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PALM OIL IMPORTS COMPLETELY BANNED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has instructed to completely ban the importation of Palm Oil with immediate effect. Additionally, the Director-General of Customs has been informed of this decision and advised to refrain from clearing palm oil cargos at the Department of Customs. At the same time the cultivation of oil palm (katupol) will be completely banned. Meanwhile, orders have been issued under the relevant laws enforcing the advice given by the President to ban the cultivation of oil palm completely. About six months ago, the President had instructed to gradually ban the cultivation of oil palm in the country. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

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Second dose of AstraZeneca jab from April 19

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The second dose of the Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine will be given from April 19, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle said in Parliament yesterday (05). Fernandopulle noted that 300,000 vaccine doses have already been allotted for the second dose and the stocks will be accordingly distributed from April 19 to June 30. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

Chennai-Jaffna flights to resume in next few months

Flights between Chennai and Jaffna, which were temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will resume in the next few months, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



EASTER SUNDAY PCOI FINAL REPORT

MAJORITY OF RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY MINISTERIAL SUBCOMMITTEE

DHANUSHKA GODAKUMBURA

A Government source said a majority of the recommendations in the Final Report of the Presidential Commission appointed to look into the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks has been approved by the Ministerial Subcommittee.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appointed this ministerial subcommittee in February to study the report and submit proposals on how the recommendations of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday terror attack should be implemented. **▶ TO PAGE 04**



Cabinet Sub-Committee Report handed over to President

The Final Report of the Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed to study in-depth the facts and recommendations on the course of action contained in the final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) into the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks and the report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee **▶ TO PAGE 04**

The Report of the Cabinet Sub-Committee appointed to study reports on the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa by the Chairman of the Committee Minister Chamal Rajapaksa, at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday. The other members of the Committee Ministers Johnston Fernando, Ramesh Pathirana, Prasanna Ranatunga, Rohitha Abeysunawardena and the Secretary to the Committee, Director General of Legal Affairs of the Presidential Secretariat, Hariyugutha Rohanadheera too were present. *Picture courtesy President's Media Division*

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Salley files FR

Former Western Province Governor Azath Salley yesterday filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the Supreme Court seeking an order to release him from CID custody. Salley was arrested by the CID and is currently being detained over controversial remarks detrimental to ethnic and religious harmony. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

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Ranjan's petition claiming Parliamentary Seat dismissed

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The writ petition filed by Gampaha District Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake, claiming his rights to function as a Par-

liamentarian was yesterday dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

Court of Appeal (President) Justice Arjuna Obeysekera and Justice

Mayadunne Corea refused to issue notices on the respondents citing there is no legal basis to proceed with the application. Accordingly, **▶ TO PAGE 04**

Formulate laws to regulate international schools - SJB

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) National List Parliamentarian Sujith Sanjaya Perera yesterday requested the Government to formulate laws to regulate

international schools as most of them are substandard and the fees they levy are arbitrarily increased every year.

He made this request from the Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris who was responding to a query made by him during the round of questions for oral answers in Parliament yesterday. Minister G.L. Peiris suggested that the Government **▶ TO PAGE 04**

Farcical scenes at Mrs. Sri Lanka pageant 2021

DINULI FRANCISCO

The Mrs. Sri Lanka pageant 2021 held at the Nelum Pokuna Theater on Sunday night ended in a scrimmage with reigning Mrs. World Caroline Jurie stripping the crown off the winner.

Pushpika De Silva, contestant number 20 was announced as Mrs. Sri Lanka in the presence of former First Lady Shiranthi Rajapaksa, Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayke (herself a winner of the Mrs World title) and Chandimal De Silva. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

CID questions MP Nalin Bandara

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Nalin Bandara responding to summons issued to him, appeared before the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) to record a statement yesterday.

Speaking to the Daily News SJB-MP Mujibur Rahuman said that MP Nalin Bandara had been questioned

for around 3 1/2 hours yesterday. The MP was accompanied by SJB and Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa and several other MPs.

MP Bandara was summoned before the CID to record a statement on the recent comments made by him regarding the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks and mentioning the name of SIS

Director Maj. Gen. Suresh Sallay insinuating he had links with the suicide bomber in Malaysia while he was deployed at the Sri Lankan Embassy there.

The summons was issued based on a complaint filed by the Director of the State Intelligence Service (SIS) Major General Suresh Sallay. **▶ TO PAGE 04**

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THE MARCOM COLLECTIVE

Moving forward together as one

A CEO forum exclusively for C-Suite level participation has been planned for the 4th week of May. The keynote speaker will be Dr. P. B. Jayasundera - Secretary to the President of Sri Lanka. Await more details.



LG bodies have major role to play - Namal

DINULI FRANCISCO

Local Government (LG) bodies bear a huge responsibility in fulfilling the peoples' expectations, said Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

He also added that the citizens have high expectations regarding the Local Government bodies and they are duty bound to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Minister Rajapaksa was speaking at a meeting of the Anuradhapura District Local Government Representatives held on March 30 to inquire into development projects taking place at village level.

He also said that Local Government representatives are based in the villages and it is their responsibility to protect that foundation that is being formed in the village.

"Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is the leader who strengthened the Local Government institutions. He initiated the rural road development programme through the 'Maga Neguma' project and strengthened the Pradeshiya Sabhas to carry out development activities that could not be accomplished through 'Maga Neguma,'

the Minister said. Minister Rajapaksa said that the road carpeting project is being implemented as a national project and Municipal Councils as well as Provincial Councils develop the road network by carpeting them.

He also added that the Government strengthened Local Government representatives who played a major role in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's Presidential Election win.

"A large number of young people in villages have rallied through the youth clubs that have been set up in recent days to help create employment opportunities, build economic opportunities in the villages, create self-employment opportunities and create entrepreneurs. These were done with the intervention of Local Government bodies," he said.

Furthermore, he said that none of the Governments in the history of Sri Lanka has provided 160,000 jobs within a year of coming to power and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will also provide employment to 60,000 graduates



and another 100,000 jobs. He also highlighted that for the first time in history, a programme was set up to enroll children who failed the G.C.E Ordinary Level examination in the public service.

"Programmes have been initiated with a forward plan for all development activities such as strengthening the rural economy and improving sports. For the first time in history, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is implementing a programme to allocate funds for the preparation of playgrounds in rural schools. We developed a system not only at the village level but also to identify the players and take them to the national and international level. Currently this programme is implemented islandwide," the Minister added.

The Minister said that during the process, various complications may arise at the constituency level, at the divisional level, in the Pradeshiya Sabhas, Municipal Councils or Development Committees.

"We have to manage them through proper

coordination, correct the shortcomings and move forward with the state machinery," he said. He highlighted that the Government must ensure the rights of the people who voted and fulfill their needs and

shortcomings in the Local Government bodies must be minimized.

13th Death Commemoration

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Jeyaraj Fernandopulle

The commemoration will be held on the
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Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, Bhanuka Fernandopulle,
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The inoculation of the Sinopharm vaccine of Chinese nationals across Sri Lanka started last morning.

Country needs new Constitution - Minister GL

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

Education Minister Prof. G. L. Peiris said that the Government sees the need to study the Constitution in depth and draft a comprehensive new Constitution as a matter of urgency.



He pointed out that the present Constitution was drafted 43 years ago and it is obsolete as Sri Lankan society has changed significantly during those four and a half decades.

"As a first step, the Government has appointed a nine-member Expert Committee headed by President's Counsel Romesh de Silva to submit nominations," the minister said.

The Report of the Committee is expected to be submitted to the Government before June.

Minister Peiris was speaking at a special media briefing held of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) at the Waters Edge Hotel in Battaramulla yesterday (05).

He also pointed out that the people hope for a complete revision of the Electoral System.

The Minister said that a 15-member Committee will be set up with the participation of all political parties represented in Parliament to conduct a full investigation into all the electoral laws affecting the country's elections and submit a report to Parliament on the necessary amendments.

The Minister said that there is widespread belief in Sri Lankan society that the Preferential System should be rejected and a new system should be created instead.

Plain clothes Policemen to observe errant drivers

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

Police in plain clothes have been deployed in public and private transport buses since yesterday (05) to crack down on traffic violations by drivers.

Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana stated that if a driver commits an offense, the plain clothes Police officer will observe it and immediately inform the nearest Police station and initiate legal action against the offending driver, if necessary.

The plain clothes Police officer will monitor drivers driving talking on the phone and violating traffic rules, including speeding and any other irregularities.

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Rs.124.97 bn increase in total 2019 tax revenue

DHANUSHKA GODAKUMBURA

It is reported that the total tax revenue of the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) has increased by Rs.124.97 billion in 2019 compared to 2018 due to the Revenue Administration Management Information System (RAMIS) implemented in 2014.

The system handles all basic tax administration, including taxpayer registration, issuance and receipt of tax returns, tax payments and additions, issuance of assess-

ments, receipt and action of tax appeals, issuance of tax refunds, and issuance of clearance certificates. In January 2016, the Inland Revenue Department implemented the RAMIS system as per a proposal submitted to the Cabinet.

According to a department spokesman, the total tax revenue collected by the department in 2019 was Rs. 1,020 billion (1.02 trillion) due to the success of the system.

Petition challenging plantations workers' daily wage hike; notices issued on respondents

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Court of Appeal yesterday issued notices on the respondents returnable for May 5 in connection with the Writ Petition filed by 20 major plantation companies. These plantation companies are seeking an order quashing the decision of the Wages Board to increase the daily wage of plantation workers to Rs.1,000.

The Court of Appeal Bench comprising Justice (President) Arjuna Obeyesekere and Justice Mayadunne Corea fixed the writ petition for argument on May 5. The respondent parties were directed to file their objections on or before April 27 while the petitioners were directed to file counter objections before May 4 if necessary.

The petitioners are: Agarapataka Plantations Limited, Balangoda Plantations PLC, Elpitiya Plantations PLC, Horana Plantations PLC, Hapugastenne Plantations PLC, Kahawatte Plantations PLC, Kegalle Plantations PLC, Kelani Valley Plan-

tations PLC, Kotagala Plantations PLC, Madulsima Plantations PLC, Malwatte Valley Plantations PLC, Maskeliya Plantations PLC, Natural Plantations Limited, Namunukula Plantations PLC, Talawakelle Tea Estates PLC, Udapussallawa Plantations PLC, Watawala Plantations PLC, Hatton Plantations PLC, Bogawantalawa Plantations PLC and Lalan Rubbers (Pvt) Ltd.

The petitioners had named Minister of Labour Nimal Siripala de Silva, Chairman of Wage Board for tea, rubber growing and manufacturing trade Prabath Chandrakerthi and several others as respondents.

The Petitioners stated that in the event they are compelled to pay Rs.1,000 as a minimum wage to every estate worker, they would incur significant losses and the Petitioner companies would all run at a loss for the foreseeable future.

The Gazette notification on increasing the daily wage of Estate Workers to Rs. 1,000 was published on March 9. This increase compris-

es Rs.900 as the minimum daily wage and Rs.100 allowance.

The Court was informed that the issue of a wage increase for employees of estates was raised during the last Presidential Elections, with the candidates of the two main political parties promising a minimum daily wage of Rs. 1,000. The Petitioners state that several attempts were made thereafter to increase the minimum daily wage to Rs. 1,000 per day, and that the Petitioners were agreeable to the said proposal, subject to it being linked to the minimum attendance of the worker and productivity of the worker. However, the negotiations had not been successful. In January 2021, the Minister of Labour had appointed a Wages Board for the Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade as well as for the Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade, with each Wages Board consisting of six Employers representatives, six Employees representatives and three Nominated members. The Petitioners have no

complaint with the composition of the Wages Board and their appointment. The Wages Boards had met on 8th February 2021 where the issue of minimum daily wage had been discussed. The Petitioners state that they objected to the proposal of a minimum daily wage of Rs. 900 and a budgetary allowance of Rs. 100 without linking it to attendance and productivity. The Petitioners claim that the Wages Board had disregarded their objections, and by majority decision had approved the above wage increase.

President's Counsel Romesh de Silva with counsel Sugath Caldera under the instructions of Sanath Wijewardena appeared for the petitioners.

Additional Solicitor General Susantha Balapatabendi with Senior Deputy Solicitor General Vikum De Abrew appeared for the Attorney General. Avindra Rodrigo PC with counsel Kausalya Navaratne appeared for several respondent parties.

Chennai-Jaffna flights to resume...

The Minister said the Jaffna Palaly Airport will be developed and upgraded with a view to launching regional international airlines and flights.

Minister Ranatunga in a statement also said that a number of airlines are already in talks with Sri Lanka to launch regional flights connecting Sri Lanka, The Maldives and several South Indian destinations.

According to the Jaffna Palaly Airport Development Programme, shortcomings at the airport are currently being identified and will be implemented in three phases.

By the end of the third phase, the runway will

be extended 3,300 metres to the north and facilities for large-scale aircraft operations will be developed.

The passenger lounge will be expanded to accommodate up to 1,000 passengers and all other facilities will be upgraded to international standards.

Domestic flights will be promoted connecting Colombo International Airport, Ratmalana, Jaffna International Airport, and Batticaloa International Airport.

Steps will be taken to identify tourism locations in the North and the East and to carry out market-

ing promotions in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Airlines to promote such locations as tourist hot spots.

The project aims to earn a large amount of foreign exchange by successfully completing airport infrastructure projects in the process of positioning Sri Lanka as an aviation hub.

Established by the Royal Air Force during World War II, the Palaly Airport in Jaffna was used for South Indian destinations after independence. International aviation was restricted since 1980 due to security concerns and by 2002 it was fully under the control of the Sri Lanka Air Force.

Ranjan's petition claiming...

The Court of Appeal decided to dismiss the petition without cost. With this order, there will be no legal impediment for the Secretary General of Parliament (SGP) to take a decision regarding Ranjan Ramanayake's Parliamentary Seat.

On January 11, the Supreme Court convicted Ranjan Ramanayake for the offence of Contempt of Court and sentenced him to a term of four years Rigorous Imprisonment.

Filing this petition through his lawyers, Ramanayake sought an order restraining the Secretary General of Parliament from taking any steps to inform the Election Commission that he has vacated his seat as a Member

of Parliament. The Attorney General had raised preliminary objections challenging the maintainability of this writ petition. The Attorney General had submitted to Court that the petitioner cannot invoke the Court's jurisdiction since the Secretary General of Parliament has performed his duties as per the judgment delivered by the Supreme Court, convicting Ramanayake for committing the offence of Contempt of Court.

Through this petition, Ramanayake stated that irreparable harm and damage will be caused to him unless interim relief is granted to the Petitioner inasmuch as he will be deprived of functioning as a Member of Parlia-

ment. The Petitioner stated that the People's franchise would also be adversely affected if he is wrongfully prevented from functioning as a representative of his electorate.

Ramanayake alleged that Secretary General of Parliament has not taken any step in terms of section 64 (c) of the Parliamentary Elections Act in respect of Premalal Jayasekara who was elected as a Member of Parliament from the SLPP which is presently the governing party and he continues to sit and vote as a Member of Parliament despite his conviction and death sentence for the offence of murder.

He alleged that Secretary General

of Parliament would be acting illegally, unlawfully, and inter alia in violation of Article 12(1) and Article 12(2) of the Constitution which guarantee the Petitioner the equal protection of the law and freedom from discrimination on the grounds of political opinion.

President's Counsel Faiz Mustapha with M.A. Sumanthiran PC, Counsel Suren Fernando with Keerthi Thillekaratne under the instructions of Vidanapathirana Associates appeared for Ranjan Ramanayake.

Additional Solicitor General Indika Demuni de Silva with Senior State Counsel Awanthi Perera appeared for the Attorney General.

Palm Oil imports completely...

Furthermore, those companies and entities which have done such cultivations shall be required to remove them on a phased out manner with 10% uprooting at a time and replacing it with the cultivation of rubber or environmental friendly crops each year to free Sri Lanka

from oil palm plantation and palm oil consumption.

When this is fully operational, the government intends to stop the cultivation of oil palm and the consumption of palm oil completely, the President's media division in a statement said.

Cabinet Sub-Committee Report...

on National Security which has been submitted to Parliament, was handed over to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

The Chairman of the Committee, Minister Chamal Rajapaksa handed over the report at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (05).

The Committee was appointed by the President on February 19, 2021.

Although the committee's report was due before March 15, the committee took another two weeks to carry out further investigations.

The committee, which has studied the reports on the Easter Sunday attack at length, has identified 78 recommendations. The report includes how those recommendations are to be implemented and which agencies are implementing them.

The President had earlier referred the legal matters to the Attorney General. The other members of the committee were Ministers Johnston Fernando, Ramesh Pathirana, Prasanna Ranatunga, Rohitha Abeysgunawardena.

On this occasion, MP Sanjaya Perera said that most parents are not aware of this situation. He added the standards of the teachers in these schools vary. On the other hand the student's charges are increased annually at the discretion of the managements of the schools. He added the parents are in trouble as they cannot change the schools after admission.

Formulate laws to regulate...

is ready to make the necessary amendments following discussions on the matter in a council comprising representatives of all parties.

Professor Peiris said according to the available statistics, there are 393 international schools. None of them has been registered under the Education Ministry and hence none of them is monitored nor regulated by the Education Ministry. The Minister said the Education Ministry has no legal authority to regulate those international schools. Minister Peiris said that according to clause 25 of the Assisted Schools And Training Colleges (Supplementary Provisions) Act

(No. 8 of 1961), the private sector cannot initiate schools to teach students between the ages of 5 to 14 years. He added that on various occasions, various Governments had attempted to amend this clause 25, yet failed.

On this occasion, MP Sanjaya Perera said that most parents are not aware of this situation. He added the standards of the teachers in these schools vary. On the other hand the student's charges are increased annually at the discretion of the managements of the schools. He added the parents are in trouble as they cannot change the schools after admission.

Government to strengthen agricultural economy - Johnston

IRANGIKA RANGE

Chief Government Whip and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said the Government's main aim is to strengthen the agricultural economy of the farmers.

"When we visit the rural areas, farmers tell us that they get good prices for their paddy harvest. However, Sajith Premadasa faction and Anura Kumara Dissanayake are blind to these facts and only criticise the Government with baseless allegations.

"The Opposition is involved in staging protests from Colombo which is hilarious," he said.

Second dose of AstraZeneca jab...

State Minister Dr. Fernandopulle made these observations in reply to a question raised by the Opposition MP Gayantha Karunatilake concerning the second dosage of the Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine.

"When we started giving the first dose on January 29, the second dose was due in four weeks.

However, researchers found out that the second dose could be given after 10 to 12 weeks from the date of the first dosage. According to this scientific information, the second dose will be given from April 19. There is no issue regarding giving the second dose," Dr. Fernandopulle pointed out.

Majority of recommendations...

It was chaired by Minister Chamal Rajapaksa and the other members were Ministers Udaya Gammanpila, Prasanna Ranatunga, Johnston Fernando, Ramesh Pathirana and Rohitha Abeysgunawardena.

It is reported that the ministerial subcommittee has approved the recommendation of the commission to pay Rs. 2 million for each person who died in the terrorist attack on Easter Sunday and Rs. 500,000 to those who were injured.

Of the 271 people killed in the incident, 51 have not yet been compensated and the Easter Commission's recommendation to pay compensation to them too has been approved by the Cabinet Sub-Committee, source said.

Recommendation to provide financial assistance for life and for further treatment and security for Mohamed Razik Mohamed Thaslin, who played a key role in the arrest of the suspects in the Mawanella incident, is said to have been approved.

A proposal to pay compensation to the closest relative of Ramesh Raju, who died at the Zion Church in Batticaloa, as his brave act reduced the death toll, is said to have been approved.

Also, the Cabinet Sub-Committee on the Recommendation of the Commission on the Implementation of a Welfare Project for the Disadvantaged has recommended that a welfare project be implemented for children under the age of 18 who have lost both parents.

The recommendation by the commission to set up a special unit at the Attorney General's Department for the protection of ancient religious monuments and to deal with terrorism is also said to have got the nod of the sub-committee.

The recommendation to amend the Companies Act to make it impossible for companies to support extremist teachings and fund extremists too is reported to have been approved.

The Ministerial Subcommittee

Salley files...

Filing this petition through his lawyer, Azath Salley alleged that he was arrested on baseless charges and he is seeking a declaration that his fundamental rights have been violated by the respondents through arrest and detention.

The petition had named the IGP, CID Director, Minister of Public Security and Secretary to the Ministry of Public Security and Attorney General as respondents.

The petitioner stated that he addressed a press conference held

on March 9 stating that the affairs of the Muslim people of Sri Lanka should be governed in accordance with Muslim Law.

The petitioner states that following the media conference relating to this incident, he was arrested by CID under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The petitioner alleged that police have so far failed to produce him before a Magistrate. He denied allegations that he was involved in the Easter Sunday terror Attack.

CID questions MP...

He has lodged a complaint with the CID stating that MP Nalin Bandara has made baseless and false statements regarding him.

MP Bandara had made a statement during a media briefing on 17th March, claiming that Major General Salley had been in contact with the mastermind of the Easter attacks Zaharan Hashim.

Salley denied these allegations as absolutely false and said that he had never met Saharan Hashim under any circumstances. Further, Nalin Bandara had alleged that Salley had facilitated Hashim to travel to various countries including Malaysia, India and Indonesia prior to the 2019 Easter bombings in Sri Lanka.

MP Bandara had also claimed that although Salley was aware of Zaharan Hashim's activities, he had not been summoned before the Presidential Commission investigating the Easter Sunday attacks.

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



A tense situation arose when former Mrs. Sri Lanka Caroline Jurie hastily entered the stage and accused Mrs. Pushpika De Silva of being a divorcee and therefore ineligible to take part in the Mrs. Sri Lanka pageant. In the next minute Jurie stripped contestant number 20 of her crown and crowned the first runner-up as the winner.

Pushpika De Silva has been hospitalized due to the injuries sustained when Jurie snatched the crown and it is reported that Pushpika is suffering serious injuries to her scalp.

Pushpika De Silva penned a statement on her official Facebook page stating that she is not a divorcee and challenged the organizers to present any legal document that upholds her divorce. She said that "living separately" and "being divorced" are two different things and emphasized that she is not a divorcee at the moment.

She stated that it was a well-known fact that she is living separately with her child and she has her own personal reasons regarding that. She reiterated that she is not a divorcee. Pushpika added that the organizers could have decided her ineligibility before crowning her whereas she has

come forward in the pageant passing several side contests and the organizers could not have been asleep.

She mentioned that "real queens fox each other's crowns".

She further mentioned that she has taken legal action against the allegations levelled against her claiming that she has violated the rules of the pageant.

It is reported that she has lodged a complaint with the Cinnamon Gardens Police against Caroline Jurie and Chula Padmendra who upheld Jurie's action.

Reports state that Pushpika De Silva will be reinstated as the winner of the pageant soon. Organizer of Mrs. Sri Lanka for Mrs. World Chandimal Jayasinghe has stated that Jurie who was a member of the Judges panel did not raise any concerns until the last minute adding that documents related to her claims have also not been provided against Pushpika.

The incident had become a hot potato on social media, with many criticizing the act of Jurie and the actions of the judges panel. Jurie was heavily criticized for embarrassing another woman.



SJB and Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa and several other party MPs accompanied SJB MP Nalin Bandara to the CID yesterday. MP Bandara was summoned before the CID to record a statement on the recent comments made by him regarding the 2019 Easter Sunday Terror Attacks and mentioning the name of SIS Director Maj. Gen. Suresh Salley insinuating he had links with the suicide bomber in Malaysia while he was deployed at the Sri Lankan Embassy there. Picture by Wimal Karunatilake



THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS IS WRITTEN IN THE STARS.

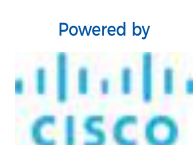
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Motion for Parliamentary Select Committee on Election Law Reforms

The motion to appoint a Parliamentary Select Committee to identify appropriate Election Law reforms and recommend necessary amendments was presented by Foreign Affairs Minister Dinesh Gunawardena in Parliament, yesterday.

Following the motion presentation, Opposition Chief Organiser Lakshman Kiriella questioned whether the Cabinet decision regarding the amendment of Election Law or the recommendations of the new Committee would be

prioritised during a finalisation of the amendments to the Electoral System.

Minister Gunawardena said that it is normal for a new government to appoint a Parliament Committee to look into a complex matter

such as the Electoral System. "When we decided to appoint a committee, the Opposition also agreed. Whatever amendments are brought in, we will seek the Opposition's opinion as well," Gunawardena said.



PARLIAMENT

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

'Previous Government spent Rs.41.57 billion on timber imports'

The previous government spent Rs.41.57 billion on timber imports from 2015 to 2019, Money and Capital Market State Minister Ajith Nivard

Cabraal said in Parliament, yesterday. He was responding to a question raised by Government MP Mohamed Muzammil. The said timber had

been imported from 59 countries, the minister said, adding that the Government is focusing on a method to produce wood by pressing wood dust.

Birthday Remembrance
06.04.2021

W.P.M. Padmalal
Fondly remembered with much love. May you attain the Supreme Bliss of Nibbana.
Kamani & Sankha

Those who misused Samurdhi Funds to be punished: Semasinghe

Action will be taken against those who misused Samurdhi Funds during the previous government, State Minister Shehan Semasinghe said in Parliament, yesterday. He said so in reply to a question raised by Govern-

ment MP Jagath Kumara. Semasinghe said the Ministry and the Samurdhi Development Department are conducting a joint investigation on it. "In the previous Presidential Election, we saw that

Samurdhi Funds were used for campaigns. A committee will investigate the matter," he added. MP Kumara also drew attention to the unresolved issues of Samurdhi officers. The state minister assured



that steps would be taken to solve those issues as well.

PM provided Rs.5 billion for development of provincial hospitals: Pavithra

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has provided Rs.5 billion for the development of provincial hospitals, Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said in Parliament, yesterday. She said this in response to a question raised by MP Shantha Bandara. The minister requested

MP Bandara to meet the Kurunegala District Health Director and present his recommendations on the matter. Wanniarachchi added that if there are any proposals regarding the matter, they should be submitted through the respective District Development Committees.



OBITUARY NOTICE

Born 20 05 1969 Died 04 04 2021

Mrs. Rajaroobini Thamboo
(Attorney-at-Law)

Mrs. Rajaroobini Thamboo was called to Glory on Sunday, 04.04.2021. Beloved wife of Brian N.Thamboo, (Attorney-at-Law), darling mother of Andrew Nirmalan, beloved daughter of late Mr. V. Rajanayagam, and Mrs. Kanthamani Rajanayagam, affectionate (daughter-in-law of late Mr and Mrs. Thampoe, loving sister of Mrs. Ranjithamalar Kirubairajah, Mrs. Rajani Raju, Rajakanthan, Raviraj, Mrs. Joyce Rahini Balanathan, Ranjith Devanesan, Ragupathy, Mrs.Radika Devasurendran, Mrs. Rubarani Balachandran, and beloved sister-in-law of Harold D. Thampoe and Edgar J. Thampoe. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Jayaratna Parlour, Borella at 3.00pm today (6.4.2021) and the Burial will take place at General Cemetery (Anglican Section) Borella.

Brian N.Thamboo
0777 329137

'Steps have been taken to conserve Kuragala'

The Government has taken steps to conserve the Kuragala archaeological site, National Heritage State Minister Vidura Wickramanayake said in Parliament, yesterday. He said so in reply to a question raised by Opposition MP Heshu Vithanage. The state minister said Kuragala is also a site of prehistoric importance as a 16,000-year-old skeleton had been found there. "In 2013, with the intervention

of the then Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa, illegal buildings in Kuragala were removed. However, there is another such construction there," he added. Wickramanayake said Ven. Wathurakumbure Dhammaratana Thera of the Asgiriya Chapter has requested the construction of a dagoba at the site, and that it has been approved by the Archaeological Advisory Council.

'Coconut land released to set up Volkswagen factory needs investigating'

The release of a Kurunegala coconut cultivation land to set up a Volkswagen factory during the previous government's

rule needs investigating, Lands Minister S.M. Chandrasena said in Parliament, yesterday. He said so in response to a

question raised by Government MP Samanpriya Herath. MP Herath said the Trustee Department had handed over

the land to the Board of Investment. He questioned whether the department had the jurisdiction for it.

The minister also drew attention to the felling of over 1,000 coconut trees, as well as 'Mee' and 'Kumbuk' trees.

'Rs. 500 rise in senior citizens' monthly allowance'

The monthly allowance for senior citizens would soon be increased from Rs.2,000 to Rs.2,500, Primary Healthcare State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle said in Parliament, yesterday.

Dr. Fernandopulle noted that of the 416,677 senior citizens who receive the allowance, 238,640 would be given the increased amount first. The Government is also discussing with banks about the provision of interest-free loans for senior citizens to go on pilgrimages, she added.

She said so in reply to a question raised by SJB MP Gayantha Karunatileka.

Appointment of retired Security Forces personnel to civil positions

State Minister questions Opposition's objection

Provincial Councils and Local Government State Minister Roshan Ranasinghe questioned as to why the Opposition objects the appointment of retired Security Forces personnel to the civil positions. He was responding to SJB Parliamentarian Eran Wickramaratne. The state minister said that considering

their duties during the 30-year conflict, the Security Forces personnel would be valuable assets to such institutions.

MP Wickramaratne asked whether there were no other capable persons for the positions and State Minister Perera said that even the previous government did the same with General Janaka Perera and Shantha Kottegoda.

Local Handicrafts Promotion Program

THURSDAY

7 - 8 April 2021
from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm
@ Diyatha Uyana Premises, Battaramulla.

