

FLIGHTS TO BEGIN UNDER 'AIR BUBBLE' TO INDIA

TOURISTS ALLOWED UNDER QUARANTINE REGULATIONS TWO-WAY TRAVEL PERMITTED

CHAMINDA PERERA
International flights between India and Sri Lanka are scheduled to commence by the end of this month under a bilateral "air bubble" agreement, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga confirmed yesterday. He said the first regular post-pandemic international

passenger flight will fly from the BIA to the new international airport in Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh at the end of this month. "Both Sri Lankans and Indians are eligible to travel to and from India and Sri Lanka subject to quarantine regulations of both countries," he said.

A senior Ministry official said the Indian side had already submitted a set of proposals to the Foreign Ministry and the Tourism Ministry for an air bubble for the commencement of air travel between the two countries. "The Ministry has already

given its consent for the proposals and both parties have agreed to recommence the flights end of this month," he said. Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Ministry of India said that India has established an individual bilateral air bubble arrangement with Sri Lanka for the operation of special international passenger flights between the two countries.

An air bubble is a bilateral arrangement with a set of regulations and restrictions in which the carriers of the two countries can operate international flights under pandemic or other special conditions. **TO PAGE 02**

Prince Philip, a friend of Sri Lanka - President

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a condolence message to Queen Elizabeth II on the demise of her husband and Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince Philip, yesterday said the late Prince had a special affection for Sri Lanka. The President said that the

late Prince Philip had often recalled with warmth his short stay in Ceylon during the world War II. "The people of Sri Lanka carry fond memories of his stay as well as of his subsequent visits to Sri Lanka accompanying Your Majesty on two state visits" **TO PAGE 02**

Plantation workers paid Rs.1,000 daily now - Jeevan



ASELA KURULUWANSA
The daily wage of plantation workers was increased to Rs. 1,000 and the government was able to provide it before the festive season with the support of the President and the Prime Minister, Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure Facilities State Minister Jeevan Thondaman said. **TO PAGE 02**

Police vigilant to ensure compliance with health guidelines

RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA
Police will launch a special operation countrywide to ensure that people preparing for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year comply with Health Ministry guidelines to arrest the spread of the COVID-19. All police stations have been given directives to conduct special operations to ensure that the people who are preparing for the New Year do comply with the guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus through a circular issued by Inspector General C.D.Wickremaratne. **TO PAGE 02**

Low income families to get Rs. 5,000 allowance from today

LAHIRU FERNANDO
The Government will provide nearly three million low-income families with a cash allowance of Rs. 5,000 in view of the upcoming Sinhala and Hindu New Year festive season beginning today. The Finance Ministry announced that this one-time payment will be made to families belonging to seven categories including Samurdhi beneficiary families, low-income families, families receiving senior citizens' allowance, differently abled persons, kidney patients, elders aged over 100 and those who became qualified under above six categories after submitting appeals. **TO PAGE 02**

AIRMAN SWIMS ACROSS PALK STRAITS AND BACK. SETS NEW ASIAN RECORD



Air Force Swimmer, leading Aircraftman Roshan Abeysundara set up a new Asian record by swimming 59 kilometers 300 meters across the Palk Straits in 28 hours and 19 minutes 43 seconds. Abeysundara was the second Sri Lankan who swam across the Palk Straits from Talaimannar to Dhanushkodi and back. V.S.Kumar Anandan was the first Sri Lankan who swam the Palk Straits both ways in 51 hours in 1971. Anandan died of hypothermia attempting to swim across the English Channel in 1984.



Coma patient pronounced dead at Negombo Hospital

D. MIHINDUKULA, KOCHCHIKADE CORR.
A doctor who had mistakenly pronounced a patient admitted to the Negombo Hospital as dead has been referred to the Director General of Health Services for an inquiry. Hospital Director Dr. Nirmala

Loganathan said a 45-year-old person from Negombo had been admitted to the hospital on April 9 and was later pronounced dead by the ward doctor. However, he had turned up alive after being sent to the hospital mortuary. The patient's family members had visited the hospital to take charge of

the 'corpse' and noticed that he was alive. He had been moved back to the hospital ward and the doctors had revealed that he had fallen into a coma due to hypoglycemia (low sugar). The patient had been discharged on April 10.

Government has weakened country's economy - UNP

SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE
The government has weakened the country's economy and given poisonous food to the people as another epidemic when the corona epidemic strikes naturally, former Minister Vajira Abeywardena said. He said that the inefficient and weak economic policy of the government has opened the door for the people of the country to devour poisonous foods.

Abeywardena expressed these views at a discussion held with a group of UNP activists at the Sirikotha party headquarters yesterday (11). He said that due to the inefficient economic policy of the present government, businesses in

this country have collapsed and all sources of income of the people have been lost. Due to this situation, the people of the country are not in a position to celebrate the New Year like in other years. He also said that due to economic difficulties people tend to buy cheap goods. **TO PAGE 02**

Jaffna Mayor made scapegoat - Opposition Leader

PAHAN WIJESEKERA
Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa yesterday said the government has given up on the efforts to find the mastermind behind the Easter Sunday attacks that killed more than 270 civilians on April 21, 2019 while branding the Jaffna Mayor as a terrorist. He said that the arrest of Jaffna mayor is an attempt aiming at diverting the people's focus on real issues facing the country. He was speaking at a press conference at the Opposition Leader's office. **TO PAGE 02**

Reckless youth in hot water

IRANGIKA RANGE
Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said legal action will be taken against the youth who travelled recklessly on the Southern Highway. He said he had received the photographs of the reckless behaviour of the youth who were precariously clinging on to the windcreens of a car on the Kadawatha to Matara section on Southern Highway. The photos are being shared on social media. The Minister has instructed the IGP to take appropriate action in this regard.



BASL appoints committee to study Port City Economic Bill

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has appointed a committee to study and make recommendations to the BASL in respect of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill.



presented to Parliament on April 8 following the cabinet approval. The BASL Secretary Rajeev Amarasinghe in a statement announced that this committee will be chaired by President's Counsel Ikram Mohamed. Other committee members are: Udittha Egalahewa PC. **TO PAGE 02**

Cargills rewards

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Construction of Kinniya to Kurunchankarni Bridge begins

The construction of the Kurunchankarni Bridge across the Kurunchankarni Lagoon on the Kinniya-Kurunchankarni Road in the Muthur Divisional Secretariat Division in Trincomalee was inaugurated by Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza last Saturday.

The construction of this bridge was initiated under the Bridge Project, which is in the process of realizing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's Vision of Prosperity's Policy Statement.

This bridge will connect the Kinniya Pradeshiya Sabha area and the Kinniya Municipal Council areas. The people of the area now use boats as a means of trans-

portation between Kurunchankarni and Kinniya. The construction of this bridge will facilitate the movement of more than 100,000 people.

The bridge will be 120 meters long and will cross the Kurunchankarni Lagoon. The estimated cost of the construction is 750 million rupees. Construction will be carried out in three stages.

Members of Parliament Kapila Nuwan Athukorala, M.Thowfee, Ishak Rahuman, Kinniya Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman M.Nihar, Vice President M.H. Sanush, Chairmen of the Pradeshiya Sabha, Members of the Pradeshiya Sabha, Director of the Road Development Authority A.K.D. Tissera were present.



New Year bonus for airport staff

DINULI FRANCISCO

The government has decided to provide a bonus of Rs.10,000 for the airport staff for the festive season.

Aviation and Export Zones Development State Minister D.V.Chanaka stated that the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) trade union had

requested him to provide a bonus for the employees to celebrate the New Year.

"Even though it is problematic to provide a bonus with the pandemic situation, considering the requests of the Trade Unions the government has decided to provide a bonus of 10,000,"

the State Minister said. He stated that the government had to close all the airports and as a result revenues had decreased.

The government had to also spend for salaries and allowances of the employees and for airport maintenance, he said.

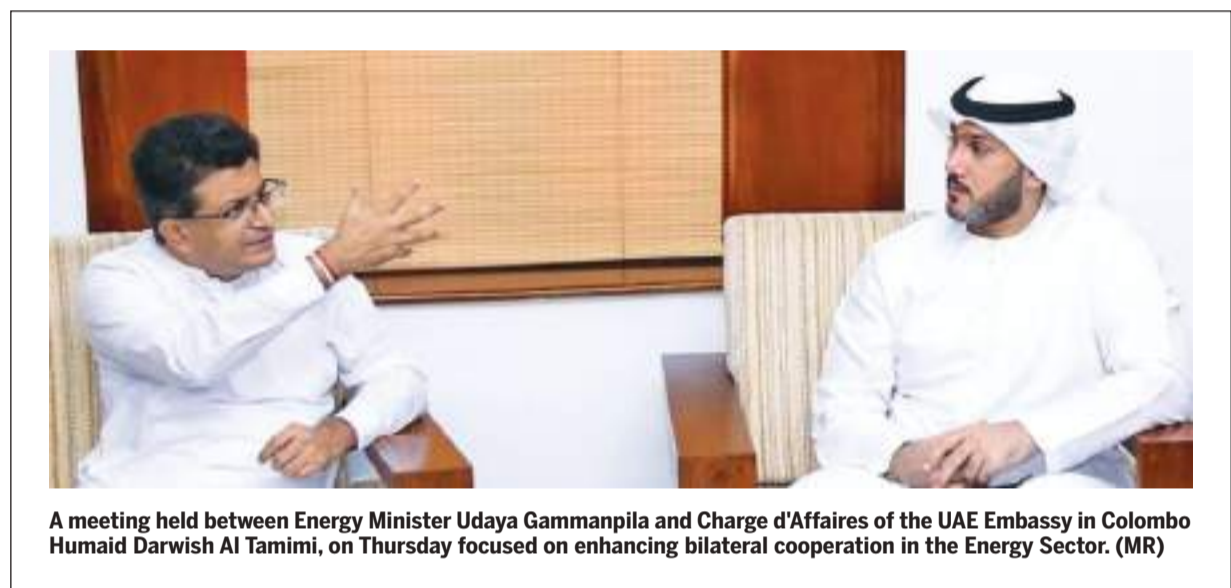
Death of Dr. Wasantha Dissanayake

Director of the Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama Dr. Wasantha Dissanayake passed away yesterday. He was 58. He was receiving treatment for a heart ailment at the Sri Jayawardhanapura Hospital for over a week.

He played a pivotal role in installing a PET scanner in the hospital and ren-

dered an invaluable service for the uplift of hospital facilities for the patients. Dr. Dissanayake was the director of Kegalle Teaching Hospital earlier.

He has participated a number of television programmes and become popular among the public. He is a father of four.



A meeting held between Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila and Charge d'Affaires of the UAE Embassy in Colombo Humaid Darwish Al Tamimi, on Thursday focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the Energy Sector. (MR)

Flights to begin under 'Air Bubble'...

"India has finalized an air bubble agreement with Sri Lanka, making it the sixth such arrangement in the SAARC region and the 28th in total," the Civil Aviation Ministry said on Twitter.

"All the eligible passengers will be able to travel between the two countries in the near future," it noted.

Scheduled international flights have been suspended in India since March 23, 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. India now has such pacts with 28 countries, including Afghanistan, Bahrain, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq, Japan, the

Maldives, Nigeria, Qatar, the UAE, the UK and the USA.

India has already established individual bilateral bubbles with France, Germany and the US that will allow airlines of each country in the pact to operate international flights.

However, special international passenger flights have been operating under the Vande Bharat Mission since May last year and under bilateral air bubble arrangements since July.

SriLankan Airlines was expecting an air bubble arrangement to be signed by India and Sri Lanka by March-end, a senior official with the

operator told Times of India. "We are waiting for India to sign the air bubble pact with Sri Lanka. We expect to start flight operations within a week of signing." There were nearly 100 flights each week before the pandemic struck in March last year. Flights from Palaly to Chennai are also likely to resume in addition to the flights from the BIA, Colombo to a host of new and existing destinations in India. The worldwide aviation sector has seen a massive downturn over the last year as most countries shut their borders and travellers were forced to stay at home, compelling airlines to slash their flights.

Government has...

Thus, they buy food less in quality and inferior or harmful goods. "Entrepreneurs also try to import cheap food items. It is a great pity that such food items have been provided to our people today" he added.

"Recently there was a huge shortage of turmeric in the country. But we saw the government destroying a large stock of turmeric in public.

Although turmeric was destroyed in this manner, we did not see that the coconut oil imported into

the country with poison was destroyed. This government took action to re-export that coconut oil. It must be said that this is a very unfortunate situation" he said.

He said the policies of the UNP can only rebuild the country's economy and create an era in which the people can live without economic hardship. The time has come for all parties to work together to bring to power a UNP government led by Ranil Wickremesinghe, he added.

Plantation workers...

He was speaking at a special media briefing held in Hatton last Friday.

Thondaman said that all other allowances and benefits are included in the daily wage of Rs.1,000 paid to plantation workers. He said he is against any attempt by plantation companies to impose conditions on plantation workers to be paid a salary of Rs. 1,000. "Some plantation companies have stated that they will stop providing healthcare and welfare services to plantation workers. Such cannot be done. We are in further discussions with

the plantation companies," Thondaman said.

He said that the Ceylon Workers' Congress intends to negotiate with the plantation companies and plantation workers to replace the current daily wage with another non-loss-making wage scheme in line with the country's economy.

"My father had a dream that the daily wage of a plantation worker should be increased to Rs. 1,000. Various parties helped us in this and on behalf of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, I thank all the parties that supported us," he added.

BASL appoints...

Chandaka Jayasundera PC, Attorneys Eray de Silva, Manjuka Fernando and Dhanya Gunewardena. Attorneys Shivan Cooray and Yoshani Demuni will function as the co-convenors of the committee.

The government has already gazetted the bill titled Colombo Port City Economic Commission to establish a Special Economic Zone within which

there is ease of doing business that will attract new investments.

This Bill will establish a Commission to grant registrations, licences, authorisations and other approvals to carry on businesses and other activities in the Zone. The Commission will consist of not less than five members and not more than seven members who will be appointed by the President.

Jaffna mayor made...

He said the government is trying to take the people for a ride by naming a person all of sudden as the mastermind behind the Easter Sunday attacks.

Police vigilant to...

This circular has been issued as people are continue shopping to prepare themselves for the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New Year in violation of quarantine rules.

Police spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that police personnel in uni-

forms and in civvies will be deployed at shopping centres, supermarkets and public transport to ensure that quarantine laws are maintained by the people. He said that prior approval has to be taken from the police for holding new year festivals.

Prince Philip, a friend ...

The message: On behalf of the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I convey my deep and heartfelt condolences on the passing away of your beloved husband, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness had a special affection for Sri Lanka and often recalled with warmth his short stay in Ceylon during the World War II. The people of Sri Lanka carry fond memories of his stay as well as of his subsequent visit to Sri Lanka accompanying Your Majesty on two State

visits. "While we mourn with great sorrow the passing away of His Royal Highness, we recall his great service to the British nation, his distinguished naval career, and his service to the Commonwealth. Please convey, Your Majesty, my condolences and those of the people of Sri Lanka to members of the Royal Family.

Our thoughts are with Your Majesty, the Royal Family and the People of the United Kingdom during this sorrowful time.

Please accept Your Majesty, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Low income families...

According to the circular issued by the Prime Minister's Office in this regard, a family will be provided the allowance under one category only.

State Minister Shehan Semasinghe told media yesterday that it is expected to provide all the selected beneficiaries with this allowance through the Samurdhi Bank Branches before the New Year.

Those who are listed as sub families within a family will also be given this allowance subject to the recommendation of the

area Divisional Secretary.

The programme is implemented by the government on the instructions of President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa with the direct involvement of the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication Basil Rajapaksa.

Parliamentarians representing the government had made a request from the President and the Prime Minister to implement this programme.

SPECIAL NOTICE

RELIEF FROM BANK OF CEYLON FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Bank of Ceylon, on the instructions of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, has initiated relief measures for the period – maximum of six months (from 01.04.2021 to 30.09.2021) for both individuals and businesses facing financial difficulties as a result of the Covid -19 pandemic

Eligible Concession

- I. Extension of concession offered for credit facilities granted to Tourism Industry
- II. Concession for lease facilities granted for passenger transport service
- III. Extension of grace period and repayment period for working capital loans granted to tourism sector under Saubagya Covid - 19 Renaissance facility

Customers who have obtained advances/ loans/ leasing/ are eligible to request for concessions under this scheme.

