccine was safe for the people. He further said that an order of

been placed with the Indian Government and that diplomatic discussions had been held to obtain them and hoped that Sri Lanka would receive the vaccine in the next few weeks. The State Minister also said that preliminary

Corona quarantine laws intro-

duced by the health sector will be strictly enforced during the upcoming festive season, he added.

All must receive second jab... From page 01

"There is an issue over the Chinese vaccine and the question arises whether this vaccine has received World Health Organization approval," he said.

He said the political authority in the country can-

not take a decision with regard to the mass roll out of a vaccine and such decision has to be taken by the National Medicine Regulatory Authority that has experts in the medical field.

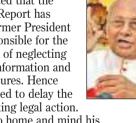
work has been done for its import.

one million vaccines had

remembered at the churches which were subjected to the attacks, including St. Anthony's Kochchikade and the Katuwapitiya Church. Floral tributes were also offered to the monument dedicated for the victims of the deadly Easter attacks on the Churches and hotels and guesthouses.

have worked so hard to form. The second anniversary of the 2019 Easter Sunday carnage falls on April 21 this year and the Archbishop stressed

before April 21, 2021.



protect your trade union rights, it is your obligation to support protect our government. It is one year since this government was elected. Although it is four years for the Podujana Peramuna, the government is not even one vear old. We have a responsibility to take forward this government that we

that they would seek justice by

demonstrating on the streets

on behalf of the victims and

their families if the recommen-

dations are not implemented

The victims of the attack were

General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Cor-

ruption is scheduled to be taken into debate. Meanwhile, two questions of urgent public importance at adjournment time of each Sitting Day of Parliament, one each from the Gov-

ernment and the Opposition for 20 minutes within the time allocated for the motion at the adjournment was agreed to be allowed at the Committee on Parliamentary Business in response to an inquiry made by the Chief Opposition Whip Lakshman Kiriella.

issued special instructions to the Chief of Defence Staff and the Tri Forces Commanders in this regard. In addition, the Ministry also requests the public and devotees to be vigilant during this period where the





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FEATURE

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021









First 'Discussion with the Village' programme in the North

Water for Vavuniya at a cost of Rs. 60 bn

The first 'Discussion with the Village' programme in the Northern Province was held at the Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya premises in the Vedivaithyakallu Grama Niladhari Division of the Vavuniya North Divisional Secretariat Division in the Vavuniya District under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa last Saturday (3).

Listening to the grievances expressed by the people with regard to the shortage of water in the area, the President instructed officials to take steps to resolve the issue which has been inconveniencing the people for decades in the Vavuniya District, within a year.

Ninety-two percent of the population in the district suffers from the shortage of clean drinking water. The water project will be implemented as an accelerated project at a cost of Rs. 60 billion. It was decided to restore all tube wells in the area and to implement a number of community water projects as immediate solutions.

The people pointed out that the shortage of teachers, buildings and desks in the schools in the district was a major problem that needed to be resolved soon. The President instructed the Education Ministry to acquire information and statistics in this regard and allocate funds as required.

Monks who have to take care of their parents are faced with the difficulty to observe their duties to the *Sasana*. Therefore, the President says that he has decided to provide employment opportunities to the families who have offered their children to the *Sasana* under the 100,000 job scheme.

The 'Discussion with the Village' programme commenced on September 25, 2020, from the Badulla District. Thereafter programmes were organized covering



Families who offered children to the Sasana to receive benefits under 100,000 jobs scheme

Solutions to water shortage in Vavuniya within a year.

Issues affecting schools in the area resolved

number of subjects to assist students in their further education.

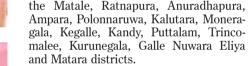
A programme to grant title deeds to the families who had been in possession of government lands without clear ownership was started recently. President Rajapaksa symbolically presented title deeds to five families in the Vavuniya North Divisional Secretariat Division during the discussion.

In addition, the President awarded three scholarships for courses conducted by the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka as well.

The Road Development Authority has been entrusted with the development of 37 km of by-roads in Bogaswewa and surrounding villages and two main bridges in the area.

The President advised to renovate 16 tanks in Bogaswewa village and 17 tanks including the Kivul Oya project.

The President said that temples in the area should be renovated preserving the archaeological heritage for future generations.



The idea behind this programme is for the President to talk to the rural communities living in remote and difficult areas, without intermediaries, about their longstanding unresolved problems and to present them directly to the officials in order to find solutions. Problems that can be solved on the spot are instantly addressed. The rest which take time to deal with are noted down to find solutions later. The objective of the programme is to reach out to the people of the village, understand their problems and find solutions giving considerations to their own suggestions.

Vedivaithyakallu Grama Niladhari Division is located about 38 km East and South of Vavuniya town bordering Padaviya and Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariats and Nandimithra village in the west of the Anuradhapura district. Bogaswewa 1, Bogaswewa 2, Kambiliwewa, Wediwaithyakallu, Kovilpuliyankulama and Veheratenna villages belong to this Grama Niladhari Division. The village has a population of 1,520 comprising 478 families. Paddy and Chena farming are the main livelihood of the people.

President Rajapaksa arrived at Bogaswewa and from there he travelled to Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya to attend the 'Discussion with the Village' programme. President Rajapaksa conversed with the people gathered on both sides of the road and inquired into the problems that ail them.

The President presented the two lap-

tops donated by SLT Mobitel to Bogaswewa Maha Vidyalaya and Nedunkerni Maha Vidyalaya and the TV and the connection donated by Dialog Axiata to the principals.

Another objective of President Rajapaksa is to develop school library facilities in all areas where the 'Discussion with the Village' programme is held. The President presented sets of books to schools under the programme 'A generation empowered with knowledge'. Each school receives 500 books covering a It was decided to build electric fences to protect the villages that are threatened by wild elephant intrusions.

The need to develop the Bogaswewa Primary Health Centre for inpatient treatment was emphasized.

President Rajapaksa directed the officials to address the shortage of doctors, nurses and other staff members in the hospitals in the area and to meet the infrastructure and other requirements as well.

The resolution of long-standing land ownership disputes and facilitating villagers to engage in agriculture was discussed at length.

Northern Province Governor P.S.M. Charles, Vavuniya District Parliamentarians Cader Mastan and Kulasingham Thileepan, People's Representatives of the district, Principal Adviser to the President Lalith Weeratunga, Secretaries to Ministries, Heads of Government Institutions and the Security Forces participated in the 'Discussion with the Village' programme at the Bogaswewa Maha Vidyala premises.







MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

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NEWS

DN page 6 National 'Aluth Sahal Mangalya' under President's patronage

Abeyratne.

nila Aththo.

The National 'Aluth Sahal Mangalya' (New Rice Festival) one of the most venerated ancient agricultural rituals to offer the maiden harvest of Maha season to the Buddha was held yesterday (4) under the patronage of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Sacred Sri Maha Bodhiya premises.

It is an annual custom to set aside the first portion of the recent harvest to prepare Buddha Pooja. The event was organized by the Agriculture Ministry and the Agrarian Services Department for the 54th occasion under the guidance of Chief Incumbent of Atamasthana Ven. Prof. Pallegama Sirinivasa Nayaka Thera.

A large number of farmers from different parts of the country were present at the traditional ceremony with the hope of receiving bless-

ings of nature and the Triple Gem to receive timely showers, bountiful harvests and a prosperous economy for the country. Following the ancient traditions, the New Rice Festival Perahera (procession) entered the Bo Maluwa through the eastern wahalkada amidst hewisi sounds and filled the goldplated bowl set up in the

Saman Devalaya Nigara pavilion in front of Sacred Jayasundara Bandara hand-Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, with ed over the bowl of ghee to rice. President Gotabaya Raja-paksa performed the tradiage to the Sacred Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi.

tional custom of filling the bowl with new rice amidst the chanting of Seth Pirith by the Maha Sangha led by Ven. Pallegama Sirinivasa Nayaka Thera.

Afterwards, the Ministers and MPs as well as a large number of farmers from different parts of the country filled the bowl with fresh rice.

The first copy of the magthe representatives of the azine compiled by the farmers' unions from the Department of Agrarian nine provinces.

Following the traditional Development to mark the ceremony, the President New Rice Festival was presented to the President paid homage to the Sacred Sri Maha Bodhiya, and Rajapaksa by the Commissioner General of Agrarian obtained blessings.

Development A.H.M.L. Later, the President and First Lady Ioma Rajapaksa Basnayake Nilame of the called on the Chief Incumbent of Atamasthana Ven. Prof. Pallegama Sirinivasa Nayaka Thera and inquired about his wellthe President to pay hombeing.

The Maha Sangha, Minister of Agriculture Mahindananda Aluthgamage, bowl traditionally offered to Minister S.M. Chandrasena, Bodhiya by the indigenous North Central Province community was handed Governor Maheepala Herath, State Ministers Duminda Dissanayake, Shashindra Rajapaksa, Shehan Semasinresenting his Leader Wanghe, Channa Jayasumana, MP K.P.S. Kumarasiri and cally distributed seed paddy public officials were preblessed with Seth Pirith to sent



The Easter Sunday Vigil Midnight Mass was held at the St. Mary's Cathedral in Batticaloa, Puliyantivu yesterday. Bishop of Batticaloa Joseph Ponniah along with Parish Priest Rev. Fr. George Jeevaraj, Jesuit Rev. Father Joseph Mery and Rev. Fr. A. Morayas conducted the Mass. Picture by Sivam Packiyanathan, Batticaloa Special Corr.

All material on Easter carnage being scrutinised -AG

la De Livera, PC, while refuting media reports claiming that charges nating Officer of the Attorregarding the 2019 Easter ney General and State Sunday attacks would be presented in the near special team of officers is future, yesterday said that presently studying the all materials regarding the

Attorney General Dappu- carnage are being studied carefully.

According to the Coordi-Counsel Nisara Jayaratne, a material.



The pure bee's honey

the Sacred Jayasri Maha

over to the President by

Uruwarige Gunabanda rep-

The President symboli-

SLPP will rule beyond 2025 – Minister Pathirana

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Corr.

The Sri Lanka Pudujana Peramuna (SLPP) will rule the country not only till 2025 but also beyond 2025, Plantation Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana said.

He was addressing a SLPP trade union conference at Hall De Galle in Galle on Saturday. "The trade unionists

took the lead to overthrow

the Government of Good Governance and bring our Government to power under the leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He is a classic leader who carries forward the

policies and ideals of the SLPP, which was born under the leadership of Mahinda Rajapaksa and Basil Rajapaksa," the Minister said.

"The SLPP will develop the country and lead the

progressive movement. The Government will remain in power until 2025 and the SLPP will definitely rule this country

even after 2025," he said. "People's problems may not have been solved. So let's go on that journey together. The people will eventually reap the rewards of that journey. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the Head of State on the promise of

defending Sri Lanka and protecting the four corners of the country," he said.

"The President's first promise was to protect the country. He does it to the best of his ability. He came to power stating that he was protecting the country through a new vision for the country. The people will see the results in the future," the Minister said.





M.A.PHAKURDEEN, Addalaichenai Group Corr

Akkaraipattu Police took steps to drive away stray cattle on the Main Road in the Akkaraipattu Municipal Council area and filed

several cases against their owners recently. Akkaraipattu Police OIC W.M.S.B. Wijethunge accompanied by the Chief Inspector of Police S.M. Moham-

Police Officers on Thursday have taken 35 cattle heads into their custody and on Monday 16 more

Akkaraipattu ed Sathath along with a team of M.H.M.Hamza ordered to fine to roam the city.

Rs.2,000 each of cattle owners and released the cattle.

Mayor Athaullah Ahamed Zacky told that the cattle owners Magistrate should not allow their cattle heads



missioner David McKinnon called on North Western Province Governor Raja Collure at the latter's office recently. They discussed the development in the Province . Provincial Chief Secretary P. B. M. Sirisena was present. Picture by Anuruddha Subasinghe, Kurunegala Central Corr

Cultivating secondary crops must be encouraged - Minister Aluthgamage

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN,

cessing centre in Kathiraveli in Parliamentarian Sivanesadurai caloa Government Agent K. tance and water pumps will be roast and packet 300 kilos of tural system, Rs. 107 million

Batticaloa Special Corr.

Cultivating secondary crops such as groundnut must be encouraged to uplift farmers' living standards, Agriculture Minister Mahidananda Aluthgamage said.

He opened a groundnut pro-

the Vakarai Secretarial Division on Friday. Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath, Backward Rural Areas Development and Promotion of Domestic Animal Husbandry and Minor Economic Crop Cultivation State Minister Sathasivam Viyalendran,

Chandrakanthan, Secretary to Eastern Province Agriculture Ministry Kalamathy Pathmaraja, Agriculture Modernization Project Director R.R.A. Kukan Wijeyakoon, Eastern Province Director P.M.N. Dayaretne, Project Officer Rathiga Ravi, Batti-

Karunakaran, Agriculture Department Deputy Director S.Perinparaja and Vakarai Divisional Secretary S.Karan were present.

The Minister said that despite the COVID pandemic, the Government is continuing developmental work. "Financial assisprovided to 100 families and their crops will be provided with a market," he said.

"Six farmer societies of Vakarai that cultivate groundnut have been facilitated with a groundnut processing centre worth Rs. 40 million. The centre can separate,

groundnut per hour earning Rs. have been spent on a swivel irri-80 profit from a kilo. Water pumps, plowing machine and ground preparing machinery have and roads in Vakari. Because of been provided with farmers, too," he said. "Of Rs. 147 million that was

modern agricultural systems, groundnut production has been increased by 30 per cent in allocated to modernise agricul-Vakarai," he said.

gation scheme, water pumps,

groundnut seeds and a bridge

LATE OBITUARY NOTICE



Mr. KARTHIKESU NADARASA **Retired Deputy Director General of Health Services** (Finance), Ministry of Health Colombo

Mr.Nadarajah was born in Puttalai Puloly South Puloly and lived with his Family in Kantha udayas lane Point pedro. He Passed away peacefully on Monday of 8th March 2021. He was the loving son of late Sandrasekaram Karthikesu and of late Vallippillai and son in law of late Mahalingam and late Sinnammah and beloved husband of Sironmany and father of Thamilselvi , (Management Assistant at University of Jaffna) & Sivashancary (Management Service Officer Pradeshiya Sabha Karainagar.) Affectionate brother of Maheswary and Ganeshalingam (Retired Chief Project Officer NIE Maharagama) and Father in law of Aingaran (Ayurvedic Medical Officer at Siddha Central Dispensary, Point Pedro) and Sivatuban (Development Officer Valikamam West Pradeshiya Sabha) and Grandfather of Lithushan, Bavitraa and Mathusan and cousin of Nagapooshany (Colombo) Ramasamy (Retired Administrative Officer, Zonal Education Office Vadamaradchchi) His Funeral took place at his home according to Hindu rites and Cremation took at Supparmadam Point Pedro Crematorium on Tuesday the 9th March 2021. We thank all those who have sent Floral tributes, messages of Condolence attended the funeral and helped us in many ways.

Family Members, Address: Kantha udayar Lane, Puloly Centre, Point Pedro Telephone no : 0212264711

June 26 to be declared National **Day of Energy**

CHANDIMA KARUNARATNE

The Power Ministry will declare June 26 as the National Day of Energy and propose the day to the United Nations, too.

According to Power Minister Dullas Alahapperuma, the people in Sri Lanka saw a electric bulb for the first time on June 26.

The Power Ministry in coordination of all agencies under the Ministry including the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has planned to implement a new power generation plant under the directive of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

190 new Police Stations

SHAVINI MADHARA

One hundred and ninety new police stations will be set up to create a society free from fear and suspicion, Public Security Minister Sarath

He was addressing the opening ceremony of the new police station in Iyankakulam yesterday.

The Minister said that Maradakeni and Iyankakulam in the North have been selected for two new police stations.

The Minister said that people of these areas have to travel long distances to obtain police services. The high number of illegal activities have been taken into account when setting up the new police stations.

Weli Oya residents empowered

The people of Weli Oya in the Mahaweli L Zone has been empowered, Mahaweli Zone Canals and Common Settlement Infrastructure Development State Minister Siripala Gamalath said.

He was participating in an event to rehabilitate the Salalihinigama and the Helamba Irrigation tanks in the Mahaweli L Zone recently. The State Minister inspected the area also to identify the problems of the settlers.

ASELA KURULUWANSA

itage Site.

the hotel.

Heritage Building.

the incident.

The Queen's Hotel in Kandy, which

Blood stains were also found near

tigation has been launched taking into

account the CCTV camera footage of

He said that the relevant agencies

assess the damage caused to the World

A party of the Kandy Bar Associa-

tion was also at the hotel on the day of

Kandy Bar Association President

organised was held at the hotel on that

Dhammika Hettihewage said that a

party of the Bar Association that he

day but none of the lawyers was

involved in the incident.

Mahaweli Zone Canals and Common Settlement Infrastructure State Ministry Secretary Engineer Wasantha Bandara Palugaswewa said that Rs.577 million has been allocated to develop the Mahaweli L Zone. State Minister Siripala Gamalath met the farmer community led by the Maha Sangha. About 18,671 families live in the Mahaweli L Zone, which was earmarked in 1987.

They have cultivated nearly 1,000

Vandals damage

Queen's Hotel

hectares of paddy in the Yala season and 4,200 hectares in the Maha Season. They also grow cereals and other crops. However, lack of irrigated water and drinking water has been identified as two major issues of the people of the area.

Therefore, the Mahaweli Zone Canals and Common Settlement Infrastructure Development State Ministry has initiated a special programme under the directive of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to improve the living condition of the people of Weli Oya, Padaviya, Samath Nuwara, Parakkramapura and Gajabapura.

Drinking water, irrigated water, agro wells, milch cows, self-employments, infrastructure development, livelihood programmes, road development, settlement of land disputes, and electric fences have been provided to the villagers.

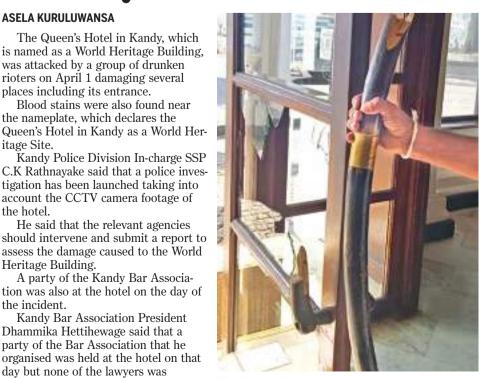
Obituaries

DAVID - ANGELO JOSEPH RANJIT, loving husband of Louisa, Beloved darling father of Soundarie and Rajiv, loving fatherin-law of Pradeep Rodrigo and Jani Jayasinghe, much loved grandfather (papa) of Dwayne, brother of late Cosmo David, late Dotty Thyriar, Ida Anthonypillai (Canada), late Leslie David & Bubsy Johnpillai, passed away peacefully. Remains will lie at A.F. **Raymond's Funeral Parlour from 10.00** a.m. on Sunday 4th April 2021. Cortege leaves the Parlour after Service at 3.00 p.m. on Monday 5th April for Burial at the Jawatte Cemetery (R.C. Section) at 4.00 p.m. 026394

SINNETAMBY - DEVAYANI MA-HESWARI, Beloved daughter of the late Ratnasabapathy Doresamy and Nagamma Doresamy, sister of Tyagarajah (deceased), Visadewa (deceased), Leela (deceased) and of Padma, beloved wife of the late Vasantha Sinnetamby, beloved mother of Nimisha Sinnetamby (deceased) and Dhanya Ratnavale, mother-in-law of Shehan, loving grandmother of Achera and Atarah. Cortege leaves residence No. 7, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7 on Monday 5th April at 10.45 a.m. for Cremation at General Cemetery, Borella at 11.30 a.m. (New Crematorium). 026395

was attacked by a group of drunken rioters on April 1 damaging several places including its entrance. the nameplate, which declares the

Weerasekara said.



The damaged entrance.

page 7 Remembering Albert A. Page on his 100th birthanniversary

When a colossus leaves this world, he illuminates the path for generations to come. In our mind this is perhaps the greatest tribute anyone could pay the visionary Albert A. Page on his 100th birth anniversary, being celebrated on 4th April 2021. Many of us wonderwhere the soul of the departed takes flight, but in the case of Albert A.Page, the late patriarch of Cargills and CT Holdings-his soul lives on within each and every employee and eachand every accomplishment of the Group today.

As a young student schooling at Manipay Hindu College in Jaffna, the young Albert was shy, methodical and studious. With his grandfather a principal of the local school, Albert had the value of education instilled in him. Even though his world was centred in Jaffna, the young man yearned to pursue higher education, eventually making his way to the commercial capital of Colombo, where he continued high school at the prestigious Ananda College, His thirst for knowledge saw him further qualify as a Chartered Accountant of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka and as a Chartered Secretary of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries, London, joining as Partner at Page & Hulugalla (later, Hulugalle Wickramanayake Company). The next memorable milestone in his life was his marriage in 1950 to Lucy Aloysius, with whom he went on to have 8 children, relishing his role as the patriarch of a

loving and joyful

family



Perhaps steered by destiny, he joined Ceylon Theatres as a Junior Clerk in the accounts section in 1942. From attending an Industrial Welfare Course in Christ College, Cambridge UK, to being the first employee delegate from Sri Lanka at the H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh's First Study Conference in 1956, Albert Page was widening his world view and expanding his influence across all aspects of life. At Cevlon Theatres, he flourished and his

natural leadership

qualities were

apparent

early on. After this there was no looking back, as he rose fast and eventually appointed was. Managing Director of Ceylon Theatres in 1980 and Chairman in 1985.

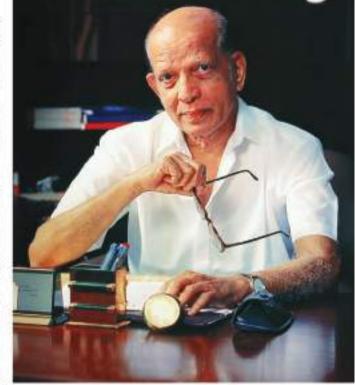
Throughout his life Albert Page was led by the yearning to give back to society. This trait was evident in all his ventures. During his time at Ceylon Theatres, he was actively involved with promoting local and international films. Some of the local productions Ceylon Theatres backed; such as Golu Hadawatha, Akkara Paha and Nidhanaya, directed by the great film-maker Lester James Pieris went on to win many awards. Albert Page took pride in being the pioneer in promoting Sinhala films. He would often remain in deep discussions with great film makers and artistes such as Lester James Pieris and Gamini Fonseka and other Western and local film personalities. But he was a man whowas never dazzled by the arc

lights and the glamour;he always remained a simple man with simple tastes, and even when he had built a sizable business, he maintained his simplicity, never forgetting his days commuting to work on a bicycle.

The cinema industry was nationalised in the late 70s and looking for thenext challenge Albert Page mulled increasing a bigger share in Ceylon Theatres. 1978 his vision for In diversification was clear.After giving the nation the joy of cinema, he wanted to provide entertainment hubs for families to visit and therefore Majestic Cinema rose in Bambalapitiya. He was pleased to see families pouring into the venue to enjoy themselves. Today his legacy is being carried on with similar malls coming up in Jaffna, Dematagoda and Gampaha, with more planned in Bandarawela, Kandy and Negombo.

Albert Page achieved much in his lifetime, but never lost sight of his passion to contribute to development of the the ... community and to give hack to society. As he determinedly sacrificed and ploughed back the profits earned back into the company to achieve growth, his businesses thrived and was propelled ahead, while his employees benefitted. His development-oriented mindset left a deep imprint on the Cargills Group and his intuitive leadership to ensure sustainability demonstrates his visionary thinking because sustainability is vital in every business today - something he foresaw decades before.

He was a mentor and father figure to employees who looked up to him for advice and guidance, with an eye for spotting exceptional talent and would promote the young men and women to take bigger roles in the organisation. At home, he was a strict but loving father groomed the next and generation subtly to take over the business. Most people who knew him well would aver that he never showed his emotions and remained calm and self-assured in any circumstance he found himself in. Whether the success of Cargills today as a leading group was written in the stars or not, its trajectory was



definitely envisioned by Albert Page whose diary was found years after his passing in 2000, which showed he had wanted to set up a development bank, by which time Cargills Bank has already been established unbeknownst. His diary also held instructions not to take the profits out of the country but to reinvest in the nation so that the country would benefit. Albert Page's strong foundation has paved the way for the success story that is Cargills today.Every aspect of Cargills' operations is focused on giving back to society because it sources fresh produce from a farmer out grower network that is thriving and employs youth from remote areas to give them a chance at a better

His generosity knew no bounds. In the early 80s the government was looking to set up a theatre for local plays and the Ceylon Theatres' cinema, Tower Hall (a Theatre which had been converted to a cinema), was handed over to the Government at the time of the late Prime Minister Premadasa to develop local Sinhala theatre. The arts theatre and cinema - were close to Albert Page's heart and he believed by developing these facets the people of the country were benefitted by watching local

home-grown talent rather than consuming western imports. As filmgoers settle comfortably into the seats of Regal Colombo or cinemas in other areas, the presence of the pioneer of the Sri Lankanentertainment industry lingers on.

DN

Although he never returned to live in Jaffna, his strong emotional ties with his birthplace, his schooland the school where Albert Page's grandfather served as principal remained.

Nelson Mandela once said *Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", and Albert Page - who only too well knew thepower of education - has the Albert A. Page Institute of Food Business (AAPI) set up in his memory, a non-profit independent entity which is empowering underprivileged youth in rural areas.

Amidst the throes of a global pandemic and economic uncertainty the story of a visionary leader such as Albert A. Page providesa soothing balm to our souls and give us hope and inspiration with the legacy he has left behind. Long after the 100th anniversary remembrancesof his extraordinary life fades, his powerful presence will continue to nurture and inspire many generations.

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Seminar on **New Tax Changes**

NW CAQ-7

Inland Revenue Department has organized a seminar to discuss Amendments to Tax Statutes - 2021

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April 08, 2021 Date 8.30 am to 12.30 pm Duration

- The link will be shared with you via email if you are a registered taxpayer
- Also, the link is available on the IRD web portal ۰.
- It is possible for you to follow the seminar on IRD official facebook account

Commissioner General of Inland Revenue



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- Import restriction in place for 3W tyres. 100% of this demand of approximately 61,000 per month can be supplied through domestic manufacturers whose production capacity is 119,500 tyres per month.
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- Due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, there is a worldwide tyre shortage at the moment and hence the short supply in imports.
- Some orders placed as far back as December 2020 by importers have still not even been shipped from foreign factories due to supply chain disruptions.
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EDITORIAL

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021



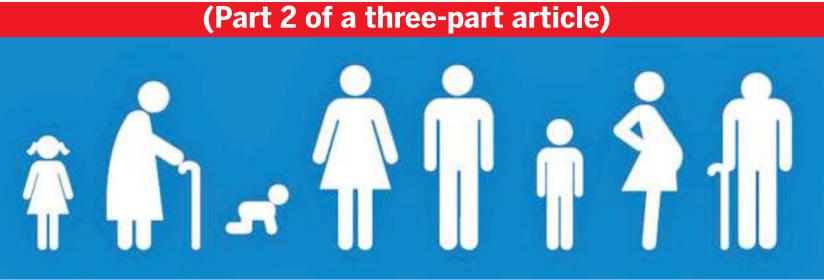
LAKE HOUSE P. O. Box 1217 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694 E-mail : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk M 0 N DAY, APRIL 5, 2021

Giving new meaning to 'New Normal'

Burgeoning traffic in major cities such as Colombo and Kandy is the best indication yet that the country has turned the corner in the post-Covid period of economic uncertainty. The fact that traffic has almost reached pre-Covid levels is a sign that there is no fear of a contagion, and that with the vaccine programmes being implemented on a staggered basis, the people have reason to believe that they can get back to living normal lives.

- It is almost as if it is the perennial traffic crisis that needs solutions now, and not the Covid problem which is under control. The Sinhala and Tamil New Year period is bound to heighten anxiety among the health authorities though, because there is a fear that people may misuse their newfound 'freedom' vis-à-vis the pandemic to the extent of ignoring all the health-related guidelines.
- However, that fear, as with the return of artery-clogging traffic, is in itself an indication that the curtailment of the pandemic is now a reality that calls for some type of celebration. The New Year is a fitting time for such good cheer, as long as the people do not go overboard with the festivities. Compared to where we were one year ago, the recovery has been quite the comeback story.
- The issue of traffic and the other irritants that come with normal life have to be addressed now even as we suffer from the hangover left by the contagion. The adjustment period that we are presently in can be confusing. People are not sure about which vaccine they should get and when the new phase of vaccination would begin after the first round of jabs essentially ended after a rather successful programme that was well coordinated, despite some inevitable hiccups.
- People who are getting back to work now have to deal with new realities such as the uneven distribution of the workplace burden. Some workers are required to negotiate the traffic gauntlet and report to work daily. Others are not. This could create a certain level of resentment in the office environment, and that makes it incumbent on the authorities to ease the burden on those who have to run the rat race more rigorously than others who have the luxury of Working From Home (WFH) most of the time.

The Traffic Police themselves are in the former category. Their job is unenviable in the April heat, and the signs are there that some cops are already cracking under pressure. There aren't many among us who have not seen the viral video of the cop in Pannipitiya who lost his cool and physically stomped on a lorry driver in the middle of the road, in broad day-



The Concept of Equality and Elimination of Discrimination in Employment: Scope and Developments

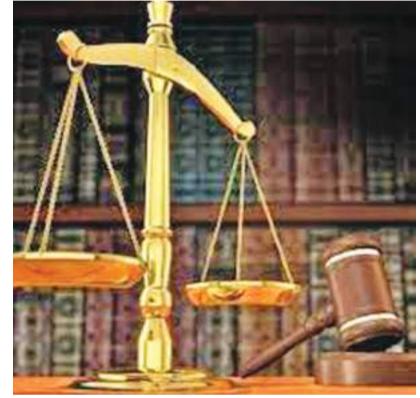


SILVA Attorney-at-Law he concept of equality which is central to the dis-

cussion of justice lies at the root of the democratic idea. Many great revolutions aimed at shaking off arbitrary rule of one form or another have stressed on this concept of equality. The question arises whether increased equality can only be achieved at the expense of liberty or conversely, whether expanding liberty must diminish equality. Learned opinion is divided on this matter. On the one hand, it is clear that certain degree of liberty is necessary to promote the ideal of equality. For example, to achieve economic equality in a society, a measure of liberty is necessary. Lord Acton, one of the outstanding thinkers on the concept of freedom, emphasized that equality unrestrained could destroy freedom.

ASPECTS OF THE CONCEPT OF THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY

Human beings who by nature are of unequal strength, talent and other attributes, are clearly not units of equal weight in their societies. The inequalities of nature are reinforced by the social and economic circumstances which as people commence life, place some at an advantage over others. Far greater is the impossibility of preserving general equality for any period, however short. A permanent state of equality is only the remotest dream. There are two famous legal expressions linked to the concept of equality, namely (1) all persons are equal before the law and (2) all persons are entitled to equal protection of the law. The expression "equal protection of the law" is found in the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Article 18 of the 1972 Constitution of Sri Lanka embodied both phrases. The Indian Constitution in terms of Article 14 also uses both expressions. Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contains both expressions. Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also embodies both aspects of the concept of equality. Equality before the law is the negative aspect implying the absence of any special privilege in favour of any individual and the equal subjection of all classes to the ordinary law. Equal protection of the law is a more positive concept and implies equality of treatment in similar circumstances. The varying needs of different classes require separate treatment and the concept of equality does not take away from the State the power of classifying persons for legitimate purposes. The State is therefore permitted to make laws that are unequal and to take unequal administrative action when dealing with persons who are placed in different circumstances and situations. It aims at equality by treatment of equals. Equality can be denied, if government fails to distinguish between persons who for equal protection purposes, should be regarded as differently situated. Equal protection guarantees protection from legislative and executive tyranny and abuse of power by the judicial arm of the government by way of discrimination. Inequality, per se, does not violate equal protection, for every selection of persons for regulation pronounces inequality in some degree. The inequality to offend the concept must be actually and palpably unreasonable and arbi-





To bring about real change, the State should act positively to promote equality. This in turn requires the State to take affirmative action.

stantive equality is then limited to scrutinizing the appropriateness of criteria for eligibility for exclusion. But because the aims of substantive equality are broadly in sympathy with provision of benefits, courts have searched for additional criteria, supplementing the grounds prohibited by formal equality, to distinguish appropriateness of criteria for eligibility from inappropriate categorization.

The courts should not be substituting their decisions for those of policymakers on resource allocation. Instead, they should be demanding proper democratic accountability. This entails an explanation of the decision which is reasonable and proportionate and is based on evidence rather than generalizations or judicial notice.

In this way the courts contribute to the democratic process both by strengthening accountability and by ensuring that political deliberation includes those who would otherwise be silenced in the political arena. The duty to provide, which constitutes the core of substantive equality, remains a primarily political impetus, unless the States' Constitution includes express socio-economic rights or the courts are in a position to imply such rights from civil and political rights. Nevertheless, even in the absence of such rights, courts have a role to play in furthering substantive equality. To ensure that substantive equality furthers its aims of addressing disadvantage in society, the courts will need to develop criteria to assess the State's policies on resource allocation and the provision of benefits. On the one hand, the tradition of judicial intervention in positive state provision has been detrimental to substantive equality, using negative duties of restraint and formal equality to strike down or subvert positive and social rights.

ngnt.