Organized by
National Crafts Council,
State Ministry of Rattan, Brass, Pottery, Furniture and Rural Industry Promotion

web - www.craftscouncil.gov.lk
Tel - 011 2785282, 011 2784424
National Crafts Council

Minister questions Opposition's interest in ASP Eric Perera's transfer

Public Security Minister Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Sarath Weerasekera queried as to why the Opposition was concerned over the transfer of ASP Eric Perera from Puttalam to Negombo. He was responding to

question raised by SJB Parliamentarian Mujiber Rahuman.

The minister added that it was normal for officers to be transferred from time to time, and that ASP Perera had asked to be transferred.

'Looking to enroll all primary students of a school to Ruwanwella Central College'

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said in Parliament yesterday that he would look into the enrollment of all the students of a primary school into the Ruwanwella Central College, irrespective of their education qualifications. He was responding to a

question raised by SJB Parliamentarian Sujith Sanjaya Perera.

MP Perera said that all students of a primary school in the area have been recruited to Grade 6 of the said school, adding that it was unfair to the students who passed the

Grade 5 Scholarship Examination. He added Central Colleges were set up to provide education for such students.

MP Perera said that the issue has affected students from Yatiyanthota, Deraniyagala, Dehiyovata, and Bulathkohupitiya.

553 million worldwide Facebook users' details leaked

ITSSL urges users to add strong passwords, two-factor authentication

LAHIRU FERNANDO
The Information Technology Society of Sri Lanka (ITSSL) has urged Facebook users to use stronger passwords and activate two-factor authentication with immediate effect in order to ensure the safety of

their accounts. The warning was issued after a hacker made the personnel data of over 553 million worldwide Facebook users public in a hacking forum last Saturday.

Sensitive personal details such as the phone numbers, Facebook IDs, full names,

locations, birthdates, bios, and email addresses of users across 106 countries have been exposed.

The stolen details have been made public for free. Over 32 million accounts in the United States, 11 million in the UK, and 6

million in India have been exposed by the hacker.

"There could be the personal details of Sri Lankan users as well. Therefore, local users have to be vigilant about possible misuse of their details", ITSSL added.

CBC mourns passing of Mannar Bishop Rayappu Joseph

DINULI FRANCISCO
The Catholic Bishops' Conference (CBC) released a statement yesterday in memory of the late Bishop Rayappu Joseph.

They stated that the late Bishop made a significant contribution to both Church and Nation by promoting interreligious dialogues and fraternity among people.

Bishop Joseph served in the Diocese of Mannar from 1992 to 2016. He was especially concerned about the needs of his parishioners, the CBC said.

'9,629 tourists have arrived in country since reopening of airports'

IRANGIKA RANGE
The Tourism Development Authority stated yesterday that 9,629 tourists have arrived in the country

since the reopening of airports on January 21.

Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranathunga said that an increase of tourists

is expected this year with the curbing of the pandemic. He added that discussions were underway with foreign embassies regarding the matter.

Obituaries

KUSUMA SIRIWARDENA (Retired Matron) - Daughter of late Charles Edward Siriwardena and late Alice Arambewela Siriwardena, sister of late Nanda, late Louise, late Beryl, late Padma, Yasa and Ananda, aunt of Parinda, Harsha, Sudarshan, Kumudika (UK), Sandya (USA), Dilki (Australia), Anushika (UAE), Manik, Anura and Senani, grand-aunt of Dhanya, Alex and Sebastian (UK), Rosy and Rochelle (USA), Ashani and Ashan (Australia), passed away. Her remains will lie at **Jayaratne Funeral Parlour (1st Floor), Borella** from 3.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on 6 April and 8.30 a.m. onwards on 7 April. Cortege leaves Jayaratne Funeral Parlour, Borella for Cremation at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 7 April at New Crematorium, General Cemetery, Borella. 026630

248 Sri Lankans repatriated from Oman

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Oman, in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat and the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka, repatriated 248 Sri Lankan migrant workers stranded in Oman on a SriLankan Airlines flight on April 1. This also included around 45 stranded Sri Lankan migrant workers who had overstayed in Oman after the expiry of their visas, as well as others who had lost their jobs and/or had been sheltered at the Embassy Safe House, those who were released from prisons, and those under medical treatment.

The Government of Oman granted an amnesty for destitute Sri Lankan migrant workers to leave with the full waiver of their penalties and fines. The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Muscat provided them with necessary travel documents free-of-



Sri Lankans returning from Oman at the Bandaranaike International Airport.

charge. Sri Lankan Ambassador to Oman Ameer Ajwad extended his gratitude to the Government of Oman for enabling the repatriation process with the exemption of the workers' penalties and/or fines, and for the further extension of the amnesty period until June 30.

The Embassy has so far facilitated the repatriation of around 425 Sri Lankan migrant workers with the full waiver of

their penalties and fines, while utilising amnesty. The Government of Sri Lanka arranged free PCR tests for all 248 Sri Lankan migrant workers on their arrival at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) and provided quarantine facilities free-of-charge for all of them with accommodation, food, and other facilities for 14 days at Quarantine Centres maintained by the Government.

175 Sri Lankans come home from Lebanon



Sri Lankans returning from Lebanon at the Bandaranaike International Airport.

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Lebanon, in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka, the Foreign Ministry, and the Sri Lankan Airlines, repatriated 175 Sri Lankans, including four children, by SriLankan Airlines charter flight UL 554 on March 31.

The Embassy had an evacuation list of 1,384 persons registered to

return to Sri Lanka, to whom individual telephone calls were made by the Embassy.

However, 860 persons had refused to leave, citing several reasons. Meanwhile, 348 Sri Lankans have obtained tickets by Qatar Airways and requested landing approval.

The repatriation was assisted by the Lebanese Ministry of For-

eign Affairs and Emigrants, the Ministry of Labour, Directorate of General Security (Immigration Department), Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and staff of Rafic Hariri International Airport.

Ambassador Shani Calyaneratne Karunaratne, Second Secretary (Labour) T. Luxmidharan, and the staff of the Embassy facilitated the repatriation process.

Special public transport service for Sinhala and Tamil New Year

SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Western Provincial Road Passenger Transport Authority Chairman Prasanna Sanjeeva said that special public transport services would be launched in collaboration with the Railway Department, the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB), and the Transport Commission for people traveling to rural areas for the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year. He added that steps would be taken to deploy buses based on the requirement.

The SLTB stated that it has deployed an additional 200 buses for people to travel to villages for the holidays. The Railway Department stated that 21 special trains have been deployed for both short-distance and long-distance journeys. They will be in operation from April 9.

'Private shops providing relief packs should be appreciated'

LAHIRU FERNANDO

Private sector shops providing the public with relief packs on competitive prices with Lanka Sathosa should be appreciated, Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena said.

He said that however, some of the food items included in those packs were of both lower quality and in lower quantities. The minister said so while speaking to the media at the Trade Ministry in Colombo, yesterday.

Commenting on a statement made by Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa on the relief packs provided by Lanka Sathosa for the festive season, the minister said they include quality food bearing the SLS seal.

Lanka Sathosa's relief pack, which contains 12 essential items, will be available at all Sathosa outlets throughout this month. Only one pack is to be issued per person, but requests for more packs made by welfare associations of government institutions would be open for consideration.

All Lanka Sathosa outlets islandwide will be closed for the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year only on April 14 and 15.



Customs officers recovered three parcels containing 1.5kg of gold jewellery left near a washroom of the Bandaranaike International Airport in Katunayake, yesterday. The market value of the gold is Rs. 13 million.

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DISHAN JOSEPH

The coastal towns of Sri Lanka are embellished with an alluring charm. Today we discover the hidden beauty of a very old island in the North of Sri Lanka, about 20 km from Jaffna.

Karainagar (Island of Karai trees) is a destination that effortlessly combines the majesty of the ocean, the splendour of ancient kovils and a myriad of succulent seafood. It is a destination that redefines paradise. Access to Karainagar is via a causeway. Decades ago, the area was known as Karaitheevu (*theevu* means island in Tamil) but over the past decade adopted the name of Karainagar. As we drove along the causeway that connects the island to the mainland, we saw green nets on either side of the road, where fishermen waded waist deep in the emerald green water and caught an assortment of fish. I have made five visits to Karainagar. You can also catch a bus from the Jaffna main bus stand.

As we neared Vallanthalai, one of the first quiet towns, the Northern sun was gracefully receding. The strong aroma of fresh fish permeated the air as the local market drew her citizens for the day's catch. I noticed there was much bargaining as cycles passed by. The bicycle is the most reliable source of transport on this large island and every home has one. The houses in Karainagar are built to blend with the natural environment. Thankfully, trees are retained in the construction process, as they offer shade. The

Portuguese it was named Fortaleza Real (Fort Royal). After the Dutch invasion, it was renamed as Fort Hammenhiel. As we waited patiently for the ferry to arrive, a group of old men were smoking rolled dry tobacco leaves, a homemade beedi. The ferry, which connects Karainagar to the island of Kayts, arrived. The ferry ride took about 10 minutes. The sturdy boat can carry motorcycles and three-wheelers. Many schoolchildren are dependent on this safe ride to get to school.

The Island of Kayts was like a page from a travel magazine. A row of shops displayed ancient wooden doors, with carved trellis-work on the topmost part. Old lamps were suspended on wooden ceilings. These are real travel memories. There are many old churches here, among them, a church dedicated to St. James and a shrine to honour St. Anthony. I subsequently visited St. Anthony's Church with Rev. Fr. Michael to write about the 200th anniversary of this majestic church. On our return, we visited a small shop which sold products based on palmyrah. The palmyrah tree has become a symbol of these resilient island people.

We returned to Karainagar and the sun was pretty intense. I picked up the distant view of a large bullock cart. The sight of the cart was so lovely. Two large bulls had been yoked together, and a young man controlled them with much pomp. He smiled at us displaying betel stained teeth. Another well bath preceded lunch. The departed rooster lay immersed in a pot of curry. It went down



Karainagar Sivan Kovil



Karainagar: A serene paradise

daily routine of the people here is all about simply coexisting alongside nature. After the train journey from Colombo, I was quite tired. We reached the residence of my friend Vincent Rajkumar, whose family has been known to my parents for more than six decades. After a steaming cup of tea, I opted for a refreshing bath at the well. These somewhat deep wells produce water that has a mild flavour of lime, and amazingly, many species of plants have adapted to this water. However, this water is not good for drinking and there are designated "clean water" wells in this quaint village.

The sea breeze gently drifts into the homes where windows remain open at night. This is a testament to the spirit of the community, and the safety it brings. Even though gates are closed, they are not locked. I woke up the next morning to the crowing of roosters. Whilst in the large garden Vincent kindly announced that he was going to serve one of these birds for lunch. I felt terribly embarrassed that my brief visit had warranted the death of a rooster, but this was the village courtesy extended to a 'Colombo visitor'. The sun's magnificent rays painted the morning sky. My host had skillfully cooked the rooster, adding many Northern spices into a clay pot.

After breakfast, we headed towards our first stop, the old church belonging to the Church of American Ceylon Mission (CACM). The CACM has been active in the Northern Province for centuries. Dedicated missionaries had sailed thousands of miles to come and establish schools and hospitals in these parts. During those bygone times, they taught English and other social skills to the humble island folk. The church built in 1855, still stands today.

From here, we hired a tuk-tuk. A few hundred yards away the gopuram (tower) of the Sivan Kovil reached the clouds. The temple was a riot of colour as murals adorned its walls, and two rock statues of a Hindu deity stood defiantly at the entrance. An old priest was offering incense within the inner chamber of this sanctum, while a herd of goats had sought solace in the garden. We proceeded from here to the jetty. Clusters of palmyrah trees dotted the landscape. Karainagar is also home to a naval garrison. The sailors of SLN Elara are a part of this community.

From the jetty, I saw the old Fort, rising out of the blue waters. Originally built by the

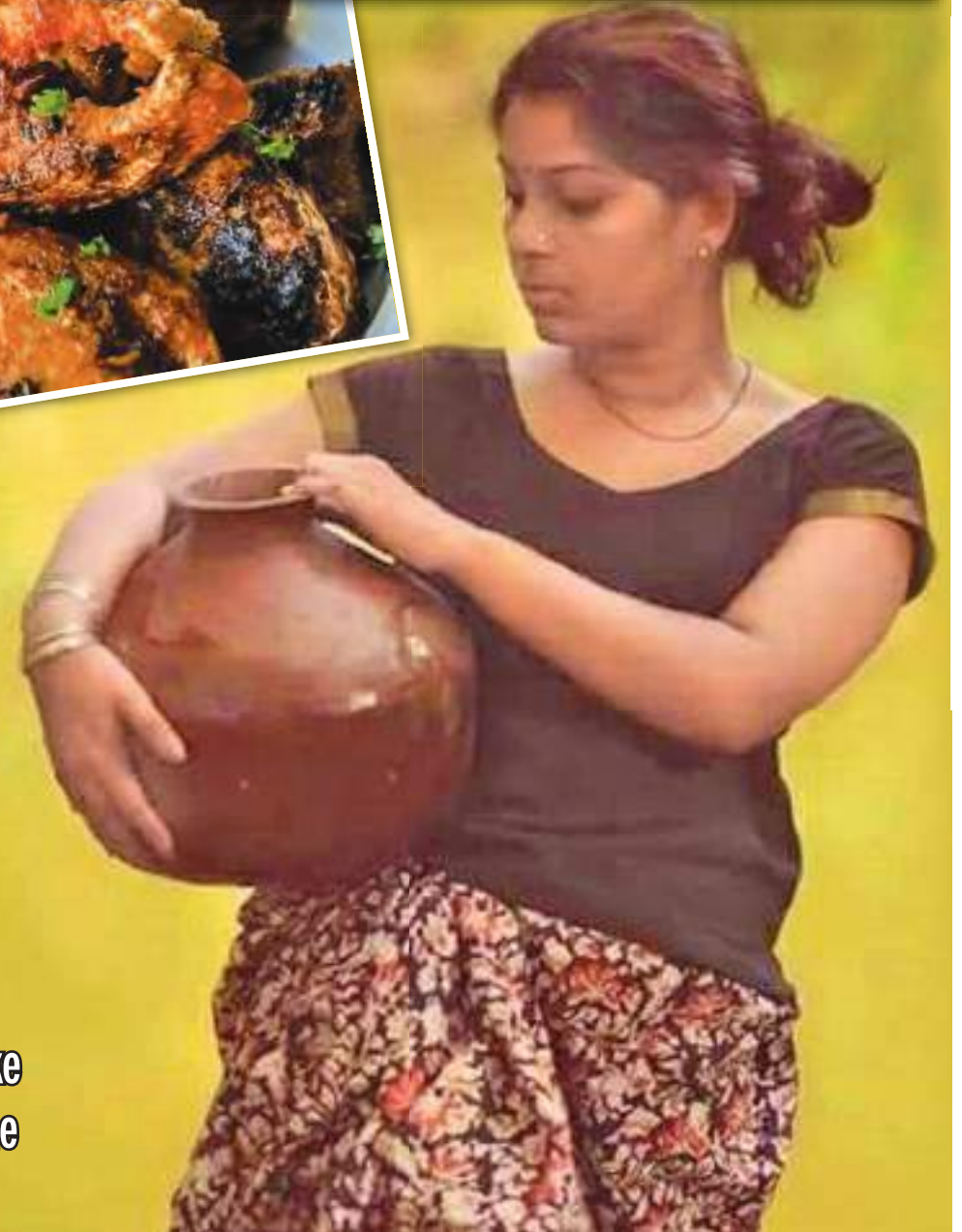
well with the vegetables. After a while, Vincent served dessert, a sweet delicacy known as mothakam, a steamed dumpling filled with grated coconut, green gram and jaggery. That evening, we visited an old eating-house named 'Sellamuthu Suvayagam' (*suwayagam* is the proper Tamil word for a cafe). We inquired from the cashier if we could buy paal appam (hoppers laden with sweetened coconut milk).

Nighttime accentuated the serenity of Vallanthalai. Chatting under a large Khomba tree was more refreshing than watching cable TV in Colombo. Around 11 pm, Vincent decided to keep the old iron kettle on a makeshift fire in the back garden. The flicker of the flames in the moonlit garden is a travel snapshot. Frogs croaked from concealed positions. A cat decided to sit and observe the kettle. Life can be enjoyed in simple ways, I believe.

The next morning we headed towards the cafe, I was anticipating this Northern relish. We encountered teachers and students cycling to school. The milk hoppers were made to perfection by a beautiful Tamil woman, whose long black hair enhanced the beauty of her face. We enjoyed the hoppers and took some home. Vincent worked at the main post office. I was warmly received by his colleagues when we dropped by for a visit. The post office was quiet and had no rush like a big city post office. The roads in Vallanthalai were quiet. A few women walked taking pots of water. The nose ring of one of them glistened in the sunlight. The fences erected with palmyrah fronds added to the natural surroundings. Red chillies were drying in a garden. This village by the beach had so much seafood. I cherished the crabs and prawns. The fried fish was amazing. We went in search of dried fish, but the only two shops that sold this local relish were closed. Towards evening, I witnessed older men walking in groups, and was duly informed they were going to indulge in toddy. Casurina Beach is another must-visit destination. The beach was very clean. The sunset was fascinating. Karainagar is indeed an enchanting and serene island.



The sea breeze gently drifts into the homes where windows remain open at night. This is a testament to the spirit of the community, and the safety it brings. Even though gates are closed, they are not locked. I woke up the next morning to the crowing of roosters.



Laptops of two UAE deportees contain extremist content -TID

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

The Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) has uncovered that the laptops of the two individuals who were deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and arrested in Sri Lanka recently contained various lectures and videos containing ideas on extremism and fundamentalism.

Two Sri Lankans working in the United Arab Emirates who were deported recently were arrested by the Terrorism Investigation Division in connection with various activities related to extremism.

One person from the United Arab Emirates was deported to Sri Lanka on December 5. He was arrested on March 20 in the Hingula area in Mawanella. He is a 44-year-old man.

Another 47-year-old suspect was arrested on March 25 in the Matala area. They were arrested for spreading extremism and fundamentalism over the Internet from a foreign country.

Police investigations have revealed that the suspects had identified certain Sri Lankan families in the United Arab Emirates and had given lectures to spread extremist ideas among them.

Also they had engaged in propaganda sending various information, lectures and photos to Sri Lanka through the internet.

The police had brought to the notice of the experts the laptops used by the two suspects. Following such referrals, reports of that data were returned to the Terrorism Division. Accordingly, it has been reported that the relevant laptops contain different lectures and different data on extremist fundamentalist ideas.

Accordingly, the Terrorism Investigation Division is conducting further investigations.

Sri Lanka Cricket summoned again before COPE today

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has been summoned again before the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) today (April 06).

Earlier, when SLC was summoned before the COPE on February 11, the meeting had to

be suspended due to the unpreparedness of the SL Cricket officials and they were informed that they would be given a time period of one month to appear before the COPE again.

The COPE chaired by Member of Parliament Prof. Charitha Herath has summoned 04 state institutions to the committee in April.

Accordingly, the National Livestock Development Board (NLDB) will be summoned

before the committee on April 07 and the Sri Lanka Football Federation on April 20. The COPE will be convened on April 23 to inquire into past irregularities in the Sri Lanka National Film Corporation.

Special Security set-up in Galle during festive season

MAHINDA P.LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

More than 100 Police officers have been deployed in Galle city to ensure the safety of New Year shoppers, Galle Division DIG Nuwan Wedasinghe said.

"Uniformed and plain clothes

Police officers have been deployed for the protection and safety of the shoppers. A large number of people from rural areas come to Galle and Ambalangoda to buy clothes and other items," the DIG Wedasinghe said.

He said that about 70 Police officers

have been deployed in Ambalangoda town and officers from other Police stations have also been called in for special duties during the festive season.

"Shops around Galle and the Ambalangoda areas are bustling with activity and there is great

enthusiasm among the people to celebrate the New Year. A special security arrangement has been implemented for the safety of the consumers including their vehicles. Officers who have been briefed about the activities of registered criminals have also been deployed

while special units of Police officers on beat patrol and push cycles will also be ready at hand. The public is requested to wear masks and follow the safety procedures, such as refraining from gathering in large crowds when doing their New Year shopping," the DIG further stated.

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Any enquiry relative thereto may be referred to the following:

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

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TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

50 years of the JVP

The failure to address the concerns and frustrations of youth can have devastating consequences. This is a lesson that we have learned not once, but twice over the course of the last 50 years. The youth are naturally rebellious and can easily be misled into acts of violence that may seem liberating. It was therefore not surprising that a political movement that exploited the frustrations of youth would have "liberation" in its name.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) or the People's Liberation Front commemorated the 50th anniversary of its first insurgency, in Tissamaharama yesterday. It was from the Deep South that the movement began, holding classes and weapons training in the jungles for its youth recruits. Led by a young Rohana Wijeweera who openly emulated the South American revolutionary Che Guevara, the JVP symbolized the hopes and aspirations of a generation of youth who had been sidelined by the State.

But waging a battle against a State is no easy task. While the JVP did succeed in virtually taking over some areas especially in the South, it was no match for the Army and the Police that were at the disposal of the Government led by Sirimavo Bandaranaike. It was a sort of baptism of fire for a Government that was just one year old when April 1971 happened. The insurrection was brutally crushed and all those who surrendered were later 'rehabilitated' and released to society, though it took the election of another Government for the release of the JVP leaders. Incidentally, the JVP was banned just a few years later, which forced its leaders to go underground.

This proved to be a catalyst for a second JVP insurrection just 11 years later. This was much bigger in scale than the first one, with the JVP rising to the level of being able to impose "curfews" by chit. Its cadres killed thousands of political opponents, burned Government property, organised bus strikes and created a fear psychosis in all areas of the country, except in the North and the East, where another insurgency led by the LTTE was brewing. The Government's response was even more brutal than in 1971, with pro-Government hit squads taking out thousands of JVP cadres. Many were burned on "tyre pyres" and it was not unusual to see hundreds of burning and gunshot-riddled bodies in some areas. These hit squads employed infamous "goni billos" – JVP cadres turned Government informants wearing balaclavas who just nodded when they saw a compatriot, who was then dragged away to certain death. The JVP's end was hastened when it threatened the members of Security Forces and their families. Retaliation was swift. Worse, Wijeweera was discovered living a life of luxury in Kotmale under disguise while JVP cadres were sacrificing their lives for him. Even allowing for the terrorist war in the North, 1988-89 was one of the darkest chapters in the country's history.

But unlike the LTTE which never transformed itself till the day it was annihilated on the banks of the Nandikadal Lagoon in 2009, the JVP did change into a democratic entity post-1989, under the leadership of Somawansa Amarasinghe, whose connections to the then rulers helped him escape to England. Upon his return to Sri Lanka, he brought the party to the democratic mainstream, where it has been since. But the problem for the JVP was that it could not quite efface its dark past, even if the transformation itself was impressive. It even contested the elections for the Provincial Councils, which it bitterly opposed in the days of insurrection. Having once bombed Parliament, it contested Parliamentary Elections too. After realizing that the JVP could not gain traction with younger voters, the leadership baton was handed over to Anura Kumara Disسانayake, one of the finest public speakers in the country today. While AKD, as he is affectionately known, has "clicked" with many on all sides of the political divide, the JVP has still not been able to translate that charisma to votes *per se*. It did win many Parliamentary Seats while in a partnership with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), but once it entered the fray on its own, it has generally fared very badly. In fact, it could only gain around 3 percent of the vote at the last two national elections.

Although known as the third force in Sri Lankan politics, the splintering of the two main parties into various factions has further eroded the JVP's chances, pushing it further down the polls numbers. This is the challenge the JVP now faces – how to stay relevant and focused and of course, gain more votes at the polling booth. It has still not been able to present a coherent vision for governance that can cater to those who are "on the fence" at elections. Instead, it lurches from one issue to the next, with mixed messaging that further confuses the voters. The JVP will have a much better chance at the next hustings if it can put its house in order and evince more clarity on where it stands in the current socio-political milieu.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Transformation is a process and a journey of discovery. - Rick Warren



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Birth Centenary

Life, Work and Philosophy

Part 4

SWADESH ROY

In human history, many atrocious figures out of their greed for power decided to wipe out a human race. Yahya was the cruellest among them.

These expedients never come to light and these power blind people never understand it. However, Bangabandhu knew Yahya was ready with a huge blow. So, he prepared his men from March 7 to March 25 in many different ways. Finally, on March 25 at 12.00 a.m., he instructed youth leaders under the guidance of Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, and told them to leave his house. Lastly, after giving all the directions pertaining Liberation War to Awami League's General Secretary Tajuddin Ahmed, he bade him farewell. According to late Awami League leader Abdus Samad Azad and then BSF's Chief Golok Majumdar's interview, he gave the direction of forming the Bangladesh government either in Meherpur of Kustia or in the Tea Garden area of Sylhet.

71's War of Liberation and Bangabandhu

Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971 is the highest achievement of Bangabandhu's keen insight upon politics. Here, he made the world see an unprecedented fusion of revolution and regulatory politics, which is slightly noticeable in the American struggle of independence. But, nowhere had it looked as thriving as Bangladesh's one. Bangabandhu sent all his fellows to the revolution. But that revolution was also run in an organised method. First step of this organised method was forming the Government of Bangladesh, under the elected mass representatives of Bangladesh. That is to say, revolutionaries are the public representatives. Besides, as the leader of public representatives, when Pakistan's military president Yahya Khan escaped the table of discussion furtively and directed "Operation Searchlight" upon the unarmed people of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu immediately delivered the official declaration of independence. On March 26 at 12.20 a.m., he delivered the message, "This may be my last message. From today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh wherever you might be and with whatever you have, to resist the army of the occupation to the last. Your fight must go on until the last soldier of the Pakistan army of occupation is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh. Final victory is ours."

Bangabandhu's declaration of independence was published on March 26 and 27, 1971 in almost 50 newspapers around the globe in different languages. The cosmopolites of the world got to know Bangladesh's leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of his country. Alongside Bangabandhu demonstrated that he declared independence as an elected leader, not as a secessionist who cut and ran from the battlefield. Since he used his residence as his office, he declared independence from there. He spearheaded the nation toward the War of Independence. He knew Yahya would either detain him or kill him and in doing so, Yahya would be demonstrated as separatist to the world. Yahya perpetrated so. That's why Yahya had been designated as a secessionist after arresting Bangabandhu. Bangabandhu's activists, according to his guidance, prepared a declaration of independence and a constitutional government was formed on April 10, 1971. This government was built upon the framework of Bangabandhu's declaration of independence. Ultimately, the Bangladesh government took oath very quickly in a constitutional manner on April 17, 1971.

No country of the world for state revolution or liberation didn't come across such a long way in a regulatory manner to form the government. Considered from one standpoint, Bangabandhu is the only leader of the world. Yahya got completely unmatched against Bangabandhu's political footpace. And there lay fifty percent of our victory in the war of liberation. That means the Government of Bangladesh was valid and Yahya was a separatist. Thus, before the commencement of the war, Bangabandhu brought fifty percent



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

of the victory. After that, Yahya took the final step on August 3, 1971. He informed that Bangabandhu's trial would be held under military court. In doing so, he'd harshly been denounced by democratic and socialist countries of the world. Yahya took the post of President under trial in an illegitimate manner. Yahya lost the support of freedom-seeking and democratic people of the world due to his pursuance of the trial. People's support shifted toward Bangladesh and Bangabandhu. Sitting in jail and being in custody, Bangabandhu furthered thirty percent of the liberation war. Bangabandhu is the only leader of the world who solely accomplished eighty percent War of Independence through his strategic undertakings, making him and his guidance present psychologically among all the freedom fighters. It would be mistaken to say that Bangabandhu was absent during the liberation war.

Bangabandhu's Homecoming

The inception of the war of liberation was marked as a war to expel usurper and form an independent country. Bangabandhu planned of forming a regulatory government and validating arm resistance against occupants paved the way to this. For nine months the war has been marked to all the freedom-seeking people of the world. No leader of the world could characterise a war in this way. That's why, the victory of Bangladesh was foreordained. On December 16, 1971, Pakistani occupants surrendered to the joint force of Bangladesh and India. None of their allies particularly America and China didn't come forward to protect them as Bangladesh got a moral win around the globe and their leader Sheikh Mujib has been signified as a world leader. Consequently, after December 16, Yahya stepped down from the chair and new President Julfikar Ali Bhutto released Bangabandhu on January 8, 1972. Those who were in the anti-Bangladesh wing during the liberation war

Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971 is the highest achievement of Bangabandhu's keen insight upon politics. No other country in the world had so quickly gained regulatory and peaceful state after an armed revolution. It had only been possible because of Bangabandhu's taking responsibility of this new born country as a democratic leader of a democratic government.



Bangladesh Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inspecting a Guard of Honour.

The Bangladeshi Parliament - the Jatiya Sangsad (or House of the Nation)

like America, the Muslim World and China, they also expected Bangabandhu's emancipation. After December 16, two realities appeared before the world: one, through nine months' war of independence, numerous armed forces were formed around the country with the regular freedom fighters; and two, Indian forces were inside Bangladesh. To resolve these two problems, the entire world found the urgency of Bangabandhu's presence for the newly born country. No one expected he could disarm the armed forces and send back Indian forces to their own land.

Ultimately, Pakistan was pressurised by international bodies immediately after December 16 to send back Bangabandhu to his own land. Bangabandhu returned home on January 10 via London and Delhi respectively. Upon returning, he sent back the troops of armed forces to their respective countries. According to his speech from March 12, 1972, Indian forces were sent back to their homeland.

Membership of United Nations

No other country in the world had so quickly gained regulatory and peaceful state after an armed revolution. It had only been possible because of Bangabandhu's taking responsibility of this new born country as a democratic leader of a democratic government. Generally history says that after this kind of armed war, an autocratic ruling system takes charge of the government. Bangabandhu didn't do so. He kept marching forward with the country through liberal democracy, and it only came to light following his charismatic leadership.