Please forward your request in the format available at the Bank of Ceylon Branch or to the designated email address including your name, address, account number, branch and details of the facility to reach on or before 19.04.2021 for concessions under tourism and passenger transport service and before 23.04.2021 for Saubagya Covid-19 Renaissance facility – Phase I/II/III by any of the following methods:

1. Branch Manager
2. Following email address:
 - a. For Tourism – bocсахана@boc.lk
 - b. For leasing concession – bocсаханаlea@boc.lk
 - c. For Saubagya Covid -19 Renaissance facility – bocсаханаaw@boc.lk

* Conditions apply



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Presidential Task Force to achieve goals set in *Gama Samaga Pilisadara*

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa appoints a Presidential Task Force to effectively guide, pursue and review the realisation of objectives and needs of the people that the Government seeks to achieve through the

Gama Samaga Pilisadara (Discussion with the Village) programme.

It has been named as the "Rural Development Presidential Task Force on Discussion with the Village".

A 15-member team of State Ministers and Parliamentarians has been nominated to the Task force chaired by Minister Namal Rajapaksa.

State Ministers Nimal Lanza, Dilum Amunugama, Kanchana Wijesekera, See-

tha Arambepola, Channa Jayasumana, MPs Cader Mastan, Kapila Athukorala, Sanjeeva Edirimanna, Nipuna Ranawaka, Chamara Sampath Dassanayake, Tiran Alles, Gevindu Kumaratunga, Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan, Chinthaka Amal Mayadunne and Jayantha Weerasinghe are the other members of the Task Force.

Additional Secretary to the President Chandima Wickramasinghe will coordinate the Task Force, providing all the necessary information related to rural development in line with the "Discussion with the Village" programme.

The Task Force has the primary responsibility to

direct all officers at the divisional level, including the District Secretary, the Divisional Secretary and the heads of all other institutions, based on the requirement of services, to expedite the implementation of the President's instructions and directives to address issues and problems raised by the people during the "Discussion with the Village" programme.

The Task Force is vested with the responsibility of speedy completion of projects such as the development of Roads, Drinking Water Supply, Electricity, Telecommunications, development of Playgrounds, Schools, Hospitals, Voca-



tional Educational Institutions, Urban Universities, Land Transfers, Banking and Financial Facilities, Market, Warehousing and Infrastructure facilities,

implemented at the national level by the Government Institutions in the Pradeshiya Sabha and Divisional Secretariat areas under the Budget Provisions for 2021 - 2023.

The Task Force is expected to expedite all projects financed by local and foreign funds under the Public Investment Programme within the specified timeframe.

The President has directed the Task Force to report to him any instances of delay or omissions in the performance of the duties assigned by the Task Force to any public servant or any official of a Ministry, Department, Corporation or any such institution.

DRY RATIONS FOR NEW YEAR



Over 250 low income families in the Killinochchi District received packs of dry rations and stationery for their children in view of the upcoming Sinhala and Tamil New year. Here a family receiving a dry ration pack from Killinochchi Security Forces Commander Major General Harendra Ranasinghe. Picture by Rasula Dilhara Gamage, Northern Provincial Group Corr.



The winners.

Celebrating 75 years of India's independence

Children from care homes gather in Colombo for painting competition

Celebrating 75 years of India's independence in Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan children from care homes gathered in Colombo from all across Sri Lanka on April 10-11 for the final round of the nationwide painting competition organised by the Colombo Expatriates Cultural Association (CECA) - a voluntary organisation of expatriates consisting of mainly Indians - with support of the High Commission of India, Education Ministry and several other partners.

Education Minister Prof. G.L Peiris was the Chief Guest and Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay was the Guest of Honour at the final round. Several other dignitaries including State Minister Piyal Nishantha were also present. The dignitaries lauded the effort as a shining example of strong people-to-people ties between India and Sri Lanka and stressed the enormous significance of the enriching experience for the children.

The competition was held in three categories - Sub Junior, Junior and Senior. The first round of the competition had seen enthusiastic participation of 4,375 students from child-care homes across Sri Lanka. Contestants from all provinces who had produced 80 best paintings were invited along with one caregiver for the final round in Colombo on April 10 at the Hotel Taj Samudra. While top three winners in all the three categories were awarded SLR 100,000, SLR 75,000 and SLR 50,000 respectively in addition to various other gifts, certificates and medals, all the 60 finalists received cash awards, desktop computers, and other gifts contributed by various sponsors.

The event also formed part of 'India @ 75' celebrations in Sri Lanka. It comprises events and activities in the run up to completion of 75 years of India's Independence in August 2022. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi had launched these celebrations in India on March 12, 75 weeks before the 75th Anniversary of Independence. In Sri Lanka, formal launch of these celebrations had taken place on April 9 with the inauguration of 'India Corner' at the Nagananda Institute for Buddhist Studies.

Woman arrested with illicit liquor

ASELA KURULUWANSA

A woman was arrested in Alawatugoda with illicit liquor by the Central Province Excise Department.

The suspect was fined Rs. 15,000 after being produced before the Kandy Magistrate's Court. Excise officials seized copper coils used to filter alcohol and a stock of illicit spirits.

Another two persons were also arrested for selling beer without a licence, Central Province Excise Department OIC N. N Malawipathirana said. A stock of illicit spirits and beer cans worth around Rs. 100,000 were seized, the Excise Department said.

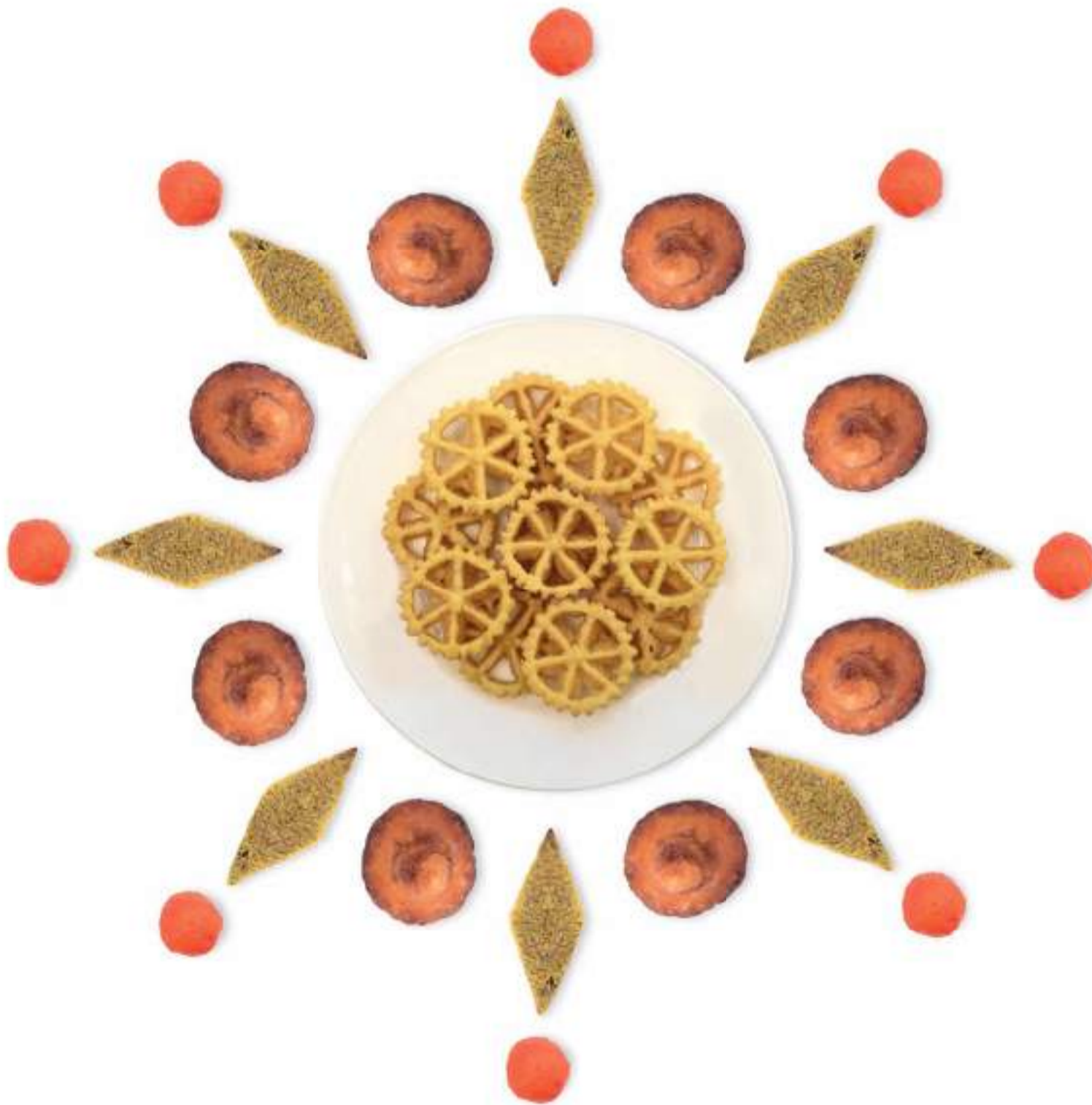
Disaster Management training in Gintota

The Navy conducted a disaster management training in Gin Ganga in Gintota from April 5-10.

The Navy's Rapid Action Boat Squadron provided theoretical and practical knowledge in life-saving techniques and equipment. The participants were trained in handling small boats and swimming techniques.

The Commander Southern Naval Area Rear Admiral Priyantha Perera initiated the programme.

All of the things that collectively define us are the very things that collectively give us the strength to overcome any challenge. This New Year, let us celebrate Avurudu wholeheartedly and resolve to stand together for the betterment of the nation.



WE WISH ALL SRI LANKANS A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*All People's Bank branches island-wide will be open for 'Ganu Denu' on the 15th of April 2021, from 08.30am.

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Celebrating the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's spaceflight and visit to Ceylon

YURY MATERİY
Ambassador of Russia to Sri Lanka

Today, the world celebrates the 60th anniversary of the first manned space flight. On this day in 1961 Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space. When responding to the ground control if he was ready, he said his famous "Poekhali!" meaning "Let's go!" in Russian. His *Vostok1* spacecraft launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome at 09:07 (Moscow time). Gagarin made a single orbit around Earth at an altitude of 302 Km, proving a human could survive in space and even perform useful tasks. His first report sent to the ground control from space was "The Earth is blue. [...] How wonderful. It is amazing." The entire flight took 108 minutes and forever changed the world.

Following his historic flight, between 1961 and 1965 Yuri Gagarin embarked on a long world tour dubbed the 'Peace Mission', advocating for global peace and cooperation. He visited 32 countries, met with heads of state, politicians, artists and people in the streets.

On December 7, 1961, Gagarin visited Ceylon where he was warmly received by jubilant crowds who greeted him in many cities across the island.

In his message to the people of the country, he said: "I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Government of Ceylon for the kind invitation to visit your remarkable country. I will be happy to be able to convey personally to the Ceylonese people warm friendly greetings from my fellow cosmonauts and all Soviet people. I consider this cordial invitation as a manifestation of sincere friendly feelings towards my country and the Soviet people."

On December 7, Gagarin was greeted by Deputy Finance Minister George Rajapaksa at the Ratmalana Airport. Later that day, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike hosted a reception at Temple Trees in honour of the world's first cosmonaut. There, a local award-winning artist Jayantha Premachandra handed over his masterpiece, a life-like portrait of Gagarin, to the Soviet cosmonaut.

On December 8, Gagarin went on a trip to the south of the island, setting free doves of peace along the way. From Colombo he travelled to Moratuwa, Panadura, Kalutara, Aluthgama, Ambalangoda, Galle, Weligama, Matara, and Tangalle, where he was greeted by Member of the Parliament D.A. Rajapaksa, father of the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.



Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike hosted a reception at Temple Trees in honour of the world's first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin

On December 9, Gagarin left for the central part of the island, visiting Kelaniya, Yakkalamulla, Kegalle, Mawanella, Kandy, Matale and Kurunegala. The first Soviet cosmonaut planted a tree in the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens – a Yellow Saraca, relative of the Ashoka tree under which the Buddha was born. Speaking at Queen's Hotel, Gagarin expressed hope that the bilateral relations between Ceylon and the USSR would grow like a tree that he had just planted. After Gagarin's untimely demise, the tree seemed to wither, but it grew back to its original splendour and keeps on growing to this day, stronger than ever.

On December 10, the Soviet cosmonaut paid a visit to the ancient city of Anuradhapura where he laid white lotuses at the Sri Maha Bodhi Temple. After proceeding to the country's North, where Gagarin concluded his trip around Ceylon, the first man in space impressed everyone when he piloted

the Handley Page Dart Herald airplane from Jaffna to Ratmalana by himself.

After spending the night at the residence of the Governor-General of Ceylon, at Queen's House in Colombo, Gagarin travelled around the capital where thousands of people burst into a thundering applause and cheered him.

He made stops at the Sri Jayewardenepura University, Colombo University, and the House of the Ceylon-Soviet Friendship Society, taking part in discussions and meetings. In the evening, after speaking with journalists, a reception was held at the Galle Face Hotel.

The next morning Gagarin bid farewell to the people of Ceylon and continued his Peace Mission. The beautiful paradise island was one of the best places he visited during his world tour and it remained in his heart for the rest of his life.



A bust of Gagarin at Galle Face Hotel

Gagarin's first report sent to the ground control from space was "The Earth is blue. (...) How wonderful. It is amazing."

On December 7, 1961, Gagarin visited Ceylon where he was warmly received by jubilant crowds who greeted him in many cities across the island.



The Yellow Saraca tree that Gagarin planted in the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens



Yuri Gagarin travelled around Ceylon during his visit to the paradise island



Yuri Gagarin with Ven. Kaluwamodara Siriniwasa Thera



Yuri Gagarin garlanded by Magilin Nona on arrival at the Ratmalana Airport



Thousands of people burst into a thundering applause and cheered Yuri Gagarin



Yuri Gagarin with Valentina Gagarina and Finance Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike



A bust of Gagarin at the Public Library in Colombo

Some trying to drag SLPP into racism

- State Minister Nimal Lanza

Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza said that the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) is not a racist party even though some are trying to drag it into racism.

The State Minister was participating in several road development programmes in Kantale in the Trincomalee District on April 10.

He opened the Kantale-Gantalawa Ananda Mawatha and the rehabilitating of the Kantale Rajamaha Vihara Godella Mawatha at a cost of Rs. 75 million.

"We are not a racist party. We work with all races, religions and parties. The SLPP is a party of all Sri Lankans. We do not

discriminate on the basis of race, religion or UNP, SLFP or SLPP. We want only to develop the country," the State Minister said.

The State Minister said that the Provincial Council Elections will be held soon.

"Those ordinances will be brought to Parliament to amend the laws in this regard. The Provincial Council System has been established. Therefore, it cannot be abolished.

"The people will be given the right to vote at the Provincial Council Elections before long," he said.

He said that in a democratic country, democracy cannot be disregarded. "It is the right of

the people to have Provincial Council Elections. A Divisional System will replace the Provincial Council system. But some parties support the old system. It should be possible to field three or two candidates in the Divisional System, too," the State Minister said.

State Minister Lanza said that when a country gives democratic rights to the people none can oppose it. "You can vote for a party of your choice. You can choose a candidate of your choice. We cannot deprive the people of their rights," the State Minister said.

MP Kapila Nuwan Atukorala and a number of local politicians were present.



State Minister Lanza looking at an opening of a road development programme.



Minister Dinesh Gunawardena in discussion with US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz.

US envoy calls on Foreign Minister

US Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz called on Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on April 9 at the Foreign Ministry.

The Minister briefed the Ambassador on the various positive developments taking place in the country under the guidance of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. They also discussed ways and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation including through development assistance. Climate change, green energy and information technology were identified as priority areas that Sri Lanka needs US support.