- How do the authorities some of who were themselves the beneficiaries of the WFH work ethic of relative ease in isolation — come up with quick solutions to the traffic issue and traffic control matters when officialdom has for close to a one-year period taken their "eye off the ball" in a manner of speaking?
- It is good to hear that at the policy making level, there has been some good decision making. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa announced that Sky Trains (elevated railways) would be introduced in an accelerated plan to ease the traffic congestion in Colombo. Questions may be raised legitimately about the financing of such mega projects at a time there are obvious economic difficulties related to the pandemic.
- However, the State has to ride the wave of recovery and bank on money infusions for key projects as we progress from the first phase of recovery onto Stage 2 and beyond. The money will materialize if the political will is there. This was the case after the War when the coffers were completely depleted in the immediate post-2009 period due to the heavy defence expenditure. The expressways came up in short order after the immediate post recovery phase of resettlement and it is remarkable that what could not be achieved during peacetime by various previous administrations was made a reality in the immediate aftermath of a long period of hostilities that saw untold burdens on the National Exchequer.
- This time, in the post-Covid recovery phase, it is probably an even tougher task, to build transport related infrastructure when the entire world is suffering from the economic effects of the pandemic. Some may wager that until the world recovers, Sri Lanka cannot.

But the global recovery will be faster than most people expect. Entrepreneurs are ravenous for new opportunities and there are a host of new areas that are already taking the fancy of adventurous innovators. SpaceX owner and world's second richest man Elon Musk is for example, engineering an entire 'green revolution' with his relatively new "Tesla" brand of electric powered cars — and this is a man who worked as if the pandemic never existed. It is likely that these new technologies will power a global comeback that would be unprecedented, and if any country is ready to ride that wave, it is not sky trains but the sky itself that is the limit.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Some people don't like change, but you need to embrace change if the alternative is disaster.- *Elon Musk*

Today it is a well accepted principle, at least in the developing world, that what equal protection of the laws seeks is not mathematical equality or formal equality but substantive equality among various groups in society.

trary. A classification having some reasonable basis does not violate this principle merely because in practice, it results in some inequality.

It does not forbid reasonable classification. In order however to pass the test of permissible classification, two conditions must be fulfilled, viz. (i) that the classification must be founded on an intelligible differentia which distinguishes persons or things that are grouped together from others left out of the group, and (ii) that the differentia must have a rational relation to the objects sought to be achieved by the Act. What is necessary is that there must be a nexus between the basis of the classification and the objects of the law.

It is now settled that the Equal Protection Clause prohibits discrimination not only by substantive law but also by law of procedure.

FORMAL EQUALITY AND Substantive equality

Formal equality is premised on an abstract individual, judged on personal merit. The formal equality insists that group-based characteristics are irrelevant, and seeks to replace their use in allocating decision-making by merit-based criteria. One of the key insights of substantive equality is its departure from the symmetry of formal equality. It is not colour, gender or some other group characteristic *per se* which is in issue, but the attendant disadvantage, both social and economic.

This focus on disadvantage moves the anti-discrimination agenda into areas often inhabited by anti-poverty, welfare, or social exclusion policies. A key insight of substantive equality is that societal discrimination extends well beyond individual acts of prejudice. To bring about real change, the State should act positively to promote equality. This in turn requires the State to take affirmative action. As Sen argues, "Equal consideration for all may demand very unequal treatment in favour of the Disadvantaged." Substantive equality entails a duty to provide.

Today it is a well accepted principle, at least in the developing world that what equal protection of the laws seeks is not mathematical equality or formal equality but substantive equality among various groups in society. Formal equality, with its focus on the abstract individual, has failed to address deeply entrenched patterns of social disadvantage.

In framing an alternative concept of substantive equality, distributive justice plays a central role. It calls for a duty upon the State to take positive measures to promote equality, including, where appropriate, allocation of resources. But this poses a dilemma for judges grappling with the contested meaning of substantive equality. Resource allocation requires a complex assessment of wide ranging facts and necessitates the setting of priorities and the balancing of interests.

ROLE OF THE COURTS

Many welfare States make a political commitment to distributive equality by providing for the disadvantaged groups. The political arena is therefore seen as the primary space for developing the positive duty to provide, a space which judges are rightly reluctant to invade.

The courts' role in applying sub-

THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY AND EMPLOYMENT: COURT'S APPROACH

In November in 1973, in *E.P. Royappa v State of Tamil Nadu*, Bhagwati J with Chandrachud and Krishna Ayer JJ agreeing, claimed to lay bare a 'new dimension' to Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Dealing with Article 14 and Article 16 (which deals with equality in matters relating to public employment) Bhagwati J stated

"The basic principle which therefore informs both Articles 14 and 16 is equality and inhibition against discrimination. From a positivistic point of view, equality is antithetic to arbitrariness.

In fact, equality and arbitrariness are sworn enemies: one belongs to the rule of law in a republic while the other, to the whim and caprice of an absolute monarch. Where an act is arbitrary, it is implicit in it that it is unequal according to political logic and constitutional law and is therefore violative of Article 14 and if it affects any matter relating to public employment, it is also violative of Article 16." (*To be continued...*)

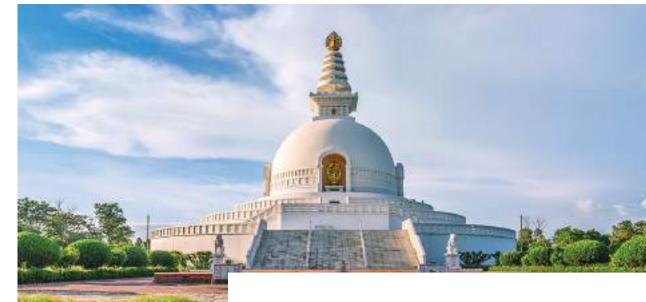
(The writer is a retired Professor in Law at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, has practised in courts, and holds a PhD. in Law)

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

OPINION

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The Peace Pagoda, Lumbini, Nepal

KRZYSZTOF IWANEK

hen I joined the Oriental Institute at Warsaw University as a student 20

years ago, my specialization was "Indology," but the institution I was studying at was called the Chair of South Asian Studies. The explanation for this combination of words was not hard to grasp, but little did I know back then what emotions could arise from the choice of such terms.

Academia generally prefers the term "South Asia" to refer to the entire region. It's a term that is usually understood to be the same as the geographical notion of the "Indian subcontinent." A phrase like "India studies," it is felt, would marginalize the fact that such a discipline very often includes learning about other modern countries of the region.

And yet, some Indians dislike the expression "South Asia" and the terms built around it. They feel that this dilutes the central role played by India on the subcontinent, both historically and in the present. Then again, some people in countries like Pakistan and Nepal are allergic to the overuse of the word "India," feeling that it indicates India's overgrown ambitions to dominate the region.

One of the best instances of such identity skirmishes are the recurrent discussions between Indians and Nepalis over the birthplace of the Buddha. Nepalis are often unhappy when somebody claims that Buddha was born "in India." His birthplace, now called Lumbini, is located in Nepal (just a stone's throw from the border with India). There was no India, they point out – in the sense of a political entity, a sovereign state called India - when Buddha was born, several centuries before Christ. But this line of argument is a back-and-forth swinging blade that leaves no survivors. The modern state of Nepal also did not exist at the time of the Buddha. If we really need to be precise historically, and if we need to refer to political entities, then Siddhartha Gautama, later titled Buddha, was

IS THE TERM 'SOUTH ASIA' CORRECT?

born in a place called Rumminidei in the territory ruled by the clan of Shakyas (who formed an independent political entity) and the same Rumminidei was identified with Lumbini in the territory of presentday Nepal. It is easy to understand why, outside the world of academia, we often cannot afford such lengthy explanations and must resort to simplifications.

But even this is just the starting point of such challenges. Suppose we have thus pin-pointed Buddha's birthplace in space, time, and in political terms. But given that he spent most of his life in present-day northern India, where he searched for knowledge and salvation, taught, and eventually attained Parinibbana, what was the territory he lived in? India? South Asia? We could certainly use the latter term, as it is geographically correct and thus neutral — but it is also very general. It does not tell us anything valuable about the cultural milieu in which he operated.

Buddha's teachings were a part of Indian philosophy and they built on and referred to (and sometimes rebelled against) earlier Indian thought and religious customs. The Buddhist canon was preserved in Indian languages (mostly in Pali, also in Sanskrit). If, instead of this, we would say that these were "South Asian philosophy" and "South Asian languages," such descriptions, even though theoretically correct, would fail to explain anything, to paint any context, to understand linkages and divisions.



what it was before any humans lived there (since the Indian subcontinent collided with Asia, that is).

200 200 200 200 200 20

India is historically a broad cultural notion (a civilization), and now a political one as well. As such, it cannot be described only with reference to time and space, but primarily with reference to people, their thoughts and actions. It is true there was no one state called "India" prior to the 20th century but it is also true that there were various Indian states. There were also Indian languages, Indian religious traditions and Indian thinkers. We use the adjective "Indian" to characterize such people and emphasize the affinities they had with each other, such as with "European states" or "Chinese kingdoms.

Buddha was thus born in a broader geographical region called South Asia and in the cultural milieu of the Indian civilization. That we term this civilization "Indian" does not mean we identify it exclusively with the modern-day Republic of India; the historical Indian civilization and modern Indian state overlap to a very large degree, but not completely. For instance, Bengali is a language spoken in India as well as Bangladesh; Hinduism is a religion numerically prevalent both in India and in Nepal.

Similarly, in reference to earlier

The Buddha was born in present-day Nepal

had been created in India but its Scriptures were copied and preserved in Central Asia, while communities of Indian merchants, Indian Buddhist monks, and Indian Hindu priests thrived across Southeast Asia?

Moreover, while geographical regions are usually easier to outline, the borders of cultures often tend to be fuzzy. Bhutan and Nepal, for instance, are today politically separate from India but geographically located in South Asia. On the level of civilization (above myriad local cultures) they had been influenced by both the Indian and Tibetan civilizations. In the case of Nepal, the intensity of such influences from one side depends on the region and people (but is mostly tilted toward India); in the case of Bhutan, the cultural and linguistic affinities are much more with Tibet. Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, in turn, are territories within the state of India, located in South Asia, but they were also similarly historically influenced by both the Indian and Tibetan civilizations (indeed, parts of both territories are claimed by China today as belonging to Tibet).

Thus, we should write of South Asia as a region, just as we write of East Asia as a region. As of now the former includes more countries than India and the latter more countries than China. But with regard to wide cultural terms, we should write of the Indian civilization and the Chinese civilization, both of which historically thrived across various political entities (Indian states, Chinese states).

The influence of these civilizations historically went beyond the borders of modern states bearing their names (one Republic of India and two Chinese republics), thereby heavily influencing other modern states of their respective regions (such as Nepal, the Koreas or Japan). Recognizing those cultural influences of the past should not be misinterpreted as supporting the idea of political hegemony of any state over the others in the present day, however. (*The Diplomat*) (Krzysztof Iwanek is a South Asia expert and the head of the Asia Research Centre (War Studies University, Poland)

Is there a good solution to this? It

Map of South Asia

depends on the case, but the above instance of the Buddha is as much a review of some naming challenges as an indication of how we can solve them. South Asia is a geographical notion, and as such straddles political divides as well cultural ones. The term is also neutral with regard to time and people – South Asia was history, the Indian civilization cannot be treated as completely overlapping with the region of South Asia. Cultures are not only built by people, but also travel with them. How can we speak of "South Asian civilization" when the Buddhist Canon

Don't 'gift' COVID to your loved ones this season



n important factor of the hour was highlighted by Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera addressing the press conference held at the Health Promotion Bureau in Colombo last Thursday. Addressing journalists, he stated that there is a risk of COVID-19 spreading from Colombo and the Western Province to the other areas of the country during the New Year season through people who are visiting other areas of the country from Colombo to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The Health Ministry has issued a special set of guidelines in connection with celebrating the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Last year we did not have a chance to visit our ancestral homes and other areas in order to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New year. But this year we can celebrate the event with our families. However, it is our responsibility to prevent taking COVID-19 from Colombo and the Western Province to the other areas of the country and not 'gift' COVID-19 to our elderly as the 'deadly' New Year gift. Vaccination against COVID-19 took place all over the country successfully but the health authorities very clearly announced that receiving a vaccine should not be considered as a licence to avoid health guidelines introduced by the health authorities and the Government in order to prevent COVID-19. But it is pathetic to see how people of Sri Lanka behave during these days ignoring all health guidelines putting themselves and others at risk.

Every festive season is a golden opportunity for businessmen, traders, etc. to sell extremely low quality stuff, especially food items, to the people putting their health at a huge risk. Not only food, almost all the other things can be found for a very low prices in the market these days but most of them are of very low quality and not suitable for consumption. No matter how hard the relevant authorities such as Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) try to curb this mafia, the fraudulent traders sell low quality and dangerous goods to the people. It is up to the people to be vigilant and spend money wisely only for essentials without giving away hard earned money to these 'crooks'. Buying only essentials will save people from COVID-19 because it limits the number of places people visit and time spent in crowded places.

It is pathetic to see that almost all celebrations include liquor. Liquor brings evil and nothing else. The very first thing that happens just after taking liquor is losing mindfulness. During this time the first thing that catches you once you lose mindfulness is COVID-19. It does not stop there. You take it home to your elderly parents, other elderly relations, children and especially your loved ones who suffer from Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cancer, heart diseases, kidney diseases, liver diseases, hypertension and loved ones who take drugs to lower their immunity after organ transplant surgeries and similar health conditions.

You will be able to celebrate until one or more of them die at home even without knowing that they got infected with COVID-19. When you discover that it was you who gave them COVID-19, it will be too late for you to reverse things. Your 'celebration'



Avurudu brings Sri Lankans together, but authorities have advised people to observe all health precautions

will become an unforgettable celebration which will bring the bitter memory back every April.

All types of celebrations promote COVID-19 because sharing things, moving very closely to each other, hugging, laughing, etc., are very common in every celebration. Sharing plates, glasses, etc., can spread COVID-19 quickly. Moving closely and hugging each other is another way to spread COVID-19 and that is why people were asked to maintain at least a one-and-a-half metre distance from each other. Shouting and laughing splash COVID-19 droplets to a long distance because a person cannot keep his or her mask on and eat or drink. Therefore it can quickly distribute the virus among participants of the event, no matter whether it is a New Year celebration or not. Musical shows are the deadliest.

Drunk driving will kill many innocent people just as happened in the recent past. If infants, elders and people in high risk categories take part in New Year festivities and other events, the outcome of COVID-19 can be witnessed quickly because they can get infected and die even before seeking medical treatment. We can say we really celebrated this New Year if we can save the lives of our grandparents, aged parents, infants, sick loved ones, etc., to see the New Year celebration of the next year, 2022. That will be the measurement of our good or bad behaviour of this New Year. The other most serious issue is

The other most serious issue is transporting COVID-19 virus to other areas of the country from the Western Province. We saw how some people living in the Western Province packed their bags and left the Province just before a three-day curfew was imposed last year. The problem is not leaving the Western Province per se. The problem was taking COVID-19 with them to all the other areas of the country, especially to their ancestral



Ganu Denu is a well-known New Year tradition

homes where their elderly parents and adult relations with Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and other chronic diseases live.

Last year health authorities, Armed Forces and the police appealed to the residents of the Western Province not to leave the Province for any reason but this appeal was totally ignored. We cannot violate other people's right to live and other human rights. We can enjoy freedom without violating the freedom of other people. What the people who left the Western Province before the curfew did was bring death very close to the elderly and sick people living in other areas of the country. This is an offence which cannot be forgiven on any grounds.

Our parents and all the other elderly relations never say in their lifetime not to visit them. They are eagerly waiting to see their children, grand children and other youngsters in their families. That is their nature. They never say, "Don't come home". They value their children and grandchildren more than their own lives. They prefer death after seeing them. This is the nature of the majority of Sri Lankan parents and grandparents.

It is our duty to protect them. We should not take COVID-19 as a 'deadly gift' to our elderly parents and other adult relations who may suffer from NCDs or any other chronic disease. The elderly and people who suffer from NCDs and other chronic diseases survive COVID-19 rarely. If we really care about our elderly parents and other relations, first of all we need to protect ourselves from COVID-19.

People who leave Colombo and the Western Province usually stop their vehicles at various places to buy things and see the beauty of nature contaminating the entire route. They distribute COVID-19 on their way to whatever destination located outside the Western Province.

Then they 'gift' COVID-19 to the relations, staff of the hotel or any other place where they stay. They may infect the innocent family who accommodates them. Then what about the other people in those unaffected areas who come and stay in contaminated hotels and other places without knowing that the places had been contaminated?

They never stop there. They infect another route on their way back to home located in the Western Province. We should not do the same for this New Year and we should not allow anyone to commit the same crime again and again. Innocent aged and sick people who do not use Facebook should not die because of the 'Facebook post menace' of the people. The majority of people want to show the whole world about their 'celebration'. Showing off their 'celebration' is their one and only aim.

FEATURE

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021



'HUMAN RIGHTS' AND ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

Ancient Sri Lanka was known for its Buddhist eco-centric approach to life. The origin of the contemporary ecological and social crisis can be traced to the colonial period and the incorporation of the country into the global capitalist

DR. ASOKA BANDARAGE

The recent UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Resolution A/ HRC/46/L.1/Rev.1 of March 16 has brought extensive charges against Sri Lanka over alleged human rights violations, but is arguably seriously flawed.

portunistic and strategic use of human rights by the Western powers to maintain hegemony continually ignore violations of the rights of nature and humanity rooted in the destructive model of economic development the same powers introduced to the world. Ancient Sri Lanka was known for

ancient Sri Lanka was known for its Buddhist eco-centric approach to life. The origin of the contemporary ecological and social crisis can be traced to the colonial period and the incorporation of the country into the global capitalist economy.

Vast tracts of forest were cut to establish mono-cultural coffee, tea and rubber plantations and local people lost rights to ancestral lands and



A flooded street after heavy rains





Agriculture is the lifeblood of Sri Lanka



into the global capitalist economy. MCC to digitalize land registers and privatize land to make them available for development by transnational cor-

privatize land to make them available for development by transnational corporations maybe be continuing in other ways.

The US signed an Acquisitions and Cross Services Agreement (ACSA) with Sri Lanka in 2017 making the island a 'logistics hub' allowing US military vessels open-ended access to Sri Lanka's seaports and airports.

The ACSA is part of the "grand strategy of a united military front between the US and India in the Indo-Pacific."

A Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the USA and Sri Lanka, which could turn Sri Lanka into a US military base, has been proposed but not yet signed due to local protest.

NEO-COLONIALISM AND ECO-SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the implications of Neo-colonialism for Sri Lanka's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity have

resources. Deforestation destroyed water resources that irrigated the rivers leaving village tanks dry. Multicrop subsistence agriculture was undermined, leaving people to become dependent on imported food supplies.

Sri Lanka's forest cover declined from 84 percent in 1881 to 70 percent in 1900 and to around 50 percent in 1948, when the British left. Deforestation and plantation development laid the basis for land erosion and loss of animal habitats and biodiversity.

The origin of the current humanelephant conflict is attributed to deforestation starting in the British era, along with the widespread colonial practice of killing animals for sport and trade. The revered elephant was declared a pest and a reward of a few shillings was given for the head of an elephant.

With the introduction of the Open Economy in 1977, Sri Lanka became subjected to neo-liberal policies such as privatization and structural adjustment, largely as conditions to loans from the World Bank and the IMF.

The massive Mahaweli River Development Programme of this period provided access to land for the poor and a significant increase in the country's food production and power resources.

However, the construction of dams and irrigation networks, roads, and similar infrastructure also radically altered soil and water systems including degradation of watershed conditions and loss of wildlife habitat and populations.

A related agricultural reform began in the 1960s (the 'Green Revolution'), with a campaign to promote the use of agrochemicals and transgenic crop varieties, resulting in the loss of original indigenous seed varieties.

The Mahaweli programme and irrigation have supplied the water for most of the rice cultivation in the North Central Province. This area is also — likely not coincidentally — the site of the nation's highest incidence of chronic kidney disease among poor farming communities.

CURRENT REALITIES

The rich industrialized countries in the Global North are responsible for nearly 80 percent of historical global carbon emissions. Yet poor countries in the global South, such as Sri Lanka — whose carbon footprint is negligible — are the greatest victims of climate disasters. The current and loom-

Coastal erosion

ing impact of climate change on Sri Lanka is massive: Annual mean air temperature has significantly increased by between 1961 and 1990 increasing 0.016 °C per year;Annual average rainfall over Sri Lanka has decreased by about seven per cent between the 1931 to 1960 period and the 1961 to 1990 period;Forecasting the rise in sea level, Sri Lanka is faced with a predicted devastating coastal erosion rate of 0.30 to 0.35 metres a year, with adverse impact on nearly 55 percent of the shoreline.

The 2004 tsunami drastically highlighted the vulnerability of the lowlying plains in the coastal zone to any future rise in sea level. The Northern and Eastern coastal areas claimed as traditional 'Tamil homelands', are vulnerable to submersion as they are flatter than other coastal areas.

This has serious implications for population displacement and renewed political conflict, concerns totally absent in UNHCR Resolutions calling for political devolution.

In 2015, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), an international aid NGO, identified Sri Lanka "as the country with the highest relative risk of being displaced by disaster in South Asia. For every million inhabitants, 15,000 are at risk of being displaced every year in Sri Lanka." In 2017 alone, the country experienced seven disaster events, mainly floods and landslides, and "135,000 new displacements due to disaster. Sri Lanka is also at risk from slow-onset impacts like soil degradation, saltwater intrusion, water scarcity, and crop failure.'

Sri Lanka was ranked second among countries most affected by extreme weather events in the Global Climate Risk Index 2019 and sixth in 2020.



greatest environmental threat facing Sri Lanka today. Sri Lanka ranked fourth among countries with the worst deforestation of primary forests in the world in the 2000–2005 period.

Forest cover, which had declined to about 50 percent at the end of British rule, has further declined to 44 percent in 1956 and 16.5 percent in 2019.

A highly controversial current case is the housing development supposedly constructed for internally displaced persons (IDPs) on Wilpattu National Wildlife Park. The housing will remain despite a recent court judgement that declared it illegal.

The 'polluter pays' principle was upheld, but this only requires that the offender reforests other lands "in any area equivalent to the reserve forest area used for re-settlement of IDPs."

Even this court decision is under appeal by the seventh respondent, former Industry and Commerce Minister Rishad Badiuddin. Moreover, as ecologists point out, mere tree planting elsewhere will not lead to recovery of the intricate forest eco-systems that were destroyed.

Another major controversy involves the Sinharaja Rainforest covering an area of 18,900 acres. It is home to over 50 percent of the country's endemic species and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Deforestation is now taking place in the Sinharaja area for the construction of a road for an isolated village bordering the Forest Reserve and for the suspected building of hotels, shops and other encroachments.

A National Plan based on surveys and clear demarcation of boundaries of Forest Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation Areas and enforcement is urgently needed to avoid conflict and encroachment over remaining forests.

A recent announcement was made by Irrigation Minister Chamal Raja-

Renewable energy plants are coming up in North

paksa regarding proposals to construct two irrigation tanks inside the Sinharaja, each spanning an area of five acres, with Chinese involvement.

A 30-kilometre water tunnel to transport freshwater to areas in the South (including possibly the Chinese-controlled Hambantota Port) is also reported. This announcement has raised alarm over environmental impact and likely loss of the UNESCO World Heritage status.

MINING, DUMPING And Export-led growth

There are, unfortunately, many other environmental controversies, the most destructive of which involve export-led growth and foreign companies.

In 2017, 263 waste containers carrying biomedical, plastic and other waste from the UK was brought for illegal dumping in Sri Lanka. Such toxic dumping by rich Northern countries in the poor countries of the South is sadly a common practice. After a legal victory by environmentalists, the containers are being sent back to the UK.

A proposed new project in the Eastern Province is the Eastern Minerals Project of Capital Metal, a company from the UK which plans to mine the 'highest-grade' mineral sands containing ilmenite, rutile, zircon and garnet. While it promises to be a highly profitable venture, environmentalists fear massive and irreversible damage to the vulnerable Eastern coastline.

Yet another controversial mining project is proposed by Titanium Sands, an Australian company, that wants to mine titanium on the island of Mannar. Mannar is a bird paradise and local environmentalists blame the Australian company for 'illegal conduct' and plans to dramatically transform the ecosystem and limit land use by the local community.

NEO-COLONIALISM

Just as the world is at the cusp of a new era of technological and corporate authoritarianism, Sri Lanka, with its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, is also at a decisive historical juncture.

The island is facing new forms of external intervention and competition primarily involving the expansionist and national security efforts of China, USA and India.

These three countries are also the biggest carbon polluters, pursuing unbridled economic growth despite the impending global climate catastrophe.

Sri Lanka is centrally placed in the maritime route of China's Belt and Road Initiative. China is now in control of the Hambantota Port, the Colombo Port City, a terminal of the Colombo Port and a hybrid renewable energy project on three islands off the Jaffna peninsula, just 50 km from the Tamil Nadu coast.

The Quadrilateral Alliance of the USA, India, Australia and Japan is challenging this Chinese expansion, and is, in turn, in control of key strategic positions and natural resources.

India, for example, is in control of the British colonial era Oil Tank Farm in the seaport town of Trincomalee. It is reported that the development of the west terminal of the Colombo Port will also be given to the company of Indian billionaire Adani.

The US Millennium Challenge Corporation's proposed Compact with Sri Lanka was turned down by Sri Lanka due to local protests over resource exploitation, land grab and an effort to splinter Sri Lanka into two separate entities under the control of the United States.

However, there is suspicion that some of the main objectives of the

been much discussed in recent media, the ecological and social implications remain relatively unexplored. Some of these include: Conflicts between Chinese interests and farming families around the Hambantota Port over Chinese offers to buy ancestral properties of locals.Protests and legal action by environmentalists over the Chinese Port City, especially coastal sand excavation and dumping of chemical waste.Control of the West terminal of the Colombo harbour by India's controversial Adani Group, which has a history of environmental and financial violations in Australia and India.Effects of militarization of the island under the ACSA and possible SOFA agreements and military confrontation between the Quadrilateral Alliance and China in the Indian Ocean.

FUTURE SURVIVAL WITH The Wisdom of the Past

Sustainable agriculture has a long history on the island, as in any longlasting indigenous culture, and it needs to be brought back to the fore. Local self-sufficiency and agro-ecology are the only solutions to future food scarcity and surviving the vicissitudes of the global economy.

Both Sri Lanka and the world have enough natural resources to support people if resources are shared equitably and sustainably used. It is the apocalyptic destruction of the unregulated greed of neoliberalism that must end.

For this to happen, policies of corporate regulation must be put in place at both the national and global levels. These policies also need to incorporate a broader definition of human rights that includes the rights of nature and people's rights to natural resources and livelihoods.

There is an urgent concurrent need for environmental education that transcends political party and ethno-religious divisions and unites people both with each other and with a survivable environment. Environmentalism is also humanism that looks to the future, and the rights and survival of future generations. *(IDN-InDepth-News)*

(The writer, a scholar and practitioner, has taught at Yale, Brandeis, Mount Holyoke (where she received tenure), Georgetown, American and other universities and colleges in the U.S. and abroad.)

NEWS



have been felled during the last two days, residents of the area said. Jack, Coconut, Kohlrabi, Mango, Cotton and Halmilla trees have been felled, they said.

Mangala Subhasinghe said that he will look



A felled tree.

Garbage recycling begins in Kirinda

P.P.G.SUGATHADASA,

Thihagoda Group Corr

A garbage recycling project has commenced in the Kirinda Puhulwella Pradeshiya Sabha (PS). PS Chairman S.Hetiarachchi said that the project is functioning now in Wahtucolakanda, Puhulwella.

Farmer organisations of Kirinda, Puhulwella use compost manure since the prices are very low.

The PS Chairman said that the project will boost compost manure production.

It will also protect the environment, he said.

- Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of the ICHEMC, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya, during working days from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs from 6th April 2021 until 4th May 2021. It is strictly recommended to inspect and check the Bidding Document including Special Conditions before purchasing the Bid Document.
- A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the President, ICHEMC, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welikada, Rajagiriya, on any working day from 0900 hrs. to 1430 hrs. from 6th April 2021 until 4th May 2021, upon payment of a non refundable fee of **Rs. 25,000 including** VATOnly (Rupees Twenty FiveThousand). The method of payment will be in cash.
- Sealed Bids shall be deposited in duplicate in the tender box available at the office of the President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welikada, Rajagiriya, or sent by registered post addressed to the President, Institute of Chemistry Ceylon of the above address to reach him on or before 1430 hrs on 10th May 2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing. Bidders or their representatives may attend the Bid opening.
- The Bid shall be valid up to 4th October 2021.
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security for Rs. 6,000,000.00 (Rupees Six Million) only 9. obtained from a Licensed commercial bank to the Employer using the form of Bid Security (unconditional, irrevocable and on demand guarantee) included in Section 11 Standard Forms which shall be valid up to 1st November 2021.
- 10. The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 22nd April 2021 at No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welikada, Rajagiriya, at 1300 hrs and Site visit after the meeting.
- 11. For further details, please contact the ICHEMC, No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welikada, Rajagiriya on Telephone No. 0778 656650, 075 9406041, 011 2861653.

President

8.

Institute of Chemistry Ceylon No.341/22, Kotte Road, Welkada, Rajagiriya Date: 06th April 2021





DN page 12 FEATURES MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 The Lord is Risen: **An Easter Reflection**





REV. FR. DON ANTON SAMAN HETTIARACHCHI St. Anthony's Church Mount Lavinia

n the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early

in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and

believed. For they did not yet under- The copy of the decree of the Roman stand the scripture that He had to rise from the dead.

EXEGESIS:

In the Gospel scene of this Easter day, all attention is confined to Mary Magdalene.

At first, she seems to visit the tomb alone. But her later words, "We do not know..." suggests that she has not gone alone.

Here the 'We' is not a genuine plural; it reflects an oriental mode of speech whereby plural is used for singular (cf. R. Bultmann). Also the use of 'we' is a regular mode of John's writing as is Jesus, as 'we' (cf. E. L. Bode).

Mary Magdalene having taken one look at the tomb runs to Peter and the other disciple to tell,"They have taken the Lord out of the tomb."What Mary moved sepulchre-sealing stones, against thinks is that either enemies or robbers have taken Jesus' Body. So the theme of robbery dominates in the narrative.

at that time and she fears such robbery. obligatory to treat with honour those

Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD), discovered at Nazareth, orders capital punishment for those destroying tombs, removing bodies, displacing the sealing or other stones - (cf. BARRETT, The New Testament Background). Selected Documents (London, 1957) 15. Such official action had to be taken because the robbing of tombs was so common at that time.

The Nazareth Inscription reads: "It is my decision [concerning] graves and tombs—whoever has made them for the religious observances of parents, or children, or household members-that these remain undisturbed forever. But if already seen in 3, 2.11 – "we know": anyone legally charges that another per-Nicodemus is referred to as 'we' and so son has destroyed, or has in any manner extracted those who have been buried, or has moved with wicked intent those who have been buried to other places. committing a crime against them, or has such a person, I order that a judicial tribunal be created, just as [is done] concerning the gods in human religious The robbing of tombs was so common observances, even more so will it be

who have been entombed. You are absolutely not to allow anyone to move [those who have been entombed]. But if [someone does], I wish that [violator] to suffer capital punishment under the title of tomb-breaker."

Nevertheless the details of the state of the burial clothes – "… and the cloth that had covered his [Jesus'] head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place" – emphasize that the tomb is not robbed and cause the beloved disciple to believe, "... he saw and believed.'

The story does not end there. The Risen Lord – the One missing in the empty tomb, the One who left His burial cloths behind in the tomb begins to appear to them and then they will see and believe. The light of Easter will shine on their hearts, darkened with disbelief and then, they will all become Easter people.

CONTEXTUALIZATION:

Mary Magdalene is named, in the Passion Narratives, as one of the female disciples present at Jesus' crucifixion and death. This was the time

Jesus would have wanted His disciples most. So she remained with Him with greater loyalty right up to the bitter end looking on either from a distance (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:55; Luke 23:49) or near the cross (John 19: 25).

This was also the only thing she could do at that moment. But in God's plan it was going to be the 'foundation' for being able later to function as witness to the Resurrection: i.e. if she was to be witness to the Resurrection then it was important that she could attest

the truth about Jesus' cruel death. Then dawns the next more significant and climactic scene where the role of Mary Magdalene together with other women is highlighted in all the Gospels – Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-2,11-18. Here we see how she participates in the Resurrection. In lists of female disciples, she is often mentioned first just as in lists of the Twelve Peter's name comes first.

This consistent pre-eminence is to Jesus to the end. The Church has ing of Jesus in all times and seasons.

thus duly honoured, in the sacred Page, her vital role.

What did the Evangelists expect by depicting so adorably the figure of Mary Magdalene? The Gospels were addressed to Christians of whom a vast multitude had been brutally martyred since Nero the Roman Emperor. The Christian Communities had to endure this severe testing. Some Christians, especially the leaders, left the faith, due to persistent persecution.

Hence the Evangelists portrayed the image of Mary Magdalene in a way to encourage the Christians in faith in Jesus.

The Martyrs of Mannar in the days of the Portuguese and the martyrs of Jaffna like Dom Pedro under the Dutch rule remain within our shores a fine example of Christian discipleship which stood firm against all winds of persecution.

May the unfailing fidelity of Mary and our local martyrs - including because of Mary's important role relat- those who were killed on April 21- be ed to the Resurrection and her fidelity a tower of strength to our daily follow-

THE CONCEPT OF FORGIVENESS: A SOCIO-RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE



Forgive others because you need forgiveness too.

ANUJA RAVINDRAN

ien He rose from the dead, Jesus forgave those who had sentenced him to death and killed him. The world celebrated that great act of forgiveness yesterday. To forgive someone who has done you a great or heinous wrong is something not humanly easy. It is easier said than done.