People stored optimism, keeping faith upon his words and moved ahead. Bangabandhu was strategically advancing the country choosing the path of liberal democracy which helped him get quick recognition from the then polarised world of democracy and socialism. Thereby, Bangladesh got recognition from many countries within the first year of her liberation. In 1973, Bangladesh joined the Non-aligned Movement and on July 10 in the same year Bangladesh got the membership of the Commonwealth. On September 26, 1974, Bangladesh became a member of the United Nations. Emerging as an independent country in the world, Bangabandhu's leadership and his invented foreign policy proved functional at its best. His foreign policy was "Friendship with all, hostility to none." For any smaller country Bangabandhu's foreign policy in building social and international relationships can be an ideal indeed.

Second Phase of Political Philosophy

From 1948 to January 25, 1975, Bangabandhu completed the first phase of his political philosophy and objectives. To put it briefly, in this phase Bangabandhu built-up a nation based on language and free from religion based blindness. Then, he prepared them for individual economic right and right to the land. He then established an independent land and an independent state through armed resistance with proper prior preparation.

Bangabandhu introduced and established his country around the globe with proper respect. Afterwards, he brought a slight change to the structure of the government and that is, instead of Prime Minister, President will be the head of the government. Besides, he kept the parliamentary system to nominate candidates through suffrage of the people. He brought a balance to the state power creating two centres, President and Parliament. On the other hand, keeping parliamentary elections open, he formed a national party. That means anyone can participate in the election under the banner of that national party.

These two principles are very important to bring radical changes to the state and its politics of a third world country and to have a strong economic condition under the structure. Because without the balance of power, its proper use can't be ensured. On the other hand, the weak side of parliamentary democracy in third world countries is that the different political parties divide people in many groups for their own interests over different issues. This division becomes an obstacle in the way of development. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to put an end to this barrier, brought a change to his democratic framework through his second revolution. On the flip side, to bring economic development and people's power to grass root level, he empowered the smallest unit of the state by launching district government method. His political journey of his 2nd phase just started. Within seven months of this journey, an internal and international faction collaboratively conducted a killing spree upon Bangabandhu and his family members by some soldiers of the army. His killing wasn't a separate one. It was a plot to push Bangladesh back.

The first phase of his politics is a part of glory in the history of the entire world, and his second revolution is an instruction for the third world countries. The biggest crisis that a third world country faces is the lack of unity and good governance.

According to him, both are possible by balancing power through launching one platform politics and empowering the grass-root level activists.

Concluded

South Asian Leaders in Bangladesh: A New Diplomatic Outreach

Prof. DELWAR HOSSAIN

Bangladesh observed its Golden Jubilee of Independence (50th anniversary) and the birth centenary of Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on March 17-26, 2021, where world leaders have made their remarkable presence through their virtual and physical participation in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We do not usually see so many leaders together without a regional or international conference. This time Bangladesh has made history. The arrival of five South Asian leaders, including India in Bangladesh and the virtual participation of many world leaders has created a new avenue of diplomacy. Other global leaders have sent their valued remarks and congratulatory messages.

What does this participation of world leaders mean for Bangladesh's diplomacy? Undoubtedly, new opportunities for Bangladesh have been created through this festivity which may be called 'diplomacy of festivity.' This festivity has contributed to strengthening Bangladesh's diplomacy at bilateral and multilateral levels and showcase a country that has transformed from a test case of international development to development success. Bangladesh as a host nation has benefited from large-scale diplomatic gestures and overtures.

The concrete outcomes of the visits of South Asian leaders may be observed in the signing of a host of memorandum of understandings (MoUs), bilateral summits, joint statements and congratulatory messages. To begin with, Bangladesh and Bhutan, agreed to explore a possible railway network between the two countries through the recently launched Chilahati-Haldibari railway connection of India. The two prime ministers also agreed to examine the possibility of establishing cargo flight communications connecting the Bhutanese town Gelephu and Bangladesh's Lalmonirhat and Saidpur.

Socio-economic development

The Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih highly appreciated the leadership of Bangabandhu and also congratulated Bangladesh for the remarkable economic prosperity that the country has achieved over the past decade. The Maldivian President emphasized the issue of climate change for both the nations as low lying countries in the Indian Ocean. He did not forget to acknowledge the leading role of Bangladesh in the Cli-



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcoming Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcoming Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

mate Vulnerable Forum and the development of a Blue Economy. President Solih commended Bangladeshi migrants in the Maldives as one of the biggest expatriate workforces in the country and recognized their contribution to Maldives' socio-economic development.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh on the occasion deserves extraordinary significance for both the countries. The presence of the Indian Prime Minister in Bangladesh in his first foreign trip during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates recognition of the great value of bilateral relations and the imperative of its further improvement for the mutual benefit of both sides.

In his long speech at the National Parade Square, Modi spoke of the fraternal relations between the two countries that also reached the 50-year mark and praised the leadership of Bangabandhu in forging the new nation of Bangladesh. Before coming to Bangladesh, Prime Minister Modi conferred Bangabandhu with the Gandhi Peace Prize 2020. He also mentioned how the countries worked together and supported each other during the global COVID-19 pandemic, further entrenching the bonds of friendship between the two nations. The contribution of the Indian Government and its people to the Liberation War of Bangladesh, and the sacrifice of their Army during the war also featured in the deliberations.

PM Modi, in his special op-ed in *The Daily Star* of Bangladesh, speculated on what would have been the picture of South Asia if Bangabandhu were alive. In his all deliberations, Modi expressed a high degree of optimism about the future of Bangladesh-India relations emphasizing multi-dimensionality and a win-win framework. He also stressed upon the fact that both Bangladesh and India could learn from past failures, just as there



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcoming The Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

is a lot to celebrate from our past successes. What is extremely significant in his approach is that he pragmatically highlighted that no time should be wasted in removing the irritants that still plague bilateral relations which, given the determination of both the leaders, should not take much time to overcome.

Bangabandhu's contribution

Bangladesh and India signed five MoUs in different areas and inaugurated cultural and development projects between the two nations. The visits of Prime Minister Modi to Tungipara Bangabandhu Mausoleum, Hindu religious places in Orakandi, Gopalganj and Sathkira show a new level of cultural linkages between the two countries. Another aspect of the Hasina-Modi summit is that the Bang-

ladesh Prime Minister took the opportunity to raise unresolved and thorny issues between the two countries despite the strategic and development partnership. Prime Minister Hasina raised issues such as the Signing of the Teesta Water Sharing Agreement, killings of Bangladeshis on the border, increasing exports of Bangladesh and the Rohingya crisis in a friendly atmosphere.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari of Nepal hailed Bangladesh's development as a fitting tribute to Bangabandhu's contributions to the nation-building process of Bangladesh. Nepal and Bangladesh have signed four bilateral instruments as Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Tourism Cooperation, sanitary and phytosanitary cooperation, cultural exchange programme, and Letters of Exchange to designate the Rohanpur-

Singabud railway route as an additional transit route. The Nepalese President also noted that her country was one of the first to recognise Bangladesh after independence.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa deeply appreciated the development of Bangladesh. He mentioned that the relations between the two countries are rooted back to millenniums and highlighted that Sri Lanka was also one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Bangladesh after independence. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister termed the Rohingya crisis as a serious issue and assured that his country would remain beside Bangladesh in resolving the crisis. Six MoUs have also been signed with Sri Lanka to enhance cooperation in various fields including youth development, agriculture and technical education.

Based on the legal instruments signed with five South Asian countries and remarks of all State Leaders who joined the events, Bangladesh has unveiled an outstanding occasion for diplomatic outreach. This 'diplomacy of festivity' achieved a number of tangible and intangible national interests in terms of its diplomatic outreach that would certainly generate new diplomatic momentum for this emerging South Asian power.

First, the festivity has further internationalized the glorious history of Bangladesh in the world as a nation that achieved its independence through a guerilla war where three million martyrs sacrificed their lives and two hundred thousand women were violated in their valiant War of Liberation. Second, the events have enhanced the image of Bangladesh in the region and beyond. It has turned into a great occasion to showcase Bangladesh's development, historical achievements and cultural heritage. There cannot be any occasion other than the birth centenary of Bang-

abandhu and Golden Jubilee of Independence to uplift the image of Bangladesh to the wider world. Third, the occasion has further cemented Bangladesh's relations with South Asia as an example of a contemporary success story in economic, social and diplomatic domains. Bangladesh as the second largest economy in South Asia has enhanced its position as a regional leader for advancing the causes of peace, security and development.

Fourth, as far as relations with India are concerned, Bangladesh has fully utilized the events to focus on the existing areas of cooperation and to raise bilateral issues such as the Teesta Water Sharing Agreement, border killings, the Rohingya crisis, trade barriers and the speedy disbursement of lines of credit. Bangladesh also stressed upon the issue of sub-regional trade and connectivity, including an interest to join the India-Myanmar-Thailand highway project. Fifth, these events have been an occasion of powerful display of 'cultural diplomacy' of Bangladesh. Finally, Bangladesh has shown the world a contrast of Myanmar, a country that has been isolated from the world due to the recent military coup and genocide against the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh is an example of peaceful and cooperative diplomacy in the region despite having an opportunity to play a vicious zero-sum game in the backdrop of geopolitical and geostrategic dynamics in the Bay of Bengal region. On the other hand, Myanmar has been fueling polarization and power politics in the region with its domestic political instability and enduring intra-state conflicts.

In conclusion, this commemorative event has shown a proactive diplomatic engagement of Bangladesh in the region and beyond.

It is also a vindication of the continuation of the diplomatic approach and strategic direction that Bangladesh has been pursuing *vis-a-vis* the external world over the past decade and more. Bangladesh has successfully blended its diplomatic prowess with the current geopolitical environment in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Bay of Bengal region. The transformation of the newly created diplomatic momentum into policy decisions and their effective implementation would surely benefit the nation in its new journey as an emerging Developing Country recognized by the United Nations.

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- Modern Diplomacy

DAVID AMAGLOBELI, VITOR GASPAR
and PAOLO MAURO

The COVID-19 pandemic is intensifying the vicious circle of inequality. To break this pattern and give everyone a fair shot at prosperity, governments need to improve access to basic public services—such as health care (including vaccination) and education—and strengthen redistributive policies.

For most countries, this would require raising additional revenue and improving the efficiency of spending. These reforms must be complemented by greater transparency and accountability, which can help increase overall trust in government and contribute to more cohesive societies.

Inequality was a pre-existing condition that worsened COVID-19's impact. Disparities in access to basic services have contributed to uneven health outcomes. According to our research, countries with worse access to health care, proxied by the number of hospital beds, have had higher COVID-19 mortality rates than predicted by the number of cases and age structure. Similarly, our analysis shows that countries with higher relative poverty had higher rates of both cases and deaths.

And COVID-19 is also widening inequality. One example is children's education. Our analysis shows that, with widespread school closures, education losses in 2020 are estimated at a quarter of the school year in advanced economies and twice as much in emerging market and developing economies. Children from poorer families have been disproportionately affected. We estimate that up to 6 million children in emerging market and developing economies could drop out of school in 2021, with lifelong adverse consequences.

In addition, the pandemic has hit the most vulnerable groups the hardest. Lower-skilled and younger workers have experienced more job losses than those in higher-skilled occupations. Likewise, disadvantaged ethnic groups and informal sector workers have been harder hit. And women, who tend to be over-represented in sectors most affected by COVID-19 such as hospitality and retail, have been particularly affected by the pandemic, especially in poorer countries.

A holistic approach

Breaking the cycle of inequality requires both *predistributive* and *redistributive* policies. With the former, governments ensure that people have access to basic public services and good jobs. This makes it possible to

Giving everyone a fair shot



reduce income inequality before government redistributes with taxes and transfers.

Investing in education, healthcare, and early childhood development can have a powerful effect on improving access to these services and hence to lifetime opportunities. If governments increased spending on education by 1 percent of GDP, for example, they could reduce the gap in enrollment rates between the richest and the poorest families by almost one-third. In addition to increasing spending, all governments should focus on reducing spending inefficiencies, which are sizable, especially in poorer countries.

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the vital importance of a good social safety net that can be quickly activated to provide lifelines to struggling families. High social spending is effective in reducing poverty only when

it provides adequate assistance and covers the poorest segments of society. Developing and maintaining comprehensive social registries with a reliable citizen identification system is a good investment. These elements would ideally be complemented by effective distribution mechanisms such as e-payments and, where access to bank accounts is limited, mobile money transfers.

Enhancing access to basic public services will require additional resources, which can be mobilized, depending on country circumstances, by strengthening overall tax capacity. Many countries could rely more on property and inheritance taxes. Countries could also raise tax progressivity as some governments have room to increase top marginal personal income tax rates, whereas others could focus on eliminating loopholes in capital income



taxation. Moreover, governments could consider levying temporary COVID-19 recovery contributions as supplements to personal income taxes for high-income households and modernizing corporate income taxation. In emerging market economies and low-income countries in particular, additional revenues could also be raised through consumption taxes to finance social spending. Further, low-income countries will need support from the international community to help with financing and implementing home-grown taxation and spending reforms.

Strong public support needed

Governments may want to consider developing comprehensive policy packages that promise expanded access to public services and better protection from income shocks while supporting a job-rich, inclusive recovery. In some countries, public support for better access to basic services, financed through higher taxes, has been strong and is likely increasing with the pandemic. A recent survey in the United States shows that those who had personally experienced the impact of COVID-19, either through illness or unemployment, have developed a stronger preference for more progressive taxation.

Such policies should be embedded in medium-term fiscal frameworks and complemented by actions that strengthen transparency and accountability.

Meaningful gains in spending efficiency are also necessary. Experience with past pandemics shows that the stakes are high because trust in government can quickly deteriorate and contribute to greater polarization. Resolute actions by governments to deliver needed services and foster inclusive growth can counteract this trend and help build social cohesion.

(David Amaglobeli is a Deputy Division Chief in Fiscal Affairs Department of the IMF. Vitor Gaspar, a Portuguese national, is Director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department. Paolo Mauro is Deputy Director in the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department).



Latin America passes 25 mn COVID-19 infections

URUGUAY: Latin America and the Caribbean passed the 25 million mark Friday for recorded coronavirus cases as a surge in infections saw countries place restrictions on travel and movement while vaccine campaigns catch up.

An AFP tally showed the region reaching the grim milestone of 25,001,533 infections, putting it in third place after Europe with 44.2 million cases and the United States and Canada with over 31.5 million.

The death toll for Latin America and the Caribbean exceeded 788,000, according to AFP's count, second only to Europe which has lost some 936,000 people in the pandemic.

Brazil is at the epicenter of the region's latest epidemic wave, reporting a staggering 66,500 COVID-19 deaths in March alone, and more than 325,000 in total so far.

As hospitals and intensive care



units fill up, governments have announced an array of restrictions to try and curb person-to-person transmission in the region of 34 countries and territories and some 600 million people.

Chinese vaccine maker Sinovac, which produces the Coronavac jab

used in 20 countries including Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, said Friday it would double its annual production capacity to two billion doses.

Pope urges vaccines for poor

Pope Francis urged Catholics to

remain hopeful in his Easter Sunday address, calling vaccines an "essential tool" in ending the pandemic and urging their swift rollout to the world's poorest countries.

"Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight," he said, calling on the international community to overcome delays in distributing vaccines "especially in the poorest countries".

Francis, who has focused on the plight of vulnerable groups since becoming Pope in 2013, had already warned rich nations against vaccine hoarding in an address to the UN General Assembly in September.

US says vaccinated people can travel

Fully vaccinated people can start traveling again if they take precautions such as wearing a mask and observing social distancing, US health authorities said Friday.

Within the United States, vaccinated people will not have to quarantine or take a COVID-19 test after traveling, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

But international travellers headed to the United States should have a negative COVID-19 test before they get on the plane, be tested after arrival, and must quarantine if local authorities in the United States require it, the CDC said in a statement.

Vaccinated travellers can go abroad without getting a COVID-19 test before travel unless it is required by the international destination, the new guidelines say.

A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine, the CDC said. That means the second shot for vaccines that require two jabs.

Canada surpasses 1 mn COVID-19 cases

Canada crossed the threshold of one million coronavirus cases as the country faces a third wave of infections, forcing several provinces to tighten restrictions in recent days.

With 2,000 new cases of COVID-19 announced in British Columbia on Saturday evening, Canada topped one million cases since the start of the pandemic, according to figures reported by Canadian broadcasters. Just over 23,000 people have died.

Canada is grappling with a third wave of cases amid the rapid spread of variants, which are more contagious. Ontario, home to more than a third of Canada's cases, stepped up restrictions for at least four weeks.

To date, 14.6 percent of the population has received at least one vaccine dose, according to the COVID-19 Tracker Canada website. -AFP

India tightens screws as COVID-19 infections surge

INDIA: India's worst-hit state ramped up its coronavirus restrictions as nationwide the daily infections exceeded 100,000 for the first time on Monday.

Hopes at the start of the year that the outbreak may be subsiding in the vast nation of 1.3 billion people have been dashed in recent weeks with a fresh wave that has pushed the national total to 12.5 million infections and

165,000 deaths. In Maharashtra, the worst-hit state, nearly 60,000 cases were recorded in the last 24 hours.

The region of 110 million people will also see weekend lockdowns, with gatherings of over four people banned, and private offices, restaurants, cinemas, swimming pools, bars, places of worship and public areas shut. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government is anxious to avoid imposing a new national lockdown after a shutdown in March 2020 caused

chaired a high-level meeting and a statement afterwards announced an awareness campaign from April 6-14 "with emphasis on 100-percent mask usage, personal hygiene and sanitation at public places/workplaces and health facilities."

India has so far administered almost 80 million vaccine shots. Last week, it opened up vaccinations to 45 years old to speed up its flagging national inoculation drive.

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar said Sunday he has tested positive for COVID-19, becoming the latest Indian celebrity to contract the virus as the vast nation battles a new wave of cases.

"I wish to inform everyone that, earlier this morning, I have tested positive for COVID-19," the 53-year-old actor tweeted.

wide-spread human and economic misery. Modi on Sunday



Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has become India's latest high-profile personality to contract the virus.

Chinese FM urges US to respect China's core interests

CHINA: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday urged the United States to truly respect China's core interests and take a correct view of China's development.

Wang made the remarks in response to media query about China-U.S. relations after meetings with his counterparts of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea in China's Fujian Province.

Citing that the Foreign Ministers have regarded China's development and growth as a historical necessity, Wang said it is believed that China's development conforms to the common expectations and long-term interests of all countries in the region, which should not be blocked. China welcomes dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect, Wang said, adding that China does not approve of one-

not accept that one country has the final say in world affairs.

China will not evade competition if it is needed, but competition should be fair and just and abide by market rules, and refrain from setting obstacles, abusing power, and depriving others of their legitimate right to development, Wang said, adding that if there is still confrontation, China will deal with it calmly and face it fearlessly.

"We resolutely resist gross interference in China's internal affairs, and more resolutely oppose unlawful unilateral sanctions imposed on the basis of lies and false information," Wang said.

He said China will not compromise or retreat, as it sticks to the basic norms of international relations and stands for the interests



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

of many developing, small and medium-sized countries. China definitely has the right to fight back since it must defend national sovereignty and national dignity.

"Dialogue is better than confrontation, and cooperation is better than confrontation," Wang said, urging the U.S. to actively respond to the expectations of regional countries and the international community, work with China to show what a major power should be like, and jointly maintain regional and world peace, stability and development.

- XINHUA

NASA's Ingenuity helicopter drops on Mars' surface

US: NASA's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars in preparation for its first flight, the U.S. space agency said.

The ultra-light aircraft had been fixed to the belly of the Perseverance rover, which touched down on the Red Planet on February 18.

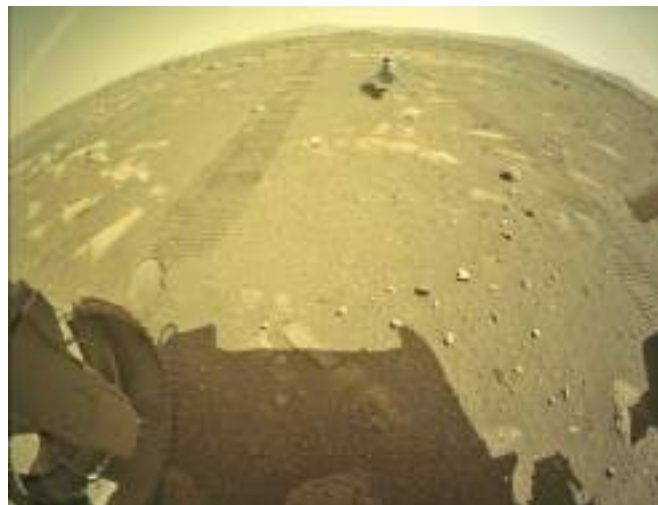
A photograph accompanying the tweet showed Perseverance had driven clear of the helicopter and its "air-field" after dropping to the surface.

Ingenuity had been feeding off the Perseverance's power system but will now have to use its own battery to run a vital heater to protect its unshielded electrical components from freezing and cracking during the bitter Martian night.

"This heater keeps the interior at about 45 degrees F (7 degrees Celsius) through the bitter cold of the Martian night, where temperatures can drop to as low as -130F (-90 degrees Celsius)," Bob Balaram, Mars Helicopter Project chief engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, wrote in an update on Friday. "That comfortably protects key components such as the battery and some of the sensitive electronics from harm at very cold temperatures."

Over the next couple of days, the Ingenuity team will check that the helicopter's solar panels are working properly and recharging its battery before testing its motors and sensors ahead of its first flight, Balaram said.

Ingenuity is expected to make its first flight attempt no



This NASA photo shows NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter on the ground behind the Perseverance rover. - AFP

earlier than April 11, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory tweeted.

Ingenuity will be attempting

to fly in an atmosphere that is one percent the density of Earth's, which makes achieving lift harder — but will be

assisted by gravity that is one-third of our planet's.

The first flight will involve climbing at a rate of about three feet (one meter) per second to a height of 10 feet (three meters), hovering there for 30 seconds, then descending back to the surface.

Ingenuity will be taking high-resolution photography as it flies. Up to five flights of gradual difficulty are planned over the month.

The 1.8-kilogram rotorcraft cost NASA around \$85 million to develop and is considered a proof of concept that could revolutionize space exploration.

Future aircraft could cover ground much quicker than rovers, and explore more rugged terrain.

- THE HINDU

Republicans support pared down version of Biden's trillion dollar plan



President Joe Biden signing the PPP Extension Act of 2021, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on March 31, 2020.

US: Republicans opened the door Sunday to supporting a pared down version of Joe Biden's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan, saying concentrating on physical improvements would deliver an "easy bipartisan win" for the US president.

Biden's American Jobs Plan — the second massive spending initiative of his 10-week old administration, after a \$1.9 trillion short-term Covid rescue bill — would modernize America's public works and make its energy system greener.

But the proposal announced last week faces major hurdles in Congress amid criticism from Republicans and business lobbies who oppose the higher corporate taxes that would pay the bill.

Roy Blunt, the chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, implored Democrats to focus on the traditional pillars of infrastructure — "roads, bridges, ports and airports" — and not the more expansive spending Biden envisions to create jobs, fight climate change and stand up to a rising China.

Blunt spoke out as senior

administration figures hit the Sunday talk show circuit to sell the policy to the American people as a vital component of sustained job growth.

"I've reached out to the White House a couple of times now and said, you've got an easy bipartisan win here if you'll keep this package nearly focused on infrastructure," Blunt told ABC's "This Week."

That would not prevent the administration from later pushing through the other aspects of its plan on a partisan basis, he said.

Blunt complained that the package contained more for electric vehicle charging stations than for physical improvements.

"When people think about infrastructure, they're thinking about roads, bridges, ports and airports," he told ABC.

Blunt, a senior member of Senate leadership team, struck a more conciliatory tone than the Chamber's Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who had earlier vowed to fight the Biden plan "every step of the way." - AFP

Myanmar's protesters decorate Easter eggs

MYANMAR: Anti-coup demonstrators in Myanmar decorated boiled eggs on Sunday, as Pope Francis in his Easter message expressed solidarity with the country's youth.

Myanmar has been gripped by turmoil since a February 1 coup ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and derailed the country's tentative transition to democracy.

Security Forces have sought to quell a mass uprising with lethal force and the death toll reached 564 as of late Sunday, according to local monitoring group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

On Easter, decorated eggs became the latest emblem of resistance as scores of Myanmar protesters painted political messages on them and left them on neighbours' doorsteps.

Pictures posted on social media showed eggs adorned

with images of Suu Kyi and three-finger salutes — a protest gesture — while others said "save our people" and "democracy".

"I am Buddhist but I have joined this campaign because it is easy to get a hold of eggs. I spent almost one hour decorating my eggs," a Yangon-based protester told AFP.

"I am praying for Myanmar's current situation to get back to democracy."

Delivering his Easter message at the St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday, Pope Francis singled out Myanmar youth "committed to supporting democracy and making their voices heard peacefully, in the knowledge that hatred can be dispelled only by love".

Myanmar's most senior Catholic, Cardinal Charles Bo, also shared an Easter message on Twitter: "Jesus has risen: Hallelujah - Myanmar will rise again!"

- AFP

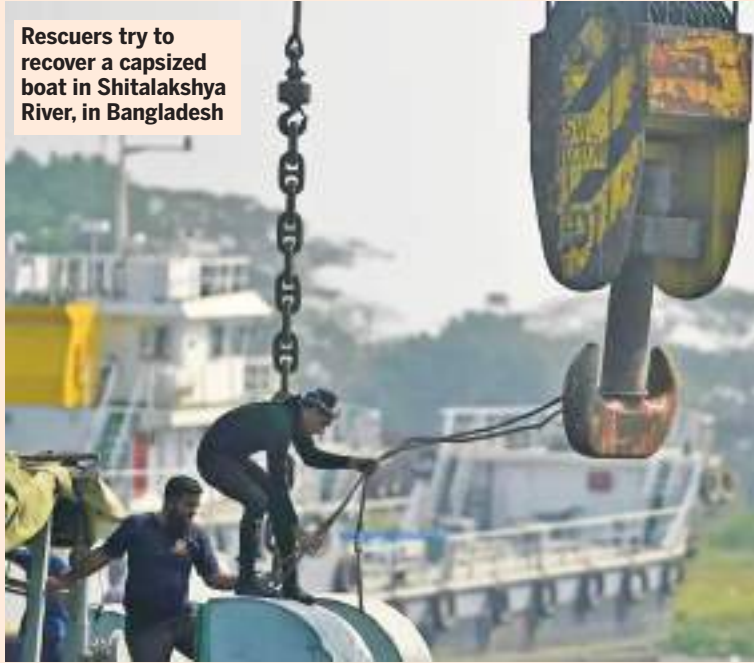


Easter eggs are painted with slogans from the protests against the military coup, in Mandalay, Myanmar on Sunday.

Five dead in Bangladesh ferry collision



Rescuers try to recover a capsized boat in Shitalakshya River, in Bangladesh



BANGLADESH: Five people died and rescue workers searched for survivors after a small ferry packed with up to 50 passengers sank having collided with another boat in Bangladesh on Sunday, officials said.

The vessel sank in the Shitalakshya river around 6:00 pm after leaving the central industrial city of Narayanganj, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the capital Dhaka, for the nearby district of Munshiganj, officials told AFP.

A local police inspector said the ferry was packed with passengers rushing to

leave Narayanganj after the Government confirmed a seven-day lockdown across the country from Monday to combat the recent rise in COVID-19 cases.

"The death toll is five," the government administrator of Narayanganj, Shukla Sarker, said, adding that divers from the fire brigade were leading the search for survivors.

Sarker said 11 survivors were pulled from the water and other passengers may have swam to safety on the other side of the river. "So we don't know how many people are missing," she told AFP.

- AFP



A crane lifts the wreckage of a truck which was hit by the deadly train derailment at a tunnel north of Hualien, Taiwan on Friday.

Truck driver apologises for Taiwan rail crash

TAIWAN: A maintenance worker whose runaway truck sparked Taiwan's worst rail disaster in recent decades made a tearful apology on Sunday as investigators said the train driver had little time to react to the collision.

At least 50 people were killed and more than 200 were injured in Friday's crash, which sent a packed eight-car train hurtling into the sides of a narrow tunnel near the eastern coastal city of Hualien.

Investigators say the Taroko Express hit a truck on the line moments before it entered the tunnel.

The vehicle slipped down a steep embankment and prosecutors are working to determine whether the driver either failed to secure the parking brake or if it suffered a mechanical failure.

On Sunday, the driver Lee Yi-hsiang read out an emotional statement to a bank of media cameras.

"I am deeply remorseful and want to express my most sincere apologies," he said, his voice cracking with emotion.

"I will cooperate with the investigation by police and prosecutors to take the responsibility I should take," he added.

Lee, 49, was part of a team who regularly inspected Taiwan's mountainous eastern train line for landslides and other risks.

Friday's crash took place at the start of the Tomb Sweeping Festival, a four-day public holiday when many Taiwanese return to villages to tidy the graves of their ancestors. - AFP

Indonesia's flash floods kill 75

INDONESIA: More than 75 people have died and dozens are still missing after flash floods and landslides hit Indonesia and neighbouring East Timor, officials said Monday, turning small communities into wastelands of mud and uprooted trees.

Sparked by torrential rain, the deluge and subsequent landslides sent thousands fleeing into shelters as dams overflowed and their homes were submerged.

Mud and continued extreme weather have made it difficult for rescue workers to reach trapped survivors.



A damaged truck is seen at an area affected by flash floods after heavy rains in East Flores, East Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia on Sunday.

aster management agency spokesperson Raditya Jati told broadcaster MetroTV.

At least 21 people had also died in East Timor, said an official in the tiny half-island nation of 1.3 million that lies between Indonesia and Australia.

Many of the deaths were in Timor's inundated capital Dili.

In Indonesia's remote East Flores municipality, mud has washed over homes, bridges and roads, while strong waves have prevented search teams from accessing the hardest-hit areas.