Two hydro power plants to generate electricity this year

M.IRFAN ZAKARIYA,
Hambantota group corr.

Power Minister Dulas Alahapperuma yesterday said that two hydro power plants will generate power this year.

He was speaking at an event in Tangalle. Minister Alahapperuma said that the Uma Oya Power Plant and the Broadland Power Plant will generate power in this year.

Since the Norochcholai power plant was vested in the people in 2013, no power plant has been set up in the country, he said.

In the third decade of the 21st century, 118,000 families in Sri Lanka are living without electricity, the Minister said.

Over 30,000 families living under poverty line will be given free electricity before the New Year. We have already provided free electricity to 9,000 families, he said.

The Electricity Board will provide free electricity to families who have wired their houses before April 13.

Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa, Electricity Board Chairman Vijitha Herath, General Manager Kumuduni Herath and a number of officials were participated.

India supplied 64.51 m doses to 85 countries until April 9

- Indian HC Spokesman

The Indian High Commission Spokesperson said that in line with its commitment to collectively fight COVID-19 pandemic, India has supplied 64.51 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines until April 9 to 85 countries, bilaterally and through COVAX and to UN health workers and peacekeepers.

The latest of these supplies have been delivered last week to countries in Asia, the Pacific and South America. Three consignments of Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine manufactured in India, totalling over 1.2 million doses, arrived in Sri Lanka in January, February and March this year - the last one through the COVAX facility. The first of these consignments enabled the launch of COVID vaccination programme in Sri Lanka ahead of the earlier plan.

India's vaccine manufacturing capacity - already the largest in the world - is being enhanced to meet the emergency global demand of duly approved COVID-19 vaccines. Their ongoing supply is calibrated in view of several factors, which include production and domestic requirement.

India will continue to be in the forefront of the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and will also continue its valuable cooperation with relevant stakeholders," he said.

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President at Almsgiving ceremony



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arriving at the Kirulapone Siri Allan Mathiniyaramaya.



The President offering alms to the Maha Sangha.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday participated in an almsgiving at the Kirulapone Siri Allan Mathiniyaramaya to mark the opening of the newly constructed Alms Hall, *Gini Hal Geya, Awasa Mandiraya* and *Sakman* Meditation Garden.

President Rajapaksa, who arrived at the Siri Allan Mathiniyaramaya yesterday first engaged in religious observances.

Later, the President participated in the almsgiving and served alms to the Maha Sangha. One of the objectives of this religious ceremony is to bless Ven. Uduwe Dhammaloka Thera and his Mother on their birthdays.

The almsgiving ceremony was held under the patronage of Anunayake Theras of Malwathu Chapter Most Ven. Dimbulkumbure

Wimaladhamma Thera, Most Ven. Dr. Niyangoda Vijitha Siri

Thera, Anunayake of the Asgiriya Chapter Most Ven. Vedoruwa Upali Thera and Anunayake of the Amarapura Culawansika Maha Nikaya, Chief Incumbent of the Siri Allan Mathiniyaramaya Temple in Kirulapone Ven. Yogyane Sobitha Thera.

Most Ven. Dimbulkumbure Wimaladham-

ma Thera, Anunayake of the Malwathu Chapter presented a souvenir to the President.

Minister Sarath Weerasekera, Head of the Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication Basil Rajapaksa, Parliamentarian Nalin Fernando and Defence Secretary General (Retired) Kamal Gunaratne were present.

One injured in van accident

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

A van plying from Colombo to Ampara skidded off the road into a paddy field in Kadawathamadu in the Valaichchenai Police area along the Batticaloa-Trincomalee Highway on Saturday.

Of the three passengers in the van, one was injured. The van was severely damaged. Valaichchenai Police are investigating.



Thihagoda becoming 'Super Village'

P.P.G.SUGATHADASA, Thihagoda Group Corr.

The Thihagoda Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) is now developing infrastructure and providing houses under the 'Supirigamak'

Development Programme of the Government. Many development schemes have commenced in the PS including road development, constructing houses and

public and health facilities. Forty houses will be built in the PS area at cost of Rs. 24 million.

Thihagoda PS Chairman Nirmal Samar-

asinhe said that many of the development schemes have been completed now. The Government allocated Rs. 80 million to develop the PS, he said.

Prison escapee arrested; two others nabbed

KAPILA SOMARATNE Panadura Group Corr.

The special Crime Investigations Unit of the Kalutara Police Division arrested a suspect who had escaped from the custody of the Prison Officials, while he was being taken to the Provincial High Court in Embilipitiya in 2019.

A woman with a bank saving book with a large sum of money, which was allegedly deposited by the suspect, was also arrested.

Another person was arrested for providing lodging for the suspect.

The three suspects have been arrested in Ganemulla in the Gampaha Police area on April 9 on a tip off by one of the suspects.

The main suspect, a resident of Embilipitiya, had a forged driving licence and a National Identity Card, police said.

The Embilipitiya Court had issued 12 warrants on him as he is not appearing for the cases that had come up for trials against him at the Embilipitiya Magistrate's Court and the Provincial High Court in the past.

The main suspect was an accomplice of Kosgoda Tharaka, who is in remand now. The suspects will be produced before the Kalutara Chief Magistrate to obtain detention orders, police said.

SLFS to recruit 40 new members

A gazette notification has been issued to recruit 40 candidates to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS), the Foreign Ministry said.

The Gazette Notification No. 2,223 dated April 9, 2021 can be accessed at [http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/gz/2021/4/2021-04-09\(I-II\)E.pdf](http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/gz/2021/4/2021-04-09(I-II)E.pdf).

Members to the Foreign Service are selected through an open competitive recruitment exam conducted by the Department of Examinations as per the rules and regulations formulated by the Public Service Commission, which is the appointing authority of SLFS Officers.

The successful applicants who are selected to join the Service will have the opportunity to serve in the Foreign Ministry and to represent Sri Lanka in 67 Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

The Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) is a distinct public service established in 1949. It is the body of career diplomats of Sri Lanka.

AUM SAI RAM
FIFTH YEAR REMEMBRANCE

LATE MR. A. R. SURENDRAN
(PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL)
16-12-1954 - 11-04-2016

5th year remembrance of a great legal luminary, an amazing teacher, a kind friend, a loving husband, doting father and affectionate brother who has merged at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan leaving behind a void that can never be filled in our lives.

"Loved in life and cherished in death
A beautiful memory -is all that is left"
Om Shanthi! Shanthi!! Shanthi!!!

His ever loving
Wife, Children, Brothers, other Family
Members and Juniors

Bumper cucumber harvest

I.L.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Corr.

Farmers in the Eastern Province have received a bumper harvest of cucumber this time.

Those who have cultivated cucumber in their home gardens now earn a good income.

Farmers in Kirankulam in the Batticaloa District and Thiraikeny in the Addalaichenai DS division have received a good harvest. A kilo of cucumber is sold at Rs.100.



A vendor selling cucumber at a junction in the Eastern Province.



The Ampara District Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) conducted an awareness programme at the Kalmunai Bus Stand and public markets recently under CAA OIC Salinda Bandara Navarathna. Ampara District CAA Officers D.Sutharsan, Tharmalingham Mendis, Z.M.Sajeeth, M.M.A.Subair and A.S.S.Ajmal were present. Picture by I.L.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Corr.

Mobile clinics in Akkaraipattu

M.A.PHAKURDEEN, Addalaichenai Group Corr.

The Olivia Hospital in Akkaraipattu along with Vipulananda Children's Home conducted mobile clinics for children and the public in the surrounding area on Saturday.

Children's Home President T.Kailayapillai invited the Olivia Hospital Management to conduct the clinics. Responding to the invitation, a medical team headed by Olivia Hospital Managing Director Dr. M.H.M. Zanoos arrived at the Home for Children and checked eyesight of the children and diagnosed their diseases.

Dr. M.H.M. Zanoos, Dr. M.H.M.Safeel and Dr. Rasnith Sabry provided their service at the clinic.

The Medical team held clinics for the public as well. Managing Director Zanoos also provided two fans for the Children's Home.



A public clinic in progress.

Development should protect Environment, Earth

- Former Minister Mangala

Former Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera on Friday said that development should always go hand in hand with the protection of the environment and the earth - "the path many advanced economies have already embarked upon, he said.

He said that his Government planned to integrate the full economic potential of ocean related activities in formulating

the overall growth strategy.

The Former Minister said that people should never forget that they are temporary residents of the Planet Earth, hosted by Mother Nature.

Former Minister Samaraweera was speaking at the opening of the new Eco-campus at the Thomas Galle School, Galle on Friday

"However, it must not be at the cost of our own

common humanity. We may be Sinhala, Muslim or Tamil, we may be British, Australian or Sri Lankan. We may be Buddhist, Hindu, Catholic, Christian or a follower of Islam. But we must never forget that we are temporary residents of the Planet Earth, hosted by Mother Nature", he said

"That is why it is imperative that we learn to enjoy, respect and protect this planet during our



brief stay here and leave so that those who come after us can also experience and enjoy the beauty of this planet," he said.

MRS. SWANITHA WEERASINGHE
(1939-2021)

The death is announced of
Beloved wife of Late T.P. (Teddy) Weerasinghe
former Architect of Town and Country Planning Dept, former Chairman of Design Team Three Architectural Company.

Beloved daughter of Late Don Peiris Abhayawardena and Late Beatrice Grace Abhayawardena.

Beloved aunty of Gamini and Vimukthi Nanayakkara and other close family members.

They express their deepest condolences on the bereavement.

Her Remains lie at 'Restpect' Jayaratne Funeral Parlour at 483, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 8,
Today (Monday) 12th April 2021 from 9am to 4pm.
Cremation on same day 12th April 2021 at 4.30pm at Borella General Cemetery.

299, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 5.
777 758123

Obituaries

WEERASINGHE - SWANITHA - Beloved wife of Late T.P. (Teddy) Weerasinghe - former Architect of Town and Country Planning Dept, former Chairman of Design Team Three Architectural Company. Beloved daughter of Late Don Peiris Abhayawardena and Late Beatrice Grace Abhayawardena. Loving aunty of Gamini and Vimukthi Nanayakkara and other close family members. They express their deepest condolences on the bereavement. Remains lie at 'Restpect' Jayaratne Funeral Parlour at 483, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 8, Today (Monday) 12th April 2021 from 9am to 4pm. Cremation on same day 12th April 2021 at 4.30pm at **Borella General Cemetery**. Residence: 299, Thimbirigasyaya Road, Colombo 5. **0777 758 123.** 028453

WIJESEKERA - SHANTHI, Beloved daughter of late Joe and Mary Wijesekera, loving sister of late Jayalath, Shirani, Nelum, Carmen and Vijitha, sister-in-law of Tess, Palitha, late Ranjan and Bawanthi. Remains lie at A.F. Raymond's Parlour from 8 am. onwards on Monday 12th April. Cortege leaves the parlour at 10.30 a.m. for cremation at the **General Cemetery Borella at 11.00 a.m.** (Old Crematorium) on same day. 028451

No Opposition as hypocritic as ours in other Parliaments - Minister Johnston



Chief Government Whip and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando yesterday said that other Parliaments have no opposition that could give a match to ours in terms of political hypocrisy. He was addressing a ceremony held at the auditorium in his ministry to hand over letters of appointment to newly recruited superintendents of the Road Development Authority (RDA). "Our Government under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has given 40,000 jobs. In the second

phase, we will provide jobs to 60,000 more and that would complete the pledge that we made to provide 100,000 jobs," he said. He said that the Opposition will have nothing to do but repeat the same allegation that the Government is doing nothing. "In addition, we are providing jobs to 67,000 graduates who are still unemployed. We do not consider the political background of those unemployed graduates when giving them jobs," he said.

He said that President Rajapaksa will be remembered as a leader who fulfilled his promises. "In constructing the Ruwanpura Expressway, we awarded the tender to a bidder who placed a bid less than Rs. 15 billion," the Minister said. "Now the Opposition criticises us for giving the tender to the lowest bid. That's their way. They would blame us if we give the tender to the highest bidder, or the lowest bidder or even to a bidder in the middle of those

two ranges. That is their political hypocrisy," the Minister said. "Some opposition MPs are weeping in Parliament that the Government's revenue is not up to the mark. We have not increased taxes despite the revenue being low because we do not want to fleece the people. Anyone with a little knowledge of economics would understand that increasing public revenue through tax revenue is to take the money out of the pockets of people to fill the government cof-

fers. We do not want to increase the public revenue in that manner," he said. "It is with those burdens we continue to develop this country and provide jobs. It is not easy, but we know that we can do this and achieve what we have promised to people in the election time. We have made recruitment to the RDA at a time when the economy was facing severe hardships, and we hope that you would render your duties to the public keeping in mind that we

are under obligation to develop this country and serve people. You could be from any political party but that does not count when you discharge your duties. You are young and capable of contributing your share to develop our Motherland and to make this a better place," the Minister said. Highways Ministry Secretary R.W.R. Pemasiri, RDA Director General Sarda Weerakoon and other senior officials participated.

Underwater Gallery in Blue Beach Island opened

Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne and Youth and Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa opened the Blue Beach Island Underwater Gallery in Nilwella beach on April 10 at the invitation of Navy Commander. This latest addition in the Southern coast of Nilwella will attract more local and foreign holidaymakers.

The project had been set in motion after taking a wide array of matters into consideration. Among them are preventing harmful effects on marine animals, plants and corals with natural and human activities, protecting the marine ecosystem, creating an artificial fish breeding environment, providing artificial substrates for coral reefing and offering a magnificent site for scuba divers. The mega project was propelled by the Navy in collaboration with the Fisheries Ministry and the Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish, Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports State Ministry.

Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne and Commander Southern Naval Area Rear Admiral Priyantha Perera and Naval personnel designed the Underwater Gallery with a 100m long and 40m wide model town beneath the surface.

A number of local and foreign divers often come here to be mesmerised by the exquisiteness of underwater. Bringing a whole new experience to the avid divers, this latest "Blue Beach Island Underwater Gallery" had been created, as an attractive prospect of the country.

The underwater gallery includes sculptures, structures and other artifacts moulded by eco friendly materials, discarded vehicles and aircraft as well as artificial substrates specially designed for coral growing. Some of the models were made of small pieces of rock so that seaweeds and corals can easily grow on those surfaces to create an environment conducive to natural fish breeding.



Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa along with Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne at the opening.

Apart from the scuba divers, this attractive site, located at the depth from 04 to 10 metres, can be easily viewed by snorkeling and plying by dinghies with glass bottoms.

Transformation of the underwater environment into a conducive setting for fish breeding will have the potential to be of great benefit in the future, and the Sri Lanka Navy is constantly ready to make its professional skills and capabilities available for such timely environmental projects.

The Sri Lanka Navy was well supported by a number of State and private organisations in carrying out this major project.

The opening ceremony was attended by Southern Province Governor Willie Gamage, Ornamental Fish, Inland Fish and Prawn Farming, Fishery Harbour Development, Multiday Fishing Activities and Fish Exports State Minister Kanchana Wijesekera, Commander Southern Naval Area, Rear Admiral Priyantha Perera and Naval personnel.

Youth everywhere pursue same objectives - Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris

SHAVINI MADHARA

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris said that there is no significant difference among our youth in terms of race or religion and that their basic objectives are the same but sadly many live without realising it and the most practical solution in this regard is to provide effective communication.

He was speaking at the prize giving ceremony of the Annual Art Competition held in conjunction with the International Mother Language Day Commemoration jointly organised by the Bangladesh High Commission and the Education Ministry.

The Education Minister said that there is a good economic, cultural and political understanding between the two countries.



A winner receiving a certificate from Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris.

The Minister said that Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He thanked Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina for taking steps to strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

The Minister said that

Bangladesh's support for Sri Lanka at the recent Geneva Conference was a testament to the friendship between the two countries and that the people of Bengal had fought with great dedica-

tion to protect their mother tongue.

The Minister said that it was our responsibility to help children hone their talents by recognising their innate talents and creativity.