If you are the sufferer of this heinous wrong that is done on you, how can you bring yourself to forgive? Even with the passing of years or decades, the pain is still there and the deed can be clearly recalled in our memory.

But we know that to hold on to this anger and not overcoming this entrenched thorn in our mind, we are forever imprisoned within ourselves and could not attain the inner peace of mind. From time immemorial, there has been a plethora of explanations and meanings for forgiveness. There is no universal definition of forgiveness accepted by all people, but forgiveness is simply defined as "forgiving someone for their wrongdoing." This is done instead of accusing or wanting to penalize someone. The main point is that some people forgive because they have good understanding skills, some are forgiving because of their compulsive situation and others forgive because of their institutionalized relationship with someone such as in a marriage. This means that they give



more importance to managing their time instead of wasting time with someone. So, they simply conclude "I forgive your mistake, just do not repeat it." People normally express what The Bible says: "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Accordingly, if one is truly forgiving with his or her whole heart, then he or she must have a strong personality that insists on tolerance, sacrifice and love. It is not just about forgiveness; it also brings peace of mind to the heart. Forgiveness is not easy when someone regularly does bad things, even if you do them no

harm. People usually do things like this because they don't want to see the growth and development of someone, so they start to do bad things and destroy that person's future. In such situations, it is very difficult to forgive. And also, when people hurt someone so badly that they kill someone close to them, damaging things and hurting them violently it is not easily forgiven. It may lead to brutal revenge which means that the victim wants the person to feel the same pain that he or she has gone through.On the other hand, some people do not want to take revenge even when they are so badly hurt because they feel that the pain they have suffered

"Hatred does not cease through hatred at any time. Hatred ceases through love. This is the eternal law."

BUDDHA

should not engulf their enemy. Even at the peak of their grief, they will forgive the enemy who gave them that pain.

Someone may admit immediately after being involved in a malfeasance and they feel sorry for it, but some others take time to realize it. Some will not even realize that they have done something erroneous, in lieu of which they give a logical reason for not forgiving. According to the religious perspective, it is very essential to forgive. Forgiveness seems like a good value or custom in religions. The Bible says, "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew6:14). In the Holy Quran "Let them pardon and overlook. Would you not love for Allah to forgive you? Allah is Forgiving and Merciful" (Surat An-Nur 24:22). And in the Baghavad Gita,"a

man must elevate himself by his own mind, not degrade himself. The mind is the friend of the conditioned soul, and his enemy as well (Bhagavad Gita-6.5). The core scriptures of Buddhism, taken from the teachings of the Buddha nearly 2,500 years ago, state the importance of forgiveness. Buddhism teaches the importance of a peaceful state of mind as well as a peaceful way of life. Buddhists believe that forgiveness is a critical step to achieving this peaceful state. According to the timeless Dhammapada (Verse 5), "Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time: hatred ceases by love, this is an eternal rule." This stanza was in fact quoted by President J.R. Jayewardene at the San Francisco Peace Conference in 1951, whereby the Western powers decided to forgive Japan for its role in World War II and pledged help to rebuild it in a spirit of cooperation and friendship. President Jayewardene is still held in high regard in Japan due to this singular act of forgiveness. According to Buddhism, if you do good, good will come to you, if you do bad then you will receive bad outcomes. Therefore you do not have to take revenge, you forgive them. You also get the benefit of good

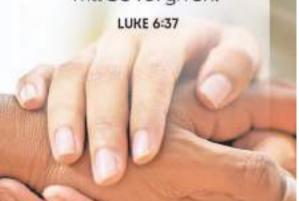
karma for forgiving your enemy. On the basis of religious aspects, people believe that God is the judge of wrongdoing and He alone has the power to punish them for their offence. Therefore, it is assumed that religion supports maintaining the social order and acts as a tool for social control by emphasizing the value of forgiveness. It also ensures external peace and inner peace of the individual.

LEARNING FROM THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

Commonly forgiveness and retaliation are two contrasting aspects that a person can have. These are just characteristics for the secular

will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven."

"Judge not, and you



Western society, because they may not have a norm or value regarding these aspects. They practically rationalize the true value of forgiveness in real life; they refuse to accept the theoretical perspective of forgiveness.

As rational thinkers, they associate it with 'human rights'. In their perspective, it is extremely very difficult to forgive, in case, if one is forgiven for his or her offence, it is questionable whether he or she is will not be repeating the same mistake.

On the other hand, forgiveness has some distinctive characteristics and meaningful sense, when a person decides to forgive someone's transgression; he or she must have a strong heart and confidence; it helps the particular person to move forward with his life with a peaceful mind. Moreover, the incident will not bother anyone anymore after they are forgiven. Another important point is, you may earn more hearts by forgiving others' faults.

Forgiving will help one to move on with the social life and it gives a big relief from pain, anxiety, and distress. The impact of forgiveness leads to optimism which means that one will feel self-confidence, happiness, and peace.

(The writer is a Sociologist and Senior Consultant holding a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology and a M.A in Sociology.)

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

NEWS

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Prof. G.L. Peiris tells Int'l Development Partners Dialogue

Major legislative reform process underway

The people must have confidence that justice will be delivered effectively and expeditiously by the court system, Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris told a highprofile gathering in Colombo.

He was addressing the International Development Partners Dialogue at the Hilton Colombo over the weekend.

Minister Prof. Peiris said the Government was now involved in the constitutional reforms and revisiting and critically evaluating the law.

The event was attended by heads and representatives of international organisations and missions including UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, KOICA, The Asia Foundation, IOM, JICA, ADB, ICRC, UNODC, USAID, The World Bank, IOM, The European Union, Switzerland, and Australia.

"Many items of pending legislation will be amended and debated in the upcoming months. It covers the entire spectrum - judicial infrastructure, coordination, civil reform, criminal reform and commercial reform. A whole range of legislation in each of these areas is going to be presented to Parliament in the next few months," the Minister said.

"Donor institutions are making



Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, State Minister Lohan Ratwatte and Attorney General Dappula de Livera at the event.

the right choice as it is not an unrealistic expectation but a wellfounded expectation that this country has an institutional strength to get to our destination," he added.

Opening remarks were made by Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, who spoke on the need for reform and the objectives sought to be achieved by the event and working together with the Development Partners.

The Minister noted the lack of coordination among all the institutions and the efforts, which have been made where certain things have been duplicated, or not properly evaluated, or at the end of the day result into irresolute circumstances.

The Minister commented on legal reforms where a number of committees were reforming laws where 10 new reforms were suggested through two reports, which will be progressed in a few months.

Attorney General Dappula De Livera and Prison Management and Prisoners Rehabilitation State Minister Lohan Ratwatte, Secretary to the Justice Ministry M.M.P.K Mayadunne and the Heads of several State Institutions were present.

The objective of the event was to set out in detail the justice reform programme of the Justice

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Ministry to the organisations along with the areas that require technical assistance, capacity building, and institutional development and also serve as a forum for the organisations' plan and to partner with the Justice Minisatry/GOSL inefficiently attaining the objectives of the Justice Sector Reform Drive.

A presentation on the Overall Legal and Policy Reforms was made by Coordinating Secretary at the Justice Ministry Attorneyat-lawShamir Zavahir, followed by presentations on the specific areasby Addtional Secretary to the Justice Ministry Tushara Suraweera, Sub-Committee on Digitisation and Court Automation Chief Legal Advisor Navin Marapana, PC, Sub-Committee on Commercial Law Reforms Chief Legal AdvisorAttorney-at-LawKaushalya Navaratne, Commissioner General of Prisons H.M.T.N Upuldeniyaand Consultant-ADB Bank Attorney-at-Law Harsha Fernando.

The presentations were followed by a dialogue between the **Development Partners and Justice** Ministry. It included discussions on the mechanism to move forward and the efficient collaboration on projects.



State Minister Nimal Lanza opening the Magul Pokuna Church Road in Wattala yesterday.

Testing coconut oil commenced after our Government came into power – State Minister Lanza

Coconut oil testing commenced after our Government came into power last year, Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza said.

He said that the tests proved that the recently imported coconut oil contained carcinogens thereby preventing the public from consuming the oil.

State Minister Nimal Lanza was participating in the opening ceremony of the Magul Pokuna Church Road in the Wattala Electorate yesterday.

He said that some allege that the carcinogenic coconut oil is in the market today. He said that the coconut oil from overseas was tested for carcinogens from 2020. After Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the President, this racket was busted because he asked to commence investigation. The coconut oil was not tested before 2020. Even though they had contained carcinogens, people would have consumed the oil. It has been ordered now to re-export the carcinogenic coconut oil. If anyone has violated the order, we would enforce the law against that one. However, carcinogenic coconut oil has not been found in the market. We will not allow the people to be given substances with harmful carcinogens or substances," the State Minister said.

He said that after the Easter bomb attacks, the Easter Sunday was not celebrated here. Instead, those died in the Easter attacks were commemorated. The Masterminds in the Easter attacks will be punished. The President will take the necessary steps in this regard. The ruling party at that time is in the Opposition today. Those who are accused by the people of the Easter attacks are on Sajith Premadasa's stage today," the State Minister said.

He said that the Government must be protected. "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa loves the environment. He has entrusted the task of protecting the environment to the Army today. Anyone who destroys the environment will be arrested. The President has instructed us to protect the environment while carrying out development," State Minister Nimal Lanza said.



Prayers for the victims of the Easter Sunday bomb attacks are carried out throughout the coun-

India will get renewable energy from Sri Lanka – State Minister Duminda

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr,

Renewable Energy Resources Development State Minister Duminda Dissanayake said that there is a high possibility of transmitting electricity to India from Sri Lanka in near future. He said that Mannar will be the hub of wind power

Generation before long. "Already 33 wind

turbines along Mannar costal belt generate 110 MW electricity. Another 350 Mw will be produced in the near future. The Mannar District has a huge potential for harnessing wind power and solar electricity

tricity require-ment," he said. ted to India via Dhanushcoddy," the State Minister said.

"The sand depos "Bilateral talks its in seas between between the two Danushcoddy and Mannar called countries have commenced in the 'Adam's Bridge' will recent past on sharmake it easy to transmit renewable ing electricity even before Mannar was energy to India earmarked as a suitfrom Sri Lanka,' able location to pro-State Minister Dismote renewable sanavake said. electricity genera-

"The Adams tion. India will use Bridge has been our renewable enerinspected recently gy to meet its elecby the Sri Lanka



Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). The country will receive 80 per cent of its power from renewable energy by 2030," the State Minister said.

and the surplus of renewable electricity will be transmit-

SATURDAY

try yesterday. Here a special holy mass at the St Mary's Church, Nayakakanda. Picture by Joseph Pius, Wattala Special Corr.



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

Rs. 45,000 million Treasury bills are to be issued through an auction on 07th April 2021

The details of these Treasury bill issues are as follows:

Maturity Period	91 Days		182 Days	364 Days	Total
ISIN*	LKA09121G091	Ι	LKA18221J084	LKA36422D089***	-
Amount Offered (Rs. Mn)	10,000		15,000	20,000	45,000
Maximum yield rate for acceptance (%)**	-		-	5.15	-
Date of Auction		:	07 th April 2021		
Date of Settlement		:	09 th April 2021		
Date of Issue		:	09 th April 2021		
Closing date and time of bid :	submission	:	Tuesday 07th Ap	oril 2021, at 11.00 a.m.	
Minimum amount of a bid		:	*	on (Rs. 5,000,000/-) and	*
			Rupees one milli	ion (Rs. 1,000,000/-) the	ere onwards.

Bids are invited from the Primary Dealers in Government Securities. Bids should be made only through the electronic bidding facility provided by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL).

The CBSL may accept a higher or lower amount than the offered amounts for each maturity by reallocating amounts between the maturities, depending on the market conditions, but without exceeding the total amount on offer at this auction.

The general public is invited to <u>purchase</u> Treasury bills from the following Primary Dealers or any other Licensed commercial banks.

Acuity Securities Ltd	2206297	NSB Fund Management Co. Ltd	2425010
Bank of Ceylon	2541938	People's Bank	2206783
Capital Alliance Ltd.	2317777	Sampath Bank PLC	2305842
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC	2332319	Seylan Bank PLC	2456340
First Capital Treasuries PLC	2639883	Wealth Trust Securities Ltd	2675096
1			

International Securities Identification Number

The yield rates of 91 day and 182 day maturities will be decided below the level of 364 day maturity at the auction.

*New holiday treatment for Treasury Bill maturities applies, i.e. effective from 2022, in the event the maturity falls on a bank holiday, payments will be made on the immediate following business day.

> M.Z.M. Aazim Superintendent / Registrar of Public Debt.

Issuing Office Public Debt Department CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.

Telephone: +94 112477011, Fax: +94 112477687

Web: www.cbsl.gov.lk



France enters third National Lockdown

France has entered its third national lockdown as it battles a surge in cases of Covid-19 that threatens to overwhelm the country's hospitals.

All schools and non-essential shops will shut for four weeks, and a curfew will be in place from 19:00 to 06:00.

On Friday, the number of seriously ill Covid patients in intensive care units (ICU) increased by 145 - the biggest jump in five months.

President Emmanuel Macron has promised more hospital beds for Covid patients.

France is currently battling a peak of about 5,000 Covid patients in ICUs. On Friday, the country recorded 46,677 new cases and 304 deaths.

As well as the restrictions that came into force on Saturday, from Tuesday people will also need a valid reason to travel more than 10 km (six miles) from their homes.

President Macron had hoped to keep France's coronavirus cases

under control without having to impose another lockdown.

However, the country has struggled with an EU-wide delay in the vaccine rollout, as well as several new strains of the virus.

In Germany, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier called on people to play their part and get vaccinated.

Speaking in a television address to the nation on Saturday, he said the country was in the middle of a third wave and that it faced more restrictions.

He also admitted that mistakes had been made - specifically in testing and in the vaccine rollout - and talked about there being a "crisis of trust" in the state.

"Of course, there is no single silver bullet to get out of the pandemic," President Steinmeier said. "And that is why political dispute is needed but the arguing must not become an end in itself.

"Whether it's about a federal or zone" - the highest tier of restrictions state level, party or coalition, or whether opinion polls are up or down - none of that can play the main role now.

"We need clarity and determination, we need understandable and pragmatic regulations so that people have direction, so that this country can again achieve what it has within." Last month, German officials announced that the country would be placed in a strict Easter lockdown only to reverse the decision just days later.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the plan for a lockdown from 1 to 5 April a "mistake", and said she took "ultimate responsibility" for the U-turn.

Italy also entered a strict three-day lockdown on Saturday in order to try to prevent a surge in Covid-19 cases over the Easter weekend.

All regions are now in the "red

- as the country records about 20,000 new cases a day.

Non-essential movement is banned, but people are allowed to have an Easter meal in their homes with two others. Churches are also open, but worshippers are being told to attend services within their regions.

On Sunday, for the second year, Pope Francis will deliver his Easter message to an empty St Peter's Square.

Different regions will then remain in either "orange zone" or "red zone" restrictions until the end of the month.

The Italian government also announced it was placing 70,000 extra police officers on surveillance nationwide, in order to enforce the lockdown rules

"This is not the time to lower our guard, and to let go of that sense of responsibility shown so far," Interior



Minister Luciana Lamorgese told the newspaper Il Messaggero. "Because the progress recorded by the campaign for vaccines finally gives a glimpse of a different horizon that will allow us to gradually return to normal."

What's happening with vaccinations in Europe?

On Friday, the World Health Organization (WHO) criticised Europe's 'unacceptably slow" vaccine rollout, and said the situation in the region is now worse than it has been for several months.

of this pandemic... However, the roll-

out of these vaccines is unacceptably slow," WHO director for Europe Hans Kluge said in a statement.

"We must speed up the process by ramping up manufacturing, reducing barriers to administering vaccines, and using every single vial we have in stock, now.'

In the meantime, as long as vaccine coverage remained low, he said EU countries would have to impose lockdowns and other measures to compensate for the delays.

According to the WHO, only 10% of the nearly 900 million people in "Vaccines present our best way out the region have had a single dose of coronavirus vaccine. (BBC)

Probe continues into Taiwan train crash

Officials investigating a train crash in Taiwan that killed 51 people are focusing on a maintenance lorry that slid onto the track.

The train hit the lorry then crashed inside a tunnel on Friday. A construction site manager suspected of negligence has been granted bail.

Rescuers are yet to extract a number of mangled carriages from the tunnel and fear they may find more bodies.

The train had been packed with people travelling to celebrate a holiday.

The accident was Taiwan's worst rail disaster in more than 70 years.

The disaster command centre says three foreigners are among the dead: two American women and a Frenchman.

The train had been travelling from the capital Taipei to Taitung and was entering the tunnel north of Hualien when the crash happened. Many of the nearly 500 passengers on board may have been standing because the train was so full.

The 408 train is one of the fastest deployed on Taiwan's network and can reach speeds of 130km/h (80mph).

President Tsai Ing-wen visited a hospital in Hualien on Saturday to "express my sympathy to the families of the victims," she said.

Grieving relatives, some holding makeshift shrines and weeping open- Lin Jinn-tsun said. ly, held prayers at the crash site on Meanwhile, recovery



On Saturday the unnamed construction site manager was released on \$15,000 (£11,000) bail after prosecutors sought a warrant for his arrest. He could face charges of causing death by negligence and of forging documents and he said he was cooperating with investigators.

"Prosecutors will certainly step up investigation and understanding of the crimes or of other suspects involved in the case," department of prosecutorial affairs director-general

from the first four carriages. Many were trapped inside the wreckage for hours and some survivors told how they smashed windows to escape.

Images show a large, yellow flatbed truck lying at the side of the tracks. A construction project has been under way near the north end of the tunnel. It is not known how the vehicle ipped down the embankment.

Many of those on the train are believed to have been travelling to celebrate Taiwan's Tomb Sweeping festival - a time when people pay their respects to the dead by visiting the graves of family members, sprucing them up and making offerings to their spirits. The death toll is the highest for a train crash in Taiwan in 73 years. In 1948 in Xindian district in Taipei, a passenger brought flammable material on to a train, causing a fire that burned four carriages, killing 64 people. (BBC)

Pope holds Easter Vigil

Celebrating the 9th Easter of his pontificate, Pope Francis delivered a homily at the Easter Vigil Mass, reflecting on what it means to go to Galilee, where the Risen Lord would precede His disciples.

In the hour of darkness when humanity is grappling with the pandemic and other ills, Christians need to take to heart the Easter message of the angel not to be afraid, assured that in *Galilee* where the Lord precedes them, their expectations will be fulfilled, their tears will be dried and their fears will be replaced by hope. Pope Francis made the point in his homily at the Easter Vigil Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Saturday night.

Reflecting on the Easter episode of the women at the tomb, the Pope drew attention to what the angel told them. "Wonder at hearing the words: 'Do not ca's lights were switched be afraid!" the Pope said. on. "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen'. And a mes- the 84-year-old pontiff in



After the initial rite of means to begin anew. the blessing of the fire and Galilee was the place of the Paschal candle inside the first encounter of the the basilica, Pope Francis disciples with the Lord, and the concelebrants protheir first love. It was here ceeded towards the altar of that they listened to Him the chair, with a deacon preach and perform mirabearing the lit Easter cancles. It was also where dle. During the procession they misunderstood His in the darkened church. words and in the face of the flame of the candle was the cross abandoned Him first passed on to the Pope and fled. and then gradually to the In spite of everything, concelebrants and the limthe Lord invites them to start over from where they began. "In this Galilee,"

ited number of faithful. After the Pope walked up the main aisle, the basili-

Ushering in the 9th Easter of his pontificate, sage: 'He is going ahead of his homily reflected on you to Galilee; there you what it means to go to

anew despite all our failures. "From the rubble of our hearts," the Pope said, "God can create a work of art; from the ruined remnants of our humanity, God can prepare a new history." "In these dark months of the pandemic," the Pope urged all to "listen to the Risen Lord as He invites us to begin anew and never lose hope".

Going to Galilee also means setting out on new paths by walking away from the tomb. For many, the Pope said, faith is made up of habits, things from the past, lovely childhood memories, but no longer a faith that moves me, or challenges me. On the other hand, going to Galilee means making faith alive and getting back on the road. We must daily renew the amazement of the first encounter and humbly allow ourselves to be surprised by God's ways. "God," the Pope said, "cannot be filed away among our childhood memories, but is alive and Hence, he said, the first filled with surprises. Risen Easter message of return- from the dead, Jesus never

Saturday.

Flags across the island are being be flown at half mast for three days. Among those honouring the victims were baseball players from the Fubon Guardians team, who observed a minute's silence ahead of a game on Friday.

Rescuers remain at the scene as part of the mangled train is still in the tunnel

begun removing the rear carriages of the train which were relatively unscathed. Fire service chiefs said they expected to find more bodies trapped in the carriages still inside the tunnel.

The crash took place at about 09:00 local time (01:00 GMT) on Friday. Some passengers at the back of the train were able to walk away unscathed, while 100 were rescued

will see Him'."

ing to Galilee is that "*it is* ceases to amaze us. Galilee. First of all, it always possible to begin

(Vatican News)

Suez backlog cleared

The maritime traffic jam created when a giant container ship blocked the Suez Canal has now been cleared, Egyptian authorities said Saturday.

Some 422 ships, which were visible from space, have now cleared the vital artery, with the final 61 vessels passing through the waterway on Saturday, the Suez Canal Authority said.

The backlog built up after the massive Ever Given ship grounded in the narrow canal on Mar. 23, generating global interest as refloating efforts stalled, and costing billions in held-up world trade. The ship was finally freed on Monday.

"All waiting ships crossed the shipping course today," said Lt. Gen. Osama Rabie, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, in a statement.

He added that clearing the backlog was achieved in "record time."

The 1,400-foot-long Ever Given, a Panama-flagged container ship taller than the Eiffel Tower, jammed diago nally across a southern section of the Suez Canal, leaving many cargo ships and bulk carriers, unable to use the key trading route.

International supply chains were thrown into disarray when the boat ran aground, with specialist rescue



the Pope said, "we learn to

be amazed by the Lord's

infinite love, which opens

new trails along the path of

our defeats."

teams taking almost a week to free her after extensive dredging and repeated tugging operations.

The marooned ship made global headlines and spawned social media memes, while bringing traffic to an abrupt standstill in the crucial eastwest waterway for global shipping — a route that accounts for about 12 percent of world trade and is particularly important for transporting oil.

An investigation by the Suez Canal Authority began on Wednes-

day into what caused the vessel to run aground and block the waterway for six days, chairman Rabie told Egyptian MBC Masr private TV late on Friday.

"The investigation is going well and will take two more days, then we will announce the results," he added.

Early reports suggested strong winds and poor visibility from a sandstorm were to blame, not mechanical or engine failure, but the causes are now the subject of a high-profile investigation. (NBC)

Mummies pass through Cairo in ancient rulers' parade One of the main attrac-

Egyptians have been witnessing a historic procession of their country's ancient rulers through the capital, Cairo.

The lavish, multimilliondollar spectacle saw 22 mummies - 18 kings and four queens - transported from the peach-coloured, neo-classical Egyptian Museum to their new resting place 5 km (three miles) away.

With tight security arrangements befitting their royal blood and status as national treasures, the mummies were relocated to the new National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation in what is called The



Pharaohs' Golden Parade. They were transported with great fanfare in chronological order of their reigns - from the 17th Dynasty ruler, Seqenenre Taa II, to Ramses IX, who reigned in the 12th Centu-

ry BC. Egypt experienced a sharp rise in Covid-19 infections a year ago, but following a decline in the number of cases and deaths, restrictions on open-air gatherings were later lifted.

Noble Ladies. She became ruler even though the customs of her time were that women did not become pharaohs. Each mummy was carried on a decorated vehicle fitted with special shockabsorbers and surrounded by a motorcade, including

replica horse-drawn war chariots. (BBC)

tions of Saturday's event is

King Ramses II, the most

New Kingdom, who ruled

for 67 years and is remem-

bered for signing the first

famous pharaoh of the

known peace treaty.

Another is Queen Hat-

shepsut, or Foremost of

Little Brown Pill may help battle against COVID



Scientists may have cracked the code to help in the fight against COVID-19 and potential future pandemics.

Though still in clinical trials, the "little brown pill" molnupiravir may give doctors and researchers a new tool and treatment as the country continues combating the latest wave of COVID-19 cases.

Merck (also known as MSD), and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, LP announced earlier this month that they ran a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of the pill to eliminate the strain that causes COVID-

According to the preliminary results,

those who were given molnupiravir versus the placebo showed a reduction of days in the time it took to begin negating the effects of the infection.

The trial included 202 healthy adults who showed signs or symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous seven days and tested positive for infection. Of those 202, 182 provided nasal swaps that could be evaluated, which showed just 42 percent showing the same signs of the virus.

By day five of the trial, there was a reduction in positive viral cultures in the participants who received molnupiravir, while the placebo showed no difference. None of the subjects who received molnupiravir compared to the placebo

showed signs, while 24 percent who took the placebo still had symptoms.

Of the 202 participants, no safety signals were identified, and of four "serious adverse events" reported, none were considered to be related to the study.

Officials said that the full study has not been completed, and Phase 2 and Phase 2/3 are currently underway.

"Merck has conducted a comprehensive nonclinical program to characterize the safety profile of molnupiravir. This program included assays such as Big Blue and PIG-a designed to provide a robust measure of a drug or chemical's ability to induce mutations in vivo," researchers said.

"Animals were administered mol-

nupiravir for longer and at higher doses (mg/Kg) than those employed in human studies," they noted. "The totality of the data from these studies indicates that molnupiravir is not mutagenic or genotoxic in vivo mammalian systems.

Dr. Wendy Painter, the Chief Medical Officer of Ridgeback said that they were pleased with the preliminary data.

"We are very pleased to share our initial Phase 2 infectivity data at this important conference, which remains at the forefront for critical clinical scientific information in infectious diseases," she said. "At a time where there is an unmet need for antiviral treatments against SARS-CoV-2, we are encouraged by these preliminary data."

William Fischer, one of the lead investigators noted that the findings in the study determined that those treated with molnupiravir were able to fight off the virus quicker, saying that the early results are promising, and could have a large impact on the fight against COVID-

"If supported by additional studies, (this) could have important public health implications, particularly as the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to spread and evolve globally," he said. "We continue to make progress in our Phase 2/3 clinical programs evaluating molnupiravir in both outpatient and hospital settings and plan to provide updates when appropriate." (Daily Voice)

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

SPORT

page 15 DN Flanker Herathge Karunaratne did Army and Sri Lanka proud

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Some of the yesteryear sportsmen who became prominent figures in their respective sporting disciplines never had an opportunity of gaining any sort of exposure during their school days. No sooner they joined a club, they eventually matured as prolific players, learning the basics of that particular game. Herathge Karunaratne was a player who never had the basic idea of handling a rugby ball, who hailed from an underprivileged family and later turned out to be an icon in the game of rugby in Sri Lanka. Karunaratne was well

known as 'Karu' in the field of sports, especially in the rugby circles. He is 53 years old and hails from Aunuradhapura in North Central Province. His father was Herathge Premaratne, a driver by profession. M.D. Chandravathi his mother is a housewife. He has four other siblings with sisters Premalatha a housewife and Chandarani has her

own business. His two time in Jaffna with brothers are Seneviratne, a the Singha Regibrothers are Seneviratne, a retired Army officer while H. Javartane worked for the Navy.

He completed his school career with Galenbindunuwewa Maha Vidyalaya, Anuradhapura from 1971 to 1984. At school they had only football as their main sport, where he was an active member. Due to financial constraints and served in Ambefamily burdens, was forced pussa. to seek employment to take care of his family. When he was only 18 years old, he applied for a job with Sri Lanka Army and Sri Lanka Police Special Task force (STF), where he faced the

interviews at both places. Subsequently, Army was quick enough to respond and he joined them as a soldier in 1985. While he was under training there, he was granted permission to engage in football, Vol-leyball, badminton and table tennis in inter regiment matches. In 1998, he underwent a Physical Training Instructor course later had to spend most of his

ment. In 1991, he got a placement at Kotelawala Defence Academy as a Phystraining ical Instructor to train cadet officers. Two years later, he rejoined the Army with the same regiment which he

> In 1993, he was transferred to Colombo to play football and was then asked to join the rugby team by J.K. Shanthikumar who taught him the basics and the laws of the game, which he never knew until then. After being selected in 1993, he locked horns with the Army 'B' team. In 1994, after playing only five matches, the rugby administration opted to move him to the 'A' division pool as a prop forward to play in the 'Pack'. His first skipper was retired Major General Sathyapriya Liyanage and the team was jointly handled by P.G. Gunawardena and

The other significant

feature in Royal's innings

was that they were able to

built up three solid part-

nerships of over 50 runs which made things really difficult for the Wesley

The Wesleyites lost two

early wickets during their

run chase and they never

recovered from there onwards with only Sahil

Dias providing any kind of

But once Dias departed

in the 20th over with the

score at 88 for four, the

Wesley innings completely

lost its momentum and

they were bowled out for

Richmond vs

Maliyadeva

Richmond College also

bowlers.

resistance.

193 runs.



Brigadier Japana Jayawardena as coaches. In 1998, the Army team was fortunate enough to obtain the services of Kelvin Farrington, a New Zealander as their coach. Karunaratne disciplined himself to wake up by 5.30 a.m. every day. With an intention of swapping to the position of flanker, he met Kelvin and sought his advice, where he had a negative response. After some time, one day, Kelvin drew up a plan and requested Karunaratne to play in his favourite position of flanker. As per the instructions, he geared up

for the match against CH and which FC. amused him and was determined to put up a belligperforerent mance. He went on to score the first

four tries out of their final score of 51 points to 5 against the lads from Maitland Crescent led by Nazeem Mohamed He

donned the Army rugby jersey from 1993 to 2010 as a player under several captains. While playing for Army in 1998 he received the National call and his first coach was Nimal Lewke. He competed for the National team from 1998

to 2004 occupying the flanker's berth in XV's and as a hooker in sevens format. He made his debut

against the visiting Northern Territory team in Kandy and Colombo, where he scored his first

International try. He retained a regular spot in the National team and toured Malaysia on several occasions to compete in the Triangular tournament commencing from 1999, which they won under Asoka Jayasena's captain-

cy. He also toured for the Asian Games in 2000 in Osaka, Japan, in 2000 with the sevens team led by Sudath Sampath, in 2001 against Kazakhstan at

Osaka, Japan, in 2001 in Malaysia, in 2002 in India in a sevens tournament, in 2002 in Malaysia Sevens, in 2002 at the China Sevens tournament. He also played in the Hong Kong Sevens from 2000 to 2002 under Asanga Senevi-ratne's coaching. He also played in the Rugby Asiad in 2000 in Japan under Asoka Jayasena's captaincy followed by 2004 Rugby Asiad in Korea under Pradeep Basnayake's captaincy.

Karunaratne was a great follower of Haris Omar who became his role model



Herathge Karunaratne

and was very fortunate to be associated in his team. whom he rates as one of the best players and human beings, he mingled with during his tenure as player. After he hung up his boots, he wanted to focus on players physiology and joined CH in 2011 to play a

dual role as their trainer plus player under Lakala Perera. Åfter one year, he was recruited by Isipathana as their trainer in 2012/13seasons. From 2013 to 2017 he served at Zahira as Sports Physical Trainer,

Rugby Trainer and in

charge of Junior Academy for which he was grateful to Trizvi Marikkar the Principal.

He would like to extend his sincere gratitude to the persons who supported him during his career retired Brigadier Japana Jayawardena, retd. Senior DIG Nimal Lewke, Tony Amit, Tavitha Thulagesi(Laga), C.P. Abeygunawardena, Asanga Seneviratne, P.G.Gunawardena, JK Shanthikumar, retd. General Sathyapriya Liyanage, retired Major General Nimal Krishnaratne retd. Brigadier Sunil Wanniarachchi, retd. Brigadier. Mohan Ratnayake, retd. Col. D. K. Ekanayake, retd. Brigadier Sunil Ranas-nighe, retd. Brigadier Thantiriwatta, retired. Col.

wife and has three children Priyanga Lakshan, Hashani Taraka, Sarindu Dilshan who are living in Bandaragama.

Mahanama's Pavan Rathnayake takes centre stage in drawn game

CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

Pavan Rathnayake's outstanding batting performance for Mahanama College took the centre stage during the latest round of Inter-Schools Under-19 cricket matches worked off during the weekend.

The prolific right-hander achieved another significant milestone in his career when he compiled a hundred in the first innings and a half century in the second innings in the drawn game against Thurstan College, played at the Thurstan Grounds.

The 18-year-old Sri Lanka youth cap was the cynosure of all eyes as he made a contribution of 104 in Mahanama's first innings total of 228 runs after they

Mahanama's second innings was marked with another splendid knock from the consistent Rathnayake who continued his batting form by compiling a fluent 75.

He displayed the same temperament in the second innings as well which helped Mahanama to reach 227 for nine and take major honours against their more fancied opponents.

Royal vs Wesley

Meanwhile, Royal College kept their impressive record in the Under-19 Limited Overs Tournament while defeating Wesley College by 65 runs at Reid Avenue.

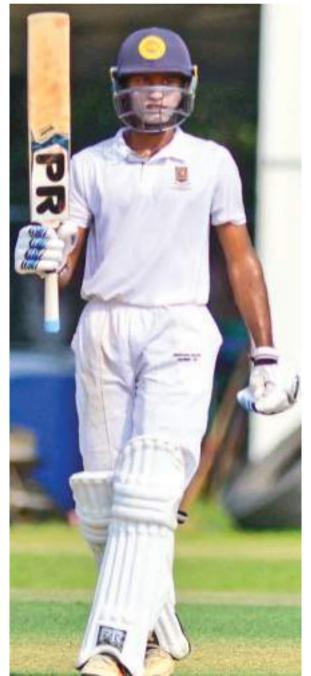
Royal's victory was very much on the cards from the moment they hamto build up any substan-

tial partnership. The only major threat for Richmond came from the opener Matheesha Weerasinghe and once he departed the innings folded up quickly while giving them an easy target to chase.