On Lembata, an island east of Flores, parts of some villages were swept down a mountainside by torrents of mud and carried to the shore of the ocean.

Across the region, scared residents have flocked to temporary shelters or taken refuge in what was left of their homes. "The evacuees are spread out. There are hundreds in each sub-district but many others are staying at home," said Alfons Hada Bethan, head of the East Flores disaster agency. Some 2,500 people had been evacuated in East Timor.

- AFP

William, Harry mutually finalise Princess Diana's statue design

UK: Months after turmoil in the royal family due to the bombarded interview, brothers Prince William and Prince Harry have mutually agreed on a final sculpture design of their late mother Princess Diana for the planned statue unveiling event to be held on her birthday.

According to Page Six, months after family tension between the royal brothers- Duke of Cambridge, and Duke of Sussex, they have agreed on a final design for the sculpture of their late mother Princess Diana that is planned to be unveiled on July 1, marking the occasion of her 60th birthday.

The statue of Diana will be crafted by sculptor Ian Rank-Broadley.

A source close to the sculpture told, "It will have been signed off by William and Harry, that much I do know."

This word of development comes months after the widely discussed interview with Oprah, Meghan and Harry, who are expecting their second child together, where the couple detailed the lack of support they received from his family, ultimately leading them to step away from their royal duties.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

Sri Lanka's Achievement



A young man from Pallansena in Sri Lanka dreamed that he would one day take his country's prized Ceylon tea to the world. He pursued his vision with faith and determination. Nearly 35 years later, on the promise of taste, goodness and ethical purpose, Merrill J. Fernando launched Dilmah Tea in 1988. Grown, handpicked, perfected and branded in Sri Lanka, without compromise on quality or purpose, benefiting the environment and the people of Sri Lanka.



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ADA KOTIPATHI - Tuesday
 Draw No.: 1243 Colour: Green
 Date: 04.04.2021

Today's Jackpot
Rs. 125,464,215/-

Winning Numbers: 03, 45, 68, 76
 English Letter: Q

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL
 Draw Number: 1417 Colour: Red
 Draw Date: 04.04.2021 Date: Sunday

Winning English Letter and Numbers: U 46 50 68 76

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 3,428,940/-**

Winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

Super Jackpot
 Date: 04-04-2021 Draw Number: 3124
 Colour: Purple

Winning Numbers: 38, 41, 42, 44
 Gemini

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 10,207,580/-**

English Letter & Winning Numbers: S 18 24 29 49
 Draw No.: 711 Colour: Yellow
 Date: 04.04.2021 Sunday

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 3,567,280/-**

Next Super Jackpot: **Rs. 79,266,075/-**

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

ශනිදා
 SUNDAY Draw No.: 3573
 Date: 04.04.2021 Colour: Pink

Total Value of Prizes: **Rs. 5,049,580/-**

Winning Numbers: 08 34 36 64
 English Letter: J

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Sri Lanka set up many records in Test Series against WI at Antigua

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The two-Test series between Sri Lanka and the West Indies ended in a 0-0 draw at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.

However, during this Test series Sri Lanka players were able to set up many records on the field.

After losing the Twenty20 series 1-2 and the One Day International series 0-3, Dimuth Karunaratne's team put up a better display during the Test series to finish the tour on a high note.

Pceman Suranga Lakmal was named Player of the Series and finished with 11 wickets including a career best five for 47 in the first test.

Lakmal took four for 94 and two for 62 in the second Test.

"I really wanted to win the game and always bowled according to a plan," said Lakmal after the second Test.

"The Antigua wicket was helping bit more for the pccman and I really enjoyed bowling in this wicket and I know how to bowl in this type of wickets with my experience," said Lakmal.

"It was not easy to take wickets in this two match series. I think both teams did really well during this series and we saw both teams working hard to get a decision," Karunaratne said after the second Test.

"The seam bowlers had to do some hard work but we need to improve our batting. Anyway overall we can be satisfied with this performance," said Karunaratne.



Suranga Lakmal



Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne



Pathum Nissanka

"Sometimes, we were missing one bowler but Dhananjaya de Silva came forward and did a good job."

"The way Oshada Fernando and debutant Pathum Nissanka batted they were very calm and that is very good for the future."

"We were taking wickets in patches but need to improve our line and length."

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka opener Lahiru Thirimanne was

the most successful batsman in this Test series scoring 240 runs with three back-to-back half-centuries.

Karunaratne scored a match-saving 75 in the second innings of the second Test and his knock of 75 broke Arjuna Ranatunga's 24 year old away record of most runs scored by a Sri Lanka Captain in a fourth innings of a Test match. Ranatunga scored 72 not out against the West Indies in 1997. Thirimanne and Karunaratne also

became the second opening pair to score two successive century partnerships in the fourth innings of a Test match. Karunaratne and Thirimanne put on 161 against New Zealand at Galle in 2019 and added 101 against the West Indies at Antigua.

Earlier Geoff Boycott and John Brearley (England) put on 154 against Australia at Nottingham in 1977 and added 185 against Pakistan at Hyderabad in 1978.

Pradeep Wilson excelled in rugby only after joining the Police

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Sri Lanka Police has played a pivotal role in bringing to prominence several school leavers and transformed them as top sportsmen in various sporting disciplines. Rugby at Police is the cynosure of all eyes and has a special place in their annual sporting calendar. Pradeep Wilson was one of their finest products who had a limited knowledge handling the oval shaped ball at the time of enrolling in the Police later turned out to be a highly skilled player in rugby finally representing the country.

Pradeep was born in 1976 in Polgolla in the outskirts of Kandy District. His father was Widanagama Wilson a former army officer while Seelawathi Manike is his mother a housewife from Polgolla. He started his school career with a school in his home town called Uyanwatta Vidyalaya in 1982, where he completed his GCE Ordinary Level Examination in 1992. To continue his higher studies, he was compelled to join a prominent school which had the necessary facilities to cater to his requirements. He finally managed to secure a place in Vidyarthi College, Kandy from 1992 to 1995. Until then he did not take part in any sport since he was living close to Nittawela ground, he used to witness the rugby matches played there with his friends living close by from 1988 to 1990. Apart from that, another top rugby coach Ananda Kasthuriarachchi was living in his home town. He used to join them and play tag rugby encouraging the young schoolboys there. This motivated Pradeep to join the college second XV rugby team in the 1994/95 season, which was the only opportunity he managed to gain some exposure of the game during his school career. Along with this he had an opportunity to play some leisure rugby during the Sinhala New Year time among the boys in his area in 1992, teams tagged under Polgolla RFC.

After his school career, in 1997, he joined the Police Department as a Sub Inspector. There he started playing in the inter division tournament while he was placed in Vavuniya. One of his father's friends by the name of

Naseem introduced him to Nizam Jamaldeen, another player who was representing Police rugby. This meeting helped him to get into the Police 'B' division team while he was housed at Police flats in 1998. It was IP Damith Jayawardena the 1998 Police skipper who took care of



him and played a key role in converting him into a fully-fledged rugby player. In 1999 late W.T. Tillekeratne the Police skipper promoted him to the 'A' division pool and surged ahead until 2012 occupying the second row position. His memorable seasons were under the captaincy of present SP Lalith Leelaratne in 2001 followed by the 2002 season under IP Anura Fernando's captaincy which later toured India to play at the All India Tournament in 2003. During his tenure with Police, he had the rare distinction of leading them in two consecutive seasons in 2006 and 2007. During his tenure saw them winning several championships.

His presence with the National team was from 2003 where he made his debut under Pradeep Basnayake's captaincy. He played under Dushanth Lewke in 2008 and Pavithra Fernando in 2009 for the Sri Lanka team in several tournaments. In 2003 he represented the Sri Lanka team at the XV-a-side Asian IRB qualifying tournament against Japan in Colombo. Represented the National team at the Five Nations Asian Championship in Chinese Taipei under Dushanth Lewke and played in the same tournament in Dubai in 2009 under

Pavithra Fernando's captaincy. His school coaches were Kosgolla and Sunil Munasingha while retired senior DIG Nimal Lewke, late DIG Daya Jayasundara, retired DIG Hafees Marso, retired DIG Norman Silva and SP Lalith Leelaratne were his coaches who assisted him immensely at Police. While S.W. Chang and later George Simpkin too also assisted him in his rugby career. He served as a member of the Referees Society committee as a level-two referee. He was well supported by Vimal Perera, Nizam Jamaldeen and Dilroy Fernando and Anil Jayasinghe during his tenure as a rugby referee. He likes to extend his gratitude to the Police Rugby Chairmen and Secretaries. He also wants to say a big thank you to Kapila at Vidyarthi and Amila Ratnayake and Chief Inspectors Krishanthan, and Nilame Samarakoon of Police for helping him

At present is working as a Chief Inspector of Police with an uninterrupted 24-years' service and thanks SLR President Rizly Ilyas who managed the National team in 2003. His wife is Nalika Jayasinghe a nurse working at Lady Ridgeway Hospital in Borella. He has two sons Bipul Dinsara (10) and Minul Minsara (8) who are students of Royal College, Colombo.

Powering Sri Lanka Rugby

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Sri Lankan Taekwondo players felicitated

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

Sri Lankan Taekwondo players who brought honour and fame to Mother Lanka with their excellent performance at the 13th South Asian Games 2019 held at Kathmandu, Nepal were felicitated by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Namal Rajapaksa, the Ambassador of Republic of Korea Woonjin Jeong and the President of Sri Lanka Taekwondo Federation Kanchana Jayaratne recently at the Grand Monarch Hotel, Thalawathugoda.

A total of 251 medals were won by Sri Lankan players including 40 gold, 83 silver and 128 bronze medals at the South Asian Games out of which Sri Lanka Taekwondo players obtained 27 medals including four gold, seven silver and 16 bronze.

Sri Lankan Taekwondo team became the third highest medal tally winner and also recorded the highest percentage of medal wins among all the sports represented by Sri Lanka at the 13th South Asian Games. The tournament featured 29 athletes representing the sport of Taekwondo, 27 of which won medals.

The 13th South Asian Games medal winners who were felicitated at the event are :

Men Sparring: L.C.S. Liyanage (Gold), T.B.R.A Bandara (Silver), K.R.J. Thilakarathne (Bronze), D.T.L. Thilakarathne (Bronze),



The Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Namal Rajapaksa handing over the plaque to silver medalist in women's 49 kg weight category of the 13th South Asian Games. Pushpa Kumari at the felicitation ceremony. The President of Sri Lanka Taekwondo Federation Kanchana Jayaratne is also in the picture.

D.G.D.N.K. Jayasinghe (Bronze), R.A.S.D. Ranasinghe (Bronze), H.P.M.C.T. Senaratne (Bronze), S.B.D.S. Fernando (Bronze)

Women Sparring: M.I.P. Kumari (Silver), Piyumali Samarakoon (Bronze), K.D. Nimesha (Bronze), S.L.A. Maneesha (Bronze), R.A.S.P. Ranatunga (Bronze), D.D.N.L.D. Gunawardena (Bronze).

Male-Individual Poomsae: M.P.D.R. Prabhath (Gold), I. Lakshman (Silver), J.A. Nishshanka (Bronze).

Women-Individual Poomsae: R.D.M.T. Jayaweera (Silver), N.I.S. Mendis (Bronze), P.M.A.G. Sandamali (Bronze).

Poomsae Pair: M.P.D.R. Prabhath/N.I.S. Mendis - Gold in 17-23 age group category, J.A. Nishshanka/I. Lakshman/Silver in 23-29 age, I. Lakshman/P.M.A.G. Sandamali-Bronze in over 29 age.

Men-Team Poomsae: J.A. Nishshanka/I. Lakshman/I.W.K. Weerasinghe-Gold in over 23, M.P.D.R. Prabhath/K.P.A.S.I. Perera/M.T.N. Viranga-Silver in 17-23.

Women-Team Poomsae: R.D.M.T. Jayaweera/R.A.D.N. Rajapakse/S.U.S.B. Wijewickrama-Silver in over 23.

N.I.S. Mendis/P.G.H.C. Madhusaanika/M.A.S.U. Jayasinghe-Bronze in 17-23 age.

Kavinda Kaushan the athlete turned karateka

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

16 year old up and coming Karate Black Belt holder and Athlete Jayalath Pedige Kavinda Kaushan has brought honour and fame to his Alma Mater Senanayake National School Madampe

Kavinda who was born in 2005 was admitted to Wellarama Maha Vidyalaya Bingiriya in 2011. There were no sports activities during this period in that school and when he was drafted to his present school he participated in the under 14 and under 16 Relay Events and in the Inter House Sports Meet in 2020 his house team came second in 100x4 and 400x4 metre relays and won the second place.

In the mean time his parents Ajith Susantha and Nilusha Pushpakumari encouraged him to take up to Karate at his school and he came under the Karate Coach Sugath



Kavinda Kaushan on extreme right in the picture with his coach after receiving his Black Belt (Picture by - Dilwin Mendis Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

International Shotokan Karate Meet he came third.

In 2019 at the North Western Province Inter Schools Karate Meet he won a

Bronze in the under 16 age category in Kumite and in the same year at the Puttalam District meet he won a Gold in Kumite and in the North Western Meet he won another Gold in the Puttalam District Inter School Karate Meet he grabbed a Gold and in the Sri Lanka Shotokan Karate Do Association meet held at Ragama he won Golds for Kata and Kumite and in the Sri Lanka Friends Karate Association meet he won a Bronze in Kumite.

Kumara in 2018 and his Prefect of games is Mr. Chandana. His first Karate Meet was Puttalam District Karate Do Association and in his attempt he won a Gold Medal in Kumite, and his next meet was organized by the North Western Province and he won a Bronze in Kumite. In the Sri Lanka

Hambantota Hornets clinch Dialog Beach Soccer title



-Skipper of the Hambantota Hornets receiving the 'Dialog Beach Soccer Champions Trophy' from Manhara Wijeyawickrama, Senior General Manager - Channel Planning & Control of Dialog Axiata PLC. Also in picture (L-R) Nalin Hemakumara - Hambantota Football League President & Coordinating Secretary to Namal Rajapaksa, Dr. Manil Fernando - Chairman, Medical Committee, Anura de Silva - President, Football Federation of Sri Lanka, Shalika Ranaweera - Chairwoman, Women's Football and (partially covered) M M Ramees - Chairman, Futsal & Beach Soccer Committee.

Hambantota Hornets edged out Matara Marines by 3 goals to 2 to win after a closely contested match to clinch the 'Dialog Beach Soccer Championship Trophy' at Hambantota last Saturday.

Hambantota Hornets clinch Beach Soccer Title. After a comfortable 4-1 win the semi-finals over Kalutara Royals, the winners were given torrid time before notching up victory. Meanwhile Matara Marians had a close 2-1 win over Kalutara Knights in the other semi-finals before they qualified for the final.

Nimal new groundsman of Dharmaraja

(UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent)

Dharmaraja College, Kandy has appointed T.G. Nimal as the new groundsman of the College. He was the former Groundboy of Trinity College, Kandy. Nimal has served at Trinity College for 44 years as the groundboy and he is happy to be working at this Turf Wick. Before coming to Dharmaraja three generations of Nimal's family have been serving as groundmen at Asgiriya International Grounds of Trinity College, Kandy.

At the Start, T.G. Marthelis Appuhamy served as groundsman from 1914 to 1964 and then his son T.G. Wickremapala was appointed as the groundsman from 1964 to 1998 and while he was working his son T.G. Nimal assisted him in his work and Nimal learnt the basics of being a groundsman. At that time the Asgiriya Grounds was upgraded to an International Stadium and when Wickremapala died T.G. Nimal was appointed as groundsman as he knew how to maintain an International Stadium. Nimal says that he



T.G. Nimal, the new groundsman of Dharmaraja College, Kandy

has fond memories of his service as groundsman of Asgiriya International Stadium for preparation of turf wickets for more than 15 Test Matches

including the World Cup tournament match between Sri Lanka and Kenya in the year 1996.

Apart from preparing the Grounds for Cricket matches, Nimal had to prepare pitches for games like Hockey, Soccer, Rugby and marking the running Track

for Athletics. Nimal is very fond of this job as he is very knowledgeable of his services as a grounds boy and he will get the necessary advice and support from the Principal, the Prefect of Games and the Masters in charge of the school in different games.

Unbeaten Navy clinch Women's limited over cricket tourney

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka Navy SC, led by National cap Hansini Perera emerged champions of the Sri Lanka Cricket Major Limited-Over Women's Tournament. They remained unbeaten from their seven matches to finish on top of the league standings.

Inoka Ranaweera who bowls left-arm slow, was their key bowler with a record haul of 25 wickets in the tournament.

She was supported by Shashikala Siriwardene (15 wickets) and Udeshika Prabodani (9). In the batting, openers Hasini Perera with 132 runs and her partner Sathya Sandeepani with 145 runs were the leading run-getters.

Navy SC Cricket Squad: Hansini Perera (Captain), Chandima Gunaratne, Chaturi Mihirani, Eshani Lokusooriya, Hansima Karunaratne, Harshani Wijeratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Inoka Ranaweera, Madhuri Samuddika, Nilakshana Sadamini, Prasadani Weerakkody, Sathya Sandeepani, Shashikala Silva, Shashikala Siriwardene, Tharika Sewwandini, Udeshika Prabodani and Ramachandran Sridhar (Coach).



Navy SC Cricket Team celebrate their win. Pix courtesy SLC



Inoka Ranaweera in action



Shashikala Siriwardene plays a shot

Kanchana Jayaratne elected President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

Kanchana Jayaratne elected uncontested as the 17th President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation (SLVF). The election of the 17th President and staff of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation was held yesterday at the Duncan White Auditorium of the Ministry of Sports.

Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapatiya was previous President of the federation and he had filed nominations from the Kegalle Volleyball Association while Kanchana Jayaratne had submitted nominations from the Eheliyagoda Volleyball Association. Kanchana Jayaratne was unanimously elected as the 17th new President of the SLVF following the withdrawal of his nomination paper by the former President Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapatiya. The national sport



of Sri Lanka Volleyball is one of the leading sports in 221 countries of the world and Kanchana Jayaratne is a talented volleyball player who has excelled in the sport since his childhood. He is a talented player who represented the Joseph Vaas College team in Wenappuwa. During his school days, he played volleyball, cricket, football, athletics and baseball and represented Sri Lanka and nationally winning teams. He also trains in Taekwondo and kung fu martial arts and has won national titles at those games. Kanchana Jayaratne

was appointed as the Vice President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation in 2009. Since then he has been the Senior Vice President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation, the Chairman of the Competition Committee and the Chairman of the Coaches Selection Committee for 12 years. He is currently the President of the Sri Lanka Taekwondo Association, President of the Ratnapura District Volleyball Association, President of the Ratnapura District Football Association, President of the Ratnapura District Cricket Association and President of the Ratnapura Taekwondo Association.

Jayaratne said that as the President of the Sri Lanka Volleyball Federation, he aims to develop the game of volleyball in the future and bring it to international standard

Gamindu Tennakoon excels in rowing

Gamindu Tennakoon (19) representing the Colombo Rowing Club won the gold medal in the Intermediate Sculls event at the Sri Lanka National Rowing Championship 2021 recording a timing of 7:39:04 beating the Open Sculls event Champion and other oarsmen representing the Tri Forces.

Gamindu is a second year coloursmen and the current Vice Captain of Royal College Rowing Club.

The Senior Rowing Nationals were held at the Diyawanna Rowing Centre



Old Rathianz enter final

HAFIZ MARIKAR

Old Rathianz Cricket Club entered the finals of the Kandy District Cricket Association limited over cricket tournament by defeating Old Antonians S.C. by five wickets in the semi final played at St. Anthony's College grounds Katugastota. Now they will meet the winners of the Kandy Youth C.C. vs. Saracens C.C., game on April 9 in the final

The tournament was contested by 30 teams. In this semi-final Old Rathianz CC won the toss and elected to field first and the Old Antonians SC were able to

score 164 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 39 overs. R. Kapukotuwa made an unbeaten 50 with four fours, D. Bandara made 49 with seven fours and one six. H.M. Bandara bowled well to take 6 for 16. In reply Old Rathianz C.C. made 167 for 5 in 35.overs K. Karunatilake was unbeaten on 81 with eight fours.

Old Antonians 164 for 7 (39 over's) R. Kapukotuwa 50not out, D. Bandara 49, H.M. Bandara 6 for 16

Old Rathianz C.C. 167 for 5 (35.1 overs) K. Karunatilake 81 not out, S. Tennakoon 38, J. Rathnasiri 3 for 28

Sports promoter E.W. Balasuriya remembered

BY HAFIZ MARIKAR

Kandy remembers sports promoter E.W. Balasuriya one of its most versatile sportsmen, sports benefactor, and philanthropist and above all a gentleman, of the highest calibre who passed away at the age of 92 on April 6, Today is his eleventh death anniversary. An arms giving will be held at Mahayawa in his memory. Many are the instances in his illustrious career and public life where he displayed his integrity and honesty which was a shining example of a man living a clean life.

He was educated at Dharmaraja College and later at Ananda College, where he excelled in cricket as a steady and stylish opening bats-

man and fine close in fielder. After schooling, he came to Kandy and played cricket for Kandy United, Kandy CC and Central Province.

As a donor, he was unique and unlike most others, he was freely available to all sportsmen at all times. He was one-time secretary of the Central Province Cricket Association and later he hit the top spot when he organized the first Test match at Asgiriya in 1983 He was also in the Executive Committee of the Cricket Board when late Gamini Dissanayake was the president.

In the field of rugby he founded the Kandy Lake Club (in 1962) and later Kandy RFC. EW's idea of

forming this club, was to give the unknown ruggerites a chance, he was a great rugby promoter. At the end of the 1973 season, former CPRFU president Dr. K. B. Sangakara after seeing Kandy SC not doing well requested E. W. to amalgamate Kandy RFC with Kandy SC and play under one banner and thus Kandy SC was formed in 1974. In 1975 E.W. became the president of Kandy SC for the first time and took the club to the semi finals of the Clifford Cup knock out tournament. He also gave a helping hand to, hockey and iron sports.

His memory will remain forever in the minds of all those who knew him. He will not be forgotten by the sports loving public of Kandy.

Fine double by Sansala

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-KANDY Sports Special Correspondent



The girls cricket team of Nugawela National School being introduced to the Chief Guest, Dampija Wanasinghe, the Principal of Dharmaraja College, Kandy by the Captain of Nugawela National School Sansala Wanigasekera.

(Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports spl.Corr)

A fine double by Sansala Wanigasekera, Skipper of Nugawela National School, who bagged 4 Wickets for 30 runs and scored an unbeaten knock of 36 runs with seven fours helped the Girls Cricket Team of Nugawela National School to register an easy nine wicket victory over Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy in their Division III Tournament Cricket Match concluded at Lake View Grounds, Kandy yesterday.

Scores:
Mahamaya Girls School 80 all out in 23.5 overs. Sayuni Premaratne 15, Thamara Bandara 15, Saleela Lakshani 13, (Sansala Wanigasekera 4 for 30, Ishara Dharmasena 1 for 16, Maleesha Rathnayake 2 for 17)
Nugawela National School 80 for 1 wicket in 18 overs. Sansala Wanigasekera not out 36, Maleesha Rathnayake not out 15, Saleela Lakshani 1 for 14)

DATE 2021.04.04 SUNDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 4447 Value of prizes won in this draw **Rs. 12,879,520.00**

WINNING LETTER: N WINNING NUMBERS: 9 9 0 4 5 8 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 12,555,225.00**

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER : 2742 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 5,885,300.00**

WINNING LETTER: V WINNING NUMBERS: 21 39 55 80 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 62,522,746.00**

SEVANA DRAW NUMBER : 328 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 2,071,970.00**

ENGLISH LETTER: H WINNING NUMBERS: 09 20 28 34 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 14,000,000.00**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER : 484 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 3,685,600.00**

ENGLISH LETTER: P WINNING NUMBERS: 24 29 31 45 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 91,417,267.20**

DARU DIRI SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER : 33 TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW **Rs. 2,534,820.00**

ENGLISH LETTER: C WINNING NUMBERS: 15 27 32 87 THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW **Rs. 7,196,614.80**

04.04.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 635,075

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs. 27,057,210.00

Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 02 Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES 32

All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes
 Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes
 All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date

National Lotteries Board
 32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.

UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA
 Faculty of Graduate Studies
 M.Sc. Degree Programs and Postgraduate Diploma, Department of Chemistry- 2021

- Analytical Chemistry
- Biochemistry & Biotechnology
- Industrial and Environmental Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya is enrolling students for its M.Sc degree programs in 2021. Our attempt is to produce graduates and professionals with scientific knowledge and laboratory skills required by industries and organizations dealing with chemical analysis and analytical chemistry, biochemistry and biotechnology and environmental protection.

Entry Requirements & Course Fee

- Industrial and Environmental Chemistry, Analytical Chemistry
 - B. Sc. Honours Degree in Chemistry OR
 - B. Sc. Honours Degree with Chemistry as a subject OR
 - B. Sc. Degree with Chemistry as a subject OR
 - B. Sc. Degree in Chemical Engineering or Environmental Science or Agriculture OR
 - Any other equivalent qualification acceptable to the Senate of the University of Kelaniya.
- Biochemistry & Biotechnology
 - B. Sc. in Biological Sciences or Physical Sciences with Biochemistry/Microbiology/Biology/Botany/Zoology/Plant Science/Plant Biology/Molecular Biology and Plant Biotechnology and Chemistry as a subject OR
 - equivalent qualifications at SLQF level 5 or 6 with Biology and Chemistry as subjects acceptable to the Senate of the University of Kelaniya.

Course fee:
 M.Sc/Diploma: First year Rs 130,000/= Second year Rs. 50,000/=
 In addition: registration fees, library fee, science fee and examination fee will also be charged.

Program Pathways & Contact Details

M.Sc. (With one year research component)
 Part II (2nd year)
 Master Degree (With course work only) / Diploma
 Part I (1st year)
 Interview
 Entry Qualifications

Contact Details:

Coordinator - Analytical Chemistry
 Prof. Kapila Seneviratne
 TEL: 0112903251, 0714458393 0112903952
 E-Mail : kapilas@kln.ac.lk

Coordinator -Industrial and Environmental Chemistry
 Dr M.A.Y.L. Nadeesha
 TEL: 0112903251, 0768627447
 E-Mail : nadeesha@kln.ac.lk

Coordinator -Biochemistry & Biotechnology
 Dr A.M. Tissa Amarakoon
 TEL: 0112903251, 0712789141 0112903273
 E-Mail : tisso@kln.ac.lk

How to apply

- Copies of the prospectus and other information can be obtained from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.
- Applicants must pay an application processing fee of Rs. 1000/- made to any Branch of the People's Bank to the account Number 095-1-001-1-0667549
- Apply online through <http://fgs.kln.ac.lk/> of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) and the printed application should be submitted or sent with the bank receipt of Rs. 1000/- to
 Senior Assistant Registrar
 Faculty of Graduate Studies
 University of Kelaniya
 Kelaniya
- top left-hand corner of the envelope should bear "Registration for M.Sc in Analytical Chemistry/ Biochemistry & Biotechnology/ Industrial and Environmental Chemistry 2021"
- Supporting documents to be attached to the application: Copies of educational certificates, a copy of birth certificate, a letter of recommendation and CV

APPLICATION DEADLINE : 30-04-2021

Tentative Commencement Date: May 2021

Registrar,
 University of Kelaniya

WORLD OF SPORTS

(APRIL 6) LOCAL EVENTS

CRICKET
(Inter-Schools U-19 Tournament):
Maliyadeva vs St. Anthony's at Kurunegala (Defence Services Women's Tournament): Air Force SC 'A' vs Army SC 'A' at Panagoda

TENNIS
Clay Court Nationals at SLTA Courts, Green Path

FOREIGN EVENTS

CRICKET
(Sheffield Shield):
New South Wales vs Queensland at Wollongong
Victoria vs South Australia at Melbourne
Western Australia vs Tasmania at Perth

FOOTBALL
(Champions League quarter-finals):
Manchester City vs Borussia Dortmund
Real Madrid vs Liverpool

TENNIS
(WTA, Outdoor, Clay):
Volvo Car Open at Volvo Tennis Centre, USA



Nipun Haggalla of Bloomfield celebrates his fifty
Pic courtesy SLC

Army stuns CCC in SLC Limited Over Cricket Tourney

CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

Army CC produced a stunning performance to beat the favourites CCC by 108 runs in their SLC Major Club Limited Over Cricket Tournament fixture worked off at Maitland Crescent yesterday.

Army CC hit up 286 for eight in 50 overs thanks to two superb half-centuries from Himasha Liyanage (92) and Thisara Perera (67).

CCC in reply were dismissed for 178 runs in 39.5 overs with only Ashan Priyanjan (57) providing any resistance.

Chief scores
● **At CCC Grounds** (Army CC won by 108 runs)
Army CC: 286/8 in 50 overs (Himasha Liyanage 92, Thisara Perera 67)
CCC: 178 in 39.5 overs (Ashan Priyanjan 57).

● **At Maggona** (Badureliya CC won by nine wickets)
BRC: 169 in 46 overs (Leo Francisco 50) Badureliya

CC: 172/1 in 24.2 overs (Sandun Weerakkody 96, Tillakaratne Sampath 63 n.o.)

● **At Reid Avenue** (Bloomfield won by 160 runs)

Bloomfield: 331/5 in 50 overs (Nipun Haggalla 81, Harsha Vithana 62 n.o, Kasun Ekanayake 59, Sachin Jayawardena 57)

Kandy Customs SC: 171 in 34.3 overs (Sampath Perera 66).
At NCC Grounds (Moors SC won by 27 runs)

Moors SC: 236/9 in 50 overs (Kavindu Kulasekara 75)

Sebastianites CC: 209 in 46.3 overs (Sameen Kandaneerachchi 59).