Indians fishing in Sri Lanka's seas

Foundation set for permanent solution - Minister Devananda

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

Fisheries Minister Douglas Devananda said that the fisheries Ministry has set up a foundation for achieving an acceptable solution for the invasive conduct of Indian fishermen after having more than four rounds of diplomatic discussions with Indian officials.

"We have been watching the invasive conduct of the Indian fishermen. The Ministry held over four rounds of diplomatic dis-

cussions with Indian counterparts and created a foundation for achieving an acceptable solution," Minister Douglas Devananda said.

He had discussions with the representatives of the All Island General Fisheries Association and the Multiday Boat Owners' Society recently at the Ministry.

Former Hambantota Parliamentarian Nihal Galapaththi was present.

The unionists told the Minister that it was a common thing that Indian fish-

ermen illegally trespassing here.

They appealed to Minister Devananda and Ministry Officials to intervene in preventing such unruly conduct of the Indian coastal guards.

The Minister said that he will take up these matters with the President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Affairs Minister Dinesh Gunawardane for paving way to get a sustainable solution to the crisis after the Indian elections. He said the fishing by bottom trawling has been suspended until a permanent solution is reached

and the SL Navy is vested with necessary powers for arresting Indian fishing vessels and crews fishing in Lanka's sea waters. He remembered that he submitted a detailed proposal to prevent illegal fishing issue to the Indian authorities during the official Indian tour accompanied with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa that was accepted by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It was now dysfunctional because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Minister said.

Trishaw-tipper collision kills one

A.A.L.DIAS, Matale Group Corr.

A trishaw and a tipper had collided on the Omaragolla slope in Galewela on Friday killing the Trishaw driver.

The driver died after he was admitted to the Galewela Divisional Hospital, police said.

The deceased was identified as Buddhharage Mahindharathna, 46, a father of two, a resident of Dabemada, Menikhinna.

The body was sent to Dambulla Hospital for an autopsy, police said. The tipper driver has been arrested.

Galwela police are investigating.

Dr. Thowfeek appointed EP Health Service Director

M.A.PHAKURDEEN, Addalaichenai Group Corr.

Dr. A.R.M.Thowfeek, who has been serving as the Medical Superintendent of the Welisara Respiratory Disease National Hospital assumed duties as the Provincial Director of Health Services (Eastern) at the Office of the PD in Courts Road, Trincomalee on Friday.

Dr.Thowfeek, who is native of Samanthurai, has also served as the

Medical Superintendent of the Ragama Teaching Hospital, Negombo District General Hospital and the Laboratories of all hospitals under the purview of Health Ministry. Former Provincial Director of Health Services Dr. Alagaiah Lathakaran, Trincomalee Regional Director of Health Services Dr.V.P.Premamanth, Medical Officer Dr. Dr.Arul Kumaran and several other Medical personnel were present.

All expectations cannot be fulfilled overnight - State Minister Duminda

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura District Additional District Group Corr.

When the Government was voted in to power, around 6.9 million people in the country had so much of expectations for the betterment of life. But it seems that majority of those voted are unsatisfied now.

The Government does not have magical power to fulfill all needs of people overnight, Renewable Energy

Resources Development State Minister Duminda Dissanayake said.

He was participating in the commencement of construction of Thambuttegama Kothmalpura Drinking Water Supply Project recently.

He said that it was natural and reasonable that everyone voted for the Government expecting to get a job, piece of land, housing, carpeted road for the village, drinking water facilities and samurdhi benefits.

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Gagarin's historic space flight:

60 years on



On the morning of April 12, 1961, the Soviet news agency Tass began to broadcast one of the greatest announcements in the history of mankind. The message began to come through at 0759BST (0959, local Russian time) and opened in the following terms:

"The world's first spaceship, *Vostok* (East), with a man on board was launched into orbit from the Soviet Union on April 12. The pilot space-navigator of the satellite spaceship *Vostok* is a citizen of the USSR, Flight Major Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin.

"The launching of the multi-stage space rocket was successful and, after attaining the first escape velocity and the separation of the last stage of the carrier rocket, the spaceship went into free flight on a round-the-Earth orbit. According to preliminary data, the period of the revolution of the satellite spaceship around the Earth is 89.1 minutes. The minimum distance from the Earth at perigee is 175km (108.7 miles) and the maximum at apogee is 302 km (187.6 miles), and the angle of inclination of the orbit plane to the equator is 65° 4'. The spaceship with the navigator weighs 4,725 kg (10,416.8 lb), excluding the weight of the final stage of the carrier rocket."

The fact that this announcement was by no means unexpected in no way detracted from its stunning impact on the entire world. Ever since Sputnik 1 went into orbit on October 4, 1957, manned spaceflight has been the obvious next major milestone, and the Soviet Union, largely as a result of greater available first-stage thrust and apparently excellent reliability, has placed in orbit a far greater tonnage than the US and has successfully recovered spacecraft of much greater size.

As in all Soviet space launchings, no details have been given of the location of the firing, nor of the recovery area, neither have any particulars been divulged concerning the launch vehicle. The space vehicle itself is certain to be the same as that used in all the Soviet firings since May 15, 1960. In addition to the five test shots preceding Gagarin's flight, the vehicle was undoubtedly subjected to extensive static and systems testing, and the overall reliability of the entire booster and capsule appears to be remarkably high. The vehicle is considerably larger than the American Mercury capsule, which weighs some 2,100lb loaded.

According to the Russian announcements, the capsule had "a double wall of thin metal" – Mercury uses two layers of 0.1 in titanium alloy – and the cosmonaut was strapped to a contoured foam-rubber couch. It may be inferred that it also had a controllable retrorocket system, and a series of parachutes for final recovery. The launch took place at approximately 0907 local time, and one complete orbit was accomplished. The recovery sequence began at 1025 local time.

During the flight, Major Gagarin is reported to have radioed, "Flight is proceeding normally; I feel well" (over South America at 0722BST) and "I am withstanding state of weightlessness well" (over Africa at 0815BST). The landing was made "safely at a predetermined spot in the Soviet Union" at 1055 local time. Gagarin then said, "Please report to the Party and Government, and personally to Nikita Khrushchev: the landing was normal, I feel well, I have no injuries or bruises." Prime Minister Khrushchev at once sent the following telegram: "I warmly congratulate you. I embrace you. Until our meeting soon in Moscow."

On April 13, before his triumphant entry into Moscow the following day, Gagarin was interviewed at length by Tass. The result was a unique narrative, in some places of a personal and recollective nature but in others containing straightforward descriptions of sights never before seen by man.

"I had," he said, "no feelings of loneliness in space. I knew well that my friends, the entire Soviet people, were following my space flight. I was sure that the Party and the Government would always be ready to help me if I found myself in a difficult situation. I felt fine, and could have spent much longer in the

NASA's Apollo 11, the first mission to put people on the moon, landed in July 1969, and the crew left behind a commemorative medallion bearing Gagarin's name. They also left medallions for other astronauts who lost their lives in space or while preparing for spaceflight.

spaceship; but the duration of my flight had been fixed in advance.

"The sunlit side of the Earth is visible quite well and one can easily distinguish the shores of continents, islands, great rivers, large areas of water and folds of the land. Over Russia I saw distinctly the big squares of collective-farm fields, and it was possible to distinguish which was ploughed land and which was a meadow.

"Before this, I had never been above 15,000 m (49,213 ft). From the spaceship satellite one does not, of course, see as well as from an aeroplane, but very well all the same. During the flight, I saw for the first time with my own eyes the Earth's spherical shape. You can see its curvature when looking to the horizon.

"I must say the view of the horizon is quite unique and very beautiful. It is possible to see the remarkably colourful change from the light surface of the Earth to the completely black sky in which one can see the stars. This dividing line is very thin, just like a belt of film surrounding the Earth's sphere. It is of a delicate blue colour. And this transition from the blue to the dark is very gradual and lovely.

"When I emerged from the shadow of the Earth the horizon looked different. There was a bright orange strip along it, which again passed into a blue hue and once again into a dense black colour. What struck me most remarkably was how near the Earth seemed, even from the height of 187 miles.

"I did not see the Moon. The Sun in outer space is tens of times brighter than here on Earth. The stars are visible very well: they are bright and distinct. The whole picture of the heavens is in much more contrast than when seen from the Earth.

"When weightlessness appeared I felt excellent. Everything was easier to perform. This is understandable. Legs and arms weigh nothing. Objects are swimming in the cabin, and I did not sit in the chair, as before, but was suspended in mid-air. During the state of weightlessness, I ate and drank, and everything was like on Earth.

"I was working in that state, noting my observations. Hand-writing did not change, though the hand was weightless. But it was necessary to hold the writing block, as otherwise it would float away from the hands.

"I was convinced that weightlessness has no effect on the ability to work. The passage from weightlessness to gravitation, to the appearance of the force of gravity, happens smoothly. Arms and legs feel as previously, the same as during weightlessness, but now they have weight. I ceased to be suspended over the chair, but eased myself into it.

"When I returned to the Earth, I was overjoyed. I was warmly met by our Soviet people. I was moved to tears by Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev's telegram."

Aged 27 at the time of his historic – and only – voyage into space, Gagarin had first worked as a foundryman, subsequently attending a military aviation college and serving as a parachute instructor before being selected for Cosmonaut training.

On April 14, 1961, two days after his 108-minute flight, he was named a Hero of the Soviet Union by Khrushchev.

"He proved an admirable ambassador for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on international visits; and played an important role in training other cosmonauts," *Flight* wrote after his death on March 27, 1968. Undergoing instruction to become a fighter pilot, Gagarin was killed with Colonel Vladimir Seregin when their Mikoyan-Gurevich MIG-15 trainer crashed near Moscow. (*FlightGlobal*)

Over the course of 108 minutes, *Vostok 1* travelled around the Earth once, reaching a maximum height of 203 miles (327 kilometres). The spacecraft carried 10 days' worth of provisions in case the engines failed and Gagarin was required to wait for the orbit to naturally decay. But the supplies were unnecessary. Gagarin re-entered Earth's atmosphere, managing to maintain consciousness as he experienced forces up to eight times the pull of gravity during his descent.

Minister urges CEA for report on Diyawanna water pollution

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has requested the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) to submit an immediate environmental report on the water pollution of the Diyawanna Oya.

The Minister has sent a letter to CEA Director General Hemantha Jayasinghe on Saturday instructing him to submit an immediate environmental report on the diversion of water in the Diyawanna Oya area around Parliament and the wetlands around the three bridges in Battaramulla. The Minister said that it was not yet clear whether the reasons for



these were the dumping of human excreta and algae species as revealed

by the Opposition parties in Parliament. A scientific report on the matter was called for as the water in the Diyawanna Oya had not been polluted in this manner earlier, the Minister said. The Minister said that the water discolouring level in the area has been increasing for the past few days. It is being investigated whether there is any water contamination and whether it could cause any harm to the aquatic life there.

The Minister in a letter to the CEA Director General on Saturday morning urged that the report be submitted soon.



Southern Province Governor Dr. Willie Gamage, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne and others inspecting the bridge.

Lankagama Nilwella Bridge vested with public

The Navy-constructed Lankagama Nilwella Bridge was opened on April 10 under the patronage of Southern Province Governor Dr. Willy Gamage and with the attendance of Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne. The bridge connects Lankagama and Nilwella of Neluwa in the Southern Province.

Going in line with the National Policy Framework - Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, initiatives were made to go ahead with this development project, fulfilling a long felt need of Lankagama and Nilwella residents as they faced hardships when crossing the Ginganga through a risky and difficult means. The construction work of the bridge, which is 84 metres long and 1.8 metres wide, commenced by Navy on July 28 last year and completed this year.

The Southern Provincial Council funded the project and the Navy provided manpower. The planning was made by the Road Development Authority (RDA). The bridge will also make the access easy for educational, health and official needs of the villagers. People's representatives, Southern Naval Area Commander Rear Admiral Priyantha Perera and residents were present.

Batticaloa Market re-opened

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

The Refurbished Batticaloa Municipal Market was re-opened yesterday. The market was closed during the

height of the COVID pandemic and the stalls were set up along the Pansalaya Road, Lady Manning Drive and Lloyds Avenue.

The stalls have been reopened now

in the market. The traders have requested Batticaloa Mayor Thiagaraja Saravanapavan to grant them permission to operate the stalls day and night and to ban selling along the streets.

EU envoys call on Foreign Minister

Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena met the Colombo-based senior diplomatic representation of the European Union (EU) on April 9 at the Foreign Ministry and apprised them on political and economic developments in Sri Lanka.

The Minister updated the envoys of ongoing processes, including the constitutional reform process, the strengthening of democratic institutions, and on progress related to the implementation of reconciliation mechanisms, among other issues.

The meeting was interactive and also entailed a discussion on EU-Sri Lanka cooperation, including trade, investment and development cooperation and plans under way to convene the scheduled Sri Lanka-EU Joint Commission Sub-committees following the convening of the 23rd Meeting of the Sri Lanka-EU Joint Commission in January.

Measures in place for the revival of tourism in Sri Lanka in the COVID-19 post-COVID context, and the Government health protocols related to quarantine were also discussed.

Ambassador of France Eric Lavertu; Ambassador Italy Rita Mannella, Chargé d'Affaires of Romania Ambassador Victor Chiujeada and the Deputy Heads of Mission of Germany, the Netherlands and the EU participated.



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena in discussion with EU representatives.

Renovating irrigation tanks expedited



Irrigation State Minister Anuradha Jayaratne has instructed the relevant public officers and the institutions to expedite the renovation of irrigation tanks in the Anuradhapura, Puttalam and Kurunegala Districts.

The State Minister participated in a special discussion with the officers of the relevant public institutions and the heads of the affiliated institutions recently.

State Minister Jayaratne has informed the officers to begin the renovation of tanks in the Anuradhapura, Puttalam and Kurunegala districts before the end of April this year.

The renovation of 400 tanks will be completed in this year and the progress of the renovation was also discussed at the meeting.

The renovation is being carried out under the *Wari Saubhagya* programme of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Bowser catches fire on Southern Expressway

I.M.V.C. GUNASEKARA, Elpitiya Group Corr.

A fire erupted in a bowser carrying fuel from Kottawa to Meetyagoda near the Kurundugahathepma Interchange along the Southern Expressway on Saturday morning.

The bowser had first hit the rear of a jeep moving to the same direction and toppled when the driver lost control, police said.

The bowser had been severely damaged in the fire.

The driver and his assistant have been admitted to the Nagoda Hospital with minor burn injuries, police said. Vehicle movement towards Matara was disrupted for about an hour after the accident.



The bowser.