Richmond did not have any great difficulties in overtaking that score and they cruised to a convincing win with useful contributions from opener Vishwa Fernando and Bhanuka Manohara.

Nalanda vs **Prince of Wales**

Prince of Wales College put up a stunning performance as they edged out avourites Nalanda College by three wickets in an exciting encounter played at Campbell Place. Nalandians of The course, believed they had the game wrapped up in their favour once they compiled a competitive 211 for nine on the back of a splendid unbeaten hundred from Vinuja Ranpul. The left-hand middle order batsman, who has been a consistent run-getter this season, went on to complete his maiden hundred with the help of one six and six boundaries. His contribution was more than half of Nalanda's final total which goes to show how important his performance was for the home side. The Nalandians then further consolidated their position and moved closer towards winning the game by reducing the visitors to 109 for six at the half way stage. However, the Cambrians produced an unlikely match winner in the form of Anupa Bandara who hammered an unbeat-



Nethmi Malshani a promising women's cricketer

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-Kandy Sports Special Corr.

17 year old Nethmi Malshani, a leading bats-woman of St.Anthony's Girls School, Katugastota started her cricket career in the year 2015 under the coaching of Susantha Basnayake,former St. Anthony's Cricketer and a level two coach of Sri Lanka Cricket. Susantha Basnayake has been a cricket coach

of St.Anthony's Girls School for over eight years. Nethmi Malshani is the opening batswoman of the school cricket team as well as the Central Province

Girls Cricket team. She

showed her class as a bats-

woman when she scored

three half-centuries at the

Nethmi Malshani, talented

cricketer of St.Anthony's Girls School, Katugastota. Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl. corr

became one of the best eight teams at the All Island Girls Cricket Tournament for a number of years since

had won the toss and elected to bat first.

Mahanama's later order batsmen also provided some valuable runs with Chamath Chamupathi and Vinuka Ranasinghe further frustrating the Thurstan bowlers.

Thurstan in reply, struggled against the left-arm spin of Devindu Kekirideniya who mesmerised the batsmen with a superb five-wicket haul.

In fact, the home side would have been bowled out for less than 100 runs in their first innings if not for a fighting knock of 67 from Ramesh Silva.

four from their 50 overs after been put into bat. Their innings was built around a career best 107 not out from the left-hand opening batsman Isiwara

Dissanayake who carried his bat until the end having struck eight boundaries and one six. He played the sheet

anchor role while the rest of the batting including, Skipper Ahan Wickremasinghe, Sadeesha Rajapaksa and Kavindu Pathiratne piled up the runs from the other end.

mered a formidable 258 for maintained their dominance in the shorter format of the game as they outplayed Maliyadeva College by seven wickets at the Galle Stadium.

Richmond's victory of course, was fashioned by their bowlers who were able to restrict the opposition for a mere 116 runs in 36.3 overs with

left-arm spinner Nalaka Jayawardena leading the way. The Richmond bowlers kept it tight throughout

> the innings and never allowed their opponents

Pavan Rathnayake of Mahanama celebrates his hundred

en half-century to steer his team to victory with three deliveries to spare. The left-hander batting at number eight, completely surprised the oppo-

sition and proved his allround skills with his highest score for the current season which included two sixes and four boundaries

Inter Provincial Cricket Tournament in 2017 and the half centuries were against Nuwara Eliya District (Twice) and Kegalle Provincial Teams.

She has been in the Development Squad from the year 2018 under the coaching of Amila Pinnaduwa, Provincial Cricket Coach. Her best bowling feat is 4 for 32 at the Girls School Tournament when she was a member of the champion Cricket team of St.Anthony's Girls School which has won the Kandy District Cricket tournament from 2017 to date. Her School has won the Kandy District Cricket Tournament continuously for over ten years.

The Cricket team of St. Anthony's Girls School 2016 and Nethmi is maintaining her batting skills and she has scored 46 against Nugawela National School and an unbeaten knock of 22 against Jayasiripura Junior School of Bakamuna in the cricket tournament organized by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Assocation which is now in progress. Nethmi is included in the Sri Lanka Women's World Cup Squad and her intention is to be selected to the Sri Lanka Women's Cricket Squad for the 2022 World Cup.

Nethmi is thankful to the Principal of the School as well as her Coaches Susantha Basnayake and Amila Pinnaduwa, the Provincial Coach for the encouragement given to her.



Akkaraipattu Sunrise Youth Club men's carrom champions

Text and Pictures by: I.L.RIZAN,

Addalaichenai Central Corr. Akkaraipattu Sunrise Youth Club men's team beat Akkaraipattu Hijra Youth Club Carrom Team in the final to emerge men's champions in the final as the Akkaraipattu Divisional Carrom Tournament which was held as part of the 33rd National Youth Sports Festival-2021, concluded at the Sunrise Carrom Centre, Akkaraipattu recently.

This Carrom tournament

by

organised

Akkaraipattu Divisional

Secretariat Youth Services

Officer Zameelul Ilahi.

Altogether Ten registered

youth clubs carrom teams

from Akkaraipattu DS divi-

sion took part in this com-

petition. Akkaraipattu Sun-

rise Youth Club won single

and double titles in the

was

final.

Youth Club men's team captain M.H.M.Sulfihan is the singles champion while M.H.M.Sulfihan and R. Sathath are the double champions. The champion team will compete at the Ampara District level carrom competition to be conducted by the National Youth Services Council. Venue and date not confirmed.

The Akkaraipattu Sunrise

Retired Statistical Department Officer and Akkaraipattu Municipal Councilor I.L. Sarifdeen, Akkaraipattu Sunrise Sports Club President and Senior Management Ser-vice Officer M.H. Jainu-deen, Vice- President N.T. Naleem, Akkaraipattu Divisional Youth Clubs Federa-President tion M.M.Rukshan, Members of the Youth Clubs and many others participated.

Vinuka Rubasinghe of Mahanama plays a shot. Pix by Hirantha Gunathilaka

Devmini Ratnaweera outstanding athlete and volleyball player

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Corr.

Sixteen year old athlete and volleyball player Vidyapedige Devmini Maleesha Sandeepani Ratnaweera has brought honour and fame to her school Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa.

Devmini was admitted to Grade One of Etiyawala Maha Vidyalaya in 2011 and the then Principal was M Vipulasiri and her first class teacher was Mrs. Padmini. Then in 2014 she was admitted to Rathnajothi Primary school and when she was there she participated in relay events at the Annual Sports Meets in 2015 and 2016 and her team was victorious in both years.

Then in 2016 she was drafted to Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa and



The DSI District Volleyball Runners Up 2019 Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa players posed for a photograph after the finals. Seated L/R - Kavya Gihani, Nethmi Heshani Samarawila, Sanjana Nethmini, Devmini Maleesha Sandeepani Ratnaweera, Krishani Hiruni Maduwanthi, Damdi Thisathma Lakmali, Lakshani Shehara, Imesha Madushani, (Picture by -Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

in that year she participated in the 100 and 200 metre events and came second and her coach was Gayan and in the following year at

the Inter House Sports volleyball coach Saman Meet she took part in 100, Bandara from the under 12 200 and 4x100 metres relay. girls of the school to attend On a request made by the volleyball practices Devmi-Prefect of Games and the ni's parents Sunanda

Ratnaweera and Buddhika Priyadarshani encouraged their daughter to take up to volleyball in 2017.

got selected to the volleyball team and they came up to second place at the Divisional and District Level

their under 14 team came keep away in 2020.

This year with the support of the Principal M. Vithana, Volleyball Coach Saman Bandara and Gayan they have commenced practices seriously.

In her first year it self she In the following year

up to District Tournament and they were the runners up and in the following year too their team came second in the DSI District Tournament and at the same time they were adjudged as one of the All Island Best Eight Teams. With the outbreak of Coronavirus they had to



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WORLD OF SPORTS

(APRIL 5) **LOCAL EVENTS** CRICKET (Major Club Limited Over **Tournament):** CCC vs Army SC at CCC Grounds Bloomfield vs Kandy Customs SC at Bloomfield Maggona Saracens SC vs Colts CC at Colts Grounds Moors SC vs Sebastianites Kurunegala YCC vs Police SC at Welagedara **TENNIS**

Clay Court Nationals at SLTA Courts, Green Path

BASKETBALL Masters Tournament at Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium

FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET

(Sheffield Shield): New South Wales vs Wollongong Victoria vs South Australia at Melbourne Western Australia vs Tasmania at Perth FOOTBALL (Premier League): Everton vs Crystal Palace

United (Spanish League): Barcelona vs Real Valladolid

Kingswood win by 24 runs

HAFIZ MARIKAR Kingswood College defeated Kegalu Vidyalaya by 24 runs in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Limited Overs

Cricket Tournament match

worked off at Pallekele yes-

terday.

Big cash bonanza for Super League Soccer Tourney

ALTHAF NAWAZ

towards its suc-

FFSL has initial-

ly selected the ten

top tier teams in

the country with

implementation of

strict club licens-

ing criteria on par

with International

standards. The ten

Renown SC, Rat-

nam SC, Blue Star

SC, Defenders SC,

Red Star SC, Up

namely:

teams,

cess.

A cash Bonanza of 23.5 million rupees will be on offer for the 10 participating teams at the inaugural Super League Soccer Tournament scheduled to kickoff at Sugathadasa Stadium from April.19

After several months of immaculate discussions and pre-planning, the governing body, Football Federation of Sri Lanka (FFSL), is launching this inaugural professional football League, which will give away the biggest cash rewards in the history of Sri Lankan football.

FFSL is embarking on this all-important tournament which will also play a key role in scouting new talent for the National under closed doors. team. World Football body FIFA has supported the super league immensely commencement until the with financial assistance end of this tournament on



a league basis, which is scheduled to conclude by Country Lions SC, Seathe second week of August. Hawks SC, New Young FC, Colombo FC and Blue All teams will be ranked on their performance and the Eagle SC will vie for honnumber of points they ours, with the first match scheduled to commence at accrue at the end of the tournament. The top team 4.30 p.m. and the second at 7.30 p.m. respectively with the highest number of points will be adjudged the winner, while the other A total of 45 matches teams will be lined up as will be played from the per their performance respectively.

The winner will carry away a cash prize of five million rupees and the Prestigious 'Super League Championship Cup', while the runner-up and the third placed teams will receive rupees 3.5 and 3.25 million respectively.

feature of this tournament is that all participating teams lion, whereas in most other

tournaments they will leave empty handed. proper order before the big

The other unique will be rewarded an attractive prize, including the tenth placed team, which will be entitled for one mil-

All participating teams were involved in a pre-season tournament to gain match practice and to get their team combinations in



An incident in a Super League Soccer match

bash. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic some clubs in the fray were under isolation and were deprived of conducting

players.

Considering all these facts, FFSL executed this pre-season tournament at Ministry of Health.

practice sessions for their an additional cost. All matches are to be conducted under strict health guidelines directed by the

strongly believes cycling is a great

way to spend time outdoors and

bicycles to 8,000 winners so far,

The brand Milo has awarded

get some exercise.

page 16



Senuk advance to Boys' U-14 fourth round

Senuk Herath produced a fine performance to book a place in the fourth round of the Boys' Under-14 Singles at the HNB-Hutch Clay Court Tennis Nationals, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

The promising schoolboy got his act together well from the start and went on to beat Uvain Samaraweera in straight sets 6-0, 6-1 in the third round encounter.

The results:

Boys' Under-14 Singles third round: Senuk Hearth beat Uvain Samaraweera 6-0, 6-1. Amrik Wettimuny beat R. Wanigasooriya 7-6, 6-2. R. Akuretiyagama beat Hitushka de Silva 6-0, 6-4. Ganuka Fernando beat Kenuka Geeganage 6-3, 6-0. Dhanushka Dias beat Aahil Kaleel

Sports Minister gifts bicycles to encourage active lifestyle

Minister of Sports Namal Rajapaksa gifted Milo campaign winners with bicycles at a special event, to help children stay physically active.

The Minister recently launched a National Cycling Sunday, and



Chief scores **Kingswood:** 163 in 45.1 overs (Mahasen Ranasinghe 50) Kegalu Vidyalaya: 139 in 38 overs.

Spieth seizes share of 54-hole lead

LOS ANGELES: Jordan Spieth roared home with five birdies in his final seven holes on Saturday to shoot a five-under 67 grab a share of the lead with Matt Wallace heading into the final round of the Texas Open.

The

recently.

Spieth has won 11 times on the PGA Tour but is hoping to end a lengthy dry spell dating back over three years to the 2017 British Open.

His game has been trending in the right direction with the Masters looming at Augusta National next week. The 27-year old American highlighted that with a stellar back nine to get to 12-under 204 and a tie with England's fourtime European Tour winner Wallace, who also shot a 67.

"I left the ball in the right spots when it was missed and really, I did a great job managing today," he said. *AFP*



Marius Asanka Suwaris captain of team Blue receives the over 35-Trophy from Gayath Jayasinghe, CEO of Gaja Holdings-the sponsors of Masters Basketball Inter-League Tournament held recently. Also in the picture is Basil de Silva acting Secretary of MBSL

Blues, Police, Carlton and NBC share major honours

which involved most of teams Blues, the yesteryear players Police, Carlton and NBC participation for three shared the major honours as they went on to win days.

several age group Cham-MBSL with a view of pionships at the Masters revamping the game in Basketball Inter-League the country encouraged both men and women in Tournament conducted by Masters Basketball Sri various categories start-Lanka(MBSL) at Sugathing up from over 35 and adasa Indoor Stadium above. Gaja Sports, one of the top sports promoting After some intensive companies sponsored this competition with the par-

event. ticipation of 31 teams, the Semi-finals Over 35 Mens-Blues, Police, Carlton and Blues beat Wattala 32-17 NBC stole the limelight Bulls Black beat Colombo by winning several age Spartans 25-16

groups championships. **40 Women's-**NBC beat Angels 22-7 Carlton Mor-This event was a reintroduction of the game atuwa beat Penguins 31-04 after almost two years 40 men's-Police SC beat

Old Bens 25-10 Carlton Moratuwa beat wattala Bc 28-25 **45 men's**-Carlton Moratuwa beat Bulls 19-16 76ers

Beat Untouchaballs 23-12 **50 Men'sPolice SC** beat Old Bens 17-08 Bulls beat Old Sokians 29-14

Finals-35 Mens - Blues beat Bulls black 26-18

Over 40 Men's- Police SC beat Carlton, Moratuwa 21-17

Over 45 Men's- Carlton Moratuwa beat 76 ers 23-17 **Over 50 men's-** Bulls beat Police SC 14-7

Over 35 women's- NBC beat Penguins 33-10

Over 40 women's-Carlton Mortuwa beat NBC 22-17 (AN)



Charith Asalanka of SSC is

the highest run-getter

5-1, 7-6. R Gunawar dane beat a m a l Sabry 6-3, 6-3. Jayin De Seram e a t Aweesh Ganegoda 0-6, 6-3. 10-6. (C.D)



(From left): Fabrice Cavallin, Managing Director of Nestle Lanka PLC, Namal Rajapaksa, Minister of Sports, and Bandula Egodage, Vice President - Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Nestle Lanka PLC

Army eye L/O quarter-final spot against CCC DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

CCC and Army SC will clash in a vital fixture of the SLC Major Club Limited Overs Cricket Tournament at the CCC Grounds in Maitland Crescent todav.

Both teams are vying for a quarter-final place from Group 'A' along with the table leaders Badureliya SC who are currently on top of the group with 20 points.

Army SC are in second place with 19 points while the CCC are in third place with a total of 15 points. Only the top two teams will qualify for the quarterfinals. Another quarter-final spot in Group 'D' is still open with Moors SC and Colts CC battling for a place. SSC have already secured their place in the quarter-finals from this group. Meanwhile, Chairth Asalanka of SSC is the highest run-getter so far in the tournament with an aggregate of 348 runs from six matches. In the bowling department, Ragama CC paceman Binura Fernando is still on top of the list

with 14 wickets from five matches. Pix courtesy SLC

Binura Fernando of Ragama

CC is the highest wicket-taker

Colombo Football Club to usher in a new era

Colombo Football Club (CFC), one of Sri Lanka's Premier Football Teams in the country is in the process of moving into their new head office located at Galle Road, Dehiwala.

On the 8th of April, the club will celebrate their 13th year since it was founded by Saif Yusoof along with their initial coach Dixon Silva and team Manager Andy Sampoo conducted the first open trials for the then newly established football team way back in 8th April 2008 at Campbell Park

Grounds, Borella. This celebration marks a significant stepping stone with the opening of the head office, as their humble start as a Division three Team, in a relatively short period are now regarded as one of the Premier Clubs which achieved National Champion status which is represented in the International Arena. After their inauguration, in its first six months saw the tragic demise of their coach, the administration and structure took a radical turn. With the appointment of

the new coach Hassan Roomy, infused success while maintaining discipline in the team. The appointment of the new General Secretary, Premedasaa veteran in the field of soccer saw the administration of the club was in safe hands directing it on the right path. The appointment of General Manager Aabid Akram saw the uplift of the club off the field and brought more focus to the journey of professional football while Sayed M. Iqbal is the team manager. These numerous adminis-

trative personalities are responsible for the success and all they need is a new realignment to professional football management.

The CFC's new administrative home provides all the facilities for management, players, students and even fans to have a single location to fulfill their club needs and requirements. The office will feature an onsite futsal training court, a merchandise store, a club cafe and changing rooms for girls and boys so students feel secure. The Club's dream



Colombo FC players and officials are seen here at the new location

own football ground some- found a base that will uplift clubs in Sri Lanka to look

and goal is to have their day. Till then, they have the club and inspire many at football more professionally. (AN)

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JEDB turns to profitable path

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Government-owned Janatha Estates Development Board" (JEDB) which was making huge losses and depended on government Treasury handouts for many years has made a dramatic U-turn and is on its way to break even and make profits from this year

JEDB which was set up in 1976 after the Land Reform act to manage lands taken over by the government posted a net loss of Rs. 757 million and also received a hand out of Rs. 450 million from the Treasury to shoulder the burden for paying salaries in 2019.

However, with prudent economic management systems and initiating several other initiatives JEDB was successful in moving out of taking the 'Treasury dole' of Rs. 450 mil-

lion for staff from the in 2020. "In addition, we have reduced

our expenses by more than half and losses were narrowed to Rs. 357 million," said Chairman, JEDB, Rtd. Wg. Cmdr. Buwaneka D. Abeysuriya was appointed in January 2020. Successive managements of

the JEDB had defaulted on EPF/ETF payments and there was a huge Rs. 1.8 billion payments due and there also were shocking 1,700 plus cases against JEDB Chairman from former employees. In addition, JEDB also was in debt for nearly Rs. 700 million for state banks, Tea Board, Mineral Sands, Fertilizer Corporation and several other institutions. This also includes Rs. 80 million in arrears to the Ceylon Municipal Council." "Some of these were settled while we

for others One of the other biggest challenges was the non-finalizing of

have started paying EPF/ETF



D. Abeysuriya

annual accounts for eight years which was also finally corrected last year.

"We currently have around 20,000 hectares of land, tea factories, small power plants, in different parts of Sri Lanka and have 18 estates of tea and rubber which we manage. (16 tea estates and 02 rubber Estates)

He identified one of the biggest revenue losses were due to

on-performing estates/factories and we have reinvested to provide them fertilizer, replanting material and other needed infrastructure to correct these on requests made by Estate heads whose mindsets have now changed from 'lethargic' to 'positive thinking'

Cost of production was another major issue and here again, we have intervened and brought it down from Rs. 550 to 470. He said that with the subject Minister Mahindananda Aluthgamae and a well-educated and quailed Board comprising Professionals, they looked at the JEDB with a new professional mindset and originated several changes and reduced expenses as well as corruption. "We now see a steady increase of revenue and despite the impact of COVID-19 pandemic we look to break even and earn profits this year," he said.

JEDB to set up a Property **Management Arm**

The previously heavily politicized JEDB has leased out several of its prime estates, factories and locations to the private sector and plans are now underway to set up a new Property Management arm to review and manage them.

"We have observed that there were 158 lease agreements executed under very unprofessional terms and some of these have already expired and released again with better conditions after following proper tender procedures. The proposed Property Management arm will renegotiate the other agreements and bring them in line with current 'lease rates'.

He said that some of their lands in Mattakkuliva used as warehouses have been sold/leased to Urban Development Authority and Ministry of Education and dues for these amounting to over Rs. 100 million were not collated. "However we have now been able to collect most of them and remaining the balance too would be taken soon."

Our Head office is located on five acres of land at Vauxhall Street we also have three acres of land on Darley Road, Colombo given out on lease. "We plan to lease out several other properties after finalizing tenders under government tender procedure soon.'



17

Ambani bomb scare

Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday said that the state's Anti-Terrorism Squad has filed a murder case in connection with the death of Mansukh Hiren, the reported owner of the explosives-laden car found outside Reliance Industries chairperson Mukesh Ambani's residence in Mumbai last month.

The case filed by the Anti-Terrorism Squad against unidentified people includes charges under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) of the Indian Penal Code. It was filed after the 45-year-old's wife Vimala Hiren alleged that he had been killed. Meanwhile, the National Investigation Agency took over the inquiry into the bomb threat, PTI reported, quoting the agency's spokesperson. (Scroll.in)

CBSL reacts to fake news

The Central Bank observes, with disappointment, a certain newspaper publishing an erroneous and unsubstantiated report of a planned delay in settlement of dues on account of Sri Lanka Development Bonds (SLDBs) and Foreign Currency Loans obtained by the Government from Domestic Banks.

In a release, the Central Bank informs investors and the general public that debt service payments, interest and capital, are being met in a timely manner on account of SLDBs and Foreign Currency Loans from Domestic Banks, as



well as all other debt obligations of the Government.

There is no plan to delay or defer such payments as reported in the said newspaper, and accordingly, the newspaper report is completely erroneous with no basis for the contents reported. The Government has no intention to tarnish its unblemished debt ser-

vice record by delaying the settlement of maturing debt obligations. So far, during 2021, on account of SLDBs and Foreign Currency Loans from Domestic Banks, debt service payments of close to US\$ 1.2 billion have been met, and all due obligations will also be serviced in a timely

manner. Investors and the general public are advised not to get unduly concerned about such baseless and erroneous newspaper reports.

Ministry of Youth, SME Business **Trust Guarantee ink MoU**

To promote young SME entrepreneurs

moted to the global market A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by providing them with between the Ministry of opportunities and encourage-Youth and Sports and the ment.

SME Business Trust Guaran-He also pointed that this will help in minimizing the high popularity of Public sector employment opportu-Chairmanship of the Minisnities among the younger ter of Youth and Sports in generation in the country and will be a worthy oppor-The MoU was signed with tunity for the development of the island.

The Minister said that entrepreneurs for the develsmall scale entrepreneurs opment of the youth commushould be brought to the middle level and the existing policy framework should be changed and they should be encouraged to come up with new project proposals. He further said that when creating industrial areas, they should be established outside Colombo and investors should be encouraged to



tee Limited

Colombo.

Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa said that with the participation of the public and private sector, (Public-Private-Partnership) small and medium scale entrepreneurs could be pro-

tee Limited, to encourage

small and medium scale

entrepreneurs under the

the objective of uplifting

small and medium scale

nity in the country by the

SME Business Trust Guara

set them up in an eco-friend-Saman Waduge, Additional Secretary (Youth Affairs) ly manner in different Divisional Secretariat Areas of the Ministry, Sudheera

Jayaratne, Director of Small senior representatives of

Enterprise Development and

SME Business Trust Guarantee Limited were also present on the occasion.

New Bill to amend Provident Fund

THARAKA WICKREMASEKERA

A new Bill will be presented in parliament next month to expedite solving of problems of employees of the private sector and state corporations as well as statutory boards regarding Provident Fund, gratuity and compensation issues.

Minister of Labour, Nimal Siripala De

Silva said that this initiative will provide huge security for over 3.6 million employees working in state corporations, statutory boards and the private sector. He also said that certain Provident Fund cases are still active in courts for about 10 years and as a result, a retired employee is subject to much inconvenience

when obtaining the provident fund contributions

"According to the new bill if someone goes to a higher court regarding the provident fund or ex-gratia payments or against the sum ordered by the Commissioner-General of Labour to be paid by the employer that money should be

compulsorily deposited with either the Commissioner General of Labour or at the court where the initial verdict was given.

The Minister also said that at present 15,078 cases in connection with provident fund and ex-gratia payments are being heard at Courts.



Nimal Siripala de Silva

An alternative to Savings Accounts

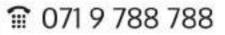
NDB | WEALTH MONEY PLUS FUND

Current Yield as at 31* March 2021

WITHDRAW ANYTIME

It's time for more than banking!

Discuentier: * Current gleat is verifible and subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Exploratory Memorandum before investing. Among others, investors should consider the fees and charges involved.





SLIC staff donates PCR machine to Ratnapura Teaching Hospital



SLIC Chairman Jagath Wellawatta hands over the PCR machine to Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi.

Sri Lanka Insurance staff members have joined hands to contribute towards the effort to donate essential PCR Machine to the Teaching Hospital Ratnapura.

The Teaching Hospital Ratnapura is the largest tertiary care hospital in Sabaragamuwa province administered under the purview of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine. It provides specialized health care services mainly to the Sabaragamuwa province, which consists of Ratnapura and Kegalle Districts covering a pop-

ulation of 2,009,000 in an extent of 4968 km2 area. People coming from other provinces such as Uva, Southern and Eastern seek

specialized medical care from the hospital.

Understanding the essential requirement of a PCR machine to conduct regular PCR tests in the hospital, staff members of SLIC volunteered to contribute a one day salary to purchase the machine worth of LKR 5,000,000 approximately. This is yet another initiative of Sri Lanka Insurance to support the mission of bat-

tling Covid 19 pandemic in Sri Lanka by reinforcing the state health care sector with necessary equipment.

The much needed machine was donated to the Teaching Hospital Ratnapura on 30th March 2021. Minister of Health Ms.Pavithra Devi Wanniarachchi, State Minister Janaka Wakkumbura. Governer of Sabaragamuwa Province Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, management and staff members of SLIC, management and staff members of Teaching Hospital Ratnapura, were present at the occasion.

Bangladesh economy to grow at 3.6%

The World Bank on Wednesday forecasted that the Bangla-

desh economy would grow between 2.6 per cent to 5.6 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 depending on the ongoing pace of the ongoing vaccination campaign, whether new restrictions to mobility are required and how quickly the world economy recovers.

Growth could very well be 3.6 per cent, which is much lower than the government's target of 8.2 per cent.

But earlier in January, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the GDP growth this fiscal year would be 7.4 per cent, which is close to the Asian Development Bank's projection of 7.5 per cent.

"The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the economy profoundly," said the Washingtonbased lender in its twice-a-year regional update.

A national shutdown from March to May 2020 resulted in severe supply-side disruptions in all sectors of the economy.

On the demand side, losses in employment income dampened consumption growth, although remittance inflows provided some buffer. The government's COVID-19 stimulus pro-



gramme provided firms with access to working capital and low-cost loans to sustain operations and maintain employee wages in fiscals 2019-20 and 2020-21.

From June onward, movement restrictions have been progressively lifted, and transit and workplace movement patterns returned to pre-pandemic levels by October. Officially recorded infections peaked in July 2020 and declined gradually in subsequent months.

Downside risks to the outlook are likely to persist if new waves of COVID-19 re-emerge in Bangladesh or its trading

partner countries. Bangladesh's expected graduation from the UN's Least Developed Country status in coming years will present

opportunities but also challenges, including the eventual loss of preferential access to advanced economy markets.

Fiscal risks include weak domestic revenue growth (if tax reforms are delayed) and higher expenditure for COVID-19 vaccinations (if external financing is limited) and for supporting the Rohingya refugees (if donor fatigue sets in).

While external demand for garment appears to be stabilising, the recovery is fragile and could be vulnerable to new waves of COVID-19 infections.

Demand for Bangladesh's overseas workforce in the Gulf region may also be impacted by the ongoing recession in that region, impairing future remittance inflows

(www.dhakatribune.com)

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BUSINESS

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 NFWS/MARKFT

Prime Residencies completes 35 unique properties

Prime Land Residencies Ltd, the condominium property arm of the maestro of real estate artistry in Sri Lanka, Prime Group, recently celebrated a milestone achievement upon the completion of its 35th property project.

With 5 more projects nearing completion and yet another 5 more awaiting launch, the completion and handing over of 35 properties to anticipating residents have established Prime Residencies as the benchmark condominium developer in the country.

These 35 state-of-the-art properties infused with touches of elegant luxury and smart living are spread across the island. The reach of Prime Residencies' properties extends to areas such as Colombo, Gampaha, Wattala, Rajagiriya, Uswetakeiyawa, Kiribathgoda, Thalawathugoda, Nugegoda, Pallakele, Panadura, Athurugiriya, Kottawa, Battaramulla, Nawala and Malabe, among many more key locations.

One of the developer's most notable developments catering to the high-end market is The Grand Ward Place, Colombo 07. A masterpiece of architecture, it offers sheer comfort and exclusivity to residents and has the distinction of being the tallest

enhance their skills and knowledge.

and SLASSCOM jointly working on

This collaboration would have CIMA

propagating technology developments to

the Sri Lankan community in the BPO/

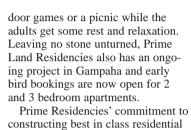
BPM and knowledge process outsourc-



Signature Villas in Corea Gardens Thalawathugoda.

residential development in the heart of Colombo 7.

The developer has also ventured into resort-style properties, with developments in Uswetakeiyawa. The Beach Front by Prime Residencies is situated close to the star-class hotels and features open spaces which are ideal for kids to enjoy out-



units has certainly played a key role in filling up the 100,000 units per annum housing gap, while also significantly contributing to the country's economy. These large scale developments have been a driving force for economic growth as investments in condominiums have generated historical returns of 17% ROI and 5% - 9% rental yield, according to KPMG International. As the developer looks towards the

future, Prime Land Residencies has understood that their success over the years has been guided by a far-sighted, strategic vision and a singleminded commitment towards professionalism. While 35 completed units is a milestone to be beaten, the firm will continue to grow from strength to strength with a commitment to bring the best value to all their stakeholders, ensuring their satisfaction is parallel to the growth of Prime Land Residencies.

Prime Land Residencies is planning to shift from a private familyowned enterprise to a publicly owned organization - broad basing its shareholders while earning the status of an iconic international player in the region by going into an IPO shortly.

Sri Lanka's largest office complex MAGA commences Sethsiripaya Stage III

Sethsiripaya Stage III, the third phase of the Government's administration hub in Battaramulla, is a 25-storeyed modern office building with a floor area of over 1.3 million square feet-making it the largest public sector building and the largest office complex in the country. The new complex will bring ministries, public corporations, departments, and government offices that were scattered around the city to a centralised location: a move that will reduce traffic congestion in the city, streamline access to services for the public, and provide much-needed office space for government and semi-government institutions.

The proposed complex occupies a site area of 4.3 acres adjacent to the Sethsiripaya Stage I and II buildings and will comprise modern office space, multifunction halls, meeting and conference facilities, commercial areas, restaurants, and parking for 700 vehicles. Once completed, Sethsiripaya Stage III is expected to cater to over 7500 occupants and 1000 visitors per day.

Valued at LKR 16.7 billion, the project is fully owned and funded by the Urban Development Authority (UDA), as part of the Sri Lanka Government's vision for people-centric development and an accessible and effective public service. The role of the architectural consultant is carried out by the Design, Project Management & Consultancy Division of the UDA, while Maga Engineering is the engineering design-and-build contractor. At the commencement of the project, the Chairman & Managing Director of MAGA Mr M.G. Kularatne stated, "We are proud to become the construction partner of the largest government complex in Sri Lanka, which once completed will be a milestone in the masterplan of the UDA. It is a worthy addition to our track record of delivering land-



mark public sector buildings, such as the Customs Headquarters and Extension to the Treasury Building."

Envisioned by the architectural team at the UDA lead by Architect Ananda Samarasinghe, the building consists of a solid base that holds two main wings around a giant sky-lit central atrium that maximises ventilation and daylighting, while creating a large common area for both the occupants and the general public visiting the building. Following universal design principles, the complex will contain an array of energy-efficient sustainability features including rooftop solar energy generation and rainwater harvesting, together with green-rated building materials. Once complete, Sethsiripaya Stage III is expected to achieve a Platinum green-building rating, setting a benchmark for public sector buildings and high-rise office space in Sri Lanka.

Maga Engineering has been at the forefront of delivering Sri Lanka's most iconic commercial and office spaces for government agencies and leading corporates, including Sri Lanka Customs, Ministry of Finance, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Hemas Holdings, People's Leasing PLC, HSBC, DIMO, Jetwing Hotels, South Asia Gateway Terminals, and Millennium IT.

A conversation with shared service giants across the Asia Pacific **CIMA** partners **SLASSCOM** on professional development





Channa Manoharan



Yasmin Mohd Ramzi

Venkkat Ramanan

CIMA Sri Lanka and SLASSCOM ing (KPO) industries that impact the finance profession, and CIMA would (The Sri Lanka Association of Software and Service Companies) have come assist with capacity and skills development of the BPO and other sectors affiltogether to collaborate on joint events iated to SLASSCOM through their and continuous professional development training, thereby providing opporrespective Forums through thought leadtunities for their respective members to ership and research published by CIMA.