● **At Colts Grounds** (Saracens SC won by 17 runs)

Saracens SC: 205/7 in 50 overs (Promod Maduwantha 82 n.o.)

Colts CC: 188 in 45.3 overs (Jehan Daniel 59)

● **At Welagedera Stadium**

Kurunegala YCC: 327/6 in 50 overs (Sameera Sadamal 83, Keshan Wanniarachchi 80)

Police SC: 226 in 43.2 overs.



Army CC players celebrate a dismissal

All-round Raveen steers Nalanda to easy win

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Skipper Raveen de Silva scored a superb 170 and took four wickets for four runs as Nalanda College notched up an easy 234-run victory over S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia in their Under-19 Limited Over Cricket Tournament match played at Mount Lavinia yesterday.

Meanwhile, St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa scored an upset victory over Ananda College, Colombo in their match played at Katuneriya.

Chief scores

● **At Mount Lavinia** (Nalanda won by 234 runs)
Nalanda: 303/8 in 50 overs (Raveen de Silva 170)
S. Thomas': 69 in 26.4 overs (Raveen de Silva 4/4).

● **At BRC Grounds**



Raveen de Silva (Nalanda) (Ispithana won by 108 runs)

Ispithana: 264/4 in 50 overs (Amana Dhaha 73, Themiya Gunaratne 64 n.o, Gomith Ravindith 44 n.o, Thamasha Nethsara 41)

Maris Stella: 146 in 43.4 overs (Neil Kaveen 62, Kavindu Amantha 5/33).

● **At Darley Road** (St. Joseph's won by six wickets)

St. Thomas', Matara:

189/8 in 50 overs (Hirantha Lakshan 64, Wositha Amarasinghe 45)

St. Joseph's: 193/4 in 34.1 overs (Sadeesh Jayawardena 66).

● **At Kurunegala Mahanaa** won by six wickets)

St. Anne's: 136 in 49.2 overs (Dilbara Deshabandu 56, Danaja Sandalidu 5/24)

Mahanama: 139/4 in 39.2 overs. (Pavan Rathnayake 69).

● **At Thurstan Grounds** (St. Peter's, Bambalapitiya won by seven wickets)

Thurstan: 156 in 41.1 overs

St. Peter's: 160/3 in 33.4 overs (Shenal Boteju 67).

● **At Katuneriya** (St. Joseph Vaz won by 18 runs)

St. Joseph Vaz: 136 in 48.3 overs

Ananda: 118 in 39.5 overs (Menusha Perera 5/20).



Ganuka Fernando

Lisal cruise to easy win at Tennis Nationals

Lisal Goonathilake took a step closer towards winning the Boys' Under-14 Singles title with an impressive performance at the Hutch-HNB Clay Court Tennis Nationals, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

The promising player rallied around magnificently and had the better

of Louis Knese in straight sets 6-1, 6-4 in the pre quarter-final encounter.

The results:

Boys' Under-14 Singles pre quarter-finals:
Lisal Goonathilake beat Louis Knese 6-1, 6-4. Thatuk Marasinghe beat Amrik Wettimuny 6-2, 6-7 (3), 10-3. Dhanushka Dias beat R. Gunawardhana

7-6 (2), 6-1. Senuk Heartha beat R. Akuretiyagama 6-1, 6-1. Sandas Usgodaarachchi beat Yuthilla Hettiarachchi 3-6, 6-2, 10-3. Janava De Saram beat Methika Wickramasinghe 6-3, 6-2. Ganuka Fernando beat Jayin De Saram 6-3, 6-1. Methwan Wijemannene beat Abdul Cader 6-2, 7-6. (C.D)



Lisal Goonathilake

24 wickets fall at Kotahena

A total of 24 wickets tumbled on the opening day of the Inter-Schools Under-19 Cricket Tournament match between St. Benedict's College and Dharmasoka College, Ambalangoda which

began at Kotahena yesterday.

Chief scores

St. Benedict's: 62 (Aroshana de Silva 3/3, Maneesha Rashmika 3/6, Sahana Sankalpa 3/24)

and 55/4 (Hasindu Kaviratne 35, Aroshana de Silva 3/23)

Dharmasoka: 119 (Kavin Samarahewa 31, Malinda Perera 3/23, Ashen de Soya 3/30) (D.R)

Umpires verdict paramount - MCC

While Quinton de Kock's role in Fakhar Zaman's run out continued to divide opinion, the MCC highlighted that the onus was on the umpires to determine if there was an attempt to deceive' the batsman.

The dismissal of Zaman became a big talking point after South Africa beat Pakistan in the second ODI at Johannesburg on Sunday.

Soon after the game, the MCC took to Twitter and pointed attention to Law

41.5.1 which states, "It is unfair for any fielder wilfully to attempt, by word or action, to distract, deceive or obstruct either batsman after the striker has received the ball".

MCC further added that the onus was on the umpires to determine whether there was an attempt to deceive' the batsman. But on this occasion, standing umpires Marais Erasmus and Allahudien Palekar didn't see it that way.

(Agencies)

IPL to go ahead despite Maharashtra lockdown

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has reiterated that there is no impact on the Indian Premier League (IPL) activities despite the latest government orders to curb the spread of Covid-19 virus in the state.

The clarification came in view of the partial lockdown measures announced by the Maharashtra government on Sunday evening.

"We have had a call from the city municipal commissioner. The association has been assured that the lockdown measures will have no impact on the IPL games. The other cricketing activities will, however, have to be immediately stopped," an office-bearer of the MCA told.

The MCA official also confirmed that the IPL teams can continue to practise normally. "Any cricket activity that is part of a bio-secure bubble will be permitted uninterrupted," the MCA official further said.

Mumbai is scheduled to host 10 games and some of them are on the weekends, including the first match, which is between Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals on Saturday.

The Mumbai leg runs from April 10 to 24 with six teams - Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals, Punjab Kings, Royals Challengers Bangalore, Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders - playing at the Wankhede Stadium. The IPL starts in Chennai on Friday. (Agencies)



Injured Shadab to miss remainder of SA tour

Shadab Khan, the Pakistan leg-spinner, has been ruled out of the remainder of the ongoing series against South Africa and the forthcoming tour of Zimbabwe, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced yesterday.

Shadab suffered an injury to his left toe while batting during the ODI against South Africa on Sunday, which is expected to sideline him for up to four weeks.

"X-rays conducted following the match revealed an intra articular communicated fracture though there is neither any displacement nor angulation. The injury will be treated conservatively and Shadab will undergo a four-week rehab," the PCB stated in a release.

Earlier in the year, Shadab had suffered a thigh injury that had ruled him out of the New Zealand Tests and the home series against South Africa.

Shadab was a part of all the three squads of Pakistan for this twin assignments in Africa. In the first two one-dayers of the series, he failed to pick up a wicket but registered scores of 33 and 13 as Pakistan and South Africa find themselves level going into the last of the three-match series. (Agencies)



Shadab Khan

Pakistan slide to defeat despite Fakhar's valiant 193

South Africa held their nerves in a pressure game as they defeated Pakistan by 17 runs to level the series 1-1 despite a herculean effort of 193 from Fakhar Zaman, who stretched the match till the last over.

South Africa posted a daunting total of 341 for six after being put in to bat, thanks to half-centuries by Quinton de Kock (80), Temba Bevuma (92), Rassie van der Dussen (60), and David Miller (50 n.o.).

Pakistan commenced their chase stuttering with Imam-ul-Haq (5) back in the pavilion to Lungi Ngidi (1/66) in the second over.

Babar joined forces with Fakhar Zaman to set a foundation for the chase. The two added 63 runs for the second wicket but Anrich Nortje (3/63) snared the wickets of Babar (31), Mohammad Rizwan (0), and Danish Aziz (9), reducing

the visitors to 85/4. The lower middle-order consisting of Shadab Khan (13), Asif Ali (19), and Faheem Ashraf (11) couldn't hold the port from their side for long, increasing the pressure on Fakhar to stand vehemently at the crease.

Fakhar fuelled the fires of hope in the Pakistan camp to almost bring the visitors home but his gruelling knock 193 off 155 deliveries came to an anti-climatic end with a run-out from Aiden Markram.

Fakhar was awarded the Player of the Match for his spectacular knock that was studded with 18 fours and 10 sixes and is now the highest individual scorer at the Wanderers.

Chief scores

South Africa: 341/6 in 50 overs (Temba Bavuma 92, Quinton de Kock 80, Haris Rauf 3/54)
Pakistan: 324/9 in 50 overs (Fakhar Zaman 193, Anrich Nortje 3/63). (Agencies)



Fakhar Zaman plays a shot

Sports Ministry to conduct Family Races at Race Course

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has organised a family run to be held every Saturday morning covering a distance of five kilometres commencing on April 10 at 6.00 a.m.

This event is organised with the help of Lanka Sportreizen and the race will be worked off around the Race Course and on the road in close proximity to the Sports Ministry.

"We are adults and our responsibility is to build up active children in the society from their childhood," Sports Minister

Namal Rajapaksa told a media briefing in Colombo yesterday.

"We have to give them proper guidance to build up their career with more activities."

"Our new Family Run Saturday Programme will help us to achieve this target," said the Sports Minister.

Sportreizen Chairman Thilak Weerasinghe, Sports Director General Dr. Lal Ekanayake and Cinnamon Garden Police Station Traffic OIC Suraj Abeyasinghe also graced this launching ceremony. (D.R)

Daily News Business

Business Editor : (011) 242 9221 Fax : (011)2343694 e mail : business.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

OBTAINS REGULATORY APPROVAL FOR EMPOWER BOARD

Chrissworld, first SME to list at CSE

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Chrissworld Limited will become the first SME Company in Sri Lanka to obtain regulatory approval for a listing on the Colombo Stock Exchange.

This is happening after 100 years since the establishment of the Stock Exchange in Sri Lanka. Chrissworld Limited entered the history books on March 26 where a company classified under the category of SME obtained regulatory approval for a listing in the Colombo Stock Exchange SME Empower Board.

"We now hope to raise Rs. 56.2 million from this IPO releasing 25% of our shares to the public," said Chrisslogix Pvt. Ltd, Chairman and Managing Director, Christopher Perera.

He said that they prefer raising capital through IPO rather than taking bank loans which needs more collateral and other higher interest and other complications. "We also feel being listed gives us a better brand identity."

Chrisslogix offers a wide range of services in warehouse management and we hope to use funds raised from the IPO

towards the expansion of our warehouse, new wracking system and also to install more ICT based solutions to it. "In addition we also want to expand our delivery and offer service up to the customer's doorstep for which we also hope to purchase new vehicles."

He said that the logistic business is a viable investment as it did not 'suffer' even during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We also see more demand for warehousing and will also look at investing in them with entrepreneurs on a BOT basis especially in Hambantota and North East areas."

Founder/Managing Director, Atarah Capital Partners (Pvt) Ltd Rohan Senewiratne the 'Managers to the Issue' of the upcoming historical IPO said that they have two more similar IPO launches for this year awaiting approvals.

"Most of the companies find it more suitable to raise capital via tools of this nature rather than using the traditional way of raising capital through banks. Few years ago, no one would have



Chrisslogix Chairman and Managing Director, Christopher Perera and Founder/Managing Director, Atarah Capital Partners Rohan Senewiratne and other officials at the event

thought that an SME company could get CSE approval for a listing. The dominance of banks and finance companies as the sole provider of capital for the SMEs is thus broken, and the alternative of listed equity capital is now a great option for Sri Lankan SMEs to consider in the future.

"After the listing of Chrissworld is completed (during the Month of May 2021) and launching of the new Empower Board of the CSE, I firmly believe many other SMEs would also reach investment banks to consider the alternative funding option of listed equity."

"Cargo shipping becomes more expensive"

The shipping and moving of cargo has become more 'expensive' Chrisslogix Pvt. Ltd, Chairman and Managing Director, Christopher Perera said.

He said they see an overall 30% increase in the freight forwarding business. He however said that they don't experience any major delays in shipping 'orders' being delivered to Colombo from most of the countries except China. He said that when cargo is shipped from China slight delays are experienced since priority is given to shipments to India as there is an increase of trade between the two nations.



COMPUTER SOCIETY LAUNCHES NITC PAGE 20

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

Rate of Interest

FROM 06/04/2021
TO 12/04/2021

4% p.a.

For further details visit the nearest branch

COMMERCIAL BANK

Coconut oil imports

More local participation must to increase production - CGASL

Even though around 2,500 small and medium-scale mills produce coconut oil in Sri Lanka it is reported that only a few large industries are involved in it according to the Coconut Growers Association of Sri Lanka (CGASL). This has resulted in imports of Coconut oil. According to the Coconut Development Authority (CDA) currently the coconut cultivation in Sri Lanka is a little over one million hectares. The area under rubber cultivation is lower at 126,700 ha (2018).

The Rs 2.9 billion nut production in 2012 fell to 2.5 billion in 2013 which then peaked to 3.05 billion which, thereafter declined to 2.45 billion. The production then peaked again to Rs 3 billion in 2019.

According to the existing demand for coconuts in Sri Lanka, the coconut industry here requires around 3.6 billion nuts but the level of production is only between 2.5-2.8 billion.

Sri Lanka is the fourth largest coconut producer in the world's

annual US \$36 billion industry. Experts say that when it comes to Sri Lankan tree crops, coconut generates the highest per annum income compared to rubber and tea-the other two traditional tree crops.

Coconut generates Rs. 175,000 per hectare per annum, while tea and rubber produce Rs. 45,000 and Rs. 50,000 structural equation model brand equity.

According to Coconut Research Institute, the sector provides livelihoods to around 700,000 and employment to 135,000. This is twice the rate of that of the apparel sector.

Sri Lanka briefly woke up to the grim reality of the coconut's plight in 2020 when it produced no less than a Cabinet paper. On December 22, 2020 the Cabinet approved a set of proposals presented by the Minister of Plantation and the Minister of the Industry for the development of the coconut-based industrial system.

Among the proposals were a complete prohibition on the sale of

coconut oil mixed with palm oil or other oils to protect consumer rights and the brand name of the Sri Lankan coconut oil, recognition of the discouragement of palm oil consumption in the country and promotion of coconut oil as a basic policy of the government and permission to import only refined palm oil, concerning consumer rights and public health reasons, to provide relief to repay the loans obtained by the coconut industrials, the introduction of relief packages to increase the productivity of coconut plantations such as inter cropping, dairy farming, and irrigation to encourage coconut cultivation.

"This is a welcome step in the right direction. Still, it is not the 'only step' in that direction," says CGASL.

The computer software and hardware emerged as the top sector during the first ten months of the fiscal with 45.81% of the total FDI Equity inflow, followed by Construction (Infrastructure) Activities at 13.37% and services sector at 7.8%, respectively.

The Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors is an opportunity to provide guidance on ADB administrative, financial, and operational directions.

The meetings provide opportunities for member governments to interact with ADB staff, non government organizations (NGOs), media, and representatives of observer countries, international organizations, academe and the private sector.

The Annual Meeting of the ADB Board

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Special emphasis on importing eco-friendly vehicles

SANDESEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Special attention would be paid to the importation of eco-friendly vehicles, said State Minister of Money and Capital Market and State Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal told Parliament yesterday.

He also observed that special attention has been paid to the manufacturing of vehicles locally. State Minister Cabraal further pointed

out that a vehicle assembling and value addition system is being implemented in the country expeditiously.

The number of vehicles imported to Sri Lanka from 2015 to 2019 was 25,155,46.

The amount spent on these vehicles imported amounts to Rs. 1,239 billion, State Minister Cabraal pointed out. These vehicles have been imported from 103 countries.



India's total FDI up 15% in April-January, highest so far in first 10 months

India attracted total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of US\$72.12 billion in April-January, 2021, the highest ever for the first ten months of a financial year, the government said Monday.

The FDI inflows, which include equity, reinvested earnings and other capital, were 15% higher as compared to the first ten months of FY20 which were \$62.72 billion.

The computer software and hardware emerged as the top sector during the first ten months of the fiscal with 45.81% of the total FDI Equity inflow, followed by Construction (Infrastructure) Activities at 13.37% and services sector at 7.8%, respectively.

FDI equity inflow rose 28% on-year in the first ten months of FY21 at \$54.18 billion, with highest investment coming from Singapore followed by the US and UAE.

"Japan has been leading the list of investor countries to invest in India with 29.09% of the total FDI Equity inflows during January, 2021, followed by Singapore (25.46%) and the USA (12.06%)," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

"These trends in India's FDI are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors," the ministry said.

(www.economicstimes.com)

ADB Annual Meeting on May 3 to 5

The 54th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors will be held from 3 to 5 May 2021.

This year's theme is Collaboration for Resilient and Green Recovery. A series of webinars and Governors' events to discuss important issues in Asia and the Pacific are in the program.

The Annual Meeting of the ADB Board

of Governors is an opportunity to provide guidance on ADB administrative, financial, and operational directions.

The meetings provide opportunities for member governments to interact with ADB staff, non government organizations (NGOs), media, and representatives of observer countries, international organizations, academe and the private sector.

An alternative to Savings Accounts

NDB | WEALTH
MONEY PLUS
FUND

* Current Yield as at 31st March 2021

5.50%

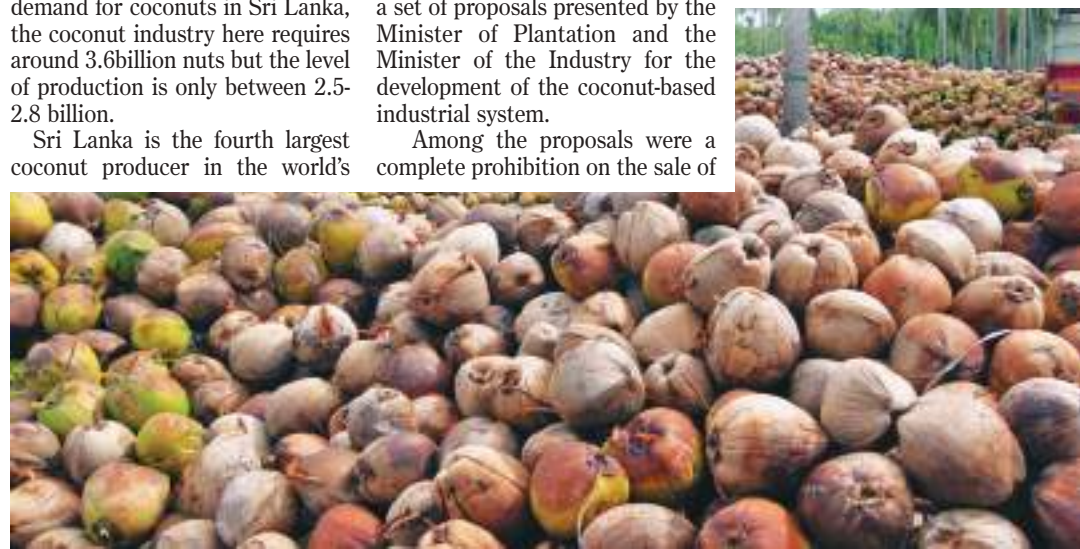
WITHDRAW ANYTIME

It's time for more than banking!

Disclaimer: * Current yield is variable 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.

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NDB
Wealth Management
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Plucked output from a Sri Lankan coconut plantation

USAID funds mobile app for Sri Lankan legal professionals

With support from the United States, the Colombo Law Society (CLS) recently launched a mobile application that provides members with access to online legal resources and court calendars. With court calendars and law reports at their fingertips, lawyers will be able to better serve the public.

The mobile application was funded by the U.S. Government's Agency for International Development (USAID) and is first of its kind for Sri Lankan profes-

sional legal associations. Thanks to the app, busy lawyers who are CLS members will be able to access the latest educational resources on a mobile device, quickly connecting them to current research and information despite their hectic schedules.

At an event on March 5 to launch the application, Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, His Lordship Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, said, "I have no doubt that the mobile application that is

launched today will have swift and effective access to its services and that Members will enjoy all new services offered through this application."

The application is just one component of U.S.-funded support for Sri Lankan law professionals. The CLS also launched the 2020 edition of the Hultsdorp Law Journal with U.S. assistance. This journal, coupled with online legal training, provides strategic and practical tools for attorneys and law stu-

dents throughout the country. The CLS, a professional association affiliated with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, has more than 4,000 attorneys based in Colombo. "Continuing legal education and rapid access to information are critical in helping legal professionals to align with the requirements of the fast-changing socio-economic environment of Sri Lanka and the world," said USAID Mission Director Reed Aeschliman.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CLS pioneered online education for Sri Lanka's attorneys and law students and developed a continuing legal education protocol to frame its future training.

With support from the United States, CLS has conducted 25 online legal training sessions for legal professionals and will offer intensive training to senior attorneys and workshops for junior attorneys and apprentices.



Reed Aeschliman

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 05.04.2021

| Security | Volume | **V.V.A. Previous Close | Open | High | Low | **V.V.A. Yesterday's Close | Change (Rs.) |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Main Board | | | | | | | |
| A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD. | 2,034 | 30.10 | 31.00 | 31.30 | 29.70 | 30.10 | 0.00 |
| ABANS | 22 | 159.50 | 161.00 | 161.00 | 152.00 | 159.50 | 0.00 |
| ACCESS ENG SL | 552,942 | 23.00 | 23.50 | 24.00 | 23.30 | 23.50 | 0.50 |
| ACL | 347,512 | 36.40 | 37.00 | 37.30 | 36.50 | 36.70 | 0.30 |
| ACL PLASTICS | 526 | 260.50 | 259.00 | 267.00 | 259.00 | 261.00 | 0.50 |
| ACME | 15,633 | 6.30 | 6.20 | 6.30 | 6.20 | 6.30 | 0.00 |
| AGALAWATTE | 13,304 | 27.50 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 28.00 | 0.50 |
| AHOT PROPERTIES | 100 | 36.60 | 36.50 | 36.50 | 36.50 | 36.50 | (0.10) |
| AITKEN SPENCE | 139,453 | 57.10 | 57.00 | 58.00 | 55.00 | 55.10 | (0.10) |
| ALLIANCE | 3,050 | 49.60 | 51.50 | 51.50 | 49.50 | 50.00 | 0.40 |
| AMANA BANK | 238,008 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.20 | 3.30 | 0.00 |
| AMAYA LEISURE | 300 | 17.80 | 18.10 | 18.10 | 18.10 | 18.10 | 0.30 |
| ASIA ASSET | 17 | 6.00 | 5.80 | 6.10 | 5.80 | 6.00 | 0.00 |
| ASIRI | 11,521 | 25.70 | 25.90 | 26.00 | 25.00 | 25.10 | (0.60) |
| ASIRI SURG | 2,769 | 13.90 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 13.70 | 13.80 | (0.10) |
| AUTODROME | 3 | 70.10 | 74.50 | 74.50 | 74.50 | 70.10 | 0.00 |
| BAIRAHA FARMS | 37,503 | 135.00 | 142.00 | 142.00 | 135.00 | 136.75 | 1.75 |
| BALANGODA | 17,991 | 11.10 | 11.20 | 11.30 | 10.90 | 11.00 | (0.10) |
| BUKIT DARAH | 1 | 329.75 | 329.50 | 329.50 | 329.50 | 329.75 | 0.00 |
| C M HOLDINGS | 532 | 83.00 | 82.90 | 85.00 | 82.90 | 85.00 | 2.00 |
| C T HOLDINGS | 371 | 170.00 | 170.00 | 174.00 | 170.00 | 170.00 | 0.00 |
| CARGILLS | 334 | 233.75 | 234.25 | 234.25 | 234.00 | 234.25 | 0.50 |
| CARGO BOAT | 3,369 | 60.00 | 61.90 | 62.00 | 61.90 | 61.90 | 1.90 |
| CARSONS | 11,000 | 277.50 | 275.00 | 275.00 | 275.00 | 275.00 | (2.50) |
| CDB | 993 | 110.00 | 110.75 | 111.25 | 110.75 | 111.00 | 1.00 |
| CDB [CDB.X0000] | 1,263 | 70.00 | 72.00 | 74.90 | 71.90 | 72.00 | 2.00 |
| CENTRAL FINANCE | 23,101 | 82.90 | 81.50 | 84.00 | 81.50 | 82.30 | (0.60) |
| CENTRAL IND. | 18,902 | 105.50 | 106.75 | 110.00 | 106.50 | 108.50 | 3.00 |
| CEYLINCO INS. | 2 | 2,087.25 | 1,970.25 | 1,970.25 | 1,970.25 | 2,087.25 | 0.00 |
| CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000] | 10 | 1,070.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 | 1,070.00 | 0.00 |
| CEYLON INV. | 7,135 | 63.80 | 63.80 | 64.90 | 63.80 | 64.90 | 1.10 |
| CEYLON TOBACCO | 274 | 989.50 | 989.00 | 989.00 | 988.00 | 988.50 | (1.00) |
| CHEMANEX | 606 | 78.50 | 78.90 | 78.90 | 74.50 | 74.50 | (4.00) |
| CHEVRON | 330,864 | 89.60 | 90.00 | 91.50 | 89.30 | 90.90 | 1.30 |
| CIC | 205,994 | 52.50 | 52.50 | 54.70 | 51.00 | 53.60 | 1.10 |
| CIC [CIC.X0000] | 256,173 | 43.50 | 43.10 | 45.50 | 43.10 | 44.60 | 1.10 |
| CITRUS LEISURE | 3,004 | 8.50 | 8.70 | 8.70 | 8.30 | 8.60 | 0.10 |
| COLD STORES | 823 | 623.00 | 623.00 | 623.00 | 617.00 | 618.00 | (5.00) |
| COLOMBO CITY | 186 | 899.75 | 900.00 | 900.00 | 862.00 | 884.75 | (15.00) |
| COLOMBO LAND | 1,593 | 26.00 | 26.00 | 26.00 | 25.70 | 26.00 | 0.00 |
| COMMERCIAL BANK XD XC | 278,735 | 85.60 | 85.60 | 85.90 | 84.50 | 84.70 | (0.90) |
| COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000] | 144,911 | 79.00 | 79.30 | 79.90 | 77.00 | 77.10 | (1.90) |
| CONVENIENCE FOOD | 3 | 1,245.00 | 1,294.75 | 1,294.75 | 1,294.75 | 1,245.00 | 0.00 |
| DANKOTUWA PORCEL | 88,522 | 10.60 | 10.80 | 10.80 | 10.50 | 10.60 | 0.00 |
| DFCC BANK PLC | 5,020 | 59.30 | 59.80 | 60.10 | 59.40 | 59.60 | 0.30 |
| DIALOG | 205,862 | 12.90 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 12.70 | 12.80 | (0.10) |
| DIMO | 5 | 530.25 | 533.25 | 533.25 | 533.25 | 530.25 | 0.00 |
| DIPPED PRODUCTS | 4,043,458 | 47.10 | 47.50 | 50.50 | 47.50 | 49.30 | 2.20 |
| DOCKYARD | 63 | 74.00 | 74.20 | 74.20 | 73.50 | 74.00 | 0.00 |
| DURDANS | 40 | 101.25 | 103.25 | 103.25 | 103.25 | 101.25 | 0.00 |
| E B C REASY | 14,623 | 30.30 | 30.50 | 31.00 | 29.90 | 30.40 | 0.10 |
| EAST WEST | 12,325 | 10.30 | 10.20 | 10.30 | 10.20 | 10.20 | (0.10) |
| EASTERN MERCHANT | 419,176 | 5.40 | 5.60 | 6.00 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 0.00 |
| EXPOLANKA | 2,953,359 | 46.00 | 46.00 | 47.10 | 45.50 | 46.20 | 0.20 |
| FORT LAND | 11,039 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.50 | 13.00 | 13.20 | 0.20 |
| GRAIN ELEVATORS | 107,439 | 122.25 | 123.00 | 126.75 | 123.00 | 123.25 | 1.00 |
| HAYCARB | 1,719,021 | 95.50 | 96.00 | 106.50 | 96.00 | 103.50 | 8.00 |
| HAYLEYS | 2,773,511 | 63.40 | 64.70 | 69.40 | 64.20 | 67.40 | 4.00 |
| HAYLEYS FABRIC | 742,510 | 14.50 | 14.70 | 15.30 | 14.60 | 15.10 | 0.20 |
| HAYLEYS FIBRE | 5,272 | 49.30 | 49.30 | 49.30 | 47.80 | 48.50 | (0.80) |
| HDFC | 943 | 33.90 | 34.90 | 36.20 | 34.90 | 34.90 | 1.00 |
| HEMAS HOLDINGS | 16,944 | 82.70 | 83.00 | 83.50 | 82.60 | 82.80 | 0.10 |
| HNB XD XC | 357,132 | 125.25 | 126.00 | 126.00 | 123.00 | 123.50 | (1.75) |
| HNB ASSURANCE XD | 18,677 | 58.70 | 58.00 | 58.80 | 57.00 | 57.20 | (1.50) |
| HNB [HNB.X0000] XD XC | 422,918 | 97.00 | 97.00 | 97.30 | 96.10 | 97.00 | 0.00 |
| HORANA | 29,000 | 23.20 | 21.40 | 21.50 | 21.40 | 21.40 | (1.80) |
| HOTELS CORP | 10,739 | 11.60 | 11.80 | 11.90 | 10.70 | 10.80 | (0.80) |
| INDUSTRIAL ASPH. | 1,266,992 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| JKH | 771,836 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 150.75 | 149.50 | 150.00 | 0.00 |
| KANDY HOTELS | 1 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 5.40 | 0.00 |
| KGALLE | 3,873 | 98.20 | 98.50 | 99.00 | 97.10 | 98.60 | 0.40 |
| KELANI CABLES | 2,393 | 113.25 | 113.50 | 119.00 | 113.00 | 115.00 | 1.75 |
| KELANI TYRES | 449,161 | 79.60 | 80.00 | 82.50 | 79.70 | 81.90 | 2.30 |
| KELANI VALLEY | 16,837 | 37.20 | 37.50 | 38.40 | 37.50 | 38.30 | 1.10 |
| KINGSBURY | 51,948 | 6.10 | 6.00 | 6.10 | 6.00 | 6.10 | 0.00 |
| KOTAGALA | 30,101 | 5.30 | 5.40 | 5.60 | 5.20 | 5.40 | 0.10 |
| L O L C HOLDINGS | 96,332 | 295.75 | 303.00 | 304.00 | 295.50 | 297.50 | 1.75 |
| LAKE HOUSE PRIN. | 10 | 121.25 | 128.00 | 128.00 | 127.75 | 121.25 | 0.00 |
| LANKA ALUMINIUM | 41,624 | 16.70 | 16.80 | 16.90 | 16.50 | 16.60 | (0.10) |
| LANKA ASHOK | 1 | 839.25 | 839.25 | 839.25 | 839.25 | 839.25 | 0.00 |
| LANKA HOSPITALS | 118 | 41.30 | 43.40 | 43.40 | 43.30 | 43.40 | 2.10 |
| LANKA IOC | 86,948 | 18.90 | 19.40 | 19.50 | 19.10 | 19.40 | 0.50 |
| LANKA TILES | 238,067 | 41.30 | 42.00 | 44.40 | 42.00 | 43.80 | 2.50 |
| LANKA VENTURES | 4 | 48.60 | 51.20 | 51.20 | 51.20 | 48.60 | 0.00 |
| LANKA WALLTILE | 371,768 | 41.90 | 42.50 | 44.50 | 42.10 | 44.00 | 2.10 |
| LAUGFS GAS | 852 | 21.80 | 23.00 | 23.50 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 0.70 |
| LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000] | 2,981 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.10 | 15.10 | (0.10) |
| LAXAPANA | 119,675 | 13.70 | 14.90 | 15.30 | 14.80 | 15.10 | 1.40 |
| LB FINANCE | 100,503 | 47.70 | 48.00 | 51.50 | 48.00 | 49.70 | 2.00 |
| LEE HEDGES | 11,060 | 64.20 | 67.90 | 67.90 | 64.20 | 65.00 | 0.80 |
| LION BREWERY | 12 | 569.00 | 541.25 | 570.00 | 541.25 | 569.00 | 0.00 |
| LMF | 99,441 | 154.75 | 156.00 | 159.50 | 154.50 | 158.75 | 4.00 |
| LVL ENERGY | 30,565 | 10.00 | 9.80 | 10.00 | 9.50 | 9.90 | (0.10) |
| MALWATTE [MAL.X0000] | 2,030 | 7.90 | 7.30 | 7.30 | 7.20 | 7.20 | (0.70) |
| MELSTACORP | 789,878 | 44.80 | 45.10 | 46.00 | 44.80 | 44.80 | 0.00 |
| MERC. SHIPPING | 6 | 67.80 | 67.70 | 67.70 | 67.70 | 67.80 | 0.00 |
| MERCHANT BANK | 8,825 | 7.00 | 6.90 | 6.90 | 6.80 | 6.90 | (0.10) |
| MULLERS | 3,252,498 | 1.20 | 1.30 | 1.40 | 1.30 | 1.30 | 0.10 |
| NAMUNUKULA | 12,972 | 184.50 | 185.00 | 188.00 | 176.00 | 182.25 | (2.25) |
| NAT. DEV. BANK | 259,152 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 80.00 | 79.50 | 79.50 | (0.50) |
| NATIONS TRUST | 22,883 | 55.40 | 55.50 | 55.50 | 54.00 | 54.50 | (0.90) |
| NAVALOKA | 4,663 | 5.20 | 5.20 | 5.20 | 5.00 | 5.00 | (0.20) |
| NESTLE | 387 | 1,133.50 | 1,150.00 | 1,150.00 | 1,120.00 | 1,122.00 | (11.50) |
| OVERSEAS REALTY | 56,388 | 15.50 | 15.40 | 15.50 | 15.20 | 15.40 | (0.10) |
| PAN ASIA | 362,001 | 14.50 | 14.80 | 14.90 | 14.20 | 14.20 | (0.30) |
| PANASIAN POWER | 988,750 | 3.60 | 3.60 | 3.90 | 3.60 | 3.80 | 0.20 |
| PEOPLE'S INS | 46,615 | 31.40 | 31.80 | 31.80 | 30.80 | 31.20 | 0.40 |
| PEOPLES LEASING | 519,258 | 11.90 | 12.00 | 12.00 | 11.70 | 11.80 | (0.10) |
| PIRAMAL GLASS | 1,316,572 | 11.20 | 11.30 | 11.40 | 11.20 | 11.20 | 0.00 |
| PRINTCARE PLC | 1,128 | 27.30 | 27.40 | 27.40 | 26.50 | 27.00 | (0.30) |
| R I L PROPERTY | 172,644 | 7.00 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 6.80 | 7.00 | 0.00 |
| REGNIS | 49,035 | 48.60 | 49.90 | 52.00 | 49.90 | 50.50 | 1.90 |
| RENUKA AGRI | 1,409,686 | 4.20 | 4.30 | 4.30 | 4.00 | 4.00 | (0.20) |
| RENUKA CITY HOT. | 1,200 | 226.25 | 226.00 | 226.00 | 226.00 | 226.00 | (0.25) |
| RENUKA FOODS | 27,576 | 12.70 | 13.40 | 13.40 | 13.00 | 13.10 | 0.40 |
| RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000] | 1,035 | 10.90 | 11.40 | 11.40 | 10.40 | 10.40 | (0.50) |
| RENUKA HOLDINGS | 14,918 | 15.10 | 15.00 | 15.30 | 15.00 | 15.00 | (0.10) |
| RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000] | 2,501 | 11.40 | 11.90 | 11.90 | 11.60 | 11.70 | 0.30 |
| RESUS ENERGY | 522 | 25.40 | 25.00 | 25.10 | 25.00 | 25.10 | (0.30) |
| RICHARD PIERIS | 16,036 | 16.80 | 16.70 | 16.80 | 16.70 | 16.70 | (0.10) |
| ROYAL CERAMIC | 236,096 | 288.50 | 273.00 | 280.00 | 273.00 | 278.25 | 9.75 |
| S M B LEASING | 38,565 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.00 |
| S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000] | 13,005,600 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.40 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.00 |
| SAMPATH | 1,775,889 | 53.50 | 53.50 | 53.60 | 52.20 | 52.40 | (1.10) |
| SANASA DEV. BANK | 96,734 | 57.00 | 57.00 | 58.00 | 55.00 | 56.20 | (0.80) |
| SEYLAN BANK XC | 54,681 | 51.00 | 51.50 | 51.50 | 48.20 | 48.60 | (2.40) |
| SEYLAN BANK [SEYB.X0000] XC | 52,779 | 44.00 | 43.20 | 44. | | | |

Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, marks 182 years

Governor Stewart Mackenzie, initiated the establishing of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce on 25 March 1839, for the purpose of best promoting the interests of commerce.

It was among the first group of chambers established in Asia at the time. Governor Mackenzie who was deeply interested in promoting Agriculture and Trade adopted the rules and regulations to establish the Chamber with a membership of fourteen individual members and twelve firms. During this first hundred years, the Chamber took a principal interest in the sale of tea and rubber. At the time, nearly all local trading of produce was governed by the founding rules of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past 182 years, the Ceylon Chamber has responded to the needs of the business community that has experienced an evolving landscape from a focus on a few traditional commodities' trade, to a widely diversified commercial business arena shaped by new consumer needs, export diversification, deeper engagement with countries across the world, fueled by technology and the advent of the digital economy.

The Chamber stands ready to leverage opportunities and adapt to challenges in its path. Whenever the need arose, the Ceylon



A glimpse of the past and present

Chamber of Commerce has intervened in matters of national importance and provided leadership to gather a collective voice with other Chambers to engage with Government. The founding goal of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce remains relevant to this day—a powerful voice that speaks on behalf of the interests of Sri Lanka's mercantile community while respecting national interest as its foremost priority.



The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce looks to continue in its quest, carrying forward the wisdom of two centuries, while staying relevant to its fast evolving membership, remaining to be Sri Lanka's most powerful voice in business. CCC which plays a catalytic role in the development of the business sector, identifies key issues to assist in the development of strategic plans to meet new challenges and opportunities. With the close rapport maintained with the Government sector, the CCC continued to



strengthen its role as a channel between the Government and the Private sector.

CCC, being the first Chamber to be established in Sri Lanka, is the prime mover of the Chamber movement in Sri Lanka. It was also the first Chamber to be represented in the Senate and House of Representatives in the days of Ceylon and the first to be accepted as an affiliate member of Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) in 1983.

Manjula De Silva CEO/ Secretary General of CCC stated "The Chamber has over the years continued to provide its unwavering support to the business community in Sri Lanka. We are humbled to have long-standing members who have been with us for a considerable period of time and our growing membership is a statement of our continued efforts. CCC has been a pillar of strength to the private sector during many challenging times and it is striving to extend its unwavering support to uplift the economy. We are poised with a strategic outlook in terms of boosting SMEs, startups, bilateral trade and investment."

Unilever chosen by Sri Lankan consumers at SLIM-Nielsen Peoples Awards

Unilever Sri Lanka, one of the country's leading fast-moving consumer goods companies recently announced that three of its brands had been recognised at the SLIM-Nielsen Peoples Awards 2021. These recognitions included the 'Hot Beverage Brand of the Year' award for Laojee, 'Personal Care Brand of the Year' and 'Advertisement of the Year' award for Lifebuoy and Signal.

This consumer acceptance is attributed to the company constantly remaining close and relevant to its consumers through its purpose driven initiatives that have remained at the core of its brands. Hygiene master brand, Lifebuoy, continues to protect Sri Lankans during recent times, while teaching over 2.5 million school children good handwashing habits across the country.

Sri Lanka's flagship oral care brand, Signal's 'Sina Bo Wewa' programme has directly educated over 2 million Sri Lankans to improve oral health through multiple school reach initiatives and mass-scale dental clinics

across the island. Laojee continues to stand for social inclusion by playing the role of a 'brew that bonds' and is devoted to driving its purpose of bringing people together over a tasty cup of tea.

Nilushi Jayatileke, Marketing Director – Beauty & Personal Care said, "We are truly humbled by this honour, which resonates with our commitment to remain relevant to our consumers by driving purpose through our brands every day. We express our sincere appreciation to our consumers who continue to believe in our brands with confidence."

Sharmila Bandara, Marketing Director – Home Care, Foods, Refreshments & Water said, "Our consumers have always been at the heart of everything we do. We are constantly seeking ways to understand and cater to their growing needs and make a positive impact in their lives through our high-quality products, driven by our purpose-led brands. These recognitions are a testament to it." The SLIM-Nielsen Peoples Awards is Sri Lanka's premier marketing awards ceremony.

Annual Session of IESL on April 8

The 114th Annual Session of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) will be held at the Main Hall of Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) on April 8, 2021 from 8.30 AM to 12 noon.

The ceremony will commence at 9.30 AM and the Chief Guest for this event will be the Emeritus Prof. K N. O. Dharmadasa, former Dean Of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya. Further Eng. Prof S B S Abayakoon, President of the for the session 2019/2020 and former Vice Chancellor of University of Peradeniya, Dr. Ranjit Ranaraja (Former Appeal Court Judge) and Eng. Col. (Rtd). Nissanka N. Wijeratne, Secretary General/CEO, Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka will also address the gathering. The main speech will



President, Eng. **K P I U Dharmapala** and President Elect Eng. **Arjuna Manamperi** be delivered by the Emeritus Prof. K. N. O. Dharmadasa, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya. At this occasion, certificates and gifts will be awarded to winners of IESL competitions, and members who have become Honorary Life Members, Fellows and International Professional Engineers.

Raigam awards entries close on April 10

The Raigam Tele'es Secretariat proudly declares the 17th encounter of Raigam Tele'es, which will evaluate the tele-creations telecast over the TV channels in Sri Lanka during the year 2020. The grand award ceremony will be staged on July 3, 2021 at the Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Auditorium, Colombo.

The "Nomination Evening" for the declaration and felicitation of nominees recommended for awards will take place on 04th June 2021 at Shangri-la Hotel, Colombo

Raigam Tele'es has embarked on the trend of acclaiming creations, immediately after the end of the year under review. Despite the impact of pandemic, we successfully concluded the Raigam Teles

2019 - in 2020 as scheduled, which became the 1st and only tele cinema awards ceremony held in the island in the year 2020. This time too, the Raigam Teles 2020, will be held with the least delay in the face of the current situation and also under the new norm.

This year the Raigam Tele'es 'Nomination Evening' will be held on a grander scale on June 4, 2021 at the Shangri La Hotel in Colombo.

Entries for Raigam Tele'es 2020 are now accepted by the Raigam Tele'es Secretariat and will be closed on April 10, 2021. Application forms can be obtained from respective TV channels or visiting the official website www.raigamteles.lk



Chetaka Gunawardena, Unilever Sri Lanka Senior Brand Manager – Lifebuoy Skin Cleansing (left); and Yahiya Jaffer, Unilever Sri Lanka Assistant Brand Manager – Laojee

Premier Packaging International bags Bronze at NCE Export Awards



Prabash Kombalavithana, Director, Premier Packaging International receiving the award

Premier Packaging International (Pvt) Ltd, a forerunner in printing industry of tea bag tags and envelopes, was the proud winner of Bronze Award for Supplies for Exporters sector, medium category at the 28th Annual NCE Exports Awards.

The premier awards ceremony conducted by the National Chamber of Exporters was held at Shangri La Hotel on February 25, 2021. Having established way back in 2012, as a subsidiary of the Imperial Teas Group, Premier Packaging International (Pvt) Ltd saw a tremendous success over the years. The company is engaged in the printing of tea bag tags and envelopes for exporters and the local industry, based on the specific quality requirements of the customers.

The main factory, located at Kelaniya, is equipped with jumbo paper slitters, rewinders, online / offline slit-

ting facilities and printing facilities. It is capable of making Flexo print on both sides and with UV varnishing on paper base materials and laminations. The company produces tags and envelopes in a multitude of colors to suit client's expectations and to suite many types of tea bagging machineries the tea industry in Sri Lanka are currently using to produce tea bags.

The Company's unwavering commitment to quality is marked with ISO 22000:2018 certification and the capacity of highly skilled team who bring to bear over 20 years of experience in the printing industry. Premier Packaging International is a having full pledged operation on its own.

"This is a milestone in our short history and I must say it is the result of team work," said Jayantha Karunaratna, Chairman, MD, and Premier Packaging International.

Biden threatens tariffs on UK goods

The US has warned it could put tariffs of up to 25% on a host of UK exports in retaliation for a UK tax on tech firms. Ceramics, make-up, overcoats, games consoles and furniture could all be hit, according to a list published by the Biden administration.

The duties are designed to raise \$325m (£235.8m), the

amount the US believes the UK will raise from US tech firms.

A UK government spokesperson said it wanted to "make sure tech firms pay their fair share of tax".

They added: "Should the US proceed to implement these measures, we would consider all options to defend UK interests and industry." **BBC**

The Kingsbury unveils 'Tenku' with Japanese Master Chef at Helm

New rooftop restaurant to offer high-end dining experience

The Kingsbury Colombo, known as one of the city's most indulgent dining destinations, unveils its newest culinary venture, the 'Tenku' Japanese restaurant, today, (6) April 2021, at the Hotel's rooftop. With internationally experienced Japanese Master Chef Toshiyuki Okabe at the helm, the restaurant promises a wide range of authentic dishes and beverages not currently available in Colombo, including the largest collection of Sakes in the city.

Serving the most genuine cuisine from the land of the rising sun, and boasting panoramic views of Colombo below, the restaurant is aptly named 'Tenku', translating to 'sky' in Japanese.

The items on offer, specially curated by Chef Okabe, include all-time favourites from Japan, as well as the largest selection of sushi and sashimi, comprising more than 50 varieties.

More specifically, patrons can enjoy items such as Seared Sake Sashimi, Nigiri Matsu, Tori Teri Don, Shio Ramen, and the ever-popular Wagyu Strip Lion, just to name a few. In addition, a true Sake experience can be enjoyed, with the expert Sake sommelier on hand.

Commenting on the launch of the new restaurant and his vision for The Kingsbury, Rohan Karr, Managing Director - Hayleys Leisure, said, "Despite the challenges, The Kingsbury strives to consistently provide quality experiences and dining options to our guests, coupled with the highest stand-

ards in service. The introduction of the Tenku Japanese restaurant is our next step in continuing this mission, further strengthened by bringing in a Japanese Master Chef with an international background."

Bringing with him a wealth of knowledge, the Japanese Master Chef with over 20 years of experience, has served in a number of star-class international hotels. These include the Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park, JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar, The Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai, and the Grand Hyatt Mumbai, among others. Adding to his remarkable resume, Chef Okabe has also created Japanese masterpieces for celebrities from Hollywood to Bollywood.

His impressive list of guests includes actors such as John Travolta of "Grease", "Pulp Fiction" and "Saturday Night Fever"

fame; Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, and Indian actor/singer Tiger Shroff.

Chef Okabe aims to offer Japanese cuisine in an exciting and diverse manner. Delighted to be in Sri Lanka, he looks forward to sharing the unique tastes of his homeland with the people of this country. "My inspiration has always been my colleagues," Okabe says, adding

that he finds Sri Lankans very kind and polite, and is eager to work with the talented Kingsbury team at the new Tenku restaurant.

The Kingsbury Colombo adheres to stringent safety protocols, having received the 'Safe and Secure Tourism' Compliance Certificate from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority in 2020.



Textrip of Elasto Group shines at CNCI Achievers Awards 2020



P.A. Nandasena, Chief Operating Officer and Indira Senaratna, Deputy Operating Officer of Textrip (Pvt) Ltd, receive the award

Textrip (Pvt) Ltd., the premier manufacturer of Natural Latex based Progressive Resistance Bands and Sports-Exercise Products reaffirmed its excellence with receiving two coveted awards from CNCI Achievers Awards 2020, in 'Large Industrial Category' at National and Provincial Levels, for the second consecutive year.

P.A. Nandasena, Chief Operating Officer and Indira Senaratna, Deputy Operating Officer of Textrip (Pvt) Ltd., received the Awards at the 19th edition of the prestigious awards ceremony organized by Ceylon National Chamber of Industries which was recently held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo.

"I have already seen to empowerment of my team. They are equal to the task. I watch their progress closely and monitor them, so that their efforts do not go astray, and the company now is at a mature stage, working steadily upon immunity building (with progressive resistance bands); the just solution for the COVID-19 pandemic. I am delighted with this achievement and of course, this platform would naturally entice any budding aspirant to take a plunge in to the diverse industrial and service segments to try his luck. No doubt many would follow suite," quipped Mangala Gunasekera, Chairman and Managing Director of Textrip (Pvt) Ltd.,

and Elasto Group. Having a global presence over 30 countries for supporting 100+ top global brands, Textrip is accredited with ISO-9001, ISO-14001, COC and REACH certifications. Established in 1978 at Bentota, Textrip is dominating the local market with over 70% share in sports exercise products market under TEXTSTRETCH brand, whilst playing a vital role in immunity development of people by guiding them for regular physical activities. The company launched its new corporate and e-commerce website (www.elasto.lk) recently to deliver an extraordinary experience to its customers in both locally and globally.

Spectra named 'Best Container Depot' at ICS -ACDO Awards

The country's premier logistics company, Spectra Integrated Logistics (Spectra), a joint venture between Hemas Transportation and GAC Sri Lanka was named 'Best Container Depot' for both Import and Export sectors at the recently held 27th Annual ICS Award Ceremony 2020.

This win rides on the company being recognized as Best Container Depot- Import and nominated in the Export sector in ICS Awards 2019.

The award ceremony conducted by the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS- UK) Sri Lanka recognizes top performing logistics providers in the country based on an independent survey conducted among numerous importers and exporters on the services they received for the year 2020.

As a one stop shop logistics solutions provider of warehousing, transportation, customs brokerage and container depot services, Spectra's consistent performance in providing



Rohitha Jayatilake General Manager Inland Container Terminal of Spectra Integrated Logistics with the two awards

the best integrated logistics services to its customers has helped the company bag the Best Container Depot-Import award for the second consecutive year.

The event was held on March 26, at Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo with Minister of Ports and Shipping

Rohitha Abeygunawardena as chief guest, former Speaker of the Parliament Karu Jayasuriya and Chairman of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) General (Retd) Daya Ranayake as guests of honor and Prof. Ajantha Dharmasiri delivered the keynote speech.

Commenting on the awards, General Manager Inland Container Terminal at Spectra Integrated Logistics, Rohitha Jayatilake said, "We thank all our customers for their tremendous encouragement and support to keep us moving forward amidst various challenges we faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our success was made possible by the trust that our customers have placed in us and the dedication of our highly motivated and passionate team of supply chain experts. We are confident that the company will continue to grow from strength to strength with the continued support of our customers and our staff."

Spectra aims to be a gamechanger in the industry with the vision of being the leading innovative, integrated supply chain and logistics solutions partner and fostering a culture that embraces innovation and inclusion which surpasses all other service providers in Sri Lanka.

Dialog Axiata conducts programmes on Digital Entrepreneurship for Women

As part of its holistic diversity and inclusion agenda, Dialog Axiata PLC (Dialog), Sri Lanka's premier connectivity provider, conducted a series of initiatives focusing on digital entrepreneurship, health and well-being to empower and uplift women to succeed in the new normal.

To champion women in becoming innovators through technology, "Tech for Her", an online webinar and workshop, was conducted covering digital entrepreneurship, digital tools, and growth hacking. Another workshop was conducted in partnership with workout.lk, promoting health and well-being during the pandemic by covering topics such as exercise, sleep and the importance of incorporating vital nutrients for immune regulation.

The company also extended a range of offers, including data giveaways and exclusive discounts at retailer stores to encourage its female customer base to adopt digital channels. Additionally, Dialog continues to conduct widespread awareness campaigns to help diminish the barriers women face in accessing correct information, as championed by its Yeheli/Thozhi trilingual website and app, which extends free,



anonymous and expert-driven advice and counselling on psychology, medicine and law.

Commenting Sandra De Zoysa, Group Chief Customer Officer of Dialog Axiata PLC said, "As a progressive corporate citizen, we value diversity and inclusion, which are core strengths at Dialog that contribute to our continued success. These values are reflected in our efforts of promoting equality and ensuring women and girls across the island are empowered to participate in shaping the future of this great nation. We will continue to champion women and place them at the forefront of change while facilitating them with the opportunities to reach their full potential."

ComBank partners with AMW offers lease rentals on New Holland tractors

Local farmers can once again enjoy the lowest monthly lease rentals and other benefits when they purchase New Holland tractors, as a result of Commercial Bank of Ceylon's partnership with Associated Motorways (Private) Limited (AMW) to launch another 'Agri Lease' promotion.

Implemented to support Commercial Bank customers whose livelihoods depend on agriculture, this promotion will be in place until June 30. Besides offering the lowest rental rates, 'Agri Leasing' customers will receive several value additions and other benefits when purchasing tractors under this scheme, the Bank said.

Another benefit presented to buyers under this promotion is

the Bank's flexible repayment plans that take into consideration the seasonal income patterns of this customer segment. Farmers can visit any Commercial Bank branch or AMW showroom to avail of this opportunity.

Commercial Bank's series of 'Agri Lease' promotions intends to empower farmers by providing financial assistance to acquire high quality agricultural equipment through a convenient process. The promotion will be conducted in agricultural areas by the Bank's Agriculture & Micro Finance officers and the sales teams of AMW.

The New Holland Agriculture brand is globally renowned for providing solutions that improve farming efficiency and produc-

tivity by using accessible technology. New Holland offers a large choice of easy-to-operate tractors, harvesters, material handling and seeding equipment: more than 100 product lines and over 400 models globally.

AMW, which was established in 1949 as a pioneer in the country's tyre retreading industry is today a highly respected company in Sri Lanka's automobile sector and represents several leading international nameplates for passenger cars, trucks and buses as well as three wheelers and motor cycles. Through its partnership with New Holland Fiat India, AMW offers New Holland tractors for various applications such as harvesting and material handling.

S-Lon facilitates Tree Planting Initiative

Sri Lanka's foremost manufacturer and distributor of water management solutions S-Lon Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, in partnership with Sri Lanka Scouts' Association recently launched a community service initiative Thuru Kepakaru to plant 25,000 trees across 25 districts. The project is set to be carried out over 16 days from March 26 to April 10.

Each plant will have a designated scout as the 'owner'. He or she will be responsible for monitoring and recording growth and wellbeing of the plant. Each plant has a unique QR code which connects to the Thuru Kepakaru app streamlining the monitoring process. The inauguration was held on March 26, at the Agramathya Vidyalaya in Pannipitiya.

Thuru Kepakaru is the brainchild of Group Director of S-Lon Lanka S.C. Weerasekera. Speaking at the inauguration, Weerasekera noted, "What makes Thuru Kepakaru unique is its focus on sustenance. The design of the project ensures every plant is cared for in the long term. This



guarantees that all 25,000 saplings planted today will grow up, overtime, alongside their respective owners. This exercise also trains children to be accountable, responsible and passionate for preserving nature."

Furthermore, he emphasized on the importance of reintegrating students with nature and commended the Scouts' Associa-

tion for taking initiative in that regard. "Not just children, adults too should wake up to the reality that destroying nature equals self-destruction because we are part of nature. It is nature that sustains us. If we don't internalize message sooner, and accordingly, we might have to face dire consequences in years to come."

CSSL launches NITC themed 'Accelerate Technology Diffusion'

Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) launched the 39th edition of the National Information Technology Conference (NITC), themed 'Accelerate Technology Diffusion' recently, at CSSL Secretariat.

NITC is a flagship ICT Conference organized by the Computer Society of Sri Lanka (CSSL) and will be held from October 12-13, at Shangri-La Hotel.

This year's National IT Conference theme, "Accelerate Technology Diffusion" reflects on the government's vision of Technology Diffusion. At CSSL, we welcome the government of Sri Lanka placing a high priority for technology and CSSL would like to emphasize the need for Sri Lankan ICT professionals to play the catalyst role in accelerating the technology adaptation and diffusion, leveraging the NITC as a platform" said Damith Hettihewa, President of Computer Society of Sri Lanka.

We are in the eve of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Industry 4.0 will create new wealthy nations similar to Europe, the



Publications Secretary Indika De Zoysa, Vice President Dr. Ajantha Atukorale, President Eng. Damith Hettihewa, Assistant Treasurer Eng. Rasantha Hettithantrige and Secretary Dr. Parakum Pathirana

Americas, and Japan which became rich nations as a result of the first three industrial revolutions, respectively.

"Our country needs to accelerate, Research and Design, policy formation, and legal enactments to adopt and leverage frontier technologies in the vital sectors of the economy. At this year's conference, the Sri Lanka ICT fraternity will deliberate these aspects along with several global experts on these topics over a

period of two days," said Damith Hettihewa.

NITC 2021 is organized under the leadership of Damith Hettihewa, President of CSSL, while Vice President Dr. Ajantha Atukorale is spearheading the academic track and colloquium of the conference.

NITC 2021 will also feature the CSSL Awards and the annual CSSL Colloquium track. More than a dozen research papers will

be shortlisted after an assiduous selection process will be presented by prominent local and international researchers on the second day of the conference.

CSSL, at the launch of the NITC 2021 conference, announced several high-calibre foreign speakers such as Prof Henry Chesbrough, who is considered as the father of Open Innovation. Professor Siegfried Zurn of The Central Academic Institution, Germany Hidebumi Kitahara, Head of Global Business Strategy Softbank Japan, Darren Anstee, Chief Technology Officer for Information Security at NETSCOUT, Rohan Damija Managing Partner of Analysis Mason of India and APAC.

"We have invited more high caliber global opinion leaders and are expected to confirm their participation in due course", CSSL announced.

Facebook has partnered with National IT Conference to support CSSL's efforts, in furthering research, innovation and digital literacy in Sri Lanka.

SampathCards announces discounts for Avurudu season

SampathCards announces an extensive array of added shopping discounts and benefits during this Sinhala and Tamil New Year season for its cardholders.

Discounts of up to 50% are on offer for Sampath Mastercard and Visa Credit and Debit Cardholders on a wide range products.

"This Avurudu we are excited to offer our cardholders a large array of rewards and privileges to revive the joy-fullness of the festive atmosphere. At SampathCards, we have always been committed to delivering greater value to our cardholders, all year round through products, services, benefits and privileges that are aligned to their evolving lifestyle choices. So, we invite



Darshin Pathinayake

our cardholders to avail themselves of the discounts and benefits on offer as they ring in the Avurudu with their loved ones," said Darshin Pathinayake, Head of Card Centre, Sampath Bank.

Lanka Hydraulic Institute wins gold at NCE Export awards

Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), as a premier service provider of best engineering solutions to the global market place has bagged Gold at the recently concluded 28th annual NCE Export Awards Ceremony held at Shangri-La Hotel Colombo.

The event recognised and honoured Sri Lanka's export champions for their excellence in financial year 2019/2020. "Being a major player in the consultancy business in services export sector, we have consistently been honoured since 2007 and this is the second time Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), achieved the coveted Gold", said its CEO, Eng. Janaka Kurukulasuriya.

In honouring LHI's outstanding accomplishments in the engineering field, the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) also conferred Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), the Engineering Excellence Award in the past.

The company's exceptional export performance came despite the tumultuous times in the global and domestic markets with the onset of COVID-19 pandemic worldwide and the aftermath of Easter bombings in the country. When the economic downturn hurt many exporters, Lanka Hydraulic Insti-



Dr. DPC Laknath (LHI) accepts the NCE Gold Award for LHI

tute (LHI), remained resilient owing to its far-sighted management strategies coupled with unmatched dedication of its employee base. Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), goes onto the record as one of the few consultancy giants in the country who declared profits and dividends when the industry, on average, was exercising layoffs and salary cuts.

Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), specializes in coastal engineering, inland water, urban water and drainage services. Equipped with a state-of-the-art hydraulics laboratory and wide variety of in-house expertise, Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), provides consultancy services in port planning and design, met-oceanic surveys, and numerical and physical modelling of coastal/riverine

structures. Since its inception in 1985, LHI has conducted over 400 projects in Sri Lanka and overseas.

All its processes are streamlined, quality assured and in accordance with ISO 9001:2015 standard. LHI's services are proudly relied upon by number of international clients from Algeria, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Brunei, Eritrea, France, India, Iran, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Senegal, South Korea, and UAE.

Elaborating the success story, Dr. Sanjeewa Wickramaratne, senior specialist of Lanka Hydraulic Institute (LHI), told that the company has always prioritised customer satisfaction that enabled to develop the platform of trust on which the future success is defined.

DP Logistics extends integrated solutions from China

DP Logistics (Private) Limited (DPL) recently extended its integrated logistics solutions to effectively bring down electronic items from China through a Sri Lankan Airlines Charter flight, adhering to all COVID-19 related safety regulations and precautions.

DPL's counterpart in China organized the logistics requirement in the country for collecting goods in the bonded area, palletizing them in a dedicated warehouse, transferring them to the Shanghai Pudong International (PVG) airport and processing all customs formalities and requirements in a record time to have the goods cleared within the relevant timelines. DPL's team coordinated the whole process from China to Sri Lanka and once the goods arrived, ensured that they were cleared and



DPL Team

delivered to the relevant party in a timely and safe manner.

Reinforcing DPL's commitment to delivering extraordinary solutions that go beyond the norm, Indika De Silva General Manager Freight Forwarding said, "For DPL's dedicated team of professionals, there are no limitations in terms of working hours or days, we will do whatever it takes to meet unique cus-

tom requirements with customized economical solutions."

Part of David Pieris Group of Companies, DPL is one of the most sought-after logistics solutions providers in Sri Lanka, offering customized logistics and supply chain solutions that boast strong business acumen and state-of-the-art technology. Developing mutually rewarding relationships

with stakeholders and a reputation as an organization with passion and commitment for reliability and service excellence.

DPL covers the entire spectrum of logistics solutions in Transportation, third party logistics (3PL) including Warehouse Management & Freight Forwarding and consistently exceeds traditional norms in logistics to provide customized solutions.

TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-kindle the passions of town & country folk

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At Abhisheka 2020

Rooted in resilience



Kalutara Vidyalaya National school, Kalutara



ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Suffering an emotional meltdown is something most people fear in the 21st century. This is because today the stakes are high. Perfect Prefects features Head Boy of Kalutara Vidyalaya National school, Chathuka Kashintha, whose dreams make him resilient.

Stress affects all of us. If students did not experience stress they would not perform. If those of us in the workplace did not experience stress, we would end up unemployed. Stress can actually motivate us. In fact, stress is key to our survival. But excessive stress is what you need to guard against. There is a consensus among medical practitioners that emotional stress that stays around for weeks or months can weaken the immune system and cause high blood pressure, fatigue, depression, anxiety and even heart disease. In particular, too much epinephrine/ adrenaline can be harmful to your heart.

When it comes to stress, a leader has to crack the code in his or her own way. Epictetus, a Greek Stoic philosopher said, "We cannot choose our external circumstances, but we can always choose how we respond to them."

For Kashintha, satisfaction comes from completing a task that he has put his heart and soul into. A job half done is incomplete and that is not the young man's style.

"When I am assigned a job, I see the project through to the end because if you get into the habit of not finishing what you start you will not achieve success in life. Also the encouragement I receive from my teachers enables me to satisfactorily complete the task I have been assigned. Their support means a lot to me. We all face stress in life but we

need to guard against a meltdown. A leader needs to crack the code in his or her own way," said Kashintha.

Kashintha calls for an attitudinal change in society and an attitude of love. Humanity can refer to our ability to love and have compassion. It is this very core of our being that is threatened by certain groups. However, it is hard to remember a time in history when this very core of our being has not been under threat. Kashintha feels that it is up to our leaders to show the way and set an example.

What really makes Kashintha passionate are his dreams. If your dreams are bigger than the obstacles you face, then you just might crack that code. Lee Kuan Yew served as Prime Minister of Singapore. Without that powerful dream of his, Singapore would be very different today. This is the power of a dream.

"Personally, I admire Lee Kuan Yew. He is recognized as the nation's founding father. He is credited with rapidly transforming the country from a developing third world country into a developed first world country within a single generation under his leadership. He is right up there with the greatest leaders in history. I also admire Professor Rangika Halwathura who was a past head prefect in our school," explained Kashintha.

One piece of advice that he has to offer a young boy or girl is to try not to make mistakes. Anticipate and Prepare.

"If you want to succeed you need to understand that the world out there demands high performance. The modern work place is a very competitive environment. At school level you need to handle your responsibilities

with commitment and dedication. And also try and minimize mistakes. You have to anticipate problems. If you can get it all together then you can strike gold," added Kashintha.

When asked what makes him passionate, he had a two word answer - my dreams. His ambition is to enter the aviation industry. That is part of the dream. But he has bigger dreams. It is possible that from the moment the position of head boy was bestowed upon him, Kashintha had aspirations of being a leader in Sri Lankan society.

"My ambition is to be an aircraft engineer and rise to the top in that field and become an expert. My dream is to become a great and respectable leader," said Kashintha.

Stress means different things to different people. What causes

stress in one person may be of little concern to another. Some people are better able to handle stress than others. It is entirely possible that our dreams can play a huge part in our ability to handle stress better than others.

Some give up on their dreams while others leaders like Napoleon who dominated European and global affairs for more than a decade, never give up.

He went on to explain that there is a common misconception in society that if anyone takes part in extracurricular activities it will be at the cost of their education.

He points out that if you think intelligently, you will find that both worlds can contribute to cultivating a balanced and well-rounded individual - someone who is skilled, capable or knowledgeable in a lot of different things.

Knowledge does not only come through books. By taking part in various activities you will meet various people. The insights you develop will help you in the future," said Kashintha.

He is a young man who is interested in music and was the band leader of the school. He is also a great cricket fan.

"My family is my biggest inspiration in life, they have always motivated me and they have been very supportive," said Kashintha.



Head Boy Chathuka Kashintha



At the Sportsmeet 2020



Leading the band

FLOWER PETALS FORM FANTASTICAL EXOTIC ANIMALS



What if feathers, fur, and scales were actually just flower petals and leaves? Australian photographic illustrator Josh Dykgraaf reimagines animals composed entirely from found natural materials. His digitally rendered series, titled Terraform, reminds us of the visible patterns found in nature. His latest works in particular highlight the similarity in shape between petals and reptile scales, as well as leaves and feathers. Each creature looks like some sort of hybrid species from an alien planet.

The inspiration for Terraform came from a simple realization. "I was surfing through some images I'd shot on a totally different project and had the observation that some rock formations in the Swiss Alps looked like the skin of an elephant," Dykgraaf tells My Modern Met. "That became the first piece in the project, Ourea."

The artist adds, "I then started applying that idea to other forms - noticing that some leaves resemble the feathers of a bird for example, or that magnolia flower petals look like scales."

During lockdown in Australia, Dykgraaf began working with flower petals and leaves, since the natural materials could be sourced close by. He says, "Basically, I was finding whatever I could in the short radius we were allowed near my home, as we couldn't travel." From a curled-up pangolin crafted from magnolias to a reptile made from overlapped protea petals, each arrangement captures the scaly texture of Dykgraaf's subjects. In other works, the artist replicates bird plumage using different types of leaves.

Dykgraaf's artwork is incredibly complex and requires a lot of patience. The average piece usually takes around 30-60 hour to complete, and has around 2,000 to 3,000 layers in Photoshop! "The first challenge of course is the amount of time that this style takes, but of course I'm becoming much more efficient at it the more I do," explains



Australian photographic illustrator Josh Dykgraaf

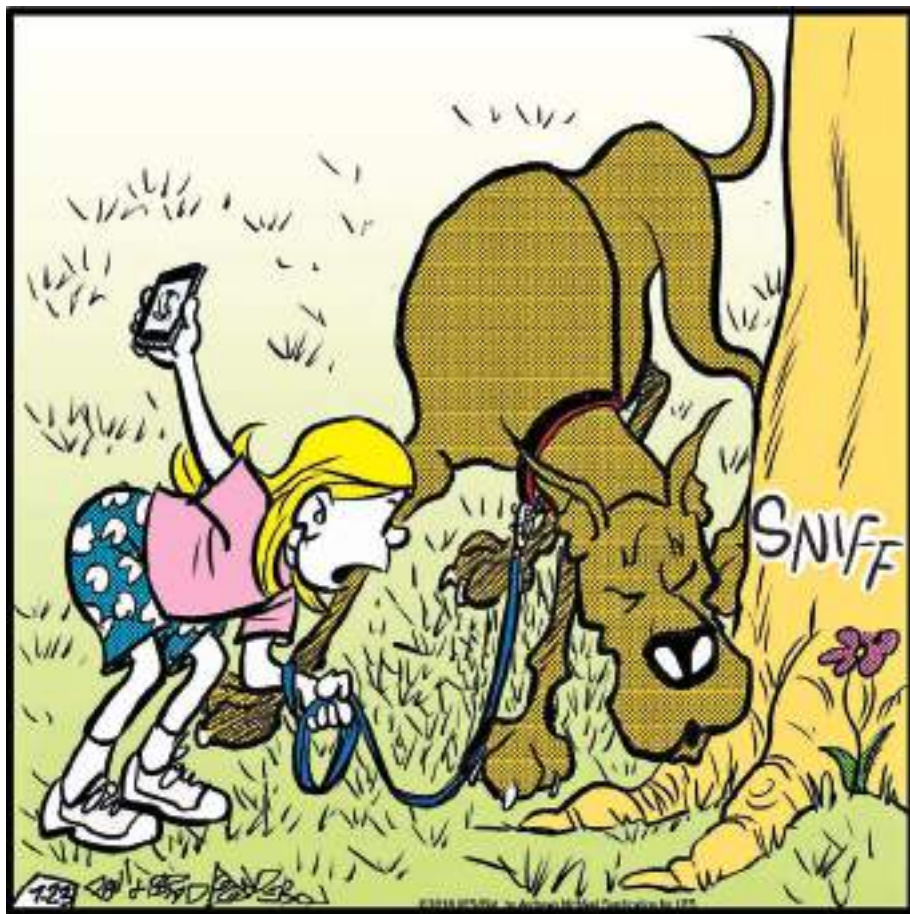
the artist. "The primary challenge is in shooting all the material I need though. I need to be thorough in the angles I get of various landscapes, perhaps waiting for the right time of day - which isn't always possible to find something that fits all of an animal's anatomy. Sometimes I need to get creative with solutions." During the pandemic, Dykgraaf has been able to set up a home studio in his kitchen. There, he has a small lighting set up where he can shoot the leaves and flower petals at different angles.

Dykgraaf's Terraform series isn't just impressive to look at though; it also highlights the importance of our planet's species. "As the project has gone on I've moved on to working on other issues that I care about," says Dykgraaf. "The devastation we experienced here in Australia with the bushfires last year killed some three billion animals and are projected to push koalas to extinction in the wild in the coming decades, which motivated me to travel to the fire fields and create a series of work based on the material I shot there." He adds, "I have a couple of series in the works along these lines that I plan to release later this year."

My Modern Met



MARMADUKE



"Can you sniff out a Wi-Fi signal?"

MUTT AND JEFF



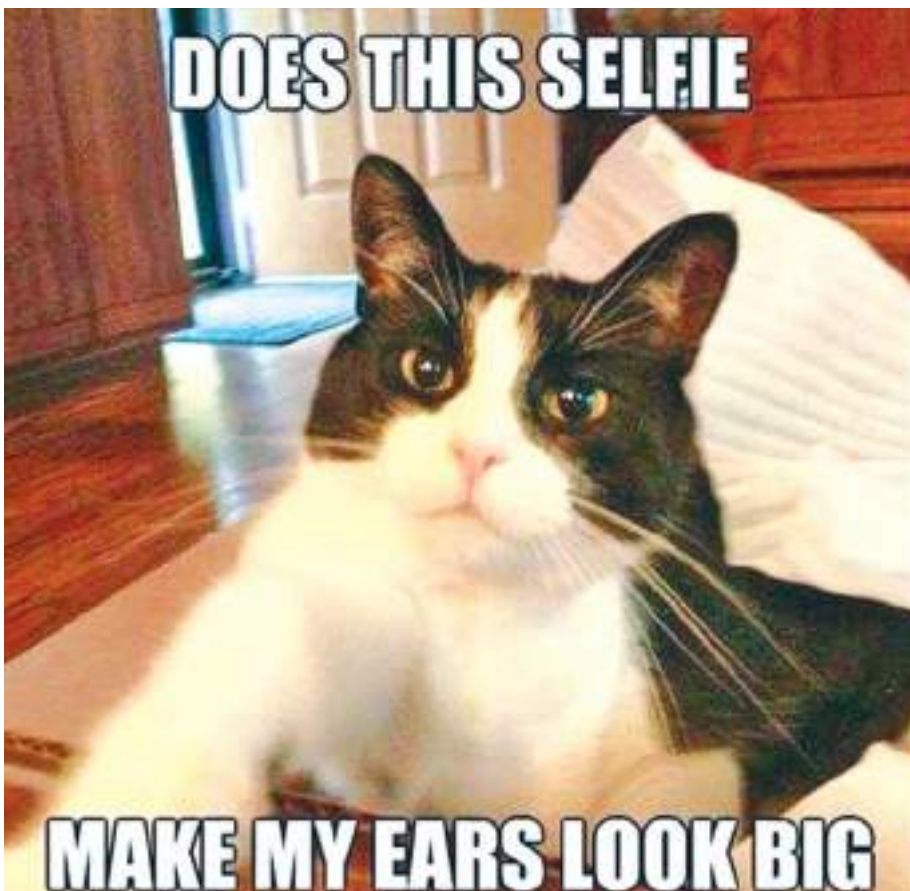
ARCHIE



FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING



SHOOTING TO FAME!

Sussexians in Sussex College, Kegalle, have brought honour to Sussex by winning first ever STEM Tinkering Olympiad organized by the STEM Academy. 10 students qualified for International Level competition under junior, Intermediate and senior categories.

STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines: science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.

STEM Olympiad is an international online competition platform in which students from grade five to 12 compete. Questions are prepared in line with the philosophy of STEM education.

Sussex mainly follows the local curriculum in English medium. The network encourages their students to explore knowledge in all the areas through internet and books. The teachers in Kegalle School are well aware and knowledgeable



The winning team with their teachers

able about how to train students for competitions and they always guide them to go for challenges. Therefore, the students are also risk takers and explorers of knowledge which helped them to win in this International Competition. Adithya Senevirathna, won the All Island First Place in Senior Category. This triumph further strengthens the winning spirit of the school.



Adithya Senevirathna



Fly high!

For the first time in Sri Lanka, the Royal Institute of Colombo (RIC) brings to you the Blended Learning initiative in collaboration with the Deakin University. This initiative has been specifically introduced for the students who have faced a major setback in starting their international degree programme in Australia due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

The distress of losing peer connection and classroom environment has left students finding themselves feeling adrift. Families, on the other hand, who rely on the support and guidance of the university have faced a significantly complicated situation regarding the future of their children. The emergence of blended learning has thus become the new dynamics and need of the hour in the education sector today. Hence, students will now be able to complete the entire degree in Sri Lanka at their comfort of being closer to home.

The cost savings that come along with the university's new Blended Learning initiative is financial relief for the students and families. The RIC-Deakin partnership exclusively offers a flat 50 percent scholarship on the tuition fees for students who choose to complete their entire degree programme from Sri Lanka itself. Moreover, in terms of cost-saving, a RIC student can save up to 60 percent of the expenses for the Engineering pathway programme and up to 40 percent of the expenses for the Science pathway programme as compared to starting at Deakin directly. Amidst the mounting financial pressure during this difficult time, RIC is continuously seeking ways to address this concern with compassion towards students and families.

While financial incentives in place, the students will not at all have to compromise with the quality of education that RIC has always delivered at its forefront. The courses



and units delivered through the Deakin Cloud Campus are taught by the same academic staff as at other campuses in Australia. Classes are recorded and posted on Cloud Deakin (Deakin's dedicated online platform) and students will be engaged in active learning activities in real-time with other students and staff using innovative digital tools. Moreover, RIC will be further supporting students with the learning infrastructure along with practical, tutorials and local lecturer's expertise.

Since the formation of an abiding partnership in 2012, RIC and Deakin University have incredibly uplifted the aspirations of Sri Lankan students intending to pursue an international degree. The collaboration has offered students the choice to pursue their bachelor's degree in the fields of Science, Engineering, and Environmental Science. The significant growth of this partnership has continuously opened invaluable avenues to students in global employability and further studies.

As of 2020, Deakin University ranks 16th on the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Australia University Rankings list and are one of the major hubs for international students. Deakin is placed in the top 1 per cent of the world's universities for its internationally recognised quality of research and teaching. With numerous active global partnerships and alumni networks, students with Deakin degrees will be able to connect with industries, governments, research institutes, and NGOs.

Striving for excellence

Text and pictures by M A PHAKURDEEN, Addalaichenai Group Corr

Kalmunai Mahmood Ladies College Advance Level Student Inamullah Moulana Fathima Zaireen who won the Gold Medal for the International Science Technology and Engineering Competition conducted by Indonesia Java University in February 2020 and brought fame to Sri Lanka was honoured by A R Munsoor Foundation, Victoria, Australia by being awarded the A R Munsoor Memorial Women Achiever Award - 2021



"Star Performer of the year" for her outstanding achievement in academic excellence in the International Science Technology and Engineering Competition. She received a cash prize of Rs 50,000. Around 400



students from 25 countries participated in this International competition.

This award was presented by founder President of A R Munsoor Foundation Attorney at Law in Australia Mariyam Najinudeen who is the daughter of late Minister A R Munsoor.

Kalmunai MMC member Rahmath Mun-

soor, the son of late Minister Munsoor, who is also the Advisor of the foundation visited Innamullah Moulana Fathima Zaireen's house on behalf of the foundation and presented the award and cash to Zaireen in the presence of his father Shakab Moulana Inamullah Moulana and the Executive Members of the Foundation.



Spreading awareness

Text and pictures by M S M MUNTASIR, Panadura Central Group Corr

The year 5 Scholarship Students Prize Giving Awareness programme for the Matugama educational zone organized by the Rohitha Abeygunawardane Foundation

under the concept of Kalutara District New Aim at Education "Sisu Daru Yathra" programme's first stage was held at the C W W Kanangara Central College, Matugama recently.

Minister of Ports and Shipping and Chairman of District Development Committee, Kaluta-

ra, Rohitha Abeygunawardane was the Chief Guest. Parliamentarian Anupa Pasqual, former Provincial Councillor Chandirabanu Adikaram, Lal Dissanayake, Zonal Director of Education, Meril Munasinghe, the Chairman of the Pradeshiya Shaba, Matugama, principals and teachers were present.



Going global

Text and pictures by M U M SANON, Puttalam TKN Corr

The launch of the website for the 100 schools selected for the island-wide project "Wings for the cyber World" is taking shape these days.

Puttalam Fathima Balika Maha Vidyalaya, one of the selected schools in the Puttalam area, officially launched their school onto the website recently. Principal of the school Rajiya Safiudeen spearheaded this project.

The Assistant Principal of the school SBS Mahira overlooked the details of the website. Teacher In-Charge of the ICT Club Samha Masharrath and teachers Maslaha, Jhansia Begum and a few students lent a hand to make this initiative a success.

The principal, vice-principals, sectional heads and IT teachers and students of the IT



Club were present at the function held to mark the event.

The special guests DDE-Moe WEB Com Director, Professor Dr. Dias of Colombo University communicated online.

Prizes and the certificates were awarded to the students who won speed typing in trilingual and a quiz conducted by the IT Club. You can visit the school website by logging onto <http://Nwputtalamfbmv.sch.lk>





Timeless designs

Colombo Fashion Week (CFW) in association with One Galle Face (OGF) and HSBC Sri Lanka held its annual fashion extravaganza between March 28 and April 9. Focusing on themes such as Wellness, Fashion, Luxury and Cuisine, the gala show showcased many glamorous designs by renowned fashion designers. Here are some moments from the event captured by our photographer Sulochana Gamage.



VIVACIOUS SUMMER COLLECTION



The longing for a place or a face, is something we have all experienced in the past year. Yet the tides have turned, and as life gets slowly back to normal, the ODEL Summer collection, "Wish you were here" celebrates those cherished throwbacks to good times; The love, the laughter and having it all back again. With a range of stylishly comfortable silhouettes, accessories, shoes and bags, the collection welcomes the dawn of a new year, while looking back at those wonderful days with fondness.

Inspired by all things island, ODEL's Summer collection lives up to its theme of 'Wish You Were Here'. And indeed, you most certainly will wish you were at ODEL, not just once but everyday this season as ODEL introduces a range of delightful products which are a veritable burst of island blooms and colors that will get you right into a mood of Summer fun and frolic as well as traditional Avurudu celebrations.

You can shop ODEL with complete ease of mind, with a host of bank offers as well as special promotions, to make your Avurudu all the more festive. What's more, this season you can shop till you drop at ODEL, from 10 am all the way to 10 pm!

"This season, vibrant blooms will come in to play across ladies', men's as well as kids' categories. The collection comprises of a stunning selection of silhouettes in joyful, celebratory hues such as Red, Orange as well as Green which is the designated auspicious color of Avurudu this year. Sri Lanka being the tropical paradise that it is, we have kept the fabric light and breathable with the perfect blend of cottons and linens, which are well suited to our climate" said Desiree Karunaratne, Group Director Marketing of Softlogic Group.

The overall direction for this Summer's collection is 'comfort first'. In the ladies' line up, you will see cascading shapes with layers and fluidity. Staples such as floral summer dresses, shorts, tropical co-ord sets, palazzo pants, crop tops and cover ups are making a comeback. Wide-leg trousers made for comfort, floaty dresses that could take you from an intimate festive gathering to a tropical get away far from Colombo, paper bag shorts pairable with those breezy tops with billowy sleeves or even a cute little

crop top are all must-haves that will soon become your summer favorites.

For LUV Sri Lanka, the 'Blossoms of Avurudu' collection capture the essence of this festive period and portrays the beauty and magic that is created by the myriad of flowers that blossom across the island during this time with emphasis being placed on this year's Avurudu colors which are green, white and blue. Conveyed via water colours by our team of designers, everything you see has been drawn from scratch. We have given special attention to the flowers that are synonymous with the culture and traditions of Sri Lankans, namely Erabadu, Asala, Nilmanel, Saman Pitchcha, Katurolu, Kadupul, Binara and Sapu.

The Men's collection too revolves primarily around comfort, with tropical shirts, shorts, ombre-tie dye T shirts and crisp white tailored staples included in the collection. With a range of printed, casual shirts that can be paired with a casual short for a day by the pool, or a Chino from our wide collection for an evening out, the ODEL Men's collection is versatile and interchangeable, working for a whole range of different looks. Not forgetting the wildly popular tie dye tee range by WYOS and Liberation, and the beloved formal range by Davidoff and Fellini, the ODEL Men's department is fully equipped for all your festive shopping needs.

Kid's Summer collection for both boys and girls, is affectionately labeled 'Fruitloops' this season as it's a celebration of tropical fruits and their burst of vivacious colours. Boysenbear brings ever so cozy casual looks for little boys while Pinkabelle comes through with summer dresses, rompers and comfy shorts that your little princess will want to live in during these hot summer days.

ODEL Home, in keeping with the theme of vibrant colours and light-as-air textures, presents a range of home essentials for this festive season. Beautiful, vibrantly hued mosaic vases, modern ceramic vases in uncommon shapes and sizes, floral cushion covers in colorful linens and cottons, and a range of color coordinated bath room accessory sets, bath mats and towels, that will complete your home, while a unique collection of clay table wear, vintage brass oil lamps, batik cushion covers and table runners will make your Avurudu table the cynosure of all!

As for Backstage, resplendent dazzles are the order of the day! In order to coordinate and complement the bright and gleaming hues of Avurudu, Backstage will feature a range of jewelry that is intricate, exotic, colourful, dazzling and one of a kind. Last but by no means least; Delight has an array of traditional Avurudu sweet treat hampers that are guaranteed to satisfy the gourmand in you with a stunning assortment of all-time favourites and some new ones too.



FEATURE

Professor N.S. COORAY

Currently, many debates around the governments role and Sri Lankan Citizens, wellbeing are going on.

This article aims to add value to diabetes from the public policy and institutional perspectives. Public policy provides guidelines or government rules to find solutions to societal problems or social issues. It is public policy because it involves the citizens of a country, utilizes shared resources to find answers to the citizens, issues and uses public policy making institutions. Public policy is what government does, not what it says it will do or intends to do.

Why do we need a public policy?

A government attempts through public policy to achieve its goals, including enhancing wellbeing by establishing laws, regulations, decisions and actions. The public policy process begins first with the identification of problems. Then policies are formulated and adapted before they are being implemented. Finally, policies should be evaluated. The whole public policy process is by and large determined by political processes, and it should target to improve citizens wellbeing. If the citizens are unhappy and protesting against the governments role and activities, then there is a genuine need for re-evaluation of public policy.

What do we know about the wellbeing of the citizens?

There are two types of wellbeing - material wellbeing and spiritual wellbeing. Material wellbeing can also be referred to as the standard of living. A country's standard of living or quality of material wellbeing depends on its capacity to produce goods and services. The capacity to produce depends on the efficiency or productivity of citizens. Countries with high economic growth can increase material wellbeing by enhancing income or per capita income because there is a strong correlation between material wellbeing and per capita income. The differences in per capita income explain variances in living standards among countries.

Empirical data proposes that the happiness of citizens and material wellbeing increases together with high income. However, the wellbeing of the citizen goes beyond wealth and income. How income is being distributed among citizens is also matters because poverty and inequality cause social unrest.

All revolutions, including revolutions in American, French, Russian, and Chinese, are related to poverty and inequality. Poverty and Inequality have been involved in all conflicts and the three great ideologies of nationalism, liberalism, and socialism.

The wellbeing also depends on the environment. A lack of association with nature is destructive because we are all genetically connected to our natural environs.

Nature can drastically improve mental and therefore physical, health; it can also enhance societal function and close the socioeconomic health gap. Thus, protecting the environment can't be compromised if one intends to improve the wellbeing of citizens.

The wellbeing of citizens is also determined by the liberty and freedom of the individuals. They should have the freedom to engage in consumption and production related activities as long as those activities are not harmful to society.

The impact of public policy and institutions on wellbeing:

An Institutional road map to plenty We should also understand why do nations fail. Nations fail if rulers are

DOES PUBLIC POLICY OF SRI LANKA ENHANCE ITS WELLBEING OF CITIZENS?



The nature of wellbeing

unable to maintain a reasonable level of wellbeing for their citizens. Governments everywhere in the world, including Sri Lanka, want to achieve specific goals, including enhancing citizens wellbeing through public policy.

As mentioned earlier, wellbeing depends on the country's production and income.

Many have argued that economic policies, geography, culture, or value systems explain those nations growth differences. However, Acemoglu and Robinson (2013), in their book titled "Why Nations Fail," argued that nations fail "because it has been ruled by a narrow elite that has organized society for their own benefit at the expense of the vast mass of people."

Therefore, for public policy makers, nothing matters more in citizens, long-term prosperity than economic growth. Public policy is strongly related to the institutional mechanism of a country, and therefore it has a vital role in enhancing citizens, wellbeing.

The intuitions are two types-economic institutions and political institutions; in principle, political institutions significantly impact establishing a country's economic institutions.

These economic institutions are two types: extractive or inclusive. Inclusive economic institutions stimulate citizens, economic progress and well-being by encouraging citizens,

participation in economic activities, securing liberty and freedom.

Extractive economic institutions prevent economic freedom and liberty and exploit resources from many groups to benefit smaller groups.

Similar to economic institutions, political institutions can also be inclusive or extractive. The main characteristic of inclusive political institutions is democratic pluralism with free media and other individual rights. This implies that various communities and groups and values and freedom in a given society are appropriately represented. If political institutions lack democratic nature, they can generally be categorized as extractive political institutions operating for the benefit of a small group of political elites at the cost of many members in a society. The following table show various characteristics of different institutions.

Way forward Public policy is an emerging subject and an increasing number of leading universities are establishing new programmes to train leaders and public policy makers.

According to the writer's knowledge, Sri Lanka does not have any university which offers higher degrees in public policy except some courses or concentration at the Department of Public Management of the Sri Jayewardenepura University. There must be new educational programs on public policy focusing on multidisciplinary applied and theoretical

research to assess public policy's impact on citizens, wellbeing.

Market Oriented Capitalism

As researchers and public policy makers, we should know how the successful economies of Europe, North America and Asia have achieved high material wellbeing than many other countries. Those four top global economies, the US, China, Japan, and Germany, have implemented public policies with four different political economy systems to achieve material well-being. They include Market Oriented Capitalism in America, Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics in China, Japanese Developmental State and Social Market Economy in Germany. Therefore, it is worth doing critical research in those four countries, public policy and institutional frameworks to learn lessons from their successes and failures for other developing countries, including Sri Lanka.

Germany implemented the Social Market Economy (SME) in 1961 and Sri Lanka introduced SME in 2015.

Germany underscored the states necessity to guarantee that the free market creates results close to its potential and the market is embedded



in legal and political structures. They consider that the safeguard of human dignity and personal freedom is indispensable. SME has three critical pillars: free market, people and society participation, and a strong state. The "constitutive principles" should safeguard an effective competition-based economic system.