ශ්‍රී ඵ්‍රී
ශ්‍රී ඵ්‍රී - Shanida

Saturday
Date: 10.04.2021
Draw No.: 3579
Colour: Green

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,554,420/-

Winning Numbers: 02 | 04 | 13 | 73
English Letter: U

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL
සුපර් බෝල්

Draw Number: 1423
Colour: Blue
Date: 10.04.2021
Date: Saturday

Winning English Letter and Numbers: U 23 25 33 37

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,751,900/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

English Letter & Winning Numbers: H 01 29 65 76
Draw No: 713
Colour: Green
Date: 09.04.2021
Date: Friday

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,695,200/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 79,700,875/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

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

SUPER BALL
සුපර් බෝල්

Draw Number: 1422
Colour: Pink
Date: 09.04.2021
Date: Friday

Winning English Letter and Numbers: D 01 05 09 44

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,998,240/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

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ශ්‍රී ඵ්‍රී - Shanida

Friday
Date: 09.04.2021
Draw No.: 3578
Colour: Orange

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,784,780/-

Winning Numbers: 53 | 55 | 57 | 58
English Letter: X

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

ADA KOTIPATHI
අද කොටපති

Saturday
Date: 10.04.2021
Draw No.: 1248
Colour: Yellow

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 6,385,240/-

Winning Numbers: 17 | 53 | 66 | 76
English Letter: Q

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

කංචරධන වාසනාව
Development Fortune

Date: 10-04-2021
Draw Number: 426 | Colour: Red

Super Jackpot
Rs. 12,044,588/-

English Letter: Z
Winning Numbers: 02 | 12 | 25
Fate Number: 6

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 3,386,160/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 12,191,308/-

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 824 824

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

ADA KOTIPATHI
අද කොටපති

Friday
Date: 09.04.2021
Draw No.: 1248
Colour: Purple

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 5,789,380/-

Winning Numbers: 03 | 22 | 52 | 61
English Letter: C

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

ලග්නා වාසනාව
Lagna Wadana

Date: 10-04-2021
Draw Number: 3130
Colour: Light Blue

Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 2,000,000/-

Winning Numbers: 02 | 17 | 27 | 49
Gemini

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 13,141,120/-

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 824 824

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

ලග්නා වාසනාව
Lagna Wadana

Date: 09-04-2021
Draw Number: 3129
Colour: Blue

Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 3,172,034/-

Winning Numbers: 16 | 42 | 45 | 59
Piec

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 46,880,314/-

Development Lotteries Board
No. 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 824 824

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

සාසිරි
Sasiri

Draw Number: 068
Date: 10.04.2021
Date: Saturday

Winning Numbers: 18 | 30 | 38

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,695,060/-

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 545-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
SMS: DLB-espain-L01-espain-08 & send to 1919
For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 824 824

Total no of Rs. 100,000 winners: 16

The blue and orange tickets are respectively valid on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

Daily News



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MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

Advent of travel bubbles

If there is one industry that has suffered the most from the Coronavirus pandemic, it is travel and tourism. Millions of jobs have been lost in the industry, which has seen revenues plunge to record lows. In a normal year, around four billion people take domestic and international flights, but in 2020 less than one billion people took a flight. With the pandemic still in a runaway mood in many countries, the world's airport runways will not get busy anytime soon. In fact, airline traffic is not likely to return to 2019 levels at least until 2024, when much of the world's population would have been vaccinated. The economic impact of the downturn in travel has been devastating, especially to countries such as Sri Lanka, India and Thailand which depend heavily on tourism dollars to sustain their emerging economies. But travel is in our genes, as is connectivity. We want to explore new places and also renew our bonds with friends and relatives living in far-off places from time to time. This is indeed how the world of travel and tourism runs – exploring new destinations and Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR). Even a pandemic cannot keep us from travelling for too long, as we yearn to break free. This frustration is not hard to fathom, as spending almost one year cooped up inside one's home without any physical contact with the outside world is no easy task. This is indeed why people fled to various destinations in the country once the lockdown ended towards the latter part of last year. However, international travel is still in limbo, apart from exceptional cases such as repatriation back to home countries, medical travel and family bereavements. The travel and tourism industry is keen to change this picture and return to normality as soon as possible. They have a reason to be optimistic this time – vaccination. Around the world, 159 countries have begun vaccination programmes against COVID-19, administering close to 400 million doses. Granted, this is nowhere near the eight billion target and rich countries have hoarded or ordered most of the available vaccines, inoculating their citizens 25 times faster than the poor countries. This vaccine inequality has been characterized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a “catastrophic moral failure”, but the successful deployment of the UN/WHO COVAX programme offers a glimmer of hope that this issue could be addressed at least in the next year (2022).

In the South Asian region, both India and Sri Lanka have successfully started their vaccination campaigns using the ‘made in India’ AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine. Sri Lanka has vaccinated close to one million people while India has administered more than 100 million doses. Both countries have a long way to go, but there is no doubt that their entire populations could be inoculated before the end of this year. This should give the populations in both countries some level of “herd immunity” whereby the virus will not be able to find any new hosts to infect.

This confidence has led various countries to start “travel bubbles” where their citizens can visit each other's countries without the need for quarantine at both ends. A negative PCR test obtained prior to travel could still be required, though. Australia and New Zealand will soon be starting a travel bubble. Likewise, the travel industry in these parts has been buoyed by the news that Sri Lanka and India too will soon be starting an “air travel bubble”. Pre-pandemic, there were more than 100 fully-packed flights between the two neighboring countries and we hope that the travel bubble, plus the vaccination drive, will enable the two countries to normalize travel patterns. This should be extended to Nepal as well (India and Nepal already have a travel bubble) as Sri Lankan Buddhist pilgrims usually travel to Buddhist sites in both countries. Sri Lanka should also consider the possibility of having travel bubbles with the Maldives (it already has one with India) and Singapore (which is negotiating travel bubbles with Hong Kong and Australia). This will help increase travel between these Asian destinations.

This brings us to the rather controversial subject of “vaccine passports” which have been touted as a “cure-all” for all travel ills. In short, a vaccine passport is a paper or smartphone-based document that shows your vaccination status. This is not a strange concept per se, as the WHO already issues a Yellow Card for yellow fever vaccinations, which is required by many African and South American countries. Taking a cue from this, many airlines and some countries have already said that they will allow in only fully COVID vaccinated passengers, while some are also willing to accept those showing a negative COVID test status. Yet, this could be highly discriminatory as well, since some developing countries have not even begun their vaccination campaigns. Is it ethical to deny them the right to travel simply because they have not been vaccinated? How about children, who are not vaccinated as yet in any country? It is a moral dilemma for which the world should find answers at the earliest.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit. - Frank Borman



The infamous moment: Mrs. World Caroline Jurie removes the crown from Pushpika De Silva

Beauty and the colonial mentality

Now & Then

BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Last week almost all local and foreign media including almost all social media platforms were full of a single story about a single incident that took place at Nelum Pokuna Theatre, Colombo. It was the Mrs. Sri Lanka 2021 pageant. There is no point in describing or discussing the ugliest incident that took place in all beauty pageants in Sri Lankan history and maybe in all the world. The entire world saw what happened and even now anyone can watch again and again that ugly incident that unfolded on the stage of the Nelum Pokuna Theatre. It will be available on the internet for centuries. Even children who will be born after several decades will be able to watch it. The only thing missing is the conversations and dialogue that took place on the stage during that ugly incident. What only matters now is certain facts, details and background information revealed during an interview given by Mrs. World 1985 and the current Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake. The interview was conducted by a well-known journalist Chamuditha Samarawickrama.

During this interview, the former Mrs. World and the current Colombo Mayor revealed to the country how certain individuals who staged the ugly drama on the stage tried their best to bring forward only English-speaking contestants and how over 15 contestants were very worried about this issue because they were not fluent in English. During the interview she very clearly stated that no one can be discriminated against for not speaking English because the World Pageant does not consider such qualifications and there are interpreters available for all participants at all international beauty pageants. Then she described how the panel of judges removed that strange discriminating ‘locally made’ rule.

When we watch and listen to this interview it is very clear to all that the specific individual or individuals made a special discriminating rule locally in order to achieve their one and only personal target which is securing places for their contestants who are fluent in English. The same rule could have been used by them to eliminate all the other possible winners of the crown who cannot speak English well. This is what was understood by the people during the interview aired over social media platforms and websites.

Since November 2019 President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is trying his best to push forward the brand ‘Sri Lanka’ by encouraging products made in Sri Lanka and promoting its culture, religions, history and languages. But it is very sad to see how certain Sri Lankans try their best to push Sri Lanka backwards using Sri Lankan identities such as speaking Sinhala or Tamil. Usually the majority of Sri Lankans speak Sinhala and others speak Tamil. A handful of people speak English. The percentages can be calculated. The result is very clear. The majority speak Sinhala and the



Rosy Senanayake now and then (when she won the Mrs World contest)

winner would most likely speak Sinhala which is a state language in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is not a colony ruled by Britain or any other country. We won independence in 1948. Then how can speaking English be compulsory for anything when the wider world does not consider it as a requirement?

Do Chinese speak English all the time when they represent China at international events? What about Japan, Russia, Korea, Germany, France, etc.? Sri Lankans need to learn the Korean language and NOT English before going to Korea for employment. Almost all nations in the world treat their mother tongue as something to be proud of and always speak in their mother tongue whenever they represent their countries on international platforms. People who represent the US speak American English and not British English. The people who represent Britain speak British English and not American English. How about Sri Lankans? They speak broken English and broken Sinhala with pride but those broken languages do not belong to any country in the world. Sri Lankans should speak Sinhala and not broken Sinhala. The same goes for Tamil.

Sri Lankans are still trying to be ‘kalu suddas’. ‘Kalu suddo’ will continue to destroy the progress of Sri Lanka because they do not like any Sri Lankan identity. They like British or American identities. Only real Sri Lankans who are proud of their mother tongue will push the country forward. It does not mean that learning English and using it when required is not necessary. Speaking English will not make any Sri Lankan an American or a British national.

No matter how hard they try, they will be Sri Lankans.

It is the responsibility of all relevant authorities and all organizers of all future beauty pageants to allow all Sri Lankan Sinhala-speaking beauties from all corners of the country to come forward and compete in all future beauty pageants. It is the right of all Sri Lankan women. This right should be safeguarded from the current handful of Colombo-based women who dominate the decision-making levels of almost all beauty pageants in Sri Lanka. When selecting judges in future, priority should be given for the individuals who speak Sinhala and Tamil, not English. English is not a state language in Sri Lanka. Then how did it become compulsory?

It is very admirable how Mrs. World 1985 and the current Colombo Mayor Rosy Senanayake stood by justice from the beginning and made sure that the state language and not a foreign language was given priority. Some others judges who stood by the decision of giving priority to the state language should also be commended for their love for the motherland and mother tongue. All Sri Lankan people praise their stand.

It is pathetic to watch how certain brave women like Susanthika Jayasinghe bring fame to Mother Lanka and how certain others tarnish the image of Mother Lanka globally giving opportunities to international media to sling mud on Sri Lanka. It is all what matters to a person. Motherland or something else. The fame and honour which built up during several decades can be destroyed within seconds. All the culprits who purposely discriminated contestants who used Sinhala, one of the state languages of Sri Lanka, should be



Susanthika Jayasinghe

severely punished for their act. It is a violation of the rights of Sri Lankan Sinhalese people.

The Mrs. Sri Lanka 2021 pageant set an excellent example for all the others who are still trying their best in every part of the country to discriminate against Sinhala-speaking people, no matter whether they are men, women, adults or children. This huge discrimination based on language is almost everywhere in the country. It was accelerated during the previous so-called Yahapalana regime and may be some are still trying to accelerate it thinking that no voice will be raised against them. Sri Lankans, especially all the people who speak Sinhala and Tamil should fight for their right to use their mother tongue. All participants in all competitions should fight for their right to use their mother tongue. Judges who go against this should be legally challenged.

Unfortunately today we can get things done from the state sector and the private sector easily and smoothly only if we speak in English and most of the time most of the state and private institutions simply ignore the people who speak in Sinhala. Most of the time the service provider does not even speak English. Broken Sinhala is also much respected over Sinhala.

The Government should make sure that the Sinhala language has the same treatment, recognition and respect that Chinese, Russian, Japanese, Korean, etc., have in their home country. Otherwise no one will be interested in learning Sinhala, using it and especially respecting the language and language users. If Sinhalese are not interested in protecting the continuation of their language and heritage, no one else will be interested in doing so. We cannot expect any other ethnicity or country to come forward and stand by the Sinhalese. Which ambassador or high commissioner came forward and spoke the rights of the Sinhalese so far? Which country in the world has stood by the Sinhalese so far? It is because of the number, 15 million of users and the restricted geographical area (Sri Lanka). This is the bitter truth the Sinhalese have to remember all the time.



Sinhalese is the majority language only in Sri Lanka

COVID-19

Right to equitable access to vaccination

NISHANT SIROSHI

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed profound inequalities in people's access to healthcare and medicines across countries; the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is a glaring example.

As of April 7, 2021, over 704 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in 153 countries. Sixty-two percent (approximately 401 million) went to the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and China. In 2021, 70 percent of total available vaccine doses have been secured by 16 percent of the world population. Most high-income countries will complete their inoculation drive by the end of 2021. But, nearly a quarter of the world's population will have access to vaccines only by 2022, and in low-income countries, not until 2024. In fact, 86 percent of the total COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries. Only 0.1 percent has reached people in low-income countries.

While discussing the international legal framework on the right to health *vis-a-vis* access to essential medicines and protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), this piece argues that equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine is a human right and should be upheld. Pharmaceutical companies should adopt the rights-based approach and facilitate swift universal vaccination by relaxing patent rights and cooperating in technology transfer. Failure to provide equitable and speedy access to COVID-19 vaccines will prolong the pandemic and intensify social and economic catastrophes in middle- and low-income countries.

In October 2020, India and South Africa requested the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to temporarily waive some provisions of the 1995 Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, to ensure all countries have equitable and quick access to COVID-19 vaccines, drugs, and medical products during the pandemic.

The proposal was supported by 140 members, but despite several rounds of meetings, it remained blocked at the 164-member WTO. Opponents to the proposal — Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Japan, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States — argued that waiving IPRs would hamper scientific innovation and discourage drug makers.

Is there a conflict between the human right to access to medicines and the protections on intellectual property? There is no inconsistency. The treaty provisions relating to human rights and IPRs do not impose mutually exclusive obligations. However, there is some borderline tension among the two rights in practice, which has been discussed in the legal theory.

Deliberating on law

The 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), ratified by 117 states, recognises and protects the right to healthcare and rights on intellectual property. As per Article 12 of the ICESCR, everyone has a right to enjoy the "highest attainable standard of physical and mental health." Article 15 (1)(b) of the ICESCR recognises the right "to share in scientific advancement and its



Failure to provide equitable and speedy access to COVID-19 vaccines will prolong the pandemic and intensify social and economic catastrophes in middle- and low-income countries.

benefits." Article 15(1)(c) provides the right "to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production." In other words, Article 12 provides for human right to health and a derivative right to adequate access to essential medicines when read with Article 15(1)(b), which provides a sick person with a right to benefit from scientific progress and Article 15(1)(c), which encourages scientific innovation and artistic creativity and allows people to profit from these.

It seems that there is some apparent contradiction between human rights to health and the rights of entities over their intellectual property. But human rights enjoy a superior moral and legal claim over the IPRs — distinguished as temporary monopoly and legally protected interest of lower claim. In its 2000/7 resolution, the UN Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, asserts that human rights should enjoy precedence over patents or other economic policies. In the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the UN Commission on Human Rights, in its 2005/23 resolution, advocates practical action to combat pandemic diseases and "affirms the importance of public health interests in both pharmaceutical and health policies."

The Committee on the Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights has dealt in detail with the provisions related to access to medicines and IPRs, under the General Comments. On the obligation of the state parties under ICESCR, General Comment 3 affirms that the states must realise the rights protected by the Covenant, which include the right to health and access to medicine and vaccination. The states should achieve these goals either independently or through international assistance and cooperation.

General Comment 14 spells out the developed states' obligation to provide economic, scientific, and technical assistance to developing countries in immunisation programs and other strategies of prevention, treatment, and control of infectious diseases. General Comment 17 says, "Ultimately, intellectual property is a social product and has a social function" and counsels the states to strike an adequate balance between obligations under Article 15(1)(b) and 'other rights' as enshrined under various provisions of the ICESCR, including the right to food, health, and shelter.

General Comment 25 states that every person is entitled, without any discrimination, to the "best available applications of scientific progress necessary to enjoy the highest attainable standards of health."

The mandate to provide affordable and widespread access to essential medicines and pres-



sure from developing countries forced the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to restructure and link IPRs to trade policies. This led to the adoption of the ambitious TRIPS Agreement in 1994, which allowed WTO's least-developed members to evade certain patent restrictions and secure public health. Over the past years, many countries have been demanding flexible implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, but this has been blocked by pharmaceutical giants. Even in the production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, the TRIPS Agreement is at the heart of the process of universal COVID-19 vaccination.

Is TRIPS effective?