"A conversation with Shared Service Giants across the Asia Pacific", the first in a series of joint programmes, will be held on Wednesday, 7 April 2021 at 11:30 am (IST) via Zoom. Join us to find out the skills required in the new

digital world including competencies needed and how to be trained to meet the demands of the industry and profession in 2021 and beyond.

Featured speakers at the programme will be, Venkkat Ramanan, FCMA, CGMA, Regional Vice President - The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, Irene Teng, EVP of Global Markets - The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants and Channa Manoharan, Chair, SLASSCOM/ Chief Oper-

ating Officer / Advisory Leader, PwC Sri Lanka, who will be joined by Yasmin bt. Mohd Ramzi, FCMA, CGMA, Head, GBS Service Delivery, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Malaysia and Shanaka Fernando, SLASSCOM BPM Form Lead, as well as other panellists from across the APAC region.

Further information and assistance on the webinar and registration, could be obtained from, Kishnika Weeresing he on mastercourses.srilanka@aicpacima.com



Shanaka Fernando

ASPI crosses 7,000 – Acuity Stockbrokers

Build SL Housing and Construction Expo 2021 in May

Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka will be hosting the Build Sri Lanka Housing & Construction Expo from May 14 to 16 2021 at the BMICH. This premier exhibition will be the first to be held this year exclusively targeting the housing and construction needs and organized by a professional institution, in fact first since October 2020.

The exhibition will cover all aspects of housing and construction from foundation to interior decor, electrical and plumbing items, landscaping, and property

development and constructions services.

ware, which were banned last April, it will be a good The Build SL exhibition opportunity for the compa-

has been held unbroken for nies selling these products the past 16 years and has to create public awareness been a major event looked as many will be still under forward to by the builders the impression of the import and the homeowners and ban on these. the discerning exhibitors Further, the Government have consciously selected is proceeding with many the Build SL exhibition to

infrastructure developments costing Rs. 5,000 Billion showcase their products and services because this particduring the period 2021 ular exhibition covers all 2025 which will require aspects and draws many massive construction inputs. This will create a surge in visitors across the spectrum seeking to fulfil their needs. construction activities in the future. Another motivating As the Government has recently relaxed the import factor that will result in of ceramic tiles and sanitary more construction demand

is the low bank interest regime followed by the Government which will encourage more investments in property development. There were some novel introductions last year such as the Property Developers gallery that showcased apartment sales and also recruitment of construction workers by some companies. These will be provided at this exhibition as well. The Property Developers gallery last year was a huge success as the developers who took part could conclude many sales. The Chamber has

received earnest requests from many stall-holders to continue with the exhibition this year because of the latent needs of those seeking to build and invest and also because of the overwhelmingly positive public response they received last year.

The Chamber is positive that the industry can surge forward and has even themed this year's exhibition as "Yes - we can build Sri Lanka "and encourages exhibitors to come forward and make reservations for stall spaces early without malingering.

The Bourse ended the week on a positive note this week with ASPI increasing by 95.89 points (or 1.35%) to close at 7,193.28 points, while the S&P SL20 Index also increased by 1.06 points (or 0.04%) to close at 2,867.72 points.

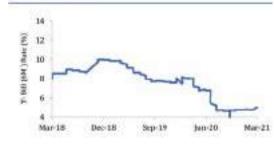
Turnover & Market Capitalization

Piramal Glass was the highest contributor to the week's turnover value, contributing LKR 6.76Bn or 56.50% of the total turnover value. HNB followed suit, accounting for 5.79% of turnover (value of LKR 0.69Bn) while Commercial Bank contributed LKR 0.62Bn to account for 5.15% of the week's turnover. Total turnover value amounted to LKR 11.96Bn (cf. last week's value of LKR 6.39Bn), while the daily average turnover value amounted to LKR 2.99Bn (133.78%Wo-W) compared to last week's average of LKR 1.28Bn. Market capitalization meanwhile, increased by 1.36% W-o-W (or LKR 42.26Bn) to LKR 3,142.71 cf. LKR 3,100.45Bn last week.

Dividend Announcements

Company DPS(Rs.) Dividend Type Date(XD); MAHAWELI COCONUT PLAN-TATIONS PLC 0.75 First interim 08/04/2021; RICHARD PIERIS AND COMPANY PLC

6 Munth T-Bill Yield



0.5 Second interim 08/04/2021; HAYLEY'S PLC 1 Second interim 08/04/2021; UNION ASSURANCE PLC 14 First and Final dividend 09/04/2021; UNION BANK OF COLOMBO PLC 0.13 Final dividend 12/04/2021; LAXAPANA BATTERIES PLC 1 First interim 15/04/2021; BAIRAHA FARMS PLC 3 First interim 15/04/2021

Prime Lending Rate 5.75%, Ave. Wtd. Deposit Rates 5.2%, Ave. Wtd. Fixed Dep. Rates 6.29%, CCPI Inflation Y-o-Y 4.1%

Liquidity (Value & Volume)

The Materials Industry Group was the highest contributor to the week's total turnover value; accounting for 60.50% (or LKR 7.24Bn) of market turnover. Industry Group's turnover was driven primarily by Piramal Glass & Dipped Products which accounted for 97.01% of the sector's total turnover. Banks Industry Group meanwhile accounted for 16.99% of the total turnover value while Capital Goods Group contributed 9.19% to the weekly turnover.

The Materials Industry Group dominated the market in terms of share volume; accounting for 78.07% (or 631.27Mn shares) of total volume; with a value contribution of LKR 7.24Bn. The Food; Beverage & Tobacco Industry Group followed suit; adding 8.44% to total volume (68.24Mn shares) while

> Diversified Financials contributed 3.31% (26.78Mn shares) to the week ly share volume.

Net Foreign Position Foreign investors were net sellers this week with a total net outflow amounting to LKR 1.87Bn relative to last week's total net outflow of LKR 0.55Bn (-236.7% W-o-W). Total foreign purchases increased by 1;525.4% W-o-W to LKR 6.34Bn from last week's value of LKR 0.39Bn; while total foreign sales amounted to LKR 8.20Bn relative to LKR 0.94Bn recorded last week (768.7% W-o-W).



KPMG appoints Ajantha Weerasekara as a Principal

KPMG Sri Lanka, a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms announced the appointment of W. A. Ajantha Weerasekara as a Principal of the firm with effect from 1st of April 2021. Ajantha counts over 14

years of experience in financial services in Sri Lanka and abroad, and currently leading the business, property and asset valuations and restructuring and turnaround services in KPMG Sri Lanka. He has also successfully led a range of advisory engagements including M&As, debt advisory, financial feasibilities and other corporate finance related transactions.

He has experience in working as the engagement director in financial

restructuring and turnaround transactions related to several large and medium sized corporates in Sri Lanka, which involves restructuring of financial management processes. balance sheet, negotiating with lenders on restructuring of borrowings, liquidating non-operating assets and sourcing strategic equity investments.

In addition to leading

numerous valuation engagements in Sri Lanka, Ajantha also has extensive experience in valuations in other global markets, where he has carried out earnings and asset based valuations of a number of companies across the UK, Europe, China, Hong Kong, India, Malavsia, and the Mid dle East.



Aiantha Weerasekara

Andre Fernando appointed as the honorary consul of Bulgaria

Managing Director MAC Holdings Private Limited, Andre Fernando, was appointed as the Honorary Consul of Bulgaria to Sri Lanka effective from March 18, 2021. The same has been gazetted on April 1, 2021.

This appointment was announced by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and was handed over by the Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

In a statement as Honorary Consul of Bulgaria, Fernando said that he would provide leadership in the promotion of trade, economic cooperation and friendship between the two countries. He will help facilitate investments, trade, cultural tie-ups, and services. Fernando shall help build strong cultural and strategic bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Sri Lanka.

An alumnus of both St Peter's & St Joseph's, Fernando, is a well-known corporate figure, and a 30-year veteran of the domestic and international logistics, aviation and maritime industry, who has served as a Chairman/Managing Director and has held senior leadership positions at renowned global logistics companies and airlines. His experience covers many international markets.

His industry experience has been recognized by several industry organizations to drive progress in many challenging environments.

Bulgarian Consulate in Sri Lanka will run an inclusive range of consular services to locals, Bulgarians, and international citizens in Sri Lanka



The appointment handed over by the Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena to Andre Fernando.

BUSINESS

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 CSR/NEWS

'A.Y.S. Gnanam Village Heartbeat Empowerment Centre' opened in Dambulla

Marking another farreaching milestone in the company's ongoing quest to enrich our country and its people, Tokyo Cement Group recently joined hands with The Foundation of Goodness to establish the 'A.Y.S. Gnanam Village Heartbeat Empowerment Centre in Dambulla.' The facility, which became the 12th Village Heartbeat project of the Foundation of Goodness, was declared open by Dr Harsha Cabral -Chairman, together with S.R. Gnanam - Managing Director of the Tokyo Cement Group and Kushil Gunasekera, Founder/Chief Trustee of the Foundation of Goodness.

The A.Y.S. Gnanam Village Heartbeat Empowerment Centre situated in Sisirawatte, Dambulla, will provide free educational sup-



Dr. Harsha Cabral, Kushil Gunasekera, and S.R. Gnanam unveiling the plaque at the A.Y.S. Gnanam Village Heartbeat Empowerment The cultural dancing troupe of the Dambulla A.Y.S. Gnanam Village Centre in Dambulla.

port on subjects such as Science, Mathematics, IT, English, Tamil, and Traditional Dancing, for Primary to Grade 5 students from low-

income families. In addition to educational support for school children, other programs carried out at the Centre will include life skills &

values, vocational training, and sports, to empower the youth in the area for better employment opportunities. As it progresses, the Centre

Heartbeat Centre welcoming the guests. will offer training programs ing, CCTV installation, and on widely sought-after vocational courses for youth,

such as hospitality, agriculture, bakery, electrical wir-



Dressmaking, cookery, and beauty culture courses are conducted at the Centre to empower women to pursue self-employment opportunities.

also conducts professional courses on dressmaking, cookery, and beauty culture.

The A.Y.S. Gnanam Village Heartbeat Empowerment Centre addresses much-needed social upliftment requirements of the rural communities in the Dambulla - Kandalama areas. People living in the remote villages of Rathmalgahaela, Athuparayaya, Pahalawewa, Yakuragala North, Yakuragala South, Wilhatha and Kandalama Grama Niladhari Divisions will benefit from the initiative. Over 750 families. whose main livelihood is farming and agriculturerelated industries, can now utilize the facility to improve their learning opportunities and expand the horizons of their children. So far, more than 800 beneficiaries from various age categories are participating in the multiple skills development courses at the Centre, which stands proof of the value it creates for the people over time.

Tokyo Cement Group has successfully integrated social welfare and environmental conservation into its corporate DNA, and this latest initiative is one great example of its commitment to social responsibility.

British Council develop women leaders who can bridge gender gaps

The British Council offered 100 emerging leaders from South Asia a unique opportunity to develop their leadership capacity and skills through a five-week online, self-directed course. This course has been developed by Clore Social Leadership UK. This programme was initially piloted in Africa and based on its success was introduced in South Asia in 2020, to an initial cohort of 100. The five-week course for South Asia was successfully completed in February 2021.

Through the British Council Sri Lanka, 25 local participants, comprising a diverse group of social and gender activists, and aspiring leaders were part of the South Asian cohort. They were selected based on their track record of working in women's rights and demonstrating a genuine commitment to enhancing their leadership skills.

'This course has been a great eyeopener, the content was really helpful to enhance my knowledge and understanding of gender and leadership. It's been a journey of self-reflection since the activities and content were more about oneself. If I can provide some examples, The SWOT analysis, the 'why factor' and the missing person activities were impactful for me' expressed Priyatharshiny Vijayaratnam, Wing Lead, volunteer for women and youth project, CREATE Initiative. During the programme, the participants benefitted from live discussions, curated learning resources, reflective writing and practical tasks and were encouraged to network with fellow participants whilst sharing individual challenges and experiences.



Hype Sri Lanka Kasunjith Satanarachchi

on the ground under three thematic areas; 'Leadership for Disability and Inclusion, 'Online safety for women and girls' and 'Strategies to strengthen women's access to digital technology, and digital opportunities for Women's livelihood'.

'Taking part in this training and attending the live sessions, I was joined by a group of powerful women who had undergone experiences that are similar to mine. Learning from them, with the help of the digital teaching aide provided by the program, helped me dissect myself thoroughly, comprehend my strength and identify my weaknesses. The self-analysis was truly a game-changer for me. It helped me mentally organise myself and face my fears head-on,' were sentiments shared by Shaahidah Riza, a writer and freelance journalist.



Shaahidah Riza

tematic interventions. I want to reassure and rally forward to build the rights for women with disabilities. This training has allowed me to focus on the core purpose and to push my understanding of leadership where I lead from the front while never leaving anyone behind.³

Reiterating the British Council's commitment to gender equality and the need to develop a shared vision for the future, a two-day regional event titled 'The Leadership for Gender Equality Summit' was conducted to create an open forum for discussion and dialogue on the theme of 'Leadership for gender equality. The event included panel discussions, workshops and fireside chats on the overarching theme of 'Women in Leadership'. Over 30 experts from South Asia participated to share their opinions on different aspects of gender equality. The British Council's ambition to achieve gender equity and eliminate disadvantage is at the heart of all the work, recognising that the key issues for Sri Lanka are a very high rate of domestic violence, sexual harassment, social media exploitation, suicide rates, over the protection of



Priyatharshiny Vijayaratnam

girls, and underemployment despite good educational achievements. Whilst addressing some of these issues directly, longer-term interventions are aimed at attitudinal change, tackling harmful gender norms among women and girls, as well as men and boys, thus enabling the former to participate fully in society. The programmes focus on reducing violence, creating role models, and tackling social media harassment through community-based interventions, as well as increasing aspirations for career opportunities, raising awareness and stimulating attitude change through providing a voice, a choice and an agency for female empowerment and change. British Council's Country Director, Maarya Rehman said, "The 'Leadership for gender equality program' provides vital platforms for dialogue and discussion to contribute to leadership development of women and help them find equal footing in the world. We are proud to facilitate local participation for these important programmes and to promote a renewed vision for women to outdo gender stereotypes and be their voice, transforming different sectors and their communities."

mobile repairing. Women empowerment is a key focus of the Village Heartbeat concept, and as such the Centre

are not always as green as they sound, experts say. Many "100% renewable"

generated by fossil fuels,

small price. Sustainable energy think tank Regen

complains of "loose lan-

grid for a low-carbon

green tariffs and many

electricity as standard.

"greenwashing" - using

marketing spin to make

"dirty" electricity seem

clean.

promise 100% renewable

However, some energy

But industry body Energy UK says all renewable

future. The vast majority of

energy suppliers now offer



"That's not giving consumers an informed choice about where they're getting their electric from.³

REGO stands for Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin. When a renewable companies accuse others of unit of electricity is generated - for example, by a wind turbine - the regulator Ofgem issues a REGO to prove that this energy is "The sale of green tariffs green

Some industry experts

expanding and supporting

the renewable energy mar-

ket. The problem is how

much they cost. They are

France, Italy, and Ireland

have proposed or enacted

policies to incentivize pri-

vate investors to contribute

equity. Support could also

be staggered over time, and

new tranches deployed only

as viability uncertainty dis-

Targeted quasi-equity

firms. Across-the-board

support: those that do not

and those that would have

the pandemic—that also

happen to be less produc-

a budget of roughly half a

(viable but currently insol-

vent) to zero net equity (a

vency). This is over four

times more than would be

small and medium enter-

more efficient and powerful

An energy supplier can

cheap.

sipates.

have a role to play in

Many suppliers have contracts to buy electricity The person who owns that wind turbine is now directly from renewable allowed to sell the electricielectricity generators and tv and the REGO separatesome invest directly in renewable energy infrastructure. These are argua-It means there is a marketplace where leftover bly "greener" but tend to

make electricity from the wholesale market, which includes fossil fuels, look entirely green for just £1 or £2 per customer per year. The majority of UK energy suppliers are doing this to some extent.

For environmentally-conscious consumers, finding a truly "green" tariff is confusing.

The culmination of the leadership programme will include local awareness-building initiatives, digitally and

Kasunjith Satanarachchi, Director of disability and vulnerable communities' representation, HYPE Sri Lanka, said 'I want to be in the mainstreaming of gender and disability activism and to lead by example. Due to the stigmatization and vulnerability of the disabled community, we need to provide support through sys-

becoming insolvent-sad-

New IMF staff research

dled with debt well over

and the findings are con-

cerning. The pandemic is

projected to boost the share

um enterprises from 10 per-

cent to 16 percent in 2021

across 20 mostly advanced

economies in Europe and

the Asia-Pacific region. The

nitude similar to the rise in

after the 2008 global finan-

cial crisis, but it would take

place over a much shorter

period of time. Projected

insolvencies put about 20

million jobs at risk (i.e.,

employed by small and

workers, in the countries

financial obligations),

The implications for

liquidations in the 5 years

their ability to repay.

2018," says Rob Gross, th director of the UK Energy ly. Research Centre.

increased remarkably in the

period since 2015. It dou-

bled between 2017 and

For many consumers, environmentally friendly REGOs are traded, and electricity plays a role in there are enough of them "going spare" that energy which supplier they choose. Suppliers purchase cheap suppliers can purchase renewable energy certifienough to cover the proportion of fossil fuels they sell cates called REGOs to effectively "offset" this. to customers. That allows her supplier to are supportive of REGOs legally call the electricity "100% renewable" and many agree that they

In response, Su said: "I'm not very impressed with that at all. To claim that all your energy is sourced renewably and then to do that is very misleading.

cost more. The regulator, Ofgem, acknowledged this when it exempted three suppliers from the UK-wide energy price cap.

Ecotricity, Good Energy and Green Energy UK are allowed to charge more than their competitors because their electricity costs more to supply.

Energy UK, the trade body representing all suppliers, says that the bigger picture is very promising. (BBC)

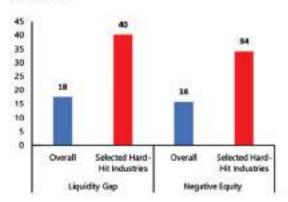
Solving SME insolvencies

FEDERICO J. DÍEZ

The pandemic has hit small and medium enterprises particularly hard, partly because they are predominant in some contact-intensive sectors like hotels, restaurants, and entertainment. As a result, many advanced economies risk experiencing a wave of liquidations that could destroy millions of jobs, damage the financial system, and weaken an already fragile economic

Rising risk

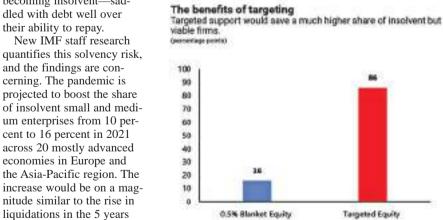
Small and medium enterprises in the hardest hit sectors face very large cumulative liquidity and insolvency risks in 2020-21. (stridgege



Source: WF Stuff Dissussion Netw Yo. 21/02. Analysis based on Othis fut a sample of (Insetty advanced) continue from Surger and Asia Profile. Note: Such has above the fraction of forms propertied to be under Branstal charters in writer 2028 or 2021, aske thet from estimated to be Rippid at the web of 2028 exit the market. "Selected Harders Hit Industries" include

recovery. Policymakers should take novel and swift action to alleviate this wave. Abundant liquidity sup-

port through loans, credit guarantees, and moratoria on debt payments have protected many small and medium enterprises from the immediate risk of bankruptcy. But liquidity support cannot address solvency problems. As firms accumulate losses and borrow to keep carrying on, they risk



ton INF Staff Discussion Hole 21/32 e inscinent with COVID hat wanti be joine Note "resolvent but viable" ferms are defined as those that without it.

concern. Rising small and medium enterprise insolvenover 10 percent of workers cies could trigger defaults medium enterprises), roughand cause significant writely the same as the total numoffs, depleting banks' capiber of currently unemployed tal. In hard-hit countriesmostly from Southern Europe-banks' capital tier

covered by the analysis. Further, 18 percent of 1 ratios (a key measure of small and medium enterpristheir financial strength) es may also become illiquid could decline by over 2 per-(they may not have enough centage points. Smaller cash to meet their immediate banks would be hit even harder, as they often specialize in lending to smaller underscoring the need for continued liquidity support. businesses: a quarter of them could experience a banks are another cause for drop of at least 3 percentage

points in their capital ratios, while 10 percent could face an even larger fall of at least 7 percentage points.

"Quasi"-equity injections

Compared to past crises, this time around there is a clearer case for solvency support by governments. Because of the sheer magnitude of the problem, the costs of bankruptcies to society far exceed their costs to individual debtors and creditors. For example,

if a wave of insolvencies overwhelms the courts, these could fail to restructure viable firms and push them into liquidation instead. Undue losses in valuable productive networks, human capital, and jobs would follow.

In practice, countries with adequate fiscal space, transinjections would be far parency, and accountability could consider quasi-equity than providing support to all injections into small and medium enterprises. Indeed, (blanket) injections benefit several are already actively two types of firms that exploring this option, notashould not receive solvency bly in Europe. One approach is for governneed it because they are solments to extend "profit parvent even amid the crisis, ticipation loans" through fresh loans or conversion of been insolvent even without existing ones. These loans would be junior to all other existing debt claims and tive. As an illustration, a tartheir payoff could be partly geted support program with indexed to the firm's profits. Targeting the right busipercent of the overall GDP nesses-those insolvent as a of the 20 countries analyzed result of the pandemic but could bring back over 80 that have viable business percent of the right firms models-is very hard. For this reason, governments might consider conditioning minimal definition of soltheir support on private investors (like banks) injecting equity, which achieved under a blanket would let the market take a approach supporting all leading role in identifying a firm as a viable business. prises without distinction.

Beefing up insolvency and debt restructuring mechanisms

Even with public support measures, small and medium enterprise insolvencies are likely to rise. Therefore, a comprehensive set of insolvency and debt restructuring tools will be needed for the insolvency proceedings system to cope with the added strain. These tools include dedicated out-ofcourt restructuring mechanisms, hybrid restructuring, and strengthened insolvency procedures-for instance, simplified reorganization for smaller firms. Since liquidations may be excessive even under well-functioning insolvency procedures, governments could provide financial incentives to tilt the balance towards restructuring.

To secure a strong recovery, governments in advanced economies need to address the risks of small and medium enterprise distress. Combining continued liquidity support, quasiequity injections and enhanced restructuring mechanisms could go a long way toward that goal.

(IMF Blog)

BUSINESS

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021 NEWS/ADVERTORIAL



The signing of the MoU by all parties.

Exchange of MoU by Harsha Samaranayake and Minister Mahinda Amaraweera. Dr. Anil Jasinghe and Dr. Nihal Jayatilake are also pictured.

Dialog partners with Environment Ministry to empower "*Husma Dena Thuru*" Initiative

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC), Dialog Axiata PLC (Dialog) signed an MoU to empower the "Nakethata Palayak" programme under the "Husma Dena Thuru" initiative, in lieu of the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year. These two programmes were initiated to create awareness and inculcate a culture of preservation and urban forestry across Sri Lankan homes. The "Nakethata Palayak"

initiative aims to promote urban forestry at homes during this Sinhala and Tamil New Year, where if one home plants one seedling during the designated 'tree planting' auspicious time at 6.40 AM on 16th April

nes.6.40 AM on 16th Aprilayak"2021, 5 million trees would

be planted across the nation simultaneously. This initiative strives to invoke a sense of motivation, further uniting the citizens of Sri Lanka to work towards a common environmental goal for the betterment of the nation.

With climate change posing as a growing global threat, the '*Husma Dena Thuru*' campaign was implemented by the Ministry of Environment, to

increase the country's forest density to 30% and with the objective to reduce the rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere while creating a healthy, habitable environment. The two initiatives will pave a path towards a greener community and healthier lifestyle for generations to come.

HNB announces 'Singithi Jumbo Avurudu' campaign

In celebration of Avurudu this year HNB PLC announced the launch of the 'Singithi Jumbo Avurudu' campaign for its minor savers, with a wide range of exciting presents and gift vouchers.

Commencing from March 23 until April 20, HNB is offering an array of benefits for all HNB Singithi and Teen account holders below 16 years of age.

"We're extremely pleased to share the joy of Avurudu by supplementing our Singithi Savings scheme for our young savers. With these promotions, we're able to encourage the youth on their path towards a financially secure future, while providing exciting gifts that will boost their academic journey. In the coming years,

we're hoping to look at expanding the scope of these schemes so we can continue supporting our young savers."



HNB Head of Deposits Viranga Gamage said.

In addition to encouraging the continuous academic progress of Singithi account holders, the bank also provides an exciting array of gifts for its young savers. These range from items such as pen-holders and caps for deposits of Rs. 5,000, to umbrellas or school bags for deposits of Rs. 10,000, to a whiteboard fully equipped with accessories for deposits of Rs. 25,000.

As the first to introduce a branded minor savings account in 1991, HNB is committed to protecting the interests of Singithi account holders. Consequently, working in partnership with HNB Assurance, the bank launched a special insurance scheme that will operate on standing orders issued from parents for Singithi and Teen savings accounts.

In addition, since the inception of the Singithi account, HNB has embarked on numerous initiatives to encourage a savings habit among the student population by linking consistent saving to tangible rewards for the youth.

HNB is a pioneer in minor savings, offering a comprehensive range of services designed to provide the most value to its youngest customers.

DFCC Bank launches 'Bike to Work' initiative

'Achieving Sustainable Work-Lifestyles by 2030' is one of the Big Goals that DFCC Bank has identified in its Sustainability Strategy for 2020 – 2030.

The Bank seeks to advance sustainable workplaces and lifestyles via governance, including sustainable workplace practices, as well as lifestyles for clients and staff in general.

This includes a range of elements from promoting diversity and inclusivity to productivity-oriented wellness and sustainable consumption and lifestyle practices.

In this regard, the new 'Bike to Work' initiative which was launched by the Bank's wellness committee, "OMMM", was the latest bank-wide initiative launched to encourage its employees to maintain a sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

This is not a one-off activity as a "Bike to Work" day will be organized each month to



propagate a healthy lifestyle across the Bank network. DFCC Bank has also committed to giving cycling high priority by encouraging staff to take on cycling as a hobby. As this was the first time that a Bank of this magnitude arranged an official cycle to work day, DFCC Bank intends to dominate the cycling space in the country and make it a lifestyle choice.

Not only does this initiative demonstrate DFCC Bank's strong commitment to nurturing the wellbeing of its staff, but it also highlights the financial institution's stance on caring for the environment.

As cycling to work has an undeniable impact on the reduction of the bank's carbon footprint, the "Bike to Work" initiative aligns well with the DFCC Bank's focus on ensuring a meaningful and sustainable contribution to climate change mitigation and responsible resource utilization.

The OMMM initiative, launched by DFCC Bank in 2021, will be introducing many more projects designed to focus on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of staff and their families.

Selco Lanka receives Central Province Star Award

Selco Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a leading company in manufacturing chemicals such as thinner, wood preservatives and turpentine was the recipient of the Star Award in the manufacturing sector, medium category at the Central Province Star Award 2020 organized by the Department of Industrial Development and Enterprise Promotions, Ministry night held at Grand Kandyan Hotel, Kandy.

"This achievement can be considered as a result of our commitment to keeping customers' satisfaction is our top priority in line with our main objective of providing high quality, durable products," said Nuwan Jayasooriya MD. Selco Lanka has successfully



Dr Dewasiri as Emerald Publishing brand ambassador

Dr Jayantha N. Dewasiri, senior lecturer, attached to the Faculty of Management Studies, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Emerald Publishing for its South

Asian region. This is the first time that

giant in the world. Dr Jayantha is a well-known researcher who has published in high-ranked journals such as Managerial Finance (Emerald), Qualitative Research in Financial Markets (Emerald), Journal of Public Affairs (Wiley) and International Journal of



researcher in finance who has introduced the data triangulation approach to the finance discipline. Further, he is the first researcher to propose the rationale and research designs for the mixed methods approaches in the finance discipline. Javantha has conducted several programs in collaboration with publishers such as Emerald and SAGE to develop the researchers' skills during the past few years.

of Industries of Central Province.

Nuwan Jayasooriya, MD, Selco Lanka received the award from Lalith U. Gamage, the Governor, Central Province, who was the chief guest at the awards

remained in the industry for over seven years distributing their products mainly in the central province and earning customers trust. Plans are in the pipeline to expand its distribution network all over the country.

Selco Lanka MD Nuwan Jayasooriya receives the award.

Lanka Hospitals tops in LMD's Most Awarded Entities

Lanka hospitals topped the healthcare sector in the Most Awarded list compiled by LMD magazine for the 2019/20 season.

Designed to rank the most awarded entities in Sri Lanka LMD has conducted this research, the first of its kind in the island, involving 204 corporate entities based on the cumulative tallies of awards received from 52 awarding bodies between January 2019 to September 2020. Having received a total of 5 awards and secured the overall rank of 67 Lanka Hospitals came first in the healthcare sector.

According to Deepthi Lokuarachchi, Group CEO, Lanka Hospitals there are three factors contributing to Lanka Hospitals' award-winning process; an unwavering commitment to quality, service standard in healthcare and the accreditation of Joint Commission International (JCI). "Our stringent standards for quality have earned accolades and accreditations from numerous national and international agencies."



"As a result of superior facilities, customer care and quality of service Lanka Hospitals offer, growth was experienced in terms of medical tourists during the Covid-19 pandemic even though the inbound international population was restricted. JCI is a US-based accreditation agency rates healthcare services based on several criteria related to medical as well as non-medical services." Lanka Hospitals is the first hospital in Sri Lanka to be awarded some of the most prestigious accreditations in the world for its healthcare service standards including the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation 6th edition and the world-respected Medical Tourism Certification from the Medical Travel Quality Alliance (MTQUA). Emerald has appointed a brand ambassador for its South Asian region and it is i a privilege to have a Sri a Lankan academic representing a global publishing b

Qualitative Methods (Sage). He is a pioneer in applying triangulation research approaches in the management discipline. He has been awarded several times



for his outstanding research performance. Dr Jayantha is an eminent

Dr Jayantha N. Dewasiri

Dental Association and Unilever partner to restore focus on oral health during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has nudged people to reprioritise their overall health and well-being, reorientating healthier habits overall. However, this positive shift did not translate into better oral care, a cornerstone of physical health. Global research commissioned by Unilever found that two in three (64%) people admitted they are not worried about their oral health, despite 70% having experienced oral care issues such as tooth pain and cavities since the COVID-19 outbreak. In this con-

text, the Sri Lanka Dental Association (SLDA), FDI (Fédération Dentaire Internationale – World Dental Federation) and Unilever Sri Lanka came together on World Oral Health Day (WOHD) 2021, to highlight the importance of oral health on overall health in a pandemic struck the world.



President - College of Community Dentistry Dr. P. L. P Jayashantha handing over the first publication of the book on oral health during COVID-19 to Former DG Health Services Dr. J. M. W. Jayasundarabandara.

> One key highlight of the celebrations was the launch of a publication on oral health issues during the pandemic titled 'Your Oral Health in the Presence of COVID-19.'The book, which will be made available to all dental professionals, was launched in keeping with this year's WOHD global

theme 'Be Proud of your mouth'. Compiled by the SLDA, the book focuses on how oral health in Sri Lanka has gradually diminished due to the change in people's habits during the pandemic and highlights good oral habits each person can adopt in their day-to-day lives to improve their oral hygiene.

In his welcome speech, Dr A. Sundar, President of the SLDA said, "COVID-19 has changed the lives of everyone not sparing the dental industry. Dental professionals world over call

the consequences of the pandemic on people's oral health a dental disaster. Higher incidence of tooth decay and more advanced gum diseases have been reported. People have changed their routines, skipping twice a day brushing, snacking between meals at home and not visiting the dentist."

Kumarika hair receives SLS certification

Kumarika, a leading hair care solutions provider owned by Hemas Manufacturing, became the first-ever hair oil brand to receive the SLS certification.

The certification was awarded to Kumarika by the Sri Lanka Standard Institution (SLSI) at a ceremony held at the Sri Lanka Standard Institution, Colombo with the participation of SLSI Chairman, Dr Nushad Perera, Director Marketing at Hemas Manufacturing, Fiona Juriansz Munasinghe, Director R&D at Hemas Manufacturing, Dimuthu Jayasinghe and Hemas Manufacturing team. The SLS, which is the topmost certification awarded for products manufactured in compliance with Sri Lanka standard specifications is a testament to Kumarika's high quality and consumer-friendly products which are manufactured to the highest possible standards throughout the entire process from sourcing raw materials to manufacturing, packaging and beyond.

Director R&D at Hemas Manufacturing, Dimuthu Jayasinghe said, "We are truly honoured to be the first hair oil brand to be awarded the SLS certification and this is a significant milestone in our long-cherished journey. This achievement speaks volumes for our commitment to providing nourishing hair care solutions with a strong focus on health and wellbeing of our consumers who have placed immense trust in us."

SLSI Chairman, Dr Nushad Perera said, "We congratulate Kumarika on becoming the first hair oil brand to reach this achievement. SLS certification is awarded after a thorough inspection of the quality of products, standards in the manufacturing process and Kumarika met the due requirements in all aspects. We are

proud that Sri Lankan brands like Kumarika continue to set high standards and lead by example."

Kumarika nourishing hair oil, the market leader in hair oil is a 100% locally manufactured brand that consists of four variants: Hair fall control, Dandruff Control, Split end control and the newly launched Hair Thinning Control oil- infused with a mix of natural ingredients. Since its origin in 1995, as a brand, Kumarika has propelled to be a trendsetter in the hair care category introducing innovative hair care solutions on par with the industry standards.