The complementary "regulatory principles" were designed to enhance the humane aspect of the economic order.

The Sri Lankan citizens are losing trust in major economic and political institutions, including the rule of law, the legislature, the executive, and the judicial.

Therefore, the country desperately needs inclusive political institutions which can introduce inclusive economic institutions. It is necessary to develop a solution that balances the three pillars of social life-the state, markets, and communities (or civil society). The best option we have for aligning those three pillars is inclusive localism.

Sri Lanka should create a home-grown developmental model drawing lessons from the best practices elsewhere, including the top four successful economies. The market-oriented capitalism in America provides many lessons on productivity growth and law rules but not on income distribution.

German and Japan provide lessons on how the state can ensure market principles and social harmony, while China gives lessons for poverty elimination in the ruling sector. Japan's developmental state has protected the environment maintaining about 65% of forest coverage, while Sri Lanka has about 20%.

Both countries had 80% at the beginning of the 20th century. The performance of public policy and a state is closely associated with institutions.

Law and order or rules of law of a country are closely related to the state role. We cannot leave deforestation and damaging the environment entirely to the market. Since the state owns many forest resources, some regulations and institutional mechanisms are of prime importance for the country sooner than later.

Sri Lanka had a glorious past and became a colony in 1505 and ruled by Portuguese, Dutch, and British until independence in 1948. Since its independence, there are so many

achievements for her credits. At the same time, the country cannot protect the rich environment and has utterly failed to achieve economic progress, hence depriving the citizens, material well-being.

Most of these failures are attributable to the non-availability of inclusive institutions, which eventually undermine the very foundations of economic progress.

No wellbeing can be achieved without political institutions are transformed from extractive to inclusive. The only way to change extractive political institutions is to influence the political elite to generate pluralistic and inclusive institutions.

About the writer
Professor N. S. Cooray teaches at the International University of Japan and he is currently the President of Sri Lanka Academics' Association in Japan (SLAcJ).

Nature can drastically improve mental and therefore physical, health; it can also enhance societal function and close the socioeconomic health gap. Thus, protecting the environment can't be compromised if one intends to improve the wellbeing of citizens.



Sustainable proecological development

Question for discussion:

How can you increase the efficiency of environmental policy?

What ecological policy...

Ecological Economical Future Technologies

www.researchgate.net/profile/Dariusz.Prokopowicz



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS

ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



AMENDMENTS TO PAPER ADVERTISEMENT

Contract Name: Construction of Viaduct No. 01 on Warakapola By Pass Road
Contract No. : RDA/DC/SAB/IR-GOSL/2021/32

The Clauses Number 7,8,9 & 10 of the Invitation for Bids published in Daily News on 22nd of March 2021 for Contract Name; Construction of Viaduct No. 01 on Warakapola By Pass Road, Contract Number; RDA/DC/SAB/IR - GOSL/2021/32 are amended as follows,

Clause No.7

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **Provincial Director (SAB), RDA, Ratnapura OR Director (Construction), 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** from 22/03/2021 until 23/04/2021 during 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs upon submission of original valid cash deposit slip of a non refundable fee.

Non - refundable tender fee of **Rs. 37,800.00** (with VAT) can be paid by depositing cash to the following account.

- a. Account Name : Director General – RDA
b. Account Number : 000001943
c. Bank Name : Bank of Ceylon – Corporate Branch

As per the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987, only the Agents and Successful winners of tenders shall be registered in Department of Registrar of Companies.

Clause No. 8

Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid- Security for an amount of **Rs. 4,300,000.00**. Bid- Security shall be valid up to **24/08/2021**.

Clause No. 9

Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the **Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, Ministry of Highways, Procurement Division, 7th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** on or before **14:00 hrs on 27/04/2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidders' or their representatives who choose to attend.

Clause No. 10

Bids shall be valid up to **27/07/2021**.

The other clauses in the above paper advertisement remains unchanged.

The Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee,
Ministry of Highways,
Procurement Division, 7th Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura",
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla

Provincial Department of Health Services North Central Province

Invitation for Bids

- Sealed bids are invited under National Competitive Bidding Procedure by the Chairman, Procurement Committee of the North Central Provincial Department of Health Services from qualified and eligible bidders for the undermentioned construction works. Although the bidding is under National Competitive Bidding Procedure this procurement is limited to bidders registered within the authority area of the North Central Province.
- To be eligible for award of contract the successful bidders should not have been blacklisted and should have fulfilled the ICTAD registration in the required grade for building construction.
- Interested bidders may obtain bid documents and further details from the Chief Accountant, Provincial Department of Health Services, Bandaranayake Mawatha, Anuradhapura (025-2050718).
- A complete set of bid documents in English language may be obtained by interested bidders on submission of a letter of request between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. until 27.04.2021 upon payment of the bid document fee.

| Ser. No. | Work Description and Number | Source of Funding | Estimated Cost (Rs.) | Required Minimum ICTAD Grade | Value of Bid Security (Rs.) | Period of Contract | Bid Document Fee |
|----------|---|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 01 | Renovation of Sacred City Primary Health Care Unit | Funds of Line Ministry | 4.2 million | C8 C7 | 45,000.00 (Valid for 91 days) | 105 days | Rs. 2,000.00 |
| 02 | Repairing the Female Ward of Pulasthigama Hospital | PSSP | 10 million | C6 C5 | 100,000.00 (Valid for 105 days) | 270 days | Rs. 3,500.00 |
| 03 | Construction of Twin Quarters at Attanakadawala Hospital | PSDG | 9.9 million | C7 C6 | 100,000.00 (Valid for 105 days) | 270 days | Rs. 3,500.00 |
| 04 | Construction of Corridor from the New Outdoor Patients Division to the main corridor of the Bakamuna Hospital | PSDG | 5.6 million | C7 C6 | 56,000.00 (Valid for 105 days) | 180 days | Rs. 3,000.00 |
| 05 | Construction of the Fence and the Gate of the Office of the Medical Officer of Health, Siripura | PSDG | 3.4 million | C8 C7 | 34,000.00 (Valid for 91 days) | 90 days | Rs. 2,000.00 |
| 06 | Construction of the Sewerage System of the Pulasthigama District Hospital | PSDG | 3.2 million | C8 C7 | 32,000.00 (Valid for 91 days) | 90 days | Rs. 2,000.00 |
| 07 | Renovation of Male Ward of the Aralangavila District Hospital | PSDG | 10 million | C6 C5 | 100,000.00 (Valid for 105 days) | 270 days | Rs. 3,500.00 |
| 08 | Construction of a new Corridor from the CKD Building to the main Corridor of the Aralangavila District Hospital | PSDG | 3.2 million | C8 C7 | 32,000.00 (Valid for 91 days) | 90 days | Rs. 2,000.00 |

- Duly perfected bids in duplicate may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, North Central Province, Anuradhapura" or deposited in the Tender Box maintained in the institution to receive before 11.00 a.m. on 28.04.2021. Late bids will be rejected and the bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who are present at the time of opening of bids.
- All bids should be accompanied by a bid security drawn in favour of Provincial Director of Health Services – North Central Province issued by a reputed commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to the value mentioned in the table above.

Chairman
Provincial Director of Health Services
Departmental Procurement Committee
Provincial Department of Health Services, North Central Province

03.04.2021

PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE OF SMS GATEWAY SOLUTION FOR PRADESHIYA SANWARDANA BANK

The Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank of Sri Lanka (RDB) requests for proposals from eligible and qualified Bidders for the following.

| Item Name | BID No | Bid Security (LKR) |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| Supply, Installation & Maintenance of SMS Gateway Solution for Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank. | DGM/HR/RDB/2021/044 | 100,000.00 |

- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures.
- Eligible Bidders Should possess following criteria,
 - Bidder shall be a registered Company to carry out business in local market over a period of Two (02) years.
 - Bidder Should have carried out at least 02 similar projects (Supply, Installation & Maintenance of SMS Gateway Solution) for local banks or Financial institutions in last two years (2017-2019).
 - Average Annual Turnover of the Bidder shall be a minimum of LKR 10 million in financial year 2018 and 2019.
- A complete set of Bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application, which accompanies the receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of **Rupees 3,000.00**. The bid documents will be issued on working days from **9.00 am to 3.00 pm** commencing from **07th April 2021 up to 28th April 2021**.
- Interested eligible bidders may request in writing further information if any, from Assistant General Manager (Procurement) on or before **28th April 2021**.
- All bids should be accompanied by a Bid-Security (which is en-cashable unconditionally on demand) of Rupees One Hundred Thousand (Rs.100,000.00) should be obtained from a reputed Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka which should be valid up to 25th August 2021.
- Duly filled RFP, marked "**Technical Proposal**" and "**Financial Proposal**" separately in two sealed envelopes, and enclosed both in one sealed envelope marked "**Supply, Installation & Maintenance of SMS Gateway Solution for Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank- DGM/HR/RDB/2021/044**" on the top left hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post to the following address or deposit in the tender box kept at the Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Head Office, Ground Floor at or before **02.00 pm on 29th April 2021**. Late bid submissions are not accepted.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person immediately after the bid closing at **02.00 pm, on 29th April 2021**.
- Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **21st April 2021 at 10.00 am** at Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Head Office, 2nd Floor Meeting Room.

Chief Human Resource Officer,
Pradeshiya Sanwardana Bank, Head Office, No.933, Kandy Road, Wedamulla, Kelaniya.
T.P. 011 2035454/011- 2035455/011-2035456
Fax. 011 2906883
www.rdb.lk,

2021.04.07



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

Invitation for Bids

- The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee (Zone 04), on behalf of the Department of Buildings now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the works as described below.

| | Description of Work | Estimated Cost excluding VAT (Rs. Mn) | Construction Period (Days) | CIDA Grade | Bid Security (Rs.) | Non-refundable Fee (Rs.) |
|-----|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 | Construction of Boundary Wall, Fence, Sump, Over Head Tank and Concrete Road for The Vocational Training Center for Differently Aabled Children, Department of Social Services, Valachchenei Contract No. BD/ZA/2021/02 | 9.42 | 49 Days | C7 and C6 | 140,000.00 | 4,000.00 |
| 02. | Repairs/Renovation to Police Station at Kuchchaveli Contract No. BD/ZA/2021/03 | 17.62 | 154 Days | C6 and C5 | 264,000.00 | 5,000.00 |

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Since the Total 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.
- 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 C8, C7, C6 or C5 with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), valid until the date of closing of the bids. Further, registration should be valid at the date of award.
- The bidder shall also register themselves with Registrar of Public Contractors, Sri Lanka in terms of the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987. The Original Certificate of Registration (PCA03) shall be submitted with the Bid. The Procurement shall not be awarded to any bidder unless such bidder had submitted the PCA 03 Certificate.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Zone 04), **Chief Engineer's Office, Department of Buildings, Divisional Secretariat, Manmunai North Premises, Batticaloa** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from **9:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs**.
Contact Numbers are: Phone : 065-2229808, Facsimile: 065-2229807
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by you on the submission of a written application to the **Chief Engineer (Zone 04), Chief Engineer's office, Department of Buildings, Divisional Secretariat, Manmunai North Premises, Batticaloa** from **2021.04.06 until 2021.04.19** from 9:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee mentioned in the above table.
- Bids shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee (Zone 04), Department of Buildings, Divisional Secretariat, Manmunai North Premises, Batticaloa** to reach on or before **10:00 hrs on 2021.04.20**. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the same address in presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of **77 days** from the date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be;
 - In the form included in the **Section 09** in the Bidding Document.
 - In favour of **Director General of Buildings**.
 - For an amount indicated in above table.
 - Valid upto **2021.08.02**
 - Issued by one of the agencies indicated in the **Bidding Data** of the Schedule.

Eng. Mrs. W.A.W. Abayawardena,
Director Construction (Regional),
Department of Buildings,
2nd Floor, "Sethsiripaya"
Battaramulla.



NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 16 SUB-SECTIONS (2D) OF THE COAST CONSERVATION AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 57 OF 1981

Proposed Project on Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (Desalination) System, Sea Outfall for Araliya Unawatuna Hotel Project and Effluent Treatment Facility for Water Treatment of Dutch Canal, Unawatuna Environmental Impact Assessment Report

It is hereby notified that the Report of Environmental Impact Assessment study on Proposed Project on Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (Desalination) System, Sea outfall for Araliya Unawatuna Hotel Project and Effluent Treatment Facility for Water Treatment of Dutch Canal, Unawatuna has been submitted by the Araliya Unawatuna Beach Hotel (Pvt) Ltd, Welle Devalaya Road, Yaddhimulla, Unawatuna as required by the Section 16 (1) of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act No. 57 of 1981 as amended by the Act No. 64 of 1988 and No. 49 of 2011 will be available for inspection by the public at the following institutions from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. for a period of 30 days from 06.04.2021 (Except weekends and public holidays).

In addition, this report with 03 languages can be used in the official web site (www.coastal.gov.lk) of the Department of Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management

- Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, New Secretariat Building, 4th Floor, Maligawatte, Colombo 10.
- Central Environmental Authority, No. 104, "Parisara Piyasa", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
- Department of Wildlife Conservation, No. 811/A, Jayanthipura Mawatha, Battaramulla
- District Secretariat, Galle
- Divisional Secretariat, Habaraduwa
- Pradeshiya Sabha, Habaraduwa
- Central Environmental Authority, District Office, Galle
- Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, District Office, Galle
- Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, Area Office, Unawatuna, Galle
- Southern Provincial Department of Irrigation, 5th floor, District Secretariat Building, Galle

Any member of the public may within 30 days from 06.04.2021 submit their comments in writing on the above Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the Director General, Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department.

Dr. M.M.S.S.B. Yalgama
Director General (Cover up duties)
Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department
New Secretariat, 4th Floor, Maligawatta, Colombo 10.
Telephone - 011-2449754, 011-2449197, 011-2387922
Fax - 011-2438005, 011-2472623



NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 16 SUB-SECTIONS (2D) OF THE COAST CONSERVATION AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 57 OF 1981

Proposed project on 106 Units of Apartment Project - No. 160, Pelana Road, Weligama, Matara Environmental Impact Assessment Report

It is hereby notified that the Report of Environmental Impact Assessment study on Proposed Project on Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (Desalination) System, Sea outfall for Araliya Unawatuna Hotel Project and Effluent Treatment Facility for Water Treatment of Dutch Canal, Uawatuna has been submitted by the Araliya Unawatuna Beach Hotel (Pvt) Ltd, Welle Devalaya Road, Yaddhimulla, Uawatuna as required by the Section 16 (1) of the Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Act No. 57 of 1981 as amended by the Act No. 64 of 1988 and No. 49 of 2011 will be available for inspection by the public at the following institutions from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. for a period of 30 days from 06.04.2021 (Except weekends and public holidays).

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- Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, New Secretariat Building, 4th Floor, Maligawatte, Colombo 10.
- Central Environmental Authority, No. 104, "Parisara Piyasa" Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.
- Department of Wildlife Conservation, No. 811/A, Jayanthipura Mawatha, Battaramulla
- District Secretariat, Galle
- Divisional Secretariat, Habaraduwa
- Pradeshiya Sabha, Habaraduwa
- Central Environmental Authority, District Office, Galle
- Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, District office, Galle
- Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department, Area Office, Unawatuna, Galle
- Southern Provincial Department of Irrigation, 5th floor, District, Secretariat Building, Galle

Any member of the public may within 30 days from 04.04.2021 submit their comments in writing on the above Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the Director General, Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department.

Dr. M.M.S.S.B. Yalgama
Director General (Cover up duties)
Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department,
New Secretariat, 4th Floor, Maligawatte, Colombo 10.
Telephone - 011-2449754, 011-2449197, 011-2387922
Fax - 011-2438005, 011-2472623

My Reference Number : BD/BD/LND/3/5/42

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition Act (Amendment) No. 28 of 1964

Notice under Section 07 of the Land Acquisition Act

Please refer the Gazette Extra Ordinary on 29.09.2020 bearing No. 2195/27 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka issued under the Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460), as amended by the Land Acquisition Act (Amendment) No. 28 of 1964

- Province - Uva
- District - Badulla
- Divisional Secretary Division - Badulla
- Grama Niladhari Division - Hindagoda (78 K)
- Final Village Plan Number - F.V.P. 80, Supplementary No. 63, Page No. 59

- Number of Blocks - 03
- Total Land Extent - 0.3818 Hectares
- Village / Villages where the land is situated - Hanwella (Division No. 15) Badulla Municipal Council and

- Province - Uva
- District - Badulla
- Divisional Secretary Division - Badulla
- Grama Niladhari Division - Hindagoda (78 K)
- Final Village Plan Number - F.V.P. 111, Supplementary No. 26, Page No. 27

- Number of Blocks - 04
- Total Land Extent - 0.2296 Hectares
- Village / Villages where the land is situated - Hindagoda (Division No. 15) Badulla Municipal Council

D.M.L.H. Dissanayake
Divisional Secretary,
Badulla

On 16 of 10, 2020
At Divisional Secretariat,
Badulla.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Gold articles connected with Gold Loans at all Orient Finance PLC Gold Centres and which are expired and remaining unredeemed on 28/02/2021 shall be sold by Public Auction at the below mentioned address at 10.00 a.m. on 28/04/2021 & 29/04/2021.



Orient Finance PLC,
(P187979)
19, Railway Avenue, Nugegoda.
Tel: 0117 444 222

AUCTION OF UNREDEEMED GOLD ARTICLES

Gold articles left as security for gold loans at Vavuniya, Balangoda, Moratuwa, Kalutara, Kurunegala, Galle, Meewachchiya, Polonnaruwa, Dehiattakandiya, Kanthale, Walapane, Kandy, Chilawa, Keagalle, Nikaweratiya, Bandarawela, Monaragala, Kirulapone (City Branch), Ampara, Mannar, Mallavi, Ratnapura, Batticaloa, Dambulla, Halton, Horana, Jafna, Matara, Nuwara-Eliya, Puttalam, Trincomalee, Matale, Pottuvil, Thiesamaharamaya, Badulla, Galenbindunawewa, Gampaha, Ja-Ela, Negombo, Nittambuwa, Kaduwela, Neliyadi, Wennappuwa, Padaviya, Welimada and Nawala Head Office HNB Finance branches/Service Centres up to 31/12/2020, and not redeemed or renewed by 15/04/2021, will be sold by public auction.

Auction Date : 19/04/2021
Auction Time : 10.30 am
Auction Venue : HNB Finance, No.168, Nawala Road, Nugegoda.

- Participants to the auction must produce their National Identity Cards.
- HNB Finance PLC reserves the right to cancel, postpone or merge the auction dates.

HNB Finance PLC
No. 168, Nawala Road, Nugegoda
Tel: 0112 02 48 48
Fax: 0112 17 62 63

HNB FINANCE

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INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Ministry of Education

Procurement of Student Desks, Chairs and Teachers Tables, Chairs for National Schools and NCoE's Under GEMP

Contract No: ED/07/101/03/2021/GEMP - G-04

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Education invites sealed bids for Procurement of Student Desks, Chairs and Teachers Tables, Chairs for National Schools and NCoE's Under GEMP from eligible and qualified bidders. Complete details are included in the bidding document. Expected delivery period is 8-10 weeks from the date of letter of acceptance. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security as indicated in the table below.

| Description of the Items | Bid Security (Rs.) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Lot A - Student Chairs & Desks | 202,500.00 |
| Lot B - Teachers Chairs & Tables | 75,210,00 |

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division, Ministry of Education, 5th Floor, "Isurupaya" Battaramulla (Telephone: 011-2785573) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from 09.00 am to 03.00 pm on working days until 29th April 2021.
- A complete Set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Procurement Division, Ministry of Education, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 4,500 & for each document (The payment method will be by cash).
- Bids must be delivered to the Procurement Division, Ministry Education, 5th Floor, "Isurupaya" Battaramulla on or before **30th April, 2021 at 10.30 am**. Late bids will be returned unopened, Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given above after closing of bids.

Secretary
Ministry of Education
'Isurupaya'
Battaramulla.



EXTENSION OF BIDDING PERIOD



NAME OF PROJECT : SRI LANKA COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS PREPAREDNESS PROJECT

- Contract Title : Supply & Delivery of 60 Nos of Brand-New Ambulances for Ministry of Health.
RFB Reference No.: LK-MOH-201484-GO-RFB
- Contract Title : Supply & Delivery of 2,087 Nos of unused Scooters to the Public Health Midvises - Ministry of Health.
RFB Reference No.: LK-MOH-176198-GO-RFB

This is with reference to the press notice published on 12th February 2021.

Bidding period on the above two tenders have been extended up to **20th April 2021**.

Bids shall be valid until **24th Sep 2021** and the Bid Security shall be valid until **22nd October 2021**.

Other conditions remained unchanged.

Dr. J.M.W. Jayasundara Bandara,
Project Director,
Sri Lanka COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project,
3rd Floor, J.R. Jayewardene Center,
191, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka.

Telephone : + 94112680490 / + 94112680549
Facsimile : + 94112680490

Email: srilankacovid@gmail.com
Website: www.pssp.health.gov.lk

Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited

The fuel distribution process during the 2021 Sinhala / Tamil New Year holiday period will be as follows

| Date | Order Receipt | Delivery |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 10.04.2021 (Saturday) | Kolonnawa Termination, Muthurajawela Terminals and Bulk Depots | Kolonnawa Installation, Muthurajawela Terminal and Bulk Depots |
| 11.04.2021 (Sunday) | Orders will be accepted up to 14.00 hrs for delivery on Sunday the 11th | Delivery will be commenced as usual |
| 12.04.2021 (Monday) | Orders will be accepted up to 12.30 hrs for delivery on Monday the 12th | Delivery will be commenced as usual |
| 13.04.2021 (Tuesday) | Orders will be accepted up to 12.30 hrs for delivery of essential services on Tuesday the 13th | Delivery will be commenced as usual |
| 14.04.2021 (Wednesday) | Day Prior to Sinhala / Tamil New Year | Delivery will be commenced for essential services |
| 15.04.2021 (Thursday) | Sinhala / Tamil New Year Day | Closed |
| 16.04.2021 (Friday) | Orders will be accepted up to 12.30 hrs for delivery on Thursday the 15th | Delivery will be commenced for essential services |
| 17.04.2021 (Saturday) | Closed | Closed |
| 18.04.2021 (Sunday) | Orders will be accepted as usual for delivery on Friday 16th and onwards | Delivery will be commenced as usual |

Distribution Manager
Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited

| | Kolonnawa Distribution Office | Transport Office | Orders Office | Muthurajawela Distribution Office |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Telephone | 011-2572336 011-2572158 | 011-2531324 | 011-2696542 011-2532131 011-5668472 011-2389136 | 011-5668959 011-5355546 011-3193924/9 011-5950136 |
| Fax | 011-2572380 | | 011-2531325 | |

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M/Cycles & T/Wheelers

Mazda Cars

For sale

65-4869 Mazda, 1997, car for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0714542958. 025958

CP BGT-3455 Yamaha Ray ZR, 2018, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0711210810. 025960

Vans

Educational Vocational

53-5332 Toyota Hiace Van, 1992, 54-8838 Totota Hiace Van, 1990, for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC, No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel. 0714542958. 025955

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VEHICLE FOR SALE
WP LX-XXXX MITSUBISHI FUSO 2013
TIPPER 3907.00 CC
0773743589

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PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Sitthi Haris of No. 31, Nodunkulam Road, Puttalam do hereby inform the Democratic, Socialistic and Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that I have changed my name as Mohamed Abdus Salam Harisa Umma with effect from 15.02.2021.
Mohamed Abdus Salam Harisa Umma

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF E-MAIL SECURITY SYSTEM AT SLLDC HEAD OFFICE

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 contract.

| Procurement No. | Item Description | Closing Date & Time | Bid Security |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------|
| S/217/21 | Supply, Installation, Maintenance And Commissioning of E-Mail Security System at SLLDC Head Office | 29 th April, 2021 13.30 hrs | Rs. 20,000.00 |

- 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 **06th April, 2021 up to 28th April, 2021** (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rs.1,000.00 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 envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before **29th April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs.** 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.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on **20th April, 2021** at 10.00 a.m at SLLDC Board Room.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy General Manager (Construction) of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2862438 Fax: +94 11 2867516

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

Automobile Association of Ceylon
Annual General Meeting
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 116th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Automobile Association of Ceylon will be held on Tuesday, 29th June 2021 at 05.30 p.m. in the Association Auditorium.

01 Motions, if any, for submission to the above meeting should reach the undersigned before 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 23rd April 2021.

By the Order of the Executive Committee
Devapriya Hettiarachchi
Secretary
40, Sir Mohamed Macan Markar Mawatha
Colombo 3.

My Reference Number :
BD/BD/LND/3/5/40

The Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460) as amended by the Land Acquisition Act (Amendment) No. 28 of 1964

Notice under Section 07 of the Land Acquisition Act

Please refer the Gazette Extra Ordinary on 29.09.2020 bearing No. 2195/27 of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka issued under the Section 7 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460), as amended by the Land Acquisition Act (Amendment) No. 28 of 1964

- Province - Uva
- District - Badulla
- Divisional Secretary - Badulla
- Division - Badulla
- Grama Niladhari - Hindagoda (78 K)
- Division -
- Final Village Plan - F.V.P. 80, Supplementary No. 65, Page No. 61
- Number of Blocks - 02
- Total Land Extent - 0.6801 Hectares
- Village / Villages where the land is situated - Hanwella (Division No. 8) Badulla Municipal Council

D.M.L.H. Dissanayake
Divisional Secretary,
Badulla

On 16 of 10, 2020
At Divisional Secretariat, Badulla.

Marriage Proposals

in the
Sunday Observer

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Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 1964 (Chapter 460)

Notice Under Section 7

My Ref. No : DS/AK/TSUNAMY/21
Land Ministry's Ref. No. 4/3/15/2011/VE/208

The General Public is hereby informed that the inquiry for ownership and compensations under Section 9 of the Land Acquisition Act for the undermentioned land acquired for the state under the said Act, shall be conducted on 17.05.2021 at the Divisional Secretariat, Akmeemana. All Persons interested in the aforesaid land are required to attend the said inquiry. Please see the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2215/7 dated 15.02.2021 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for more details.

District : Galle
Divisional Secretary's Division : Akmeemana
G.N. Division : 135A, Meegoda
Preliminary Plan No. : P.P. GA. 4503
No. of Lots : 01
Extent of the Land : 0.7107 Hectares
Village : Pilana
Name of the Land : Walahanduwa Watta, Keranketiya Watte Land

Divisional Secretary / Acquiring Officer
Akmeemana Division
Divisional Secretariat, Akmeemana
On 26.03.2021

NATIONAL LIBRARY & DOCUMENTATION SERVICES BOARD
(Ministry of Education)

Notice

Vacancies

Reference to the advertisement appeared on 08.03.2021, calling applications for the vacancies in the National Library and Documentation Services Board.

Qualifications for the Post of Junior Manager Service Category Post of Library and Documentations Officer Grade III, should be corrected as follows :

"02.1 Library and Documentation Officer Grade II

Qualifications :
Having obtained a Degree recognized by the University Grants Commission (U.G.C.) (Preference will be given to those who have followed the subject of Library and Information Science)"

Applications will be entertained up to 20.04.2021, for the post of Library and Documentation Officer Grade II, subject to above correction and all the other requirements published in the advertisement appeared on 08.03.2021. If, in case, applications were submitted to the said post previously, applicants need not re-apply for the same.

Chairman
National Library and Documentation Board,
No. 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07.
Website : www.natlib.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

SUPPLY AND FIXING OF JET FLOAT BOXES FOR RATHTHANAPITIYA SITE

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 contract.

| Procurement No. | Item Description | Closing Date & Time | Bid Security |
|-----------------|---|---|---------------|
| S/208/21 | Supply and Fixing of Jet Float Boxes for Raththanapitiya Site | 21 st April, 2021 13.30 hrs | Rs. 20,000.00 |

- 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 **06th April, 2021 up to 20th 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 envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before **21st April, 2021 at 13:30 hrs.** 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.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy Project Director - Weras Ganga Project of SLLDC Tel: +94 11 2872877 Fax: +94 11 2074421, Email : wgsdwp@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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INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER NO. : NSB/PT/2021/06

PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC TILLS

Public sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed Principal Manufacturers/Suppliers or their Accredited Local Agents in Sri Lanka for the supply and delivery of Plastic Tills as detailed below.

| Description of the Procurement | Supply and Delivery of Plastic Tills — 350,000 Nos. |
|---|---|
| Procurement Method | NCB (National Competitive Bidding) |
| Applicable non-refundable Tender Fee | Rs.3,000/- |
| Value of the Bid Bond to be submitted | Rs.87,500/- |
| Last Date & Time of Issuing Bid Documents | 27/04/2021 at 2:30 p.m. |
| Date & Time of Closing Tender | 28/04/2021 at 10:00 a.m. |

- It is mandatory for any person who acts as an Agent or Sub Agent, representative or nominee for and or on behalf of any Tenderer to register himself before applying for tender, and the contract after the tender is awarded.
- Bid Documents could be obtained from the Senior Manager (Supplies), Supplies Division, National Savings Bank, No.255, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Forms will be issued from 06/04/2021 up to 27/04/2021 from 8.30 a.m. till 2.30 p.m. on working days on the submission of a written request.
- Duly completed Bidding Documents should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee/ Bid Bond acceptable to the National Savings Bank, for the value relevant to the tender as indicated above and issued by a commercial bank and valid for a minimum period of 105 calendar days from the date of opening the Tender.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing at 10.00 a.m. on the due date and the bids received after 10.00 a.m. will be rejected and returned unopened.
- National Savings Bank reserves the right of rejecting any or all bids and the right of accepting any portion of a bid without adducing any reasons.

Further details could be obtained from the Snr. Manager - Supplies.

Chairman - Corporate Procurement Committee - Minor
National Savings Bank,
No. 255, Galle Road,
Colombo 3.