Experts argue that the TRIPS Agreement's current flexibilities — parallel imports and compulsory licenses — can address the challenge for the production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. However, these flexibilities are never fully realised in their spirit due to complex and burdensome in-built mechanisms. Thus, countries have to fight on many fronts to procure life-saving drugs. It took Rwanda three years to process the import of generic HIV/AIDS drugs from Canada due to conditions imposed under Canada's TRIPS national regime. The Governments that decided to manufacture generic drugs at home were sued by the pharmaceutical companies challenging national laws. Thirty-nine pharmaceuticals sued the Government of South Africa in 1998, when it attempted to break the monopolies of foreign firms on anti-retroviral drugs. Some of these legal battles lasted for over a decade. In 1998, Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis filed a

lawsuit against India's government to secure monopoly control over its treatment for leukaemia. The Supreme Court of India finally decided this case in 2013. To avoid legal challenges, the developing countries, instead of opting for TRIPS waiver benefits, are now entering into bilateral agreements with industrial countries to receive essential drugs. This was approved by the WTO in 2016, after a decade-long negotiation. Due to these ambiguities, the WTO, in 2002, adopted the Doha Declaration on TRIPS Agreement which affirms that "the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health." However, obstacles continue to persist for developing countries.

Not surprisingly, none of the drug makers has signed the WHO's technology access pool for COVID-19 vaccine technology transfer. Despite multiple reforms, pharmaceutical companies continue to enjoy monopoly, which directly impacts people's health. The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed us to reflect on how we operate and benefit under the current IPR regime, in the essential pharmaceuticals and drugs segment.

While Governments have the primary responsibility to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights, corporations also have an obligation to respect human rights. The 2008 UN Human Rights Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Companies in relation to Access to Medicines and the 2011 UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights draw a duty on the pharmaceutical companies to respect human rights. In the fight to eradicate COVID-19, they are bound to ensure everyone has affordable and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines without any impediment in supply due to enforcement of IPRs.

Parting note

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Constitution states that every person is entitled to the "highest attainable standard of health." However, in practice, what is attainable under the current legal framework remains ambiguous, as access to medicines, vaccines, and medical technologies remain under the control of a few selected countries and pharmaceutical giants.

The world needs the vaccine today — not tomorrow — to stop the disease and end the pandemic. We need to embrace the access to medicine movement — a movement against patent monopoly in life-saving drugs. A TRIPS waiver, which India and South Africa requested at WTO, will allow drug manufacturers in multiple countries to produce COVID-19 vaccines without taking individual legal measures. While this alone will not help vaccinate the world, it will be a step towards solving the global imbalance in equitable access and distribution of the vaccine. (Observer Research Foundation)

(The writer is attached to the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo.)

Water Resources:

Preserving identity, transforming lives



Sri Lanka's economic transformation has been made possible only by its water resources. From the ancient times, this vital natural resource has been intertwined with the lives of each and every Sri Lankan.

improved drinking water and sanitation have helped to drive a rural transformation in Sri Lanka and supported the growth of the Colombo megapolis.

"When we moved here in 2013, we didn't have even a single drop of water. We used the water from the nearest pond for bathing. For other purposes, we obtained water from neighbouring villages like Umayalpuram. We suffered a lot," Sawundari from the Northern district of Killinochi said. "Fortunately, the water supply project was implemented in our district. We are happy now; we have enough water for drinking and bathing. We can use water whenever we need."

The people of Nuwara Eliya have also benefited from the investments in the water sector.

"We came here 20 to 25 years ago. As we had to bring

water in pots from afar, we got up at 3.00 am to take care of the household chores," said Chandani Gamage from Nuwara Eliya. "Now we are not in a hurry. We have water in the kitchen, we have water to bathe. We can now take care of our household chores very easily. Our suffering is over."

Despite these achievements, challenges such as impacts of climate change, financial uncertainty, aging infrastructure and water quality issues among others remain. Major investments are needed to overcome these challenges.

Since 1998, the World Bank has supported the Sri Lankan government in providing drinking water and sanitation to the country's 21.8 million people. Sri Lanka's Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project (WaSSIP), the latest and third World Bank-financed project in the water sector, finances new water supply systems, rehabilitation of

existing water supply systems, toilets for households and schools, and septage treatment plants.

The project works to extend access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and improved hygiene behaviour for nearly 700,000 people in urban, rural and estate areas in seven districts in Sri Lanka. It aims to reach those in danger of being left out of the progress made in recent years and potentially being left even further behind by the COVID-19 pandemic's devastating impacts.

The Integrated Watershed and Water Resources Management Project (IWWRMIP) will continue the World Bank's engagement to rehabilitate aging dams, irrigation canals and manage water resources in an integrated way. The project is expected to help lessen longer-term economic impacts of climate change and improve agricultural production and livelihoods.

"Water is important for Sri Lanka's development as reflected by the share in the GDP, workforce or export earnings of water-intensive sectors like agriculture, textiles, and tourism," Takuya Kamata, Practice Manager said. "Water supply and sanitation has been clearly prioritised by the government and we will continue to support investments in this sector."

Preserving this culturally, historically and economically valuable resource, and ensuring that all Sri Lankans can benefit from it will make life easier for people like Sawundari from Killinochi and Chandani from Nuwara Eliya, and provide more opportunities for their children to grow and develop in safe environments. Maintaining and expanding the infrastructure that supports the water sector is now more important than ever. (World Bank)



DISHAN JOSEPH

Aircraft are synonymous with a nation's Air Force. However there are many other sections which work behind the scenes to augment the overall role and task of the Air Force. Today we discover the great but silent contribution of the SLAF Regiment (also referred to as the Rock Apes) the largest component of the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF). Operating under the Directorate of Ground Operations, this command has 31 specialized regiment wings that have consistently enhanced the SLAF's mission in achieving the overall national security objective.

I was privileged to meet the SLAF's Director Ground Operations Air Vice Marshal Camillus Labrooy, at Air Force Head Quarters. The history of the airmen being deployed for ground operations can be traced back to 1956. During this era, two officers of the Royal Ceylon Air Force Regiment were trained in the United Kingdom. The unit was established at the SLAF Base in Katunayake. It is recorded that in 1961 there was a trade union strike at the harbour and the SLAF ground troops were called in to secure the area. During the 1971 insurgency the airmen were once again called upon to protect Temple Trees, the official residence of the Prime Minister.

During this time the first armoured personnel carrier (APC) from Ireland was inducted into the regiment. Subsequently six APCs were built locally under the supervision of a SLAF engineering officer. The new fleet enriched the "dis-mounted operations" capability of these pioneer SLAF defenders. In addition to these deployments the SLAF Regiment sustained the dignity and decorum of the Air Force by proudly undertaking ceremonial guard of honour parades. Even to this day they take their rotation with the ceremonial guard at President's House, in Colombo.

Air Vice Marshal Labrooy explained: "Once the international airport began operations at Katunayake the SLAF men were positioned for security duties. We have a rich heritage of providing security and securing the areas at the airport for many Heads of State over the decades. We handled the security at the airport for the Pope in 1970. During the 1976 Non-Aligned Summit in Sri Lanka the SLAF Regiment undertook an unprecedented security operation for almost 75 Heads of State and other VIPs which was a tremendous task at that time."

es. The 1983 riots which spread across the island saw the regiment's troops being deployed to maintain law and order. Later on in 1988, the experienced airmen were tasked to secure Hambantota and Kegalle areas, which had a large concentration of JVP rebels.

The exigencies of service created the Explosives Ordnance Department in 1987 in Colombo, with an officer assuming the post of CXO (Command Explosives Officer). This was followed by the addition of the Air Defence Wing, which combined the use of radar input and anti-aircraft guns.

As the conflict took on a new dimension in the 1990s, the SLAF Regiment was called in to be deployed in large numbers, to fight alongside the Army in Maha Oya (Anuradhapura area) and Morawewa (along Trincomalee). The daunting task of keeping the Main Supply Route (MSR) open was thrust upon the SLAF ground troops. Having previously secured airfields and base facilities, it took a while for the airmen to adapt to their infantry role in the heavily wooded areas filled with mines. Those senior officers engaged in these duties will recall that the Horowpathana-Trincomalee road had the most concentration of concealed mines. Amidst challenges and ambushes, the gallant SLAF defenders pushed forward to keep the MSR lines open, enabling innocent civilians in those areas to receive essential supplies.

By 1997 the empowered troops of SLAF Regiment gallantly displayed their prowess by holding onto Forward Defence Lines (FDLs), which were initially secured by the Army. Some of the FDLs were spread across 50km to 60km in the Puliyanakulam, Mankulam and Poo-varasankulam areas and holding them also involved logistics support. Whilst the SLAF manpower was concentrated for these duties the remaining airmen played a vital role in the defence of Colombo. The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive Wing (CBRNE) was duly established by the Air Force to mitigate any future threats.

When the threat of airfields and air assets was identified, the SLAF



SLAF Regiment: Empowering ground operations



Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana



Air Vice Marshal C.B. Labrooy
Director Ground Operations

Wing Commander H.M.M.B.M.S. Bandara
Commanding Officer, Special Air Borne Force

Wing Commander H.A.W.P. Hettiarachchi
Commanding Officer Regiment Special Force

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Robust warriors of the Regiment Special Force (RSF) can reach the ground from a helicopter by rappelling and enter a tower or building by abseiling.

Special Force (RSF). This is the formidable ground attack force of the SLAF with multi-role combat capability. In order to join the RSF officers and airmen must undergo a PT selection test. Aspiring recruits endure six months of intense training in all types of terrain.

The RSF also takes pride in its capacity to be deployed via parachutes by day or night in sunshine or rain. RSF commandos are also able to engage in rescue missions on land and water. Specialist courses promote parachutists to become skydivers. The basic fighting formation of the RSF is the eight-man team and their preferred weapon is the SAR-21. Robust warriors of this force can reach the ground from a helicopter by rappelling and enter a tower or building by abseiling. The RSF has its own divers increasing their spectrum of combat and rescue operations. The men have shared some of their motivational training by building teams from the corporate sector on request, enhancing their leadership skills.

The dynamic SABF

During the late 1980s service commanders and senior Defence Ministry officials were under threat from the LTTE. The Air Force realized this and took action. Air Vice Marshal Oliver Ranasinghe (later Air Force Commander) prepared a special group of



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Birth of the RSF

When the threat of airfields and air assets was identified, the SLAF

gave priority for the formation of specially trained commandos. The pioneer of Air Force commandos is the late Wing Commander Eksith Peiris. As a dynamic young Flight Lieutenant he began training a batch of men on February 25, 1979. In those formative years, the men proudly brandished their G-41rifles which had an effective firing range of 400 metres.

Wing Commander Peiris is fondly remembered as the founding father of a Special Forces element within the Sri Lanka Air Force. As the years went by the high command initiated the formation of ABDR Squadron (Air Base Defence and Rescue) with just 40 personnel. The squadron was established at SLAF Base Hingurakgodda on July 7, 2003.

The SLAFs MI-17 and MI-24 gunships were stationed here and had to be protected. Fighting in a jungle terrain is one thing but fighting to secure an airfield with its air assets requires specialized training.

The ABDR was subsequently transformed to be the Regiment

five officers and 30 men. They were given intense training and excelled in small team raids. By 1994 having broadened their skills in Close Protection duties they became a shield around the Air Force Commander. This is the first team in Sri Lanka to introduce the concept of motorbike outriders in a security convoy. The SABF – Special Air Borne Force operates in four areas: VIP protection duties, anti-hijack operations, rescue operations and urban operations (military operations in urban terrain).

Joining the SABF is a challenge. Serving officers and airmen with four years of service can apply to join. They have to face a difficult 21-day selection test, at which some aspiring candidates are dropped out. The training requires mental and physical endurance, with the men having to wake up at 2.00 am before engaging in gruelling PT. During the 21-days preliminary training at Ampara the men have to do 5Km, 10Km, 15Km and 25Km marches with full battle pack.

Those who survive proceed to Phase 2 where they learn unarmed combat and the dynamics of Close Protection duties for 60 days. Later on, the SABF personnel can augment their skills by doing the Combat Rider Course. Their special airborne capacity enables them to be inducted at a required target within the shortest time. The SABF can also operate as air marshals on civilian passenger flights if required. The men have shared some of their motivational training by building teams from the corporate sector on request, enhancing their leadership skills.

The SLAF Regiment was duly bestowed with the President's Standards for their distinguished service to the nation on May 3, 2009. To this day the men of this regiment have undertaken security cover for schools, churches, hotels and diplomatic missions within the Colombo, Ratmalana and Negombo areas, after the deadly Easter Sunday attacks.

The SLAF Regiment can be proud of all its achievements and marches forward in defence of its assets and the nation under the guiding hand of the present Air Force Commander Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana.



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WORLD OF SPORTS

(April 12)
LOCAL EVENTS
TENNIS
Clay Court Nationals at SLTA Courts, Green Path
CRICKET (Inter-Schools U-19 Tournament): St. Anne's vs Mahanama at Kurunegala
St. Joseph's vs S. Thomias' at Darley Road
FOREIGN EVENTS
CRICKET (Indian Premier League): Rajasthan Royals vs Punjab Kings at Mumbai
South Africa vs Pakistan (2nd T20) at Johannesburg
FOOTBALL (Premier League): West Bromwich Albion vs Southampton
Brighton and Hove Albion vs Everton
(Spanish League): Celta Vigo vs Sevilla

MISHARA'S TON steers NCC to SLC limited over title VICTORY

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
Kamil Mishara hit a superb 113 as NCC defeated Ragama CC by 145 runs in the Major Club Limited Over Cricket Tournament final played at the SSC Grounds in Maitland Place yesterday.
NCC made a formidable 286 for seven in 50 overs and Ragama CC were all out for 141 in 30.3 overs.
Mishara, the 19-year-old left-hander, completed his third century of the tournament from 132 balls with the help of nine boundaries to earn the Man-of-the-Final Award.
After the openers Nimesh de Silva (1) and Upul Tharanga (10)

were dismissed early, Mishara and Kavin Bandara (65) added 137 for the third wicket.
Thereafter, NCC Skipper Angelo Perera also struck 61 in 43 balls with four fours and a six and added 98 for the fourth wicket with Mishara.
Ragama CC collapsed to 94 for six after 21.4 overs and eventually they were all out for 141 in 30.3 overs.
Janith Liyanage figured in a vain effort and hit a fighting 42 in 71 balls with two fours before he was dismissed last man.
Paceman Chamika Karunaratna was the most successful bowler as

he finished with four for 37 from his six overs while Lahiru Kumara claimed three for 30.
Earlier Ragama CC Skipper Ishan Jayaratne and Binura Fernando took three wickets apiece. Fernando ended the tournament with a tally of 23 wickets.
Special awards:
Best Batsman of the Tournament: Charith Asalanka (SSC).
Best Bowler: Binura Fernando (Ragama CC).
Player of the Tournament: Janith Liyanage (Ragama CC).
Man-of-the-Final: Kamil Mishara (NCC).



Kamil Mishara of NCC plays a shot. Pix courtesy SLC

Royal-Thomian Big Match from May 6-8

All arrangements for the 142nd Inter-School Big Match between Royal College and S. Thomas' College are currently underway.
The match is scheduled to be played on May 6, 7 and 8 at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Cricket Stadium in Hambantota behind closed doors, keeping in line with the COVID-19 restrictions.
Meanwhile, the limited over Mustangs Trophy match will be played to a T20 format under lights on May 10 at the same venue.
Since the match is played without any spectators, the match organising committee is making arrangements to broadcast the match LIVE.

NCC Cricket Team celebrates with the trophy.



NCC		RAGAMA CC	
N. de Silva	c C. de Silva b Jayaratne . 01	S. Fernando	c N. de Silva b N. de Silva . 14
U. Tharanga	b B. Fernando 10	N. Madushka	c Mishara b Kumara 15
K. Mishara	b B. Fernando 113	D. Thimodya	c Mishara b Kumara 05
K. Bandara	c Aponso b Perera 65	J. Liyanage	st Mishara b Dishan 42
A. Perera	b Jayaratne 61	U. Jayasundera	c N. de Silva b Karunaratne 13
C. de Silva	c S. Fernando b B. Fernando 10	S. Bandara	c Dishan b Karunaratne . . . 01
C. Karunaratne	not out 12	I. Jayaratne	c Perera b Karunaratne . . . 13
S. Arachchige	c Hewathanthri b Jayaratne . 04	S. Sandaruwan	retired out 02
Y. Dishan	not out 00	B. Fernando	c Mishara b Karunaratne . . 03
Extras: (lb3, w7) 10		c Tharanga b Kumara 21	
TOTAL: (seven wickets, 50 overs) 286		A. Aponso	not out 01
Fall: 1-7, 2-20, 3-157, 4-255, 5-261, 6-273, 7-278		Extras: (lb4, w7) 11	
BOWLING: I. Jayaratne 10-0-52-3, B. Fernando 10-0-55-3, S. Bandara 10-0-43-0, J. Liyanage 2-0-16-0, J. Sampath 10-0-46-1, A. Aponso 6-0-52-0, S. Sandaruwan 2-0-19-0		Fall: 1-20, 2-26, 3-40, 4-68, 5-78, 6-94, 7-104, 8-110, 9-139	
		BOWLING: L. Kumara 6-0-30-3, N. de Silva 7-2-20-1, C. de Silva 8-0-37-0, C. Karunaratne 6-0-37-4, A. Daniel 3-0-11-0, Y. Dishan 0.3-0-2-1	

Dhawan helps beat CSK in IPL

Last season's runners-up Delhi Capitals (DC) started their 2021 Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign with a comprehensive seven-wicket win over three-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Saturday.

Chief scores:
Chennai Super Kings: 188/7 in 20 overs (Suresh Raina 54, Chris Woakes 2/18)
Delhi Capitals: 190/3 in 18.4 overs (Shikhar Dhawan 85, Prithvi Shaw 72). (BBC)

Oneli storms into Girls' U-14 tennis final



Oneli Samarawickrama in action

Samarawickrema got off to a flying start and won the first set 6-2 and went on to add the finishing touches with a 6-3 win in the second set against Oneli de Silva in the semi-finals.
The Results:
Boys' Under-18 Singles quarter-finals: Dilvan Herath beat Zaidh Zihar 6-0, 6-1. Thehan Wijemanne beat Hasal Ahangama 7-5, 6-4. Vichinthya Nilaweera beat Matheesha Nettasinghe 6-1, 7-5.
Girls' Under-18 quarter-finals: Dahamna Methnadi beat Dewmini Warnasuriya 7-5, and retired. Dinethya Dharmaratne beat Nesangi Hemakumara 6-4, 6-4.
Saajida Razick beat Vishmi Serasinghe 7-6 (6), 6-3. Hasali Gajaba beat Tania Doloswala 6-2, 6-1.
Girls' Under-14 Singles semi-finals: Oneli Samarawickrama beat Oneli de Silva 6-2, 6-3. (C.D)

Oneli Samarawickrama powered her way into the final of the Girls' Under-14 Singles event at the HNB-Hutch Clay Court Tennis Nationals, which continued at the SLTA Courts in Green Path yesterday.

Thomians amass 344/9 against Joes

Yasiru Rodrigo struck an unbeaten 97 as S. Thomas' College hammered 344 for nine in their first innings on the opening day of their two-day traditional cricket fixture against St. Joseph's College which began at Darley Road yesterday.
Earlier, opener Anuk Paliha-

wadana (54), Ryan Fernando (71) and G. Camston (53) also completed half-centuries for the Thomians.
Skipper Dunith Wellalage was the most successful bowler for St. Joseph's with figures of three for 111 while Shenuka de Silva captured two for 12.
Chief scores:
S. Thomas': 344/9 (Anuk Palihadawana 54, Ryan Fernando 71, Thenuka Liyanage 36, Yasiru Rodrigo 97 n.o., G. Camston 53, Dunith Wellalage 3/111, Shenuka de Silva 2/12) vs **St. Joseph's (D.R)**



Yasiru Rodrigo (S. Thomas')

Pavan lifts Mahanama to 169

HAFIZ MARIKAR
Pavan Rathnayake hit a top score of 81 but Mahanama College, Colombo were dismissed for 169 in their first innings on the opening day of their Inter-Schools Under-19 traditional fixture against St. Anne's College which began at Kurunegala yesterday.
St. Anne's in reply were

well placed at 79 for one wicket at stumps.
Mahanama: 169 (Pavan Rathnayake 81, Sachira Weliwatta 23, Sadishan Chamodya 22, Pasindu Tennakoon 4/51, Kalindu Wijesinghe 2/28, Manaan Muzammil 2/49)
St. Anne's: 79/1 (Dilhara Deshabandu 35 n.o., Kavindu Ekanayake 29 n.o.).

Sonego ends Italian drought in Cagliari ATP tournament

CAGLIARI, SUNDAY: Italy's Lorenzo Sonego rallied past defending champion Laslo Djere of Serbia to win the second ATP title of his career in Cagliari on Sunday.
Sonego, the third seed, won 2-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 in just over three hours to become the first Italian to lift a trophy at home since Filippo Volandri in Palermo in October 2006.
The 25-year-old, who reached the fourth round in Roland Garros last year, added

to his title in Antalya, Turkey in 2019, having lost his previous final appearance in Vienna last October.
Sonego completed a double on the Mediterranean island having partnered Andrea Vavassori to doubles victory on Saturday.
Djere, ranked 57, had been hoping to claim his third title in as many finals after Rio de Janeiro in 2019 and Cagliari last year.
-AFP

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New Sri Lanka Tourism Authority on the cards

Cabinet approval to repeal Tourism Act of 2005

Tourism stakeholders express concern

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

The silent scuffle between travel industry stakeholders and Sri Lanka Tourism erupted and came into the open with Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga last week obtaining Cabinet approval to repeal the Tourism Act of 2005 and to draft a bill for a new Tourism Act.

The Minister said that the entire tourism sector is divided into four institutions: Tourism Development Authority, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Sri Lanka Federation Bureau, and the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management which was a wastage of resources.

The new Act will look at establishing a new authority as "The Sri Lanka Tourism Authority" by merging the four bodies.

However Tourist Hotels Association (THA), The Hotels Association Sri Lanka (THASL) and Sri Lanka



Thilak Weerasinghe, Sanath Ukwatte and Shanthi Kumar.

Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO) and many other stakeholders said that priorities at this hour was not a new act but work towards the development of Tourism in one voice.

"It is shocking to note that there was no consultative process done with the major stakeholders of the private sector or has the authorities obtained the approval of the respective Boards in this decision making

process. We are baffled to understand as to why the private sector was not consulted and not engaged in such a serious and important area of change which impacts the entire industry," these representatives said.

"Why is this done in such a hurry whilst we have other important burning issues facing the industry?" they asked. "This is not a time to change the Tourism Act

unless otherwise there is a hidden agenda behind it."

Meanwhile, SLAITO President Thilak Weerasinghe said: "We have gone through many natural and manmade calamities like tsunami, LTTE and JVP terror, Black July and Easter Sunday attacks and have come out of them since we all worked in one direction in one voice."

"We need the authorities to push for a debt restructuring for the industry, bring about a model to support the livelihoods of our employees, fiscal support for the industry and a cash flow support for the sector and not new acts."

"The authorities should focus on the critical issues which impact almost 3 million people dependent on Tourism. Changing the Act is not going to increase even one foreign visitor to the country!"

Another former SLAITO Presi-

dent said that for the past one year not much was done by tourism authorities to bring down tourists. It was only the former Ambassador Udayanga Weeratunge, Aitkin Spence Travels and Lanka Sportreizen which brought some CIS based tourists to Sri Lanka and the Ministry or the Board can't take credit for it.

Chairman THASL Sanath Ukwatte, said that it's the Tourism Development fund (TDL) contributed by the industry which even helps the Rs.2 billion tourism promotion budget. The 2018 TDL contribution from the private sector alone was over Rs. 1.3 billion. "The very same people contribute 1% of their turnover to the authorities used to promote and develop Tourism governed by the 4 boards."

He also pointed out that the total investment from the private sector with hotels and travel agents exceeds over Rs. 3,000 billion. **▶ TO PAGE 22**



Russian Tourists in Sigiriya last year

We wish all our readers a happy and safe Sinhala and Tamil New Year. We will be back on Monday 19.



WORLD'S FIRST HONEY TEA LAUNCHED PAGE 21

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COMMERCIAL BANK

State Minister Cabraal meets Sultan's Deputy Prime Minister for Int'l Relations in Oman



State Minister of Money and Capital Market and Public Enterprise Reforms Ajith Nivard Cabraal and Sayyid Assad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman held a special meeting recently.

Minister Cabraal conveyed greetings from President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and delivered a special message from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman.

Sri Lankan Ambassador to Oman Amir Ajward was also present on the occasion.

CBSL to regulate foreign currency borrowings of finance companies

DINESH PERERA

The Central Bank by way of directive dated 9 April has placed additional regulation on foreign currency borrowings of the licensed finance companies. Under the new directive finance companies will have to submit to the board of directors for approval any foreign currency borrowing.

The move aims to stabilize any unwarranted macro-economic financial sector volatilities created by foreign funding exposure of the finance companies.

Finance companies will also be limited from short-term borrowing and will have to borrow on horizons exceeding 2 years. There will also be a maximum amount of foreign borrowings proportionate to the total assets of the company.

Companies looking to borrow over 10% of total assets in a foreign currency will have to meet an additional capital conservation buffer of 1% over the stipulated existing capital adequacy requirements. The companies

will also require a rating grade of BBB- or above.

Companies looking to borrow over 15% of total assets shall have to make such borrowing subordinate to the claims of depositors. In the instance, the company was to fail, the depositors would be paid back before the foreign lenders. Companies borrowing over 15% shall also have to ensure that the subsequent lending of funds is for foreign revenue-generating, foreign revenue saving, and/or govern-

ment development projects. Companies looking to borrow over 15% of total assets will require the prior approval of the Monetary Board.

All foreign currency borrowing shall be hedged as set out by the Central Bank. In the early 2005 period, the Central Bank had actively promoted foreign currency borrowing of the Non-Bank Financial Institutions. This represents a deviation from the earlier policy.

CSE extends GRI relationship for 3 years

DINESH PERERA

The Colombo Stock Exchange will continue its relationship with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) for another 3 years. Companies listed on the stock exchange are encouraged to use the GRI framework when reporting on their impacts on society.

The GRI is an international organisation that sets a 'common language' that companies can use to report globally on their impacts. The framework scales well depending on the scale of the business and the geography in which it is reported. Through the GRI the reporting of a company in South Asia can be compared with the reporting of a company in Latin America.

The GRI framework has been made mandatory in many exchanges. CSE Chairman Rajeeva Bandaranaike noted that the GRI was an excellent partner with a truly global presence. He commended the quality of their training materials and the robustness of the reporting framework.

Bandaranaike was speaking in a joint webinar on 9 April titled 'Leadership Forum on the Business Benefits of Sustainability Reporting using GRI Standards' organised by the GRI and the CSE.

GRI South Asia Director Dr Aditi Haldar noted that in terms of sustainability the metrics chosen by the GRI are very relevant to any country. She noted that without a global standard the information provided by different entities would not be relevant or trustworthy to all stakeholders.

Haldar said, "If the information is not relevant or trustworthy then it comes back to the GRI."

Haldar advocated that companies provide full access to their sustainability disclosures. Haldar said, "If it is not in the public domain it defeats the purpose. The information has to go out."

Sustainability reporting has become increasingly important in the last decade. Haldar said, "We all got together as one human race and decided it was important. Sustainability is no

longer some elitist thing. We need to be sustainable if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN."

75% of the largest 250 companies in the world use GRI reporting standards. 168 policies in 67 different countries refer to the GRI specifications. 450 organisations in 68 countries exist for the promotion of the GRI community. There is ample opportunity for companies to educate themselves on GRI with over 100 training partners in over 57 countries.

Consultant on sustainability issues Elaine Cohen noted how BlackRock CEO Larry Fink was changing the allocation of global capital. BlackRock with its USD 8.7 trillion in assets under management is putting pressure on the companies it owns to follow sustainable business practices.

Cohen noted that GRI is a mechanism for companies to do business in a better way. Cohen said, "It helps businesses meet the expectations of all stakeholders. Even shareholders are deeply concerned."

"Made in Sri Lanka' brand built with strong hopes"

The government has a responsibility to take forward a journey that was built with the strong hopes of the people of this country in mind and to move forward more robustly and this is the reason 'Made in Sri Lanka' brand was introduced said Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries.

He was speaking at the opening of the Made in Sri Lanka Trade Fair organized by the National Enterprise Development Authority at Anuradhapura on April 10.

"With Made in Sri Lanka, we took the initial steps on December 15 last year to create a culture that is affiliated with the brand. Under this, the Made in Sri Lanka brand has been awarded in two phases to the highest quality products of small and medium scale entrepreneurs in this country, as well as local small businesses."

"We have taken a number of initiatives to provide



local and foreign market opportunities to the SME and the manufacturer, and the National Enterprise Development Authority under our Ministry has already taken steps in this regard, the first of which is to hold such 'Made in Sri Lanka Trade Fairs' throughout the country."

"The second is to complete and maintain the madeinsrilanka.org e-Commerce portal, which will be available to all local and foreign customers directly. All of these are expected to be completed by the middle of this year. The third is the

Made in Sri Lanka Authorized Stores."

"Local SMEs are not able to compete with the products of large scale manufacturers not only because of the lack of quality in their products but also because they are not able to spend the huge amount of money they need to promote and market their products."

"We are promoting this 'Made Sri Lanka brand' as a step towards collectively overcoming the challenge that local small and medium scale manufacturers cannot overcome on their own," the Minister added.

ICRA Lanka assigns [SL]BBB+ with Stable outlook for Lotus Hydro Power

ICRA Lanka Limited has assigned the issuer rating of [SL]BBB+ (Pronounced SL triple B plus) with Stable outlook for Lotus Hydro Power PLC (LHP or the Company).

ICRA Lanka has taken a consolidated view on Lotus Hydro Power PLC and its subsidiaries, given the significant operational and financial linkages among them.

The rating primarily factors in the Company's satisfactory operational track record

in the power sector since 2000, comfortable capital structure, healthy financial profile supported by comfortable profitability and healthy coverage matrices and the potential growth opportunities in the renewable energy sector.

LHP currently operates four Mini Hydro Power Plants (MHPPs) accounting for a total power generation capacity of 4.9 MW.



CSE Chairman Rajeeva Bandaranaike, GRI South Asia Director Dr Aditi Haldar, Consultant Elaine Cohen

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SLIIT perfect choice for students seeking careers in Engineering - SLIIT Dean



SLIIT, Sri Lanka's leading higher education institute, established its Faculty of Engineering (FE) in the year 2007 to produce world-class graduates who can step into the corporate limelight with confidence, according to the vision of the institute to offer excellence in higher learning, research and other Engineering centred activities. "The Faculty of Engineering has state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities provided by the parent institute SLIIT, which began its journey as a pathway to higher education as far back as 1999 by identifying the need for high-quality education for global careers. For the past 20 years, SLIIT has produced over 27,000 success stories that have enriched many lives and created a high demand for those who seek globally acclaimed educational standards. The institute provides quality education and it is evident by the prominence that the SLIIT alumni have gained in all parts of the world through their outstanding achievements in all spheres," stated Professor Saman Thilakasiri, Dean-Faculty of Engineering. The Faculty of Engineering comprises five academic departments. At present,

students have the option of choosing from a range of degree programs with the Bachelor of Science of Engineering being provided in four disciplines; Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Material Engineering. These degree programs are categorized into over eight specializations including the specialization in Mechatronic Engineering. Students can avail themselves of these valuable degrees at a minimum cost. "Our graduates will find that the qualifications they earned at SLIIT are fully recognized as all the engineering degrees awarded by SLIIT are approved by the Ministry of Higher Education of Sri Lanka under the Universities Act. Moreover, the Department of Quantity Surveying in the Faculty of Engineering offers the highly recognized three-year BSc Hons degree in Quantity Surveying in partnership with the Liverpool John Moores (LJMU), UK and the Quantity Surveying degree we offer is RICS accredited in the UK." With a highly qualified full-time academic staff to offer guidance at all times, state-of-the-art well-equipped



laboratories and other infrastructure facilities, students are guaranteed to emerge as world-class professionals with the ability to reach their maximum potential on par with global standards. During their undergraduate studies, they are provided compulsory 6-month on-the-job training, which will give them valuable hands-on experience within their respective fields in the industry. "Much like extracting a diamond from the rough, our full-time lecturers bring out the best in each of their students and trained to assist a student in making the best choice in terms of

education and career opportunities. To assist this process, our undergraduate curriculum is prepared according to the outcome-based education system to comply with the Washington Accord Accreditation through the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL)" added Professor Saman Thilakasiri. The quality system adopted in the degree programs offered in the Faculty of Engineering is governed by the same system adopted in the parent institute SLIIT under the guidance of a well-reputed quality assurance expert. Further, the complete university environ-

ment provided in the SLIIT Malabe campus and the other infrastructure facilities such as a library, internet, and sporting facilities give the students the best learning experience in the Faculty of Engineering. After a thorough review of its capabilities, the faculty of Engineering was granted permission to award postgraduate research degrees leading up to MPhil and PhD by the Ministry of Higher education, Sri Lanka. SLIIT's Faculty of Engineering is further structured to promote unity among students and enhance their com-

munication skills and other inherent talents through various extracurricular activities such as the RoboFest which is a national level competition organized by the Department of Electronics and Electronics. In addition to that, 'Ganthera', 'Bridge fest', 'SLIIT's Got Talent', Young Engineers Expo, IEEE Day, IMechE, Pitstop, and Esala Pandol are organized by SLIIT Engineering Faculty. Students are also encouraged to develop a strong sense of compassion through numerous charitable activities organized by the Faculty of Engineering and SLIIT.