T.S. Senarathne, S.U. Narangoda, Dr. Nushad Perera, Fiona Juriansz Munasinghe, Dimuthu Jayasinghe, and Himali Ranasinghe with the SLS certification award.

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THIS MOM

ondón,

To re-kindle the passions of town & country folk

> Natascha McElhone as Clarissa Parry (young Mrs. Dalloway) and Robert Portal as young Richard Dalloway

ADITHA DISSANAYAKE

Daily Acws

have always loved Virginia Woolf. Not only because of the books she wrote and definitely not

because she was married to Leonard Woolf, but because I read once long ago, and came across it again, recently, in a Paris Review article that Virginia Woolf had a special connection with the sea and the waves. Having spent the best years of my childhood in Galle, with the Indian ocean for a playmate, I knew exactly what she meant when she wrote her most important memory of growing up was of lying in bed in a house in Cornwall listening to waves break on the beach as sunlight pressed against a yellow blind. It was "of lying and hearing this splash and seeing this light, and feeling, it is almost impossible that I should be here; of feeling the purest ecstasy I can conceive." This radiance and the connection with water appears in several of her novels; Jacob's Room, The Waves, and To the Lighthouse. As Hermione Lee notes in her biography of Woolf, "Happiness is always measured for her against the memory of being a child in that house," and let

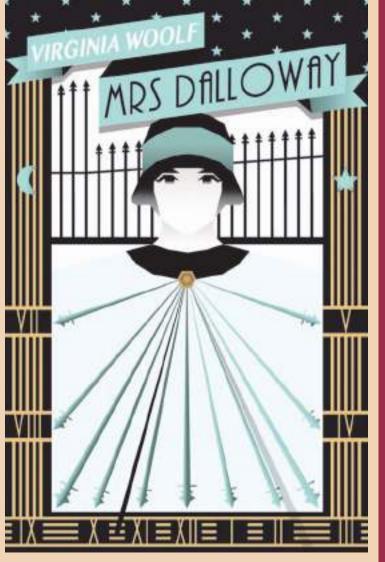
the New York Times, in "Mrs. Dalloway," Woolf insists that a single, outwardly ordinary day in the life of a woman named Clarissa Dalloway, an outwardly rather ordinary person, contains just about everything one needs to know about human life, in more or less the way nearly every cell contains the entirety of an organism's DNA." "Still. If in "Mrs. Dalloway" there's no such thing as an insignificant person, there is, as well, no such thing as a usual day," writes Vanessa Redgrave as Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway



me add, listening to the waves, for if you live near the sea it's impossible not to hear them.

But in 'Mrs. Dalloway,' things are different. Naturally. After all, the entire story lasts only for 24 hours and describes a day in the life of 52-year-old Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway, wife to Richard and mother to teenage daughter Elizabeth She runs a few errands, sees an old suitor and gives a dull party. And yet, the book is considered a masterpiece, a revolutionary novel of profound scope and depth, a story told brilliantly, so thoroughly and documented so absolutely that Woolf's book, in the words of Constantin Stanislavsky, might be said to have been written "inviolably and for all time."

The brilliance of the story lies in the fact that it was created out of the humblest narrative materials. Clarissa, is a society hostess, well-heeled and gracious, a little false, no longer young, as she walks through London on a balmy day in June. Like Clarissa herself, neither the day's tasks nor the evening's party is particularly remarkable. London, after all, produces 30 June days every year, and you could say that for Clarissa, the wife of a Conservative member of Parliament, giving parties is simply part of her job description. Yet, as Michael Cunningham claims in his article in



Cunningham. "Clarissa's pleasant but seemingly normal day is nevertheless infused with "life; London; this moment of June." And one ignores the marvels of all three, in their lyrically descending order, at risk to one's soul."

Cunningham narrates that the book wasn't always called 'Mrs. Dalloway.' When she first started to work on the manuscript it was called 'The Hours.' In an early draft, Woolf opened the book with Peter Walsh walking among the still-intact steeples and statues of central London as a troop of soldiers marched by to lay a memorial wreath in Trafalgar Square. Peter, musing on his own failures and frailties, thought of a woman he had once loved, named Clarissa.

And, at that moment, a book titled "The Hours" became one called "Mrs. Dalloway." At that moment a book that had opened with the line "In Westminster, where temples, meeting houses, conventicles, & steeples of all kinds are congregated together, there is at all hours & half hours, a round of bells, correcting each other, asseverating that time has come a little earlier, or stayed a little later, here or here," became a book that opened with the line "Mrs. Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself."

Yet "Mrs. Dalloway" is considerably more than an ode to the celebration of normal life. It is also a dark and disquieting book. For one thing, critics point out, "Mrs. Dalloway" is haunted by the restless ghosts of the living. One such is Peter Walsh, the man Clarissa might have married but didn't; Sally Seton, the woman with whom she might have allowed herself to fall in love (but didn't); and Septimus Warren Smith, a delusional, shellshocked veteran of World War I, who walks through London on the same day, in the same neighbourhood and who might have exchanged the time of day with Classira (but didn't).



Not surprisingly, therefore, "Mrs. Dalloway" is almost as densely populated as a novel by Charles Dickens. This is because Woolf makes consciousness pass from one character to another in more or less the same way electricity flows through metal. So when a young Scottish woman, newly arrived in London, wanders lost and disconsolate through Regent's Park, we briefly enter her mind, and feel her unhappiness ("the stone basins, the prim flowers ... all seemed, after Edinburgh, so queer. ... She had left her people; they had warned her what would happen") until she is noticed by an older woman, at which moment we switch to the consciousness of the old woman, who, envying the first woman's youth, mourns the loss of her own ("it's been a hard life. ... What hadn't she given to it? Roses; figure; her feet too.") until we are snapped back to Clarissa, as she returns home to her husband will be dining out, invited by a woman and that she herself was excluded from the invitation.

Thus, in spite of its outward appearance the world of "Mrs. Dalloway" is not in any way a simple, or simplified, world. If, as Henry James put it, a writer is someone "on whom nothing is lost," one might presume to add, in Woolf's name, that a writer is also someone on whom no one is lost.

The book also encompasses, almost infinite shades and degrees of happiness, loss, satisfaction, regret and tragedy. It invokes, over and over, the choices we make, those that are made for us by others, and their sometimes lifelong consequences, many of which we could not possibly have imagined at the time.

And it is a book about growing old. Peter Walsh, describes how getting older has changed him. He talks about how it is a relief to retreat from the obsessiveness of his youthful passions:

"A terrible confession it was (he put his hat on again), but now, at the age of fifty-three, one scarcely needed people any more. Life itself, every moment of it, every drop of it, here, this instant, now, in the sun, in Regent's Park, was enough. Too much, indeed. A whole lifetime was too short to bring out, now that one had acquired the power, the full flavour; to extract every ounce of pleasure, every shade of meaning; which both were so much more solid than they used to."

The crucial words here are, 'So much less personal!' This is almost the same kind of detachment we come across in the Buddha Dhamma. And it is disturbing, especially if like Clarissa, you have never been good at detachment. If your own relationships are opposite of detachment. If they are like those described by Gary Lutz in a short story. "Are you involved with anyone?" a character is asked. "Everybody," he answers.

As Jenny Offill writes in the New Yorker, to become less personal is a terrible fate, though Peter Walsh speaks of it calmly, as if it is a pleasant thing. "But how could it be pleasant to withdraw from this blooming, buzzing world of people? Woolf seems to imply that this desire for distance grows gradually, almost imperceptibly, as you get older—until, one day, you find yourself noticing the petals of the flowers instead of the person holding the bouquet."

I wonder if you agree. When you reach your fifties and beyond, will you see only the petals and not the hand holding the flowers? Perhaps 'Mrs. Dalloway' will tell you. *aditha.dissanayake@gmail.com*

TOWN 🗞 COUNTRY



n August 2017, the Atacama desert in Chile, widely referred to as the world's driest desert, experienced a truly breathtaking phenomenon. After a surprise heavy rainstorm showered the region, thousands of colorful flowers bloomed to blanket its surface. It was a magnificent sight. This is the power of rain. In a similar way your home garden can become a place of beauty with fruits and vegetables in abundance if it receives just the right amount of rain. Just like fruit juice is a nectar to us, rain in correct quantities is vital for plants. Green Thumbs speaks to Co- Founder Green Care Organic, Brand development and export consultant, Udara Rathnayake on how to deal with too much rainfall and how to take advantage of it

In a home garden you need to be very careful that the rain does not wash away your hopes of having a thriving home





overturned pots, bowls, buckets, or other appropriately-sized containers to keep them from suffering wind and rain damage. Be sure to weigh down the coverings in order to hold them in place-rocks, cement blocks, and

bricks will work just fine.

We need to keep in mind that the soil can't absorb too much of water. After it has reached its limit the water can gather, flooding your plants and washing the seeds away. Weeds can also grow rampant. It's even difficult for you to get into your garden and tend to your plants without sinking several inches in the mud. Unfortunately, you may end up with stunted plants after too much rain. Some of the plants like to grow with less water

Unlike tap water, rainwater does not con-

Be prepared

Saween Karunanayaka's interest in hydroponic cultivation developed after accidently seeing it on YouTube. After watching several videos about hydroponic cultivation units, he drew his own hydroponic system. Together with his parents' assistance he developed the plan further. In five days he completed the project. He encourages other young people to also do this as a hobby since it is verv rewarding.

Monsoon rain can beat down on your garden and you need to be prepared. The strong wind combined with relentless rain can rip even the oldest trees down along with your small plants. So you can trim your trees before it rains.

You can also keep your potted plants closer to a wall. You can manage your flood water while keeping an eye on soil erosion.





garden. "Yes, sometimes too much of rain will destroy your food chain and the bio diversity. Because some birds and butterflies will fly away from the garden because of the heavy

rain and also some of the worms may die," said Rathnayake.

We know that butterflies play a number of roles in the ecosystem and in our home garden. They act as a pollinator and as a food source for other species. Nearly 90 percent of all plants need a pollinator to reproduce and the butterfly makes this happen. So the last thing you want is for these butterflies to abandon your home garden. So as a gardener, you can help butterflies during stormy weather by making sure your garden has places for them to eek shelter. Trees

(dead or alive), tall grasses, and even rock piles provide great places for butterflies to hide during bad weather. Butterflies also use these shelters at night, when they rest. This is also

how they protect themselves from strong winds. If your Home Garden is running smoothly then you want it to keep on functioning automatically right?

New members!

"However remember some invisible and visible members will come into your garden because of the rain. It will be a natural habit and your home garden food chain will develop through these newcomers. But you have to make sure that you use proper methods to welcome these newcomers into your home garden and that means not adding artificial chemicals," stated Rathnayake.

A word of warning! Slugs and snails come into your home garden during the rain! They are frequently seen in gardens during or after a rainfall, munching away on plants, fruits and vegetables. So you have your work cut out for you! Too much rain spells doom for the earthworms. Frogs and toads prefer a cool, wet, dark environment. They are busiest after a steady rainfall, making a meal out of earthworms who crawl out of the water-logged soil for air.

She added that our plants love rain and, after the dry season it is very refreshing. However, heavy rains and heavy winds can do a lot of harm to your home garden, sometimes causing damage to your trees and plants. So when there is heavy rain, either you can keep these plants inside or give them a proper support structure that will assist the plants during these times. Plants can be anchored using 2 to 3-foot stakes pounded about 20 inches into the ground. Stakes should be angled away from the plant before twine is tied to the plant and attached to the stakes.

Adequate





drainage

"To avoid water collecting in your home garden and potentially drowning the nearby plants you have to make sure there is adequate drainage. Make sure there is a proper runoff that slopes away from that garden and most importantly make sure it is not blocked. Also, you can use good covers to protect your harvest. You can use waterproof covers such as polythene or tarpaulin," pointed out Rathnayake.

Smaller plants can be easily damaged or even wiped out during inclement weather. Fortunately, smaller plants are easier to protect. Cover your plants with

GROWING AN ORGANIC GARDEN

THE 5 SIMPLE **KEYS TO INCREDIBLE** SUCCESS!

You might be surprised at just how easy it is to create, grow and maintain an incredible, highly productive organic garden. And, in the process, supply you and your family with delicious, chemical-free vegetables!

Growing organically means growing with peace of mind. There is nothing quite like knowing that your fruits and vegetables are completely free of pesticides and non-organic fertilizers.

Contrary to popular belief, organic gardening is not more expensive than non-organic growing methods. Nor is it more labor intensive. In fact, speaking from 10+ years of experience, an organic garden is far less costly and tremendously easier to maintain.

But perhaps even better, growing organically gives you peace of mind. Like knowing exactly what is in and on your fruits and vegetables. And more importantly, what isn't!

There is simply nothing better than picking a fresh vegetable and taking a bite out of it right in the garden. And when you grow organically, you can do that every single day!

Here is a look at the 5 key elements to growing organically. And, how they can work together to help you produce a low maintenance garden that will produce an amazing harvest of natural produce, all of which you can consume without worry.

1. MULCH

When it comes to creating an organic garden with less weeds and watering, mulch is the answer! In fact, mulch is the absolute foundation of low-maintenance, productive gardening.

Instead of tilling and re-tilling your garden and rows throughout the season, a layer of natural mulch can be used to control weeds and conserve moisture in the soil

A four to six inch layer of straw, shredded leaves or grass clippings around plants suppresses weed growth and germination. Weeds that if left to grow compete for the same nutrients and water your vegetable plants compete for.

Mulch also keeps the soil from drying out. It conserves moisture below the soil surface, helping to keep roots hydrated. And with less evaporation, that means less watering chores for you as well.

Grass clippings are an incredible organic mulch for gardens. Green grass clippings actually contain nitrogen which can help power plants as the grass decomposes.

But as natural mulch decomposes, it also adds nutrients back to the soil. Nutrients that help keep your soil strong and healthy year after year. And that, above all else, may be the most important benefit for mulching of all.

2. COMPOST & COMPOSTING

If mulch is the foundation of organic gardening, composting is the backbone. Compost works in many ways to power plants and build strong, healthy soil.

It helps add structure and balance to poor soil. It also acts as a slow release fertilizer for plants. And it helps to retain moisture in the soil too. In fact, quite frankly, you can never use or have enough compost!

We use compost in every single planting hole as we plant. In addition, we place a two to three inch layer of compost around each plant as a fertilizing mulch. Every time it rains or we water, the compost leaches its nutrients into the soil.

Nothing will power an organic garden more than compost! It is teeming with minerals and nutrients



that help build powerful soil, and grow strong, healthy plants.

Compost can also be used to top dress rows to recharge and energize soil. But, as you will see in the next section, it can also be used to make one of the most powerful natural fertilizers around.

There are a million ways to go about making compost – in a bin, a tub, a barrel or a plain old pile in the middle of the garden. But whatever you do, get that pile started! See : How To Make Your Own Compost Bins With Ease

3. NATURAL FERTILIZERS

One of the biggest misconceptions about organic gardening is that fertilizer shouldn't be used. We use a whole slew of fertilizers in our garden, but it just so happens they are all natural and organic.

And the best part of organic fertilizers is that they enhance the soil every time you use them. The same can't be said for synthetic fertilizers that can rob the soil of other nutrients. Or even worse, create weak soil that then requires even more fertilizer to help plants survive.

One of our favorite go to fertilizers is compost tea.

Made from soaking water in fresh compost, this powerful liquid fertilizer can help power plants to incredible arowth.

One of the best all-natural and organic fertilizers around – worm castings! Worm castings act a slow release fertilizer to power plants with a steady diet of nutrients. All while helping to build great soil. In addition to compost tea, worm castings have become a big part of our organic fertilizing regi-

ment. Worm castings slowly release their nutrients back into the soil. And while doing so, help to build great soil structure in the process.

We use worm castings in every planting hole in the garden. In fact, we use them everywhere to power plants organically - in the vegetable garden, our hanging baskets, planters, container plants and more. Product Link : Worm Castings

4. PEST & DISEASE CONTROL

"How do you handle pests and disease in an organic garden?" That question certainly is one that is asked guite often when it comes to life in an organic garden.

First and foremost, it is important to realize that in any setting, spraying doesn't only kill the bad insects, but good ones too. And the more you spray, the more you upset the balance of nature. Likewise, the more problems you will have.

The simple truth is, you don't need to run out and spray just because you have a few beetles or aphids. Most often, small insect infestations can be controlled by hand picking. A little damage to a plant here and there is okay if it means that insect populations are balanced to keep it all under control.

When you spray pesticides, you kill the good bugs too – like these lady bugs which help to keep aphids in check.

If you spray and kill all of the lady bugs, they can't be around to help keep the aphid population in check. And those bees that were killed off while spraying? Well, now they aren't around to pollinate.

It is also important to realize that insects and disease tend to attack weak plants and weak soil. So if your soil is strong and healthy, your plants will be too. Think of it as a natural immunity for plants.

There are natural sprays and powders that can be used if necessary. But by practicing good organic principals, most garden pests and disease issues will take care of themselves. And two of the best practices just happen to make up our 5th and final point

5. CROP ROTATION & COVER CROPS

Whether you garden organically or not, crop rotation and cover crops are two of the most important methods a gardener can practice to keep their garden healthy and productive

Here is a fact. If you keep planting your pepper, tomato and cucumber plants in the same spot, year after year, you simply won't keep getting the same results.

Crop rotation, just like the big farms practice, is critical in keeping soil healthy. It also helps keep insect populations to a minimum as well.

Why? Because specific plants use specific nutrients from the soil. And the soil becomes depleted of those nutrients when the same crop keep going into the same place.

Rotating your crops in the garden each year to a new location helps alleviate this problem. It also helps keep pest infestations from taking hold in the same location. Whatever you do, move your crops around to new locations to keep the soil energized and healthy.

In addition to rotating your crops, planting a fall cover crop is one of the best and easiest ways to keep your soil healthy year after year. In fact, cover crops are the long-term key to an organic garden's success.

They add a tremendous amount of nutrients back to the soil. In addition, they keep weeds from establishing a permanent home over winter. They also play a key role in eliminating costly soil erosion too.

They are not only easy to plant, but you don't even need to till them in the spring. We plant annual rye each fall, and then mow it off in the spring and plant right through it. Talk about low-maintenance organic gardening! See : How To Create The Perfect No-Till Garden



TOWN & COUNTRY

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

SPECIAL STAMP AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION ON APRIL 6, 7 AND 8 AT THE RUSSIAN HOUSE IN COLOMBO

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF YURI GAGARIN'S SPACE **FLIGHT AND VISIT TO CEYLON**

ollowing the successful first manned space flight by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961, earning the title of 'First Cosmonaut', he made his first visit to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) a mere 8 months later on December 7, 1961. The year 2021 marks 60 years since this historic moment and the Russian House in Colombo jointly with the Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society have organized a special Stamp and Photographic Exhibition to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's Space Flight and Visit to Ceylon on April 6, 7 and 8, 2021, comprising over a thousand rare and original post stamps on the first manned space mission and space exploration which will be on display for the general public at the Russian House in Colombo.

The inauguration ceremony of the event will be held on April, 6 at the Russian House in Colombo with the presence of Skills Development Vocational Education, Research and Innovation State Minister Dr. Seetha Arambepola as the Chief Guest, Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion State Minister and Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society President Susil Premajayantha, Ambassador of the Russian Federation Yuri Materiy and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Russia Friendship Society Dr. Saman Weerasinghe.

The stamp exhibition has been organized in collaboration with Philatelic Expert and Assistant Treasurer of the Philatelic Society of Sri Lanka Anura Samarawea. He is also a member of the International Association of Philatelic Journalists. He has been maintaining his ties with the Russian House in Colombo since younger days where he was a member of the Soviet Cultural House in the year

1973 while being the guitarist of the first musical group of the Soviet Cultural House.

In addition to the stamp exhibition, there will also be a photo exhibition pertaining to Yuri Gagarin's Spaceflight and Visit to Ceylon. These materials were obtained from the Russian House archives as well as with the assistance of the Department of National Archives. Adding more colour to the event, a special guest will be present to share her experience as 'the girl who was chosen to garland Gagarin' in 1961; Magilin Nona, a local hero of the country who is a living witness of that glorious day. We invite all enthusiasts to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion as we will open the exhibition for the public from 10 am to 5 pm on April 7 and 8 to walk through this unique experience. -CA



WHAT ARE

YOU STARING



page 23 DN





YOU BEFORE NOR

SOMEONE WHO

I HAVENT SEEN

YDU

BEFORE

RESEMBLES YOU, AS

I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE OR SOME-DNE WHO

RESEMPLES

MUCH!

MARMADUKE





HAVEN'T I SEEN YOUR

FACE BEFORE.

IN SOME

OTHER PLACE?

WHAT?

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FYING TO

REMEMBER

METHIN

NO! MY FACE HAS ALWAYS

BEEN IN THIS

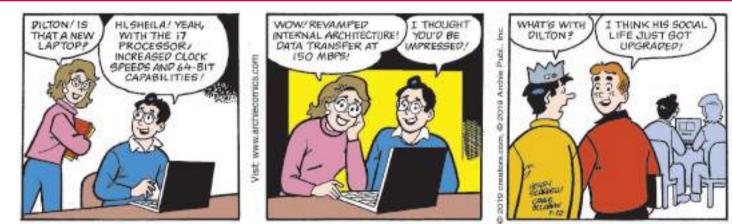
FOF TO PLACE

YEARS

"He won't be impressed with virtual reality until they make a real steak."



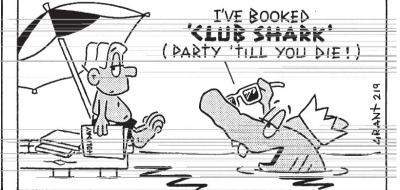
ARCHIE



FISH TALES







UP & RUNNING



TOWN 🗞 COUNTRY

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

THE SNOW QUEEN: MIRRORLANDS KUSIY **ADVENTURE**

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

ver since the box office spinner'Frozen' hit the screens any tale which concerns the powers to freeze have kindled interest. This inspired many productions not only on the wide and mini screens but also live on stage as well. The 'Snow Queen' saga is one such example among many.

Starting off with 2012's 'The Snow Queen' the series soon produced 'The Snow Queen 2' and 'The Snow Queen: Fire and Ice' 2018 saw the fourth film in the series, 'The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands' making it to the picture. Directed by Robert Lence and Aleksey Tsitsilin, this Russian 3D computer animated movie appeals to the senses due to its simplicity and feel-good nature.

Set in a fairytale land, a powerful king who nearly loses his family due to the Snow Queen's evil deeds. In response, the king seeks a way to withdraw all magic from the world. The result is that all those with master magical powers are banished to the Mirrorlands where the Snow Queen too is kept imprisoned.

The only one who can stop this injustice is a little girl named Gerda. Born into a magical family, Gerda is the only one who is born without magical powers. However she needs to form an alliance with the Snow Queen to rescue her loved ones. The duo engage in an adventure which spells courage, faith and trust to free all those who have

Revolving around the themes of forgiveness and friendship, 'The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands' captivated the young been banished from the kingdom. and old due to its colourful settings. Viewers can also watch this production without having watched the previous film's as it concerns a stand alone storyline. However question marks may arise in cretin instances if you are looking

for a clear story. There are also lots of positive messages concerning family, friendship and forgiveness. Another feature which works in favour of the film is in its rich artwork. From intricate city scenes to sweeping landscapes, the visuals never cease to please the eyes. The characters too are well rounded and developed. Both children and adults can appreciate the family-friendly storyline that results in a pleasant ending for two females

who thought neither had anything more to offer to improve their lives and save others in the process. One aspect that the filmmakers should have worked on is the comedy of the film. It is mostly slapstick and fails to generate some genuine laughs. Humour is mostly generated when certain characters find themselves in situations which they make errors in. The monotony of this bored the audience.

Armed with a solid and compelling storyline, 'The Snow Queen: Mirrorlands' is a fitting end to the highly appreciated series, drawing curtains down on the well loved productions in a justifiable and unique manner.





'MOM PENALTY' IN FOCUS

ighlighting one of the most grueling is sues faced by women during the global COVID-19 pandemic, Women Empowered Global launched a short film on the "Mom Penalty" on International Women's

Day that fell on March 8.

"The Mom Penalty" is a touching, nearly three-minute film that depicts just how challenging the past year has been for women

Undoubtedly the months of pandemic lockdown have been harsh on all of us. But it has been especially brutal for working moms. They have had to juggle endless workplace demands alongside managing an unequal load of housework, childcare and remote schooling. As a result, four times, more women than men dropped out of the workforce.

To highlight this concern, Women Empowered Global launched this film on International Women's Day around the world, to address the elephant in the room - the Mom Penalty.

"I am so excited to announce this beautiful, meaningful and powerful short film to commemorate International Women's Day, to celebrate, recognize and appreciate ALL Women around the world. This beautiful production was conceptualized by my dear friend and Personal Growth Officer at Women Empowered Global Ruchi Sharma, as it takes us on a deep reflective and relatable journey of a working mother", and sometimes we just need to remind ourselves and each



commented Senela Jayasuriya, Founder & CEO of Women Empowered Global

"There have been many times in my own path as a working mom and woman where I faced so many struggles and personal challenges that tried to stop me from reaching my goal. Some of the toughest personal challenges for me have been the battles inside my own mind. There have been many days I questioned myself, my abilities and my worth. But I learnt to channel that energy into new growth opportunities, and struggles into more courage and momentum. This is my truth and I want to encourage and inspire as many women as I possibly can in my lifetime, with my truth and vision, that you have the power inside you, you are already strong,

other of our own power and our strength. And remembertogether, we are stronger" Senela continued.

The short film can be viewed on Women Empowered Global 's Facebook and Instagram page @WomenEmpGlobal or via the link https://youtu.be/JFFkFmy3H1l on its YouTube page WOMEN EMPOWERED GLOBAL

"As a working mom myself, this subject is very dear to my heart. From having to give up a high-profile overseas job to starting on my own from scratch, juggling demanding deadlines, working longer hours, navigating the world of remote learning with a young kid, endless housework and the anxiety of ageing parent" said Ruchi Sharma, Founder and Chief Creative Officer of HumanSense, the creative agency behind this humane work. Video Credits:

Creative Agency: HumanSense, Sri Lanka Writer & Creative Director: Ruchi Sharma Production team: X10 Productions, Sri Lanka Executive Producer: Prasanna Kithalagama Editor: Arngelo Pereira Producer: Muveendra Premaratne Audio Mix: Kasun Wickramasinghe Project Manager: Amaashie Mahahewage Visual Footage: www.pexels.com & www.mixkit.co Music Track: CinematicAudioGroup

'COLOMBO' GALA PRE he premiere of Two Asama Randil Liyanage's 'Colombo'produced by Anusha Sanieewa Edirimuni was held recently at Savoy Premiere. The cast, crew, fans and well wishers flocked to the cinema to get a glimpse of what is in store for movie buffs. Here are a few colourful moments from the event.







AVANDS:

he Oscars are upon us, and this year we had Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas unveil the nominations for the 93rd Academy Awards, no less. After being called out for the lack of diversity in nominations with the #OscarsSoWhite campaign, the Academy shone bright by nominating as many as nine people of color. And women led the way, scoring a record 76 nominations in all categories. In this week's #BigStory, we laud the Academy for its diverse nomination that promises to turn 2021 into a milestone year for the awards and explore why India is yet to get its due at the prestigious ceremony that honours cinema from around the world.

THE GOOD: WOMEN ALL THE WAY!

The Academy Award nominations this year were all about 'girl power'. In fact, Oscar 2021 nominations created history, with 70 women scoring 76 nominations in various categories. Besides this, it's the year of many new firsts for the Academy Awards. Chloé Zhao and Emerald Fennell were nominated together for Best Director, making it the first time when two women have ever been nominated in the category. And this prestigious nod also made them the sixth and seventh women to have earned the



honour of being nominated in the category. Zhao also became the first woman to ever receive four nominations in a single year. She bagged herself Best Director, Best Film Editing, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Picture as a Producer nods. Meanwhile, Viola Davis set a record of her own with Oscar nominations. The 55-year-old actress received her fourth Academy nomination for her performance in Ma Rainey's 'Black Bottom'. This nod makes her the most-nominated black actress.

Chloé Zhao

Emerald Fennell

THE BEST: **#NOTSOWHITE THIS YEAR**

The Academy has been drawing a lot of flak for its acting nominations, which have, over the years, been dominated by white actors. But seems like this year, the Academy has been conscious about its choices to be #Not-SoWhite! The 93rd Academy Awards are being hailed for their 'diverse' nominations with nine out of the 20 acting nominees being people of colour. Yuh-jung Youn and Steven Yeun ('Minari'), Riz Ahmed ('Sound of Metal'), Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield ('Judas and the Black Messiah'), Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman ('Ma Rainey's Black Bottom'), Leslie Odom Jr. ('One Night in Miami'), and Andra Day ('The United States vs Billie Holiday') are the ones who have been nominated in the acting category. Also, 'Judas and the Black Messiah' made history by becoming the first Best Picture nominee with all-black producers.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has, over the past few years, expanded its membership to make it more inclusive and global. In 2019, they invited 842 new

members from 59 countries, of which 50 per cent were women, and 29 per cent were people of colour. "Such changes have been welcome and long overdue. The world changed in 2020 not only because of the pandemic but because finally, people across the globe (more particularly the youth), rose against the injustices against people of colour. The Black Lives Matter movement saw the largest demonstrations against this centuries-long injustice. It is only going to grow bigger from now; all of us people of colour will speak, walk, and take action against any institutions that are not prepared to change. I think most companies, organisations, institutions have received the message loud and clear," shares Dina Dattani, a film producer, who has been associated with films like 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Life of Pi'. Aseem Chhabra, Festival director of the New York Indian Film Festival, feels that the hashtag #OscarSoWhite has finally done some good. He shares, "Over the past few years the Academy has made conscious efforts to increase its member base by including many more artists from around the world. The nominations announced on Monday were the most

US-based journalist Alex Billington welcomes the noticeable change in the Oscar nominations, saying, "I'm always happy to see a more diverse set of Oscar nominees every year that still reflect the high quality of films released. The changes really began with the #OscarsSoWhite campaign in 2015, which pushed The Academy to try and add more Judas and the Black Messiah diverse members to deal with the problem. He feels that this diversity began a few years ago. "I also think 'Moonlight's Best Picture win in 2017 made a strong impact and was a reminder that black filmmakers often do make Best Picture level films. The Academy has been adding a more diverse membership ever since and this seems to be making a big difference, as the nominations not only highlight the roles truly worthy of acclaim (Riz Ahmed and Paul Raci from 'Sound of Metal', Youn Yuhjung and Steven Yeun from ' Minari', Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield from 'Judas and the Black Messiah') but they also accurately reflect the diverse world of filmmakers (Chloe Zhao, Lee Isaac Chung, Ritesh Batra) and film lovers around the world.

diverse one can remember in the recent years.







Salaam Bombay

THE BAD: WHY IS OSCAR STILL A DISTANT DREAM FOR INDIA?

Mother India

Indian movies have been appreciated the world over but are yet to get validation from the Oscars. While several Indians have walked away with the coveted award, a film is yet to get there. "There are lots of obstacles, one of the main ones is that there is the committee (whose members aren't necessarily audiences of world cinema), which decides the film that gets selected to represent India at the Oscars. For example 'The Lunchbox' was the best film that year and would have stood a chance of winning in the foreign-language category. However, the jury in India chose a film called 'The Good Road' which, for us making films for world cinema, knew would not come anywhere near winning the award. I say this with no disrespect to the makers of that film. The box office numbers of 'The Lunchbox', too, proved the point," shares Dina Dattani.

So far, only three Indian movies have reached the nominations category-'Mother India' (1957), 'Salaam Bombay!' (1988), and 'Lagaan' (2001). This year, the Malayalam film, Lijo Jose Pellissery's 'Jallikattu' was announced as India's official entry for the Best International Feature category. However, the movie failed to be shortlisted in the top 15 movies at the 93rd Academy Awards. Explaining why India is still struggling to win an Oscar nod, Aseem Chhabra says, "There are two reasons why Indian films do not get nominated for the best international film. First, our selection commission is often not clued in on what kind of films, or which film will appeal to American and other foreign Academy members. This year they selected a well-made Indian film 'Jallikattu', but still they should have gone with a film like 'The Disciple', which had everything going for it-name, recognition in the West (it played very well at the Venice, Toronto and New York film festivals too and even won awards), and it was executive produced by the four-time

Oscar-winning Mexican filmmaker, Alfonso Cuarón. The other part of the problem concerns Western critics, bloggers and even Academy members, who are not open to discovering new Indian cinema. If they would watch more Indian films at festivals, write about them, and champion them, the Academy will begin to notice these works."

Offering a different perspective, Alex shares, "Hopefully, more Indian films will end up with nominations soon. I am pleased to see 'The White Tiger' get at least one nomination. I saw many filmmakers talking about how much they loved that film. But it all depends on the quality of the film and with more emphasis on excellent Indian cinema, more films will earn the attention of The Academy voters. Hopefully, the Indian selection committee can be improved, but beyond that, I think critics and journalists really need to take a chance and watch more Indian films--from Chaitanya Tamhane's 'The Disciple' to Madhumita Sundararaman's 'K.D.' to Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh's 'Writing with Fire'. Plus, I will always mention Ritesh Batra's 'The Lunchbox', one of my all-time favorites."

PRIYANKA AND NICK'S QUALIFICATION TO BE OSCAR NOMINATION ANNOUNCERS OUESTIONED

Soon after Priyanka and Nick Jonas announced the nominations, a Twitter user questioned the actress and her husband Nick Jonas's contribution to cinema that gualified them for announcing the nominations. The netizen, whose bio claimed that he was an entertainment journalist from Australia, wrote, "No disrespect to these two but I'm not sure their contribution to the movies gualifies them to be announcing Oscar nominees." Responding to him, Priyanka shared a clip of her movie credentials and wrote, "Would love your thoughts on what qualifies someone. Here are my 60+ film credentials for your adept consideration".

Lauding Priyanka's representation on the prestigious global platform, Oscar-winner Resul shares, "When we see Priyanka announcing the nominations, it is amazing recognition for Indian talent. She has become one of the mainstream stars today, a proud moment for Indian cinema." Times of India



agaan

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BUSINESS

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

ICT

BOC partners FITIS as Platinum Sponsor for 'Sri Lanka's First-Ever Internet Day'

As the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS) is geared to unveil 'Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021', a first-time occurrence in the country, The Bank of Ceylon too collaborates as the "Platinum Sponsor" for the event.

The event will span two full days and bring IT industry experts, startup entrepreneurs, top delegates, and business decision-makers from across the globe together. The Bank's Chairman Kanchana Ratwatte handed the sponsorship at an event at the Bank's Head Office to Aruna Alwis FITIS Organizing Committee for "Sri Lanka Internet Day 2021".

The event will be held from April 6-7, themed 'Digital Inclusion, an initia-

Services Chapter of FITIS, including citizen engagewill present critical digital

ment in a digital society;

strategy and the current areas; and the national public plus private sector vision for improving the digitization efforts in key island's digital infrastruc-

ture in supporting a digitally-driven ecosystem and economy. Further, the engaging content presented across both days will carry a strong emphasis on Sri Lanka's re-energized prioritization of strengthening its digital economy, to boldly face and overcome future economic and social challenges experienced.

BOC's continued support of novel digital initiatives such as FITIS-led 'Sri Lankan Internet Day 2021', parallel to the bank's strong digital focus in streamlining internal processes as well as enhancing services and experience for customers, reinforces their standing as a digital pacesetter in banking with particular emphasis on strengthening the national economy through wider digital adoption.

SLT-Mobitel address privacy concerns

SLT in response to assure every Sri Lankan recent privacy concerns that the company will has released the following statement;

It has come to our attention that there are certain statements and malicious messages circulating on social media about the installation and propagation of a spyware claiming that SLT-Mobitel is complicit in an alleged unlawful activity meant to compromise the information of our valued customers. SLT-Mobitel categori-

cally denies such allegations and considers the origination of these claims about the installation and propagation of a malicious spyware as absolutely baseless and defamatory. We sincerely

not in any way engage in any activity that would compromise the trust placed in us by the nation.

Further, we would like to reiterate that SLT-Mobitel always operates in complete compliance with the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act and under the regulation of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL).

As the National ICT and Telecommunications Service Provider, we place utmost priority in safeguarding our customers' privacy and retaining their trust at all times.

TEIDS

Bank of Ceylon Chairman Kanchana Ratwatte hands the sponsorship cheque to Organiser Jiffry Zulfer. R. Bakmedeniya, D.P.K Gunasekera, Channa De Silva, and Aruna Alwis are also in the picture.

tive driven by the Digital topics to participants Sri Lanka's overall digital **Facebook users to have more control**

Facebook has introduced a new tool to give more control to users over what they share to news feed by managing who can comment on their public posts. Now Sri Lankan public figures, creators, and brands can choose to limit their commenting audience in order to engage in more meaningful conversations with their communities.

The goal of news feed is to connect people to what matters most to them: their loved ones, interesting content, and the world around them. Facebook is investing in new ways to give more control and context to users by offering a menu of options ranging from anyone who can see their public posts to only the people and Pages they tag. Users can go to their news feed preferences and privacy settings to choose the options that work for them. More about newsfeed controls can be found at Facebook's newsroom post. In addition to this announcement, Nick Clegg, VP of Global Affairs at Facebook



New Features

Favorites: Allows users to control and prior-1. itize posts from the friends and Pages they care about most in News Feed.

Most Recent: Switch between an algorithmi-2. cally-ranked news feed and a feed sorted chronologically with the newest posts first.

Feed Filter Bar: A new toggle at the top of 3. news feed that makes it easier to switch between the Most Recent feed, the standard News Feed, and the new Favorites feed.

4. Expanding the "Why am I seeing this?" feature: now, people will be able to tap on posts sug-

LinearSix collaborates with Infosys to help NBFIs in Sri Lanka

LinearSix, a leading banking and financial solutions provider, today announced a collaboration with Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys (NYSE: INFY), to help nonbanking financial companies (NBFIs) in Sri Lanka accelerate the digital transformation of their operations and scale their business growth. Through this collaboration, LinearSix will combine its financial services expertise with Infosys Finacle's industry-leading digital banking solution suite, to help NBFIs rapidly digitize with best-inclass technology.

With this offering, NBFIs will be able to automate their front and back-office opera-



Venkatramana Gosavi

tions, reduce customer acquisition costs, and deliver unique and personalized customer experiences. The componentized and integrated Infosys Finacle solution suite will allow the NBFIs to modernize with minimum them with actionable customer insights, an API-driven architecture for easy partnerships and an in-built product factory to rapidly launch new offerings, in response to emerging market demands. Mario Gooneratne, Co-founder and CEO of LinearSix stated, "NBFIs play a crucial role in meeting the financial needs of individuals and businesses that are largely unorganized and

have traditionally remained un-served or underserved by banks. Our partnership with Infosys Finacle aims to strengthen the position of NBFIs in the tech ecosystem and drive Sri Lanka towards greater economic prosperity. LinearSix and Infosys Fina-

PS5 yet to be restocked in India

below where it needs to be,

the same percentage it was

is impacting their ability to

stay ahead of cybercrimi-

nals," said Trevor Clarke,

"Ultimately, security is

in 2019.



cle are both trusted brands within the banking community in Sri Lanka, and we will continue to combine our efforts to deliver unprecedented levels of performance and customer delight."

sys Finacle said, "With a growing deployment base, Infosys Finacle has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to power innovationdriven growth for the Sri Lankan banking industry.

Senior Vice President &

Global Head of Sales, Info-

Venkatramana Gosavi,

Mario Gooneratne

We are delighted to collaborate with LinearSix, to help the country's NBFIs gain a digital edge with the industry-leading Finacle Digital Banking solution suite. We are confident that Sri Lanka's NBFIs will gain from Finacle's proven capabilities and openness to improve efficiencies, deliver differentiated offerings, and provide world-class banking experiences to their customers.

gested in news feed and get more context on why they're appearing in their news feed.

he explains how content is ranked in the Facebook rithms' impact on users and news feed, and addresses society.

has released an essay, where common criticisms and misconceptions about the algo-

the PS5 in India after a February 2, 2021 release date. It's been over two months and while Sony has been silent on PS5 India restocks, it's safe to say we should see the popular console availa-

stores including Amazon, Flipkart, and Sony's own Sony Centers to name a few.

Much like the PS5 launch in markets the world over, Sony's PS5 India release

high-profile controversies that could have been avoided. From bait-and-switch tactics employed by seemingly respectable e-com-

nity to take matters into its own hands, it's safe to say that the company could have handled things better. And this now extends to merce platforms to scalping PS5 India restocks. by Sony's own retailers

even when the end of 2020

showed us just how bad a

global supply-chain attack

could be. If that wasn't

enough, the more recent

zero-day vulnerabilities in

widely deployed email plat-

forms demonstrates the des-

perate need for unification

when it comes to cyber resil-

ience. Everybody needs to

play a part. And to play a

Sony has yet to restock ble very soon at a host of was fraught with several leading the gaming commu-sources at Sony familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified discussing private information, there has been a delay in the arrival of the next PS5 shipment for the country. (IGN India)

According to several

cybersecurity budget is cybersecurity incidents are 60 percent of companies exaggerated. It is confoundstruggle to recruit candiing that this attitude prevails

dates with the necessary skills, which is only a five percent improvement from 67 percent in 2019.

COVID-19's Impact on remote working accelerated transformation, but exposed vulnerabilities

COVID-19 had a positive impact on cybersecurity, with 69 percent of companies agreeing that the outbreak of COVID-19 was the strongest catalyst for upgrading cybersecurity strategy and tools in the past 12 months.

At the same time, just over half of organisations indicated they were unprepared for the security requirements driven by the sudden need for secure remote working at the onset of the pandemic.

"COVID-19 compelled companies to refresh their cybersecurity strategies, yet the transformational shift to remote working also exposed additional weaknesses. Businesses have transformed their workplace environments, undergone an accelerated period of digitisation, yet continue to confront systemic cybersecurity issues, including executive apathy, low budgets and a lack of skilled cybersecurity professionals.

"Despite improvements made, progress remains slow, reinforcing our belief that cybersecurity is never 'finished' and requires a constant focus, both from technological and cultural viewpoints," said Trevor Clarke, Lead Analyst & Director at Tech Research Asia.

SLIIT hosts third Annual Reviewing Research Colloquium

Recognised as an institution that moulds independent and critical thinking aimed at providing avenues for focused research, and also extending contributions to the society, SLIIT held its third annual colloquium via virtual platforms recently.

Organised by SLIIT's Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR), 'Reviewing Research 2020' was organised to provide incentives, encouragement and promoting researchrelated activities among academics, thus benefitting SLIIT, students and society.

Held since 2018, the colloquium affords a platform for researchers in all SLIIT faculties to come together and present their findings. This ensures all faculties are in sync with each other on key elements of research being conducted and the ability to plan. The event highlighted the research activities, outputs, outcomes and direct and indirect benefits for the betterment of society based on SLIIT's vision. This was the third consecutive year that the event was being held.

A new dimension was included in this year's colloquium with researchers being recognised and incentivized for the work done, and awarded certificates and plaques based on their research performance dur-



Prof. Gamage, Vice-Chancellor, SLIIT, and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, present FGSR Recognition Award to Dr. Ruwan Jayathilaka.



Prof. Gamage, Vice-Chancellor, SLIIT, and Prof. Rahula Attalage, Dean, present FGSR Recognition Award to Dr. Mudith Karunaratne.

ing the past year. Awards were presented to selected recipients based on their publications of highly-rated scientific research work in top-end international journals and citations received during 2020. In this regard. journals received special

there were two categories of awards encompassing, Merit and Special awards The basis of recognition was for researchers who published their work in the top 10% of acclaimed global

awards. Similarly, researchers who achieved success in the top 25% of the respected journal were recognised with a merit award.

During the sessions, each faculty presented three selected most impactful research work and findings. This was followed by Q & A sessions and deliberations by the respective Dean.

Commenting on the event Prof Rahula Attalage, Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research said, "SLIIT's Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research has over the years supported the mission of the Institute to enhance knowledge and research activities. As the world advances, research and innovations are crucial aspects for knowledgeintensive activities, and providing advanced research facilities in various areas is invaluable."

"Further, this colloquium is an ideal platform for the academic staff to present their research and receive feedback from fellow academics, building multi-disciplinary research teams in view of jointly working with national and international research teams to serve the society. This year we not only promoted research but were also able to incentivize researchers and bring value to the society through these research platforms.

Cyberattacks increase on stagnant budgets

Cyberattacks increase while stagnant budgets and apathetic leadership remain major cybersecurity barriers in APAC and Japan.

Sophos study of 900 busiabout right sizing the risk. If ness decision makers indithe risk increases, budgets should also increase, but in cates COVID-19 accelerated this climate of uncertainty, period of digitisation and was a catalyst for improving we've seen organisations take a conservative approach cybersecurity. to security spending, which

Sri Lanka – 02 April, 2021 - Sophos, a global leader in next-generation cybersecurity, today announced the findings of the second edition of its survey report, The Future of Cybersecurity in Asia Pacific and Japan, in collaboration with Tech Research Asia (TRA). The study reveals that despite cyberattacks increasing, cybersecurity budgets have remained stagnant and executive teams continue to underestimate the level of damage threats can do to organisations.

Attacks rise, budgets stay the same Nearly 70 percent of Asia

Pacific organisations surveyed suffered a data breach in 2020, an increase of 36 percent from 2019. Of these successful breaches, 55 percent of companies rated the loss of data as either "very serious" (24 percent) or "serious" (31 percent). Nearly 17 percent of organisations surveyed suffered 50 attacks, per week. While attacks are increas-

ing in frequency and severity, budgets cybersecurity remained largely unchanged as a percentage of revenue between 2019 and 2021. At the same time, 59 percent of businesses stated that their Tech Research Asia.

The top frustrations of Asia Pacific and Japan companies reflect boardroom indifference

Across Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ), the number one frustration identified by companies is that executives assume cybersecurity is easy and that cybersecurity threats and issues are exaggerated. A lack of budget ranked second, followed by the struggle to fill cybersecurity roles.

"Our research highlights a disturbing attitude that needs to be tackled head on – executives claiming that

stand the risk," said Aaron Bugal, global solutions engi-

neer, Sophos. The industry skills shortage continues to create chal-

lenges There has been nominal improvement on the cybersecurity skills gap issue in 2021. Nearly 60 percent of businesses agree that their company's lack of cybersecurity skills is challenging for their organisation, compared to 62 percent in 2019.

A lack of suitable staff and budget constraints continue to hinder organisations from obtaining the skills they require in-house. More than



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Daily Return TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF AYURVEDA NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Provincial Department of Ayurveda of the North Central Provincial Council, invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding from eligible and qualified bidders for the following construction works.

Contract No.	Name of the Contract	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Contract Period (Days)	Minimum Grade of ICTAD Required	Bid Security Value (Rs.)	Validity Period of Bid Security	Non- refundable Document Fee (Rs.)
NCP/Ayur/ B5/1/299	Construction of the Kitchen of the Ayurvedic Hospital, Manampitiya	8.1 Million	90	C6 or C7	81,000.00	up to 10th August, 2021	3,500.00

- 2. To be eligible for the award of contract the successful bidders should have not been blacklisted and should have been registered for the grade maintained in the table above with ICTAD.
- 3. Interested bidders could obtain further information from the Province Commissioner of Ayurveda, Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura (Telephone 025-2225397) during office hours and inspect the bidding documents at the same office.
- 4. A complete set of bidding documents in English could be obtained by the interested bidders from the office of the Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura on production of a written request to the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda, Provincial Department of Ayurveda, North Central Province from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on office working days from 05.04.2021 to 27.04.2021 up on payment of the relevant non-refundable bid document fee as given in the table above.
- 5. Duly completed bids in duplicate (two copies) indicating the name of the project on the top lefthand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post addressed to the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda, Chairman, Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Ayurveda, Dharmapala Mawatha, Anuradhapura, if hand delivered deposited in the Tender Box kept at the office room of the Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda to be received at or before 2.00 p.m. on 28.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after closing in the presence of the agents of the bidders who choose to attend.
- 6. All the bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security to the value mentioned in the table above, issued by a commercial bank, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or by the Construction Guarantee Fund (CGF), valid upto the date mentioned in the table above from the date of opening of bids.

Chairman, **Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Ayurveda** North Central Province 05.04.2021

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Probation & Childcare and Women's Affairs

PEOPLE'S BANK

TENDER NOTICE Attractive Gift Items

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed suppliers, manufacturers for the supply of following items.

Tender No.	Description of the Item	Qty.	Value of Bid Secu- rity (Rs.)	Date & Time of Closing Tender
P/042	TAB	368	100,000/-	21.04.2021 at
P/043	Remote Rechargeable Helicopter	4660	70,000/-	2.00 p.m.
P/044	Electric Doll	2535	40,000/-	
P/045	Rechargeable Self Driving Car	216	35,000/-	

- Tender documents could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 depositing Rs. 1,500/- for each tender document to the Account No. 204100120011913 maintained at Headquarters Branch. Deposits could be made from any People's Bank branch to the named account. Issuance of tender documents will be made on producing the duplicate of the cash paying in slip between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m from 05.04.2021 to 20.04.2021 as indicated above on working days of the Bank.
- Perfected tender documents should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond from a commercial bank (other 2. than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank for the value mentioned above, valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the date of opening the tender. Bank Drafts / Pay Orders in lieu of Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond are also acceptable with validity at 180 calendar days from the date of opening of the tender. Cheques drawn by the tenderer will not be accepted.
- The selected supplier/s will be required to complete the deliveries within 60 days after issuance of Purchase Orders. 3.
- Sealed tenders may be sent by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the closing date (21.04.2021) mentioned above. Tenders received after 2.00 p.m. will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The Bank reserves to itself the right of rejecting any or all bids or cancelling the whole tender and the right of accepting 5. any portion of a tender without assigning any reasons.
- Further details could be obtained from Chief Manager (Supplies), People's Bank, Supplies Department, on the telephone 6. Nos. given below.

Chief Manager (Supplies) People's Bank, Supplies Department, No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Telephone Nos. : 2439577/8, 2307326 : 2439576 Fax No. : www.peoplesbank.lk Website Email : supplies@peoplesbank.lk





SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Invitation for Bids for the Supply of Dry Drugs / Medical Equipment / Water Filters 2021

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Uva Provincial Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Probation & Childcare and Women's Affairs invites bids from reputed institutes and individuals for the supply of following items.

Bids should be submitted through bid forms issued by this Ministry. To obtain bid forms refundable and non refundable bid fees as mentioned below should be paid to this Ministry by cash and the official receipts obtained for same should be produced.

For dry drugs, it is compulsory to forward the original of the assets certificate (form Gen. 170) issued by the Divisional Secretary along with the duly perfected Bids.

Nature of Supplies	Refundable Bid Bond Rs.	Non refundable Bid form fee (Rs.)	Certificate of assets issued after 31.01.2021	
Supply of dry drugs to the Central Stores, - Diyatalawa Medagama Ayurveda Hospitals and Drugs manufacturing plant - Miriswatta.	If in cash Rs. 80,000/ =			
	If in bid bond Rs. 160,000.00 (validity period 120 days)	1,000/=	500,000/ =	

To obtain bid forms, a written application along with a certified copy of the Business Registration Certificate should be submitted to the Secretary of the Ministry.

Serial			Non refundable	Refundable Bid Secu			
No.	Equipment	Quantity Bid document fee (Rs.)				In Cash	In Bank Guarantee
01	Purchasing of Digital Detector (DR Panel)	01	3000.00		2%		
02	Five part Hematology Analyzer	01	3000.00				
03	Tissue Floating water bath	01	3000.00	1%			
04	Multipara Monitors	30	3000.00				
05	Water filter 1500 litre	40	3000.00				

Bid forms could be obtained from 07.04.2021 to 27.04.2021 from this Ministry office during normal office hours.

Sealed bids in duplicate inserted in two separate envelopes marked "Supply of dry drugs - 2021, Department of Ayurveda, Diyatalawa / Supply of medical equipment 2021 / Water Filters - 2021" as per relevant to each item on the top left-hand corners should either be sent to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Uva Provincial Ministry of Health, Indigenous Medicine, Probation & Childcare, Women's Affairs and Social Welfare, R.H. Gunawardena Mawatha, Badulla by registered post or deposited in the bid box kept at the office room of the Chairman, Procurement Committee before 2.00 p.m. on 28.04.2021.

Bids will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 28.04.2021 and bidders or their authorized representatives could be present at the time.

The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids submitted in full or part thereof.

Chairman, **Ministry Procurement Committee,** Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, **Probation & Childcare and Women's Affairs,** R.H. Gunawardena Mawatha, Badulla. 05.04.2021.

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the items given below:

Tender No.	Name of the Tender	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Document Fee (Inclusive of VAT)	Closing Date & Time
CES/FP/04/ PT/6185(MP)	12 Nos. Main Hoist Wire Rope 25MM 490 Length	108,000.00	3,500.00	04.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/ PT/6186(EL)	Thyristor Excitors for JCT STS Cranes	120,000.00	3,500.00	04.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/ PT/6182(EL)	Starter Motor Spares for JCT RTG Cranes	40,000.00	1,000.00	04.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/ PT/6189(EL)	Auxiliary Power Transformer for JCT RTG Cranes	36,000.00	1,000.00	06.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CES/FP/05/ PT/6168(MAR)	Spares for Turbocharger of Wartsila 4L20 Main Engines of M/T Therapuththabhaya	42,000.00	1,000.00	06.05.2021 10.00 hrs
CMS/LP/21/ PT/04/052	Motor Tyres 1200x20 18 PR-30 Nos.	40,000.00	1,000.00	23.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/21/ PT/14/051	52 Nos. Main Hoist Wire Rope 25MM DIA and 57,60 & 65M for SHI RTG Crane at ECT	63,000.00	1,000.00	23.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/20/ PT/10/054	Filters for Caterpillar, C-15 Engines fitted to ZPMC RTGC'S at JCT	110,000.00	3,500.00	23.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/20/ PT/16/033	Upgrade of Power Takeoff System of Overhead Cranes at "A Yard"	100,000.00	3,500.00	27.04.2021 13.30 hrs
CMS/LP/21/ PT/14/052	24 Nos. Main Hoist and Anti - Sway Sheave for 41T RTG Cranes at ECT	25,000.00	1,000.00	27.04.2021 13.30 hrs

Bidders are hereby informed that the provisions of Public Contracts Act No. 3 of 1987 are applicable 2. for Tenders total Cost exceeding Rs. 5 million. Accordingly, all parties involved in each aforementioned Tender are required to strictly abide by the said act throughout the duration of contract. Furthermore, any Bidder who wishes to act as an Agent, Sub-Agent, a Representative or a Nominee for and on behalf of any foreign Manufacturer or a Supplier is required to register himself with the Registrar of Public Contracts and submit the duly completed Registration Certificate along with his Bid Documents.

Bidders should have been in the business of supplying similar goods given above at least during the 3. last three (3) years.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The Chief Manager (Supplies & Material 4. Management) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on 5. submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee indicated in Column 4 from 05th April, 2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days, up to day prior to the closing date. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before closing time. Late Bids will not be accepted. 6. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' Representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at closing time. All Bids must be accompanied by the amount of abovementioned Bid Security.

Chief Manager (Supplies & Material Management), **Supplies Division**, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01.

Telephone Nos : 2482231, 2483338, 2482499, 2482832, 2482409, 2482652, 2483024, 2482638 Fax Nos : 2381652, 2470443

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

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

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS INVITATION FOR BIDS

Balance Works of Construction of Parking Area & Waiting Area and Supplying & Fixing of Sliding <u>Gates at Labour Office, Galle.</u>

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Department of Buildings now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Work described below:

Contract No.	Contract No. Contract Name		Contract Period (Days)
04-03-14-2021/CT08	Balance Works of Construction of Parking Area & Waiting Area and Supplying & Fixing of Sliding Gates at Labour Office, Galle	6.5 Mn	91

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. *Since the estimated cost of this procurement is below Rs. 50 Mn. regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016(ii) & 03/2020.*
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of building construction for Grade **C7**, **C6** or **C5** with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), valid until the date of closing of the bids. Further, the registration should be valid at the date of award.

"The bidders shall also register themselves with Registrar of Public Contracts, Sri Lanka, in term of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987. The original certificate of registration (PCA 03) shall be submitted with the bid. The procurement shall not be awarded to any bidder unless such bidder had submitted the PCA 03 certificate"

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Zone 06), Department of Buildings, No. 10, Upper Dickson Road, Galle and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1600 hrs.

Contact Numbers are: Phone: 091-2222583, Facsimile: 091-2234838

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Chief Engineer (Zone 06), Department of Buildings, No. 10, Upper Dickson Road, Galle from 05.04.2021 until 21.04.2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Two Thousand Five Hundred (Rs. 2,500/-).
- 6. Bids shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla to reach at or before 10.00 hrs on 22.04.2021. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the Contract Branch, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- 7. Bids shall be valid for a period of 77 days from the date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.
- 8. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be;
 - in the form included in **Section 09** of the bidding document
 - in favour of **Director General of Buildings**
 - for an amount of **Rs. 90,000.00**
 - valid up to 4th August 2021
 - issued by one of the agencies indicated in the **Clause 16.0** of the Schedule.
- 9. Bidders are advised to enter "Sethsiripaya" premises at least 1 hour before the scheduled time for Bid closing, due to security checking.

Eng. M.H.M. Ismail Director General of Buildings, Department of Buildings, 2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya", Battaramulla.



STATE MINISTRY OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JICA FUNDED RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT in Emerging Regions

(Loan No. SLP 116)

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE



The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging Regions. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the following works;

(i) Contract No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2020/04

Construction and completion of Improvements to Irrigation Systems in the Tanks of Mahamassallawa in Kahatagasdigiliya D.S. Division, Elawissagoda in Horowpathana D.S. Division and Kanugahaulpotha in Kebithigollewa D.S. Division.

 (ii) Contract No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2021/05
 Construction and completion of Improvements to Irrigation Systems in the Tanks of Guruhalmillewa in Kebithigollewa D.S. Division and Kohombapitiya & Udawewa in Padaviya D.S. Division.

- (iii) Contract No. SL P116/NCP/WS/2020/01 Construction and water supply systems of Kandulegama and Konduruwea Sub Project, which includes construction of production bore wells (3Nr), Elevated water towers, associated civil works and pipe network of transmission and distribution and supply and installation of electro-mechanical accessories with partial automation including mechanically driven Chlorinators.
- 2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- 3. The Chairman of the Provincial Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the North Central Provincial Council now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the above works and some eligibility criteria highlighted in the bid document are tabulated below.

	Table (01)							
SI No.	Package No.	Non Refundable Fee	Bid Security		Registratoin Requirements	Financial Situation	Financial Resources	Construction Experience
01	SLP116/ NCP2/ AW/2020/04	LKR 10,000.00	LKR 500,000.00 (valid up to 30.08.2021)		Only Grade C5&C4 CIDA Registration in Irrigation and Drainage Canals. A copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of companies in Sri Lanka	LKR 70 Million minimum average annual construction turnover over previous three years.	LKR 20 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility.	Minimum one similar contract satisfactorily completed in the last eight years. Experience in key activities should be not less than (a) 5000 m ³ of earth work per annum. (b) 75m ³ of concrete works per annum.
02	SLP116/ NCP2/ AW/2021/05	LKR 13,000.00	LKR 800,000.00 (valid up to 30.08.2021)	(i) (ii)	Form PCA 03. Only Grade C4&C3 CIDA Registration in Irrigation and Drainage Canals. A copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of companies in Sri Lanka Form PCA 03.	LKR 105 Million minimum average annual construction turnover over previous three years.	LKR 25 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility.	Minimum one similar contract satisfactorily completed in the last eight years. Experience in key activities should be not less than (a) 5000 m ³ of earth work per annum. (b) 75m ³ of concrete works per annum.
03	SLP116/ NCP/ WS/2020/01	LKR 27,000.00	LKR 1,500,000.00 (valid up to 30.08.2021)		CIDA Grade C4 & C3 registration in water and sewerage. A copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of companies in Sri Lanka Form PCA 03.	LKR 200 Million minimum average annual construction turnover in previous five years with effect from 1st January 2016	LKR 34 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility.	 Satisfactorily completed at least following elements in the last seven years 1. Minimum two contract supply & Laying of uPVC or similar nature of pipe contract in length of at least 25 km and 2. Minimum one contract including structural civil works, storage elements, utility building works and construction of ferro-cement elevated reservoirs and 3. Minimum of one contract supply and installation of electro mechanical equipment in water supply systems comprising of submersible pumps with control panels, liquid chlorination systems and associated works preferably with partial automation systems.

FOR THE YEAR - 2021/2022

Applications are hereby invited from recognized Contractors, Companies, Corporations and Co-operative Societies who wish to register themselves with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority for obtaining the services in undermentioned categories for the year 2021/2022.

- i) Construction of Steel Buildings
- ii) Construction of Steel Structures
- iii) Blasting and Painting of Steel Structures / Members
- iv) Chipping and Painting of Steel Structures within the Ports and Out of the Ports
- v) New Construction of Pipe Lines / Maintenance of Pipe Lines / Tanks / Accessories etc.

CONDITIONS :

- 1. If the intended Contractor is a limited liability company, a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and if otherwise a Copy of Certificate of Registration should be attached to the application
- 2. Total of three years relevant work experience in the relevant categories should be submitted together with your applications.
- 3. Separate applications for registration should be forwarded for category Nos. i) to v) mentioned above. Applicants should clearly indicate in their applications the relevant category Nos. for which the registration is sought. Application Forms for registration could be obtained between 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on any working day up to 19.04.2021 from the office of the Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works), Mechanical Works Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 on payment of Rs. 1000.00 (inclusive of NBT + VAT) for each category for which the registration is sought.
- 4. Quotations for the obtaining services will normally be called from the list of registered Contractors. However, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority reserves the right to obtain quotations and obtain services from non-registered Contractors as well.
- 5. Names of registered Contractors who fail to quote or fail to complete required jobs within the specified time as per the work orders are liable to be struck off the list of registered Suppliers of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.
- 6. All applications should be forwarded under Registered Cover and addressed to the Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works), Mechanical Works Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01 to reach him on or before 20.04.2021 with the words "Registration of Mechanical Contractors for 2021/2022" written at the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Late applications, without required supporting documents will not be entertained. Applications could also be personally handed over at the Office of Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works).
- 7. A further information could be obtained by contacting Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works) on **Tel. No. 011-2451906, Fax. 011-2451906.**

Chief Engineer (Mechanical Works), Mechanical Works Engineering Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority, No. 45, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01. Note: (II) CIDA registration requirement as JV. Please refer clause No. 2.1.4 of eligibility and qualification Criteria.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the Office of the Project Implementation Unit, North Central Province, No. 3063, Pubudu Mawatha, Dahaiyagama, Anuradhapura. Telephone: 025-2222875, Fax: 025-2222875 or you can visit the Bid documents from the website: www.cs.nc.gov.lk.
- **5.** A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee as specified in above **Column 3** of Table (1) up to 27th April 2021 during nromal working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. or you can download the bid documents from the website **www.cs.nc.gov.lk** . Relevant payment of non refundable fee as specified in **Column 3** of Table (1) can be paid to the **A/C No. 83124457, JICA Funded RIDEP Project, Bank of Ceylon, Anuradhapura** and the payment slip should be submitted along with the Bid.
- 6. The Provision in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Small Works.
- 7. Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. at Project Implementation Unit, No. 3063, Pubudu Mawatha, Dahaiyagama, Anuradhapura on dates mentioned below and a site visit will be organized soon after the pre bid meeting.
 - I. Package No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2020/04
 27.04.2021

 II. Package No. SL P116/NCP2/AW/2021/05
 27.04.2021
 - III. Package No. SL P116/NCP/WS/2020/01 28.04.2021
- 9. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend soon after bid closing at the Office of the Chief Secretary, North Central Provincial Council Complex, 4th Floor B, Harischandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura.

Chief Secretary / Chairman Provincial Project Procurement Committee North Central Provincial Council Complex, 4th Floor B, Harischandra Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Telephone : 025-2222695; Fax: 025-2224914 Email : csncpc@gmail.com Date: 05.04.2021

ADVERTISEMENTS

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and **Small Industries**

Invitation of sealed bids from experienced architects for preparation of plan/design, estimate, Bills of Quantities (BOQs) for the renovation of the Uva Wellassa Museum of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and **Textiles and Small Industries.**

- 1. Interested bidders may obtain bid documents upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/- between 9.00 a.m. and 03.00 p.m. on normal working days from 05th April 2021 until 20th April 2021 from the Accounts division of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries, Raja Mawatha, Badulla.
- 2. Interested bidders may inspect free of charge the specifications and other data relevant to the works to be performed before the purchase of bid documents by calling over at the Planning Division of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries, (Telephone No. 0552222670) if required. Pre-bid meeting will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 09.04.2021 at the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries.
- Bidders who possess three years experience in the relevant field and are not 3. blacklisted may submit bids.
- Bids in duplicate marked as Original and Duplicate in separate covers should 4. be reinserted in a single cover and submitted.
- Duly perfected bids may either be sent addressed to "Accountant, Uva 5. Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries, Raja Mawatha, Badulla" or deposited in the Tender Box of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries to receive at or before 2.00 p.m. on 21.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected.
- 6. Bids will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 21.04.2021 at the Office of the Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, Cultural and Textiles and Small Industries. Bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
- 7. When submitting the bids, an unconditional bid security valid for 90 days from the opening date of bids obtained from a government recognized bank to the value of 1% of the bid.
- Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in full or part thereof.

Chairman,

Procurement Committee Uva Provincial Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs, Tourism, Transport, **Cultural, Textiles and Small Industries Uva Provincial Council,** Raja Mawatha Badulla



STATE MINISTRY OF AVIATION AND EXPORT ZONES DEVELOPMENT

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for Quotations for obtaining a Building / Premises on Rent or Lease Basis for Maintaining the Ministry

and Ministry Office

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (Registration No. PQ 116) under Section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990.