Nestlé, Hatch announce winners of Open Innovation Idea Hackathon

Nestlé and Hatch announced the winners of their first-ever Open Innovation Hackathon Challenge 2021, awarding two teams for their breakthrough ideas on healthy products using local ingredients and green initiatives.



Winners of the hackathon.

"We shortlisted 12 applicants from close to 200 entries and found it incredibly difficult to pick just one winning idea from this highly competitive group. After an intense two-day hackathon with the teams, where we mentored and guided them on how to convert good ideas to workable prototypes, we were extremely pleased with the final results," said Fabrice Cavalin, Nestlé's Managing Director. Dulanja Gamanayake, Ashan Kottagoda and Sachintha Wirasinhawon for presenting a waste management solution for the company's packaging waste, while Sameeha Jabeer, Keshala Jayawickrama and Shanitha Mirihana won for presenting a product made with purely local ingredients and catering to local nutritional needs, with the potential to make a positive impact on the rural farming community. The two winning teams said they were excited to be the inaugural win-

ners of the Nestlé-Hatch Idea Hackathon. "It was a rewarding experience working with Nestlé on the Hackathon and bringing in Hatch's process for ideation and problem-solving. Having partners that are purpose-driven and ready to embrace Open Innovation, coupled with great ideas, hungry entrepreneurs, and passionate mentors, fuelled the fires that led to not just one but two big ideas being picked. I look forward to seeing these ideas implemented by Nestlé, to change the landscape of Sri Lanka forever," said Jeevan Gnanam, Co-founder of Hatch. Nestlé partnered with Hatch to

launch an Open Innovation Hackathon Challenge for local innovators, with the goal of bringing good ideas on sustainability and nutrition to market more quickly. Through the programme, it helped local innovators connect with experts and mentors to help to take their ideas from concept to prototype, applying design thinking, and lean-agile methodologies. The company aims to combine the insight and ingenuity of external innovators, with its scale and expertise as the world's largest food and Beverage Company to launch projects that will make a genuine difference for Sri Lanka.

O Level syllabus complete despite C-19 Leeds International School A-Level batch to start May 2021

Leeds International School shall commence their A-Level batch from May 2021 onwards. A statement from the school states; 'We will commence our Advanced Level classes from 4th May 2021 offering Science, Mathematics, Commerce and Art streams to students who have completed their O Level examination by this date. We have declared attractive payment schemes and scholarships for 8As and above students.'



Leeds International School is one of the most prominent and leading international schools in the country. 'Our humble inception was in August 1999. In the past 21 years, Leeds International School has successfully made its mark on Sri Lanka by expanding its network of schools across 11 major cities and providing an exceptionally balanced education program to its students.'



The students at Leeds Panadura have the opportunity to continue their education from Play Group to Advanced Levels. Highlights of the academic achievements of the Leedians (Alumni of the school) are witnessed in their securing World Prizes, Island 1st Places and High Achiever awards from Edexcel whilst producing many 9As students at National Curriculum O Levels consec-

utively who continue to secure high District ranks and gain admissions to both local and foreign ranked universities to pursue their higher education in a multitude of areas.

With the challenges imposed by the COVID 19 viral outbreak in 2020, Leeds has taken every measure to immediately transition all of its subjects from Preschool to A Levels to an online platform ensuring that student learning and evaluation is not hindered in any way. 'We are proud to say that our hard-working teachers took up the change as a challenge and successfully continue to provide a smooth online learning experience along with weekly online examinations to check student progress along with a variety of extra-curricular activities offered to ensure that our students gain an all-rounded education despite the challenging times.'

'We are proud to state that we were the 1st school in Sri Lanka to complete the National Curriculum 2020 O Level syllabus by July 2020, despite all challenges posed by the COVID 19 pandemic. Since August 2020, we have been conducting comprehensive revision for all subjects and continued with a series of seminars from January to February 2021, to further support the students.' The school requests students interested in joining Leeds to pursue their A-Levels to inquire before 29th April 2021.

RIC hosts Convocation at BMICH

The 23rd Annual Convocation Ceremony of The Royal Institute of Colombo (RIC) was held recently at the BMICH. The convocation proceeding was held for 113 LLB and LLM graduands, 97 BSc. Graduates, 48 Certificate of Higher Education in Social Science (CHESS) Recipients/ Diplomats of the University of London (UoL) programmes and 24 students from Deakin University's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programme. Addressing the gathering of the graduands, parents and esteemed dignitaries, Dr Nirodha Bandara - the Academic Director applauded the hard work and determination of students in completing their studies. The graduation ceremony witnessed the pres-

ence of Justice A. H. M. D. Nawaz, Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka as the Chief Guest for the Law session and Prof. Emeritus W. D. Lakshman, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as the Chief Guest for the Economics, Management, Finance and Social Science (EMFSS) session. Chief Guest - Justice A. H. M. D. Nawaz, emphasised the need to engage in lifelong learning. Prof. Emeritus W. D. Lakshman shed light on RIC's journey as a pioneer institute with humble beginnings, to becoming a world-class education provider with strong international affiliations in the present day. While congratulating the new graduands, the Central Bank Governor reminded them of

their role in shaping the future of the nation. The occasion witnessed the high spirit of the students as they graduated with flying colours. Among this year's graduating batch, 5 law students received Certificates of Excellence; 3 law students received Level 4 Achievement Award; 5 BSc/CHESS students received Three Country Prizes (the highest performer in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India); 11 BSc/CHESS students received the Letter of Commendation and 5 best performers for the Academic Achievement Award on their degree/diploma programme. Moreover, 13 brilliant EMFSS students were the recipients of the Highest Marks Worldwide Award. This year, a new 'Special Topper Award' was



introduced to honour 5 students who scored the highest marks in Mathematics globally. Nethma Atapattu - a BSc. Economics and Finance student was the RIC Valedictorian 2021. This year's Student of the Year award was presented to Aysha Sameeha Siddek - an LLB student at RIC. This year, the convocation ceremony was attended virtu-

ally by the dignitaries of the UoL and Deakin University. G.T. Bandara - the Chairman of RIC emphasised the importance of taking control of one's own life while moving ahead in the new era of personal freedom. Bandara highlighted the need for one's determination to succeed despite the countless futile efforts that one may encounter along the way.

SLIM elects first female President at 51st AGM



SLIM President Thilanka Abeywardena

The Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) held its 51st Annual General Meeting, which saw the induction of its new President Thilanka Abeywardena, who will spearhead the Institute as its 43rd President. This appointment is a milestone in the history of the Institute as Abeywardena became the first-ever female to hold the position of President. The Annual General Meeting was held on 7th April 2021 at Marino Beach Hotel, Colombo. Both a new Council of Management as well as an Executive Committee were appointed during the meeting. Thilanka Abeywardena, who was appointed to the helm, currently holds the position of the CMO Lead, South East Asia Emerging Markets at Microsoft Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. and leads marketing and communications across nine Asian countries; Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka. She was the former Head of Marketing at Etsilat Sri Lanka and Corporate Brand Manager at EWIS. Abeywardena has been with SLIM for over a decade and has undertaken various honorary roles and chaired some of the key projects of the Institute.

Chintha Perera, Sales Director - Hemas Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd and Hemas Surgical and Diagnostics (Pvt) Ltd. was elected as the Vice President - Projects, Gayan Perera, Senior Brand Manager - Singer (Sri Lanka) PLC and Dr Jayantha D.N. Senior Lecturer - University of Sabaragamuwa were appointed as the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively. Sathika Wickremasinghe, Category Manager - Fonterra Brands Lanka was elected as the Honorary Assistant Secretary for the year 2021/2022. The newly appointed Executive Committee comprises ten experienced marketing professionals: Nuwan Thilakawardhana, Marketing Manager, Union Bank of Colombo PLC; Dr Dilhan S. Jayatileke, Director - Northwood Consulting Private Limited and Head - Business Development & Marketing - Arogya Life Systems Lanka Private Limited; Charaka Perera, Executive Director - FUCHSIA Retail (Pvt) South Asia; Asanka Perera, Chief Executive Officer - Arugambay Beachwear (Pvt) Ltd; Manthika Ranasinghe, Director - WeddinGoDestinationz and Managing Partner - Marketing-Go Consultancy; Channa Jayasinghe, Senior Brand Development Manager - Kelani Cables PLC; Asela C. Gunasekara, Brand Development Manager - Metecno

Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Niyas Mohamed Shiraz, Assistant General Manager Sales & Marketing - FENTONS Limited; Dr Thesara Jayawardane, Head/Senior Lecturer Department of Industrial Management and Director Business Research Unit - University of Moratuwa and Kavindra Rajapaksha, Vice President/Head of Marketing - Softlogic Life Insurance PLC. Commenting on her appointment, she stated, "SLIM is built on the solid foundation laid by the past Presidents, Council Members, Executive Committee Members as well as SLIM employees. As we embark on the 'Future-ready Sri Lanka' national vision to drive Sri Lanka towards a knowledge economy, we look forward to elevating the national body for marketing through a 3-pronged strategy; internal upliftment, stakeholder transformation and national advocacy. I firmly believe that the diverse and dynamic Executive Committee with multi-disciplinary exposure will further raise the bar of SLIM". She also thanked everyone who contributed to the progress achieved by SLIM.

ICON Business School produces ACCA World Winner

Icon Business School has produced an ACCA World Prize Winner. The ACCA world prize winner for December 2020 session was Mohamed Fahim Farhan Ahamed, for the subject Financial Management. This amongst others has resulted in ICON holding the ACCA Gold Approved Learning Partner (ALP) status, a formal recognition that ACCA awards to leading tuition providers for providing high-quality tuition and support to ACCA students as well as achieving pass rates. Outlining the mantra behind

their success are the main promoters of Icon Business School that comprise Dilshad Jiffry, Rakitha Jayatunga, Dasun Mendis and Farheen Salahudeen. They stated "Whilst we're always proud of our high pass rates at ICON, it's particularly pleasing to see our students awarded the top honours by ACCA continuously, every year. It partly comes down to having some excellent students joining our institute but it also really can be attributed to some excellent tutors at ICON who work hard to understand the

exams they teach and nail how to pass. We create a very friendly and engaging teaching environment that aids learning and development and encourage students to start thinking about their exams early and doing mocks, followed by lots of question practice in the revision phase. Excited about his award, prize winner Farhan endorsed these statements by commenting when I started ACCA, I didn't have any idea about the journey I was about to embark on, but now I can see a bright future

ahead with new opportunities, thanks to ACCA and of course ICON. The support and guidance provided by ICON Business School was a great contributor to me winning this award, especially as this particular exam was quite challenging. I was thrilled to have passed with 95%, which also incidentally was the highest mark globally." With a journey of challenges that has also been one that has resulted in a journey of successors, ICON looks forward to continuing its quest of helping students maximize



Mohamed Fahim Farhan Ahamed

their learning and training experience by providing competent tutors, comprehensive material and an organized programme with full educational and administrative support and in equipping students.

ADVERTORIAL

People's Bank opens self-banking unit at Nugegoda main branch

People's Bank celebrates its 60th Anniversary opening its 251st self-banking unit at Nugegoda main branch, facilitating faster banking service with more facilities to its customers.

T.M.W. Chandra Kumara, Assistant General Manager Branch Management were present at the opening.

This self-banking unit is facilitated with two ATMs and one cash deposit machine (CDM) with 24 x 7 effi-

cient banking service. Mayor of Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte I.V. Premalal, Deputy Mayor Primalal Athukorala, Finance Manager, the Open University of Sri Lanka Anura Wickramasinghe, People's Bank Colombo Outer Regional Manager Lal Peiris, Assistant Regional Manager Priyanka Ratnasiri, Vinodika Peiris, Manager Nugegoda Main Branch, Senani Rajapaksa were accompanied by many customers.



People's Bank Assistant General Manager Branch Management T.M.W. Chandra Kumara opened the Self Banking Unit at the Nugegoda Main Branch. Lal Peiris and Senani Rajapaksa are also in the picture.

Traditional Avurudu Ganudenu with NSB on 14-15

To increase the awareness of and promote e-commerce transactions National Savings Bank (NSB) has planned to launch a cashback promotion for Avurudu Season.

Accordingly, a 10% cashback will be offered for e-commerce transactions or local online payments made using NSB Debit Card on April 14, from 8.00 am to 9.00 am.

The maximum cashback value is LKR 1000/- per card per day during the promotion period and the cashback will appear on the customer's account in due course.

Even if the Bank is closed for the New Year, often being thoughtful of the requirements of the customers, we have made it a point to enable the customers to make a digital transaction during the auspicious time allocated for



"Avurudu Ganudenu" on the New Year Day.

In a backdrop where the healthcare authorities instruct the public to continue the practice of healthcare measures

against COVID-19 especially during the festivities, the customers can shop while in the safety of their homes and make their daily purchases online using NSB Debit Card. Hence the promotion will encourage our customers to celebrate the New Year safely without undergoing the hassle of visiting shops with face masks on and encountering crowds.

Further, the customers who look forward to visiting our branches for "Avurudu Ganudenu" on April 15, when the Bank is reopened after the New Year, can receive a recipe book or a set of exercise books as a gift.

The Bank invites all Sri Lankans to join hands with NSB, the safest bank in the country, to enjoy a safer banking service this Avurudu.

NDB Wealth celebrates seasonal joy for Avurudu

This year expert financial planner NDB Wealth Management celebrates Avurudu 2021 by encouraging a wealth of seasonal joy for their valuable and loyal customers.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year herald a season of joy, happiness and prosperity uniting families and friends to celebrate the age-old traditions and rituals which have been a part of the country's culture for generations.

The Aluth Avurudha is a special time for financial renewal and strengthening signified by the tradition of "Ganu Denu", the first financial transaction of the season. It's that specially designated time of the year to gear up for the new dawning ushering in prosperity and abundance. Managing wealth and saving for the future is that secure step towards prosperity, ensuring financial security for you and your family.

"This is the time of the year where you thoughtfully reflect upon the by-gones and make decisions for your future success. Taking that positive step in the right direction, everyone aspires to be able to make the Avurudu season a memorable one for



their family and themselves," commented Vice President of NDB Wealth Vinodika Jayasekera. NDB Wealth offers well-designed wealth plans that will help you prepare for your future by allowing you to benefit and maximize your returns. The Money Plus Fund is an ideal wealth plan for new beginnings. It is a rewarding investment account that allows you to enjoy your monthly interest or even capital withdrawals - whenever the occasion calls.

Money Plus will especially help you to plan for future celebrations and festi-

activities such as Avurudu as it works like a savings account. Currently, the Money Plus fund yields 5.50% per annum as of March 25. With the income being credited daily, NDB Wealth Money Plus is proving to be the ideal account for busy individuals who have limited time to keep track of their ongoing finances.

NDB Wealth