Loan Account No. 2241225

KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN SANJEEWA KONAGEDARA ALIAS

KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN **SANJEEWA**

At a meeting held on 25th October 2019 the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC resolved specially and unanimously as follows:

WHEREAS KONAGEDARA MUHANDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN KONAGEDARA SANJEEWA KONAGEDARA alias MUHAMDIRAMLAGE ROSHAN SANJEEWA as the Obilgor has made default in the payment due on the instrument of Mortgage under Registration of Title Act No. 21 of 1998 dated 4th April 2018 attested by K.V.A.D.C.K. Vipulasena, Notary Public of Kandy in favour of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC and now there is now due and owing to the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC as at 16th September 2019 a sum of UNITED STATES DOLLARS THIRTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIX AND CENTS SEVENTY NINE (USD 30,856/79) or [it's equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees] on the said instrument of Mortgage and the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC under the powers vested by Recovery of Loans by Bank's (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 do hereby resolve that the property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC by the said Instrument of Mortgage be sold by Public Auction by Mr. I. W. Jayasuriya, Licensed Auctioneer of No 369/1, Dutugemunu Mawatha, Lewella Road, Mawilmada, Kandy for the recovery of the said sum of United States Dollars Thirty Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Six and Cents Seventy Nine (USD 30,856/79) [or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees) with further interest on a some of USD 28,888/= [or its equivalent in Sri Lanka Rupees] at 7.00% per annum from 17th September 2019 to date of sale together with Costs of Advertising and any other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

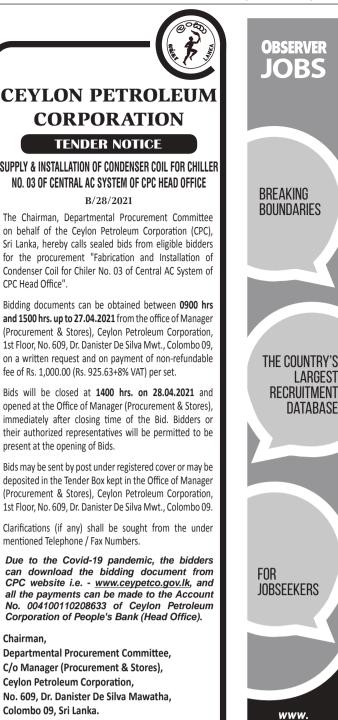
All that divided and defined land Parcel marked Lot 49 in Block No. 01 in Cadastral Map No. 320151 made by Surveyor General together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon situated at Kobbewala within the Grams Niladhari Division of Angammana East - 1163 within Divisional Secretary's Division of Udapalatha in the District of Kandy Central Province and containing in extent NAUGHT DECIMAL NAUGHT FOUR SIX EIGHT HECTARES (0.0468 Hectares).

Date: 07.11.2019

AMBA

THREE

R.A.P. RAJAPAKSHA COMPANY SECRETARY



Telephone: 0094-11-5455331, 5455337 : 0094-11-5455424

Chairman,

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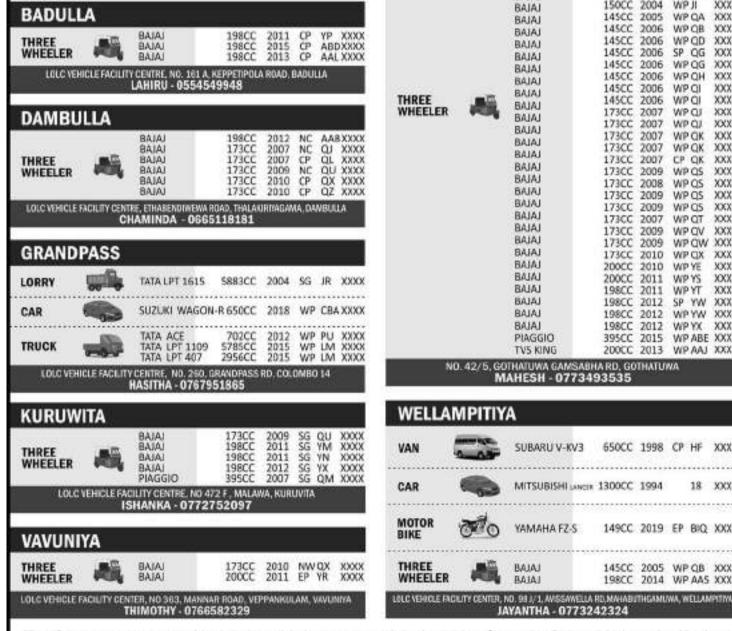
Applications are invited from eligible applicants for obtaining an Office Building or premises on rent or lease basis for a period of 03 years under the conditions mentioned below to establish the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development and the Ministry Offices.

- 1. The expected building/premises should be located within the area of Authority of the Colombo Municipal Council or from Battaramulla area or a location close to this area.
- 2. Applications should be submitted only by the owners of the relevant property or through their Power of Attorney. Applications submitted by brokers will not be accepted.
- The office should have a minimum extent of 7500 sq.ft. with sufficient common 3. space and should include sanitary facilities (apart from the extent of 7500 sq.ft.)
- 4. Should have sufficient space near the office premises for parking a minimum of 20 vehicles.
- 5. Other facilities required:
 - Should contain at least 06 attached bathrooms for sanitary purposes, attached to each of the rooms in the Head Office.
 - Should have sufficient General Sanitary facilities for approximately 75 Male/ Female Office Staff. (Separate facilities for males and females.)
 - Should contain an electric lift, stairs for access and an emergency exist if the office premises is located in an upper floor.
 - This building/premises should contain facilities whereby, the office rooms could be accommodated according to the planning of offices by the Ministry.
- 6. Should contain water supply, sanitary facilities, electricity, telephones, generators for provision of sufficient power, air conditioning system and should include a fire protection system.
- 7. The floor of the relevant premises should be paved with Terazzo tiling or with some other tiles providing a similar finish.
- The location is situated in an environment friendly area and provided with convenient 8. access for differently abled persons will be considered as an additional facility.
- 9. A Bid Security Guarantee obtained from a bank approved by the Government valid upto 27 July 2021 should be submitted with your quotation.
- 10. Bid documents could be obtained from the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 12,000.00 Bid documents will be issued during working days of the week from 05.04.2021 upto 27.05.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Bidders interested in this matter could obtain further information from the Director of this Ministry (Procurement) or from the Administration Officer by calling on Tel. No: 0112337629. The relevant application could be obtained by calling over at the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development. 30th Floor, West Tower, World Trade Center, Colombo 01.

Bids will be accepted upto 3.00 p.m. on 27.04.2021. Bids could be submitted by inserting in the Bid Box kept in this Ministry or by registered post. Bids will be opened at 3.00 p.m. on 27.04.2021 at the Main Meeting Hall of the State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development at the above address. The bidder or his authorized representative could be present on this occasion. The words "Obtaining a Building/Premises" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the applications.

Chairman, Ministry Procurement Board, State Ministry of Aviation and Export Zones Development, 30th Floor, West Tower, World Trade Center, Colombo 01.



The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle/vehicles from the Sale without prior Notice. Tender forms can be collected from the Head Office - Rajagiriya & the relevant branches of the above addresses

Tender closes at 12.30 P.m on 08th April 2021

LOLC FINANCE PLC

No.100/1, Sri Jayawardenepura Mw, Rajagiriya.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021



Invitation for Bids The Open University of Sri Lanka **Procurement of Office Furniture**

IFB NO: OUSL/SUP/OF/IFB/10/01-01/2021

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Open University of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supplying, Delivering and installation of Office Furniture as per the details given below.

ltem No	Item's Name	No of Units	Bid Security (Rs)
1	Book Racks - Wooden	55	97,900.00
2	Book Sheives - Wooden	58	80,040.00
3	Clerical Chairs -Wooden	64	16,640.00
4	Clerical Tables - Wooden	70	86,800.00
5	Executive Tables 6' x 3' - Wooden	21	36,120.00
6	Glass Fronted Cupboards -Wooden	19	42,712.38
7	Lab Stools-Wooden	32	5,504.00
8	Lobby Chairs-Cushioned	91	30,940.00
9	Side Racks-Wooden	30	34,200.00
10	Student Chairs-Wooden	577	126,940.00
11	Student Chairs with Writing Pads - Wooden	320	96,000.00
12	Student Desks-Wooden	550	132,000.00
13	Auditorium Chairs	295	47,200.00
14	Computer Chairs with Arms	248	84,320.00
15	Computer Chairs High Back with Arms	127	45,720.00
16	Executive Chairs	51	23,460.00
17	Computer Tables	79	36,340.00
18	Steel Cushioned Visitor Chairs	56	10,080.00
19	Filing Cabinets - Steel	103	111,240.00
20	Steel Cupboards 6' X 3'	99	85,140.00
21	Steel Cupboards Glass Fronted	53	66,780.00

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bank guarantee in the format given with the bidding document for the amount given in the above table. Bank Guarantee is confirmed by a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The bid security shall be in the form of an unconditional on demand and shall be valid up to 18/08/2021.

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).

4. Bidders who have at least 03 years' experience in Supplying, Delivering and Installation of above Furniture, in similar quantities to State or Private Organization, may submit bids.

5. Interested eligible bidder may obtain further information from Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka (Tel: 011-2881212) and inspect the bidding documents, free of charge at the same address during the office hours.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka and upon payment of a non - refundable fee of Rs 5,000.00 to the Shroff of the University on working days from 05/04/2021 to 04/05/2021 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

SEMENTS				page 29 DN
Repeat Your Ad For Better	PUBLIC NOTICE Public Notice of change of Name of Limited Liability Company pursuant to section 9(2) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007. Notice is hereby given that the following company has changed the Name in accordance with Section 8 of Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 on 26th March 2021. Former Name of the Company: HORIZON KNOWLEDGE CITY LIMITED Number of the Company: P B 5281 Registered Office: No. 447/C, Akuregoda Road, Pelawatta, Battramulla. Name of the Company:	NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AGRO SENSE C M B (PVT) LTD hereby gives the notice to the public on incorporation under section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007. Name of the Company: AGRO SENSE C M B (PVT) LTD Registered Office: No. 8/4/3, 4th Floor, Asset Arcade Building, Sir Razik Fareed Mawatha, Colombo 01. Registration Number: PV 00235022	NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC Lucky Numen Global (Pvt) Ltd hereby gives the notice to the public on incorporation under section 9(1) of the companies Act No. 7 of 2007. Name of the Company: LUCKY NUMEN GLOBAL (PVT) LTD Registered Office: No. 227, Hospital Road, Kalubowila, Dehiwala. Registration Number: PV 00217458	NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC HELA DEVELOPMENTS (PVT) LT hereby gives the notice to the Publ on incorporation under section 9(: of the Companies Act No. 07 of 200 Name of the Company: HEL DEVELOPMENTS (PVT) LTD Registered Office: No. 57// Kuruppumulla Road, Panadura. Registration Number: PV 00237535
Offers	Fotesight Realty Limited. RNH Holdings (Private) Limited Company Secretaries "RNH House", No. 622B, Kotte Road, Kotte. 30th March 2021		ousewives' com Classifieds on Daily Acws	panion



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State Ministry of Development of Minor Crops Plantation Including Sugar Cane Maize, Cashew, Pepper, Cinnamon, Cloves, Betel, RelatedIndustries and Export Promotion

Tender Notice

The Chairman Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd. invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified contractors for the "Rehabilitation of internal road ways at Sevanagala Sugar Factory premise" at Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd. - Sevanagala Unit as follows;

SRN	Construction Work	Tender Reference	Bid Security
01	Rehabilitation of internal road ways at Sevanagala Sugar Factory premises	LSS/CE/CT/2021/01	300,000.00

1. The period of Construction of this work is 90 days.

- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall have not been blacklisted and shall meet the ICTAD Registration C5 Grade or above (Highway Constructions).
- 3. Interested Prospective bidders may obtain further information from Manager Procurement over the Tele Nos. 077 2858085, 0112 50 55 58 or Facsimile No: 0112 500 674 and inspect the bidding documents in his Office at No. 27, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04, or Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd, Sevanagala, Embilipitiya from 05/04/2021, 09.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs.
- A complete set of Bidding Document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Manager Procurement from 09.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs. Until 27.04.2021 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00. The method of payment will be by cash.

5. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 22.04.2021, 14.30 hrs. at Sevanagala Sugar Factory

6. Bids shall be delivered to The Chairman (Tender Board), No. 27, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04 on or before 1400 hrs. On 28.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing and in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who choose to attend.

Chairman (Departmental Procurement Committee) Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Ltd. No. 27, Melbourne Avenue, Colombo 04.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

7. The bidding documents for above tender can also be downloaded from university website, www.ou.ac.lk. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from university website should submit the tender along with a bank draft drawn in favor of the "Bursar, The Open University of Sri Lanka" for Rs. 5,000.00 as the non refundable fee.

8. Duly perfected bids in duplicate in separate envelops marked as "Original" and "Duplicate" and re- inserted in a single envelop mentioning the name of the bid and IFB number on the top left hand corner of all three envelops, sealed and may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Department Procurement Committee "Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda" or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Supplies Division of the Open University of Sri Lanka. Duplicate should be a certified photocopy of the original.

9. The bid should be delivered on or before 2.00 pm on 05/05/2021 to the address given above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing time and bidder or their authorized representative is permitted to be present at the time of opening of bids.

10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 23/04/2021 at 2.00 pm at the Board Room of the Registrar's Office of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

11. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids.





STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT WERAS GANGA STORM WATER DRAINAGE AND ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following contracts.

Procurement No.	Item Description	Closing Date & Time	Bid Security	Non-refundable fee
S/186/21	Supply and Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment - Sooriyamal Mawatha Area 01 Zone 01 – Package 45	21 st April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 100,000.00	Rs. 4,000.00
\$/193/21	Supply and Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment - Sooriyamal Mawatha Area 02 Zone 01 – Package 46	21 ⁴ April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 100,000.00	Rs. 4,000.00
5/194/21	Supply and Installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment – Rubber Watta Zone 02 – Package 46	21" April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 100,000.00	Rs. 4,000.00

1. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from 05" April, 2021 up to 20" April, 2021 (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee as mentioned above. The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3rd Floor, New Building).

Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the 2. envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1" Floor, New Building).

Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before 21st April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs. Late 3. bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.

- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on 8th April, 2021 at 10.00 a.m at SLLDC Board Room. 4.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy Project Director Weras Ganga 5. Project of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2872877 Fax: +94 11 2074421, Emai : wgswdeip@gmail.com

Chairman



Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya. Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

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within Colombo ises & Lorries City without fear. For sale Most welcome inexperienced Driv-CP NB-5769 Miting License Hold subishi Rosa, 2006, ers. bus for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Real Estate Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0714542958. 025952



Piliyandala Kotage WP AAY-7596 Bajaj, 2015, NW ABC-2544 Bajaj, 2015, CP AAF-3142 Bajaj, 2012, Threewheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 025949

Quotations are invited to carry out the work mentioned below at the Hambantota District General Hospital.

Work Subject	ICTAD Requirements	Non-Refundable Tender Form Fee (Rs).	Refundable Tender Deposit (Rs).
Renovation of the Laboratory on the second floor of the old District General Hospital for Installing a PCR Machine.	C7 or C8	2500.00	43,000.00

Details of the work mentioned above could be obtained during working days of the week from 05.04.2021 up to 27.04.2021 between 9.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. by calling over at the office and bid forms could be inspected and obtained after paying the relevant amounts. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 28/04/2021 in the Director's office of the District General Hospital, Hambantota.

The applicants should seal the envelope containing the tender and the name of the relevant work should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Regional Procurement Board, District General Hospital, Hambantota" to be received before 9.30 a.m. on 28.04.2021 or should be hand-delivered. Incomplete bids and bids received after the stipulated time will be rejected.

Further details could be obtained on Tel. No.: 0472220261. Extension No. 1336, if necessary.

Director, District General Hospital, Hambantota.

Daily Actus Classifieds, the Housewives' companion

INVITATION FOR BID 2021/01

DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS MEDICINE, NORTHERN PROVINCE

- 1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction work described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB). 2.
- 3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- Qualifications requirements are indicated in section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule 4. (Section 5) for SBD 3 documents and in the Bidding Data & Contract Data (Section 5) for SBD 1 documents.
- 5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **address given below in 6**, and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working days from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written 6. application to the Provincial Commissioner, Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province, No.611, Hospital Road, Jaffna (T.P: 021 2220821, Fax: 021 2220822) from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. during the period mentioned in the table upon **payment of non-refundable fees as mentioned in the table.** The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, 7. Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province, No. 611, Hospital Road, Jaffna at or before 10.30 a.m. on the date mentioned in the table. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- 8. Pre-Bid Conference will be held at Department of Indigenous Medicine, Northern Province, No.611, Hospital Road, Jaffna commencing at 02.30 P.M. on the date mentioned in the table.
- 9. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.

	Document Issuing/Purcha	sing Period		From 06.04.2021 until 19.04.2021				
CATEGORY 1	Pre-Bid Conference			at 02.30 P.M on 12.04.2021				
1	Closing and Opening of Bi	at 10.30 A.M on 20.04.2021						
D' 1 M-		Estimated Cost /(Rs	Contract	Required	Non	Required Bid Security		
Bid No	Description of Work	in Millions)	Period	Grade	Refundable Fees	Security Amount	Valid Period	
NP/B/ JA/14(2021)	Improvement Work at Siddha Rural Hospital at Kodikamam, Jaffna	04.17	98 Days	C8 or C7 (Buildings)	3,500.00	42,000.00	Till 19.07.2021	
NP/B/ MU/11(2021)	Construction of Administration Block at District Siddha Hospital, Mullaitivu	19.19	182 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	192,000.00	Till 02.08.2021	
NP/B/ MN/06(2021)	Construction of Administration Block at District Siddha Hospital, Naruvilikkulam, Mannar (Single Storey)	16.20	168 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	163,000.00	Till 02.08.2021	
NP/B/ VA/06(2021)	Renovation and Improvement to Ayurvedic Central Dispensary and Quarters at Madukandha, Vavuniya	8.43	126 Days	C7 or C6 (Buildings)	3,500.00	85,000.00	Till 02.08.2021	
NP/B/ VA/07(2021)	Renovation and Improvement to Ayurvedic Central Dispensary and Quarters at Vavuniya Town	7.00	119 Days	C7 or C6 (Buildings)	3,500.00	70,000.00	Till 02.08.2021	
NP/B/ VA/08(2021)	Construction of Male and Female Ward Rural Siddha Hospital at Cheddikulam, Vavuniya	15.67	168 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	157,000.00	Till 02.08.2021	
	Document Issuing/Purcha	sing Period		From 06.04.2021 until 27.04.2021				
CATEGORY 2	Pre-Bid Conference			at 02.30 P.M o	on 16.04.2021			
_	Closing and Opening of Bi	ds		at 10.30 A.M	on 28.04.2021			
		Estimated Cost /(Rs	Contract	Required	Non	Required	Bid Security	
Bid No	Description of Work	in Millions)	Period	Grade	Refundable Fees	Security Amount	Valid Period	
NP/B/ JA/15(2021)	Construction of Three Storeyed Administrative Block at Pandatherippu Ayurvedic Hospital, Jaffna	24.30	210 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	243,000.00	Till 10.08.2021	
NP/B/ JA/16(2021)	Construction of Siddha Rural Hospital at Thondamanaru, Jaffna	28.58	217 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	10,000.00	286,000.00	Till 24.08.2021	

SOUTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL Southern Provincial Department of Education

Invitation for Bids

Procurement of the printing and delivery of first term test papers for Grades 10 - 11 for the year 2021

Quotations are invited from Government registered printers who are capable of type setting & printing test papers required to hold 2021 first term test for grade 10 - 11 in 825 schools in Southern Province and packeted in required quantities and transport to 39 Divisional Education Offices.

- * Bid documents could be obtained from 06.04.2021 to 21.04.2021 during working days of the week from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. upon payment of a non refundable sum of Rs. 3,500/ = to the Shroff of Southern Provincial Department of Education.
- Refundable bid bond is Rs. 50,000/=. It should be paid to the Shroff of Southern Provincial Department of Education and the photocopy of the receipt obtained for same should be submitted along with the bids.
- * A sample of the paper on which test papers are to be printed should also be submitted.
- * Bids should be submitted only on forms supplied. Sealed bids will be received up to 10.00 a.m. on 22.04.2021 and bids should either be sent on or before the said time to reach the "Chairman, Procurement Board, Southern Provincial Department of Education, Upper Dickson Road, Galle" by registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at this department. The top left hand corner of the envelope containing bids should be marked as "Bids for the printing and delivery of first term test papers for grade 10 - 11 for the year 2021".
- * Pre bid meeting wil be held at 10.30 a.m. on 19.04.2021 at Southern Provincial Department of Education.
- * Bids will be opened at 10.30 a.m. on 22.04.2021 immediately after closing of bids and bidders or their authorized representatives could participate at the time. Further details could be obtained from the Chief Accountant / Accountant through telephone No. 091-2234234.

Nimal Dissanayake,

Southern Provincial Director of Education, Southern Provincial Department of Education, **Upper Dickson Road**, Galle. 05.04.2021

For classified advertisements and for replies

received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

> Manager front office +94 112429341 Hotline 1949

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

Chairman **Department Procurement Committee Department of Indigenous Medicine** Northern Province

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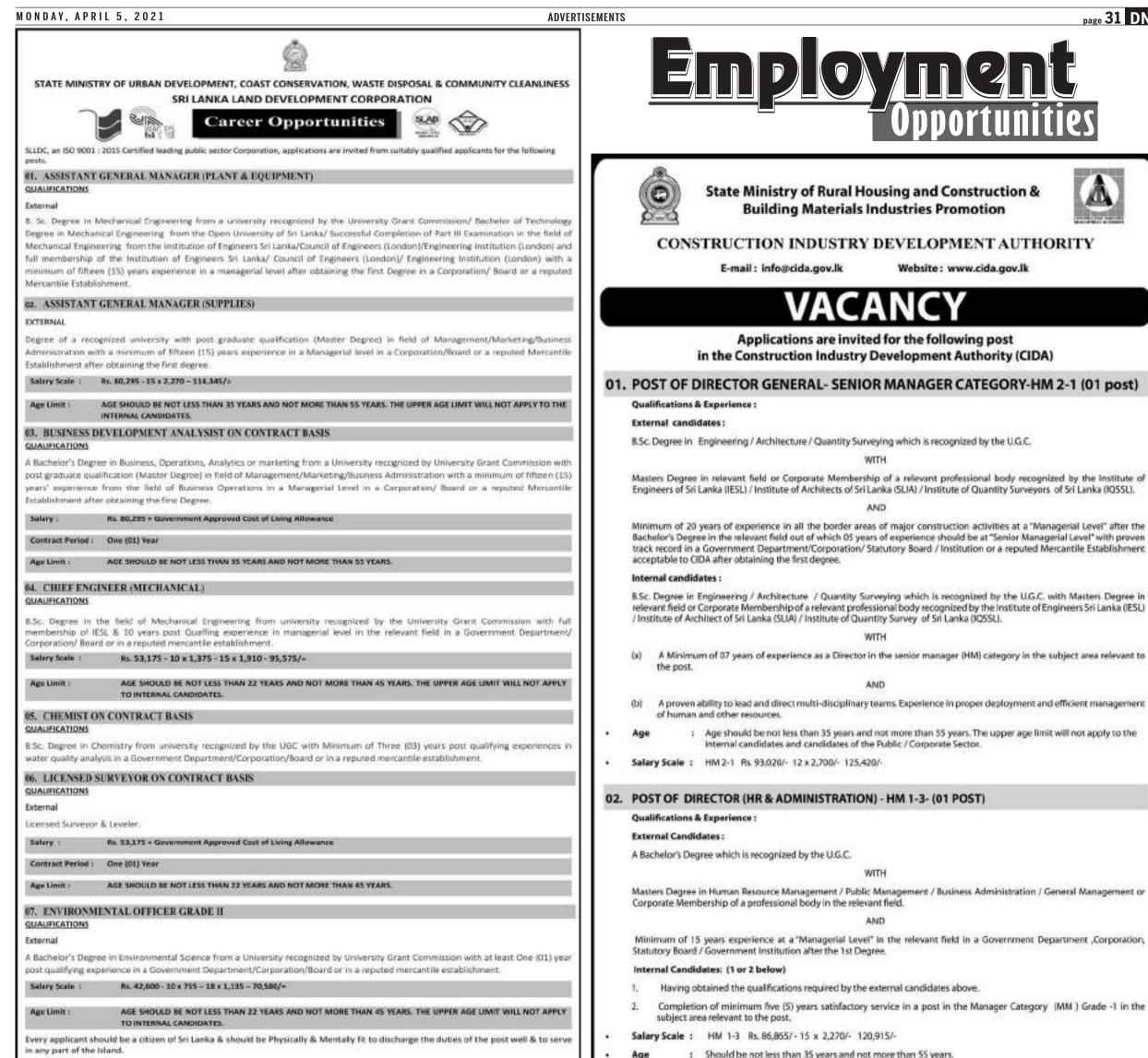




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Applications along with copies of relevant certificates should be sent by registered post marking the post applied for on the top left

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nd corner of the envelope to reach the following address on or before 21.04.2021 The ap from www.landdevlopmet.lk. The Applications sent without relevant format will be rejected.

Deputy General Manager (HRD). Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation, No. 03, Sri Jayawardenapura Mawatha, Welkada, Rajagiriya

Employees from Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards should forward their applications through the respective Head of the Institution Indicating the possibility of being released if selected

> Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation No.03, 5ri Jayawar denaptara Mawatha, Welkada, Rajagiriya Web: www.landdevlopment.lk

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	Sector.						
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Nature of Appointment

Permanent with entitlement to Employee's Provident fund (EPF) and Employee's Trust Fund (ETF).

And Every applicant.

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
- III. Should be of excellent moral character.

Structured Interview :

Marks allocated for the interview are as follows:

•	Relevant additional experience	-	30 Marks
	Relevant additional educational /professional qualifications	- 3	30 Marks
•	Other achievements	-	15 Marks
•	Performance at the interview		25 Marka
			100 Marks

Appointments will be made purely in the order of merit at the interview.

Other Benefits

- Government approved allowances.
- CIDA will contribute 15% and 3% of the salary to the EPF and ETF respectively, while employee will contribute 10% of the salary to the EPF.
- Bonus as per the public enterprise Circulars.
- Medical Insurance Facilities.
- Transport facilities /Reimbursement of Telephone bills will be Provided according to the public enterprise Circulars.

The applications along with the certified copies of Educational, Professional and Experience Certificates should be forwarded under Registered Cover to reach to the Chairman of CIDA on or before 21.04.2021. Applications from officers employed in Government Departments / Corporations / Statutory Boards / Permanent employee of Institutions should be forwarded through the respective Heads of such institutions indicating whether the applicant could be released, if selected. The post applied should be indicated on the top left corner of the envelope.

All the other details are available at CIDA website www.cida.gov.lk

Incomplete or late applications will be rejected. Only short listed eligible candidates will be called for the Interview.

Chairman **Construction Industry Development Authority** "Savsiripaya" 123, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07



MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION CENTRAL ENGINEERING SERVICES (PRIVATE) LIMITED

AMENDMENT TO THE PROCUREMENT NOTICE

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING AND MAINTENANCE DURING THE DEFECTS LIABILITY PERIOD OF **MECHANICAL VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM FOR PROPOSED CANCER TREATMENT UNIT (STAGE II),** NATIONAL HOSPITAL, KANDY.

Bid No. CESL/CPU/SPC/2021/02

It is hereby notified that the advertisement "Invitation for Bids" with reference to above contract published in the Daily News on 15th March 2021 has been amended as follows.

Reference IFB	Contents in Issued Document	Amendment
Item No. 4 (qualification requirement)	"Average annual value of supply and installation of Air Conditioning and Ventilation system work performed in last five (05) years shall be at least Rs. 300 million.	Changed as "Average annual value of supply and installation of Air Condi- tioning and Ventilation system work performed in last five (05) years shall be at least Rs. 150 million"
Item No. 5 (inspection of Bidding Documents)	"from 15.03.2021 until 07.04.2021"	Changed as "from 15.03.2021 to 09.04.2021 and from 19.04.2021 to 21.04.2021"
Item No. 6 (Issuing of Bidding Documents)	"from 15.03.2021 until 07.04.2021"	Changed as "from 15.03.2021 to 09.04.2021 and from 19.04.2021 to 21.04.2021"
Item No. 10 (Time and Date of Bid Closing/ Opening)	"on or before 14.00 hrs on 08.04.2021"	Changed as "14 hrs. on 22.04.2021"

All the other information shall remain the same.

Chairman, Senior Procurement Committee, Central Engineering Services (Pvt) Ltd., No. 415, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)



STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CONTRACT FOR PRECAST BOX CULVERTS AND WING WALLS AT THUNADAHENA ROAD **CONSTRUCTION OF LINEAR PARK AT ATHURUGIRIYA -**STAGE 1

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and gualified bidders for the following contract,

			1.0204		3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and	und	
Procurement	Item Description	Closing Date &	Bid	Non-refundable fee	shall meet the following requirements. CIDA registration required.	register	
No.		Time	Security	10264010500550000	Specialty : Buildings	will r	
	Contract for Precast Box Culverts and Wing Walls at Thunadahena Road	20 ⁰ Auril 2021		NAME AND ADDRESS OF	Grade : C3 or above	acce	
S/157/21	Construction of Linear Park at Athurugiriya	29 th April, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 230,000.00	Rs. 4,500.00	4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include.		
	- Stage 1	0.0000000			• Average of the annual volume of construction work performed in the last five years (2020-2015) shall be at least Be 234 million		
 A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from 05th April, 2021 up to 28th April, 2021 (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee as mentioned above. The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3^{stl} Floor, New Building). 					 2015) shall be at least Rs. 334 million Experience in the similar nature and the complex construction of at least one contract of two or more multi-storied building to a value of Rs.213 million or above, in one contract, over the last 5 years (to comply with this requirement, works should be at least 70 percent completed) The minimum amount of Liquid Assets and or/credit facilities shall be not less than Rs. 56 million 	BE B INFO	
 Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building). 				5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Chairman office, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 and inspect the bidding documents at the Chairman office, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 in the Co-Operative office hours.			
 Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before <u>29th April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs</u>, Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend. 				6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs from 05th April 2021 to 30th April 2021 upon			
4. Pre-Bi	d Meeting will be conducted on 19 th Ap	ril, 2021 at 10.0	a.m at SLLDC Bo	pard Room.	payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 40,000.00. The method of payment will be in cash.	News yo	
	Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy General Manager (D&R) of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2862058 Fax: +94 11 2862058				7. Bids shall be placed in the Tender box at Office of Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03 to reach on or before 14.00 hrs on 07th May 2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who		
-	Chairman Sri Lonka Lond Devolonment	Corneration			choose to attend.8. Bids shall be valid up to 119 days from bid opening date.	දිනමිද Dinamina Da	
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya. Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk				 Bids shall be valid up to 119 days from bid opening date. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 2,840,000.00. Bid security shall be valid up to 147 days from bid opening date. 			
					 A pre-bid meeting will be held on 23rd April 2021 at 11.00 hrs at the Office of Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office, No.294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03. 	apps.lak	
	The Housewiv	es' con	npanio	n	11. More Details 071-9624232, 071-9624233		
	Classifi	eds or	n		Chairman, Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS), Head Office,	AVA	
	Daily	Aew	3		No. 294, Galle Road, Colombo - 03.		
	C	66333	7		Telephone 011-2370067 / 011-2575172		
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CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

Thrift Society Limited

AUDIT SERVICE FOR THE YEAR - 2020

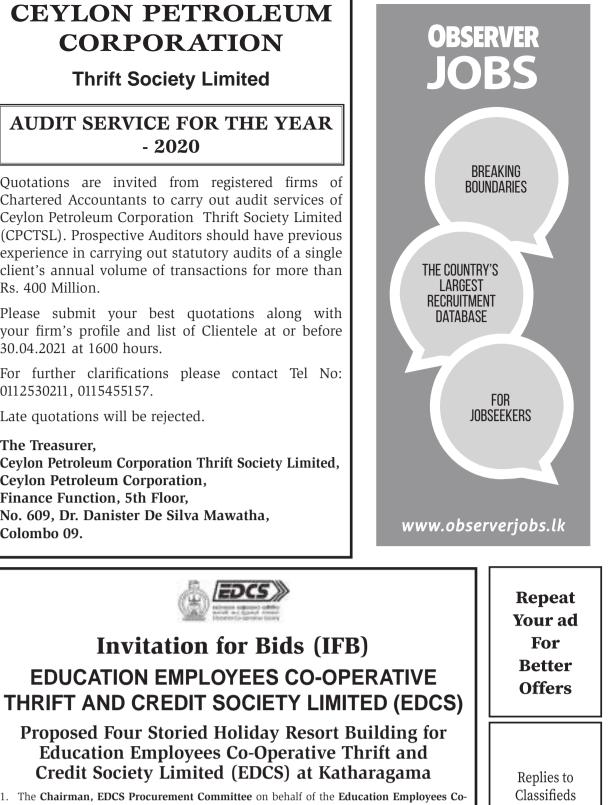
Quotations are invited from registered firms of Chartered Accountants to carry out audit services of Cevlon Petroleum Corporation Thrift Society Limited (CPCTSL). Prospective Auditors should have previous experience in carrying out statutory audits of a single client's annual volume of transactions for more than Rs. 400 Million.

Please submit your best quotations along with your firm's profile and list of Clientele at or before 30.04.2021 at 1600 hours.

For further clarifications please contact Tel No: 0112530211, 0115455157.

Late quotations will be rejected.

The Treasurer, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Thrift Society Limited, **Cevlon Petroleum Corporation**, **Finance Function, 5th Floor,** No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09.



The Chairman, EDCS Procurement Committee on behalf of the Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS) now invites sealed bids from eligible & qualified bidders for Construction of Proposed Four Storied Holiday Resort Building for Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS) at Katharagama.

The Work consists of construction of four storied building having a total gross floor area of 3100 m² (approx.), consists with rubble foundation with RCC column footing, RCC structure, plastered and painted brick walls, RCC flat roof, Zn/Al roofing, timber and powder coated Al doors and windows, floor rendering, wall and floor tiling, electrical installation, sanitary fittings and accessories, drainage work, lighting protection system, Fire protection and detection system, Air Conditioning system, Public address system, Lift, landscaping and demolition of existing building.

Location of Project :

Premises of Rest House Building for Education Employees Co-Operative Thrift and Credit Society Limited (EDCS) Rest, Kataragama.

The construction period is 460 days (Considering Social distance effects during construction due to COVID-19 pandemic situation & CIDA Regulations). Total estimate amount for works is Rs. 284 Million.

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and

ordinary post. **Replies** sent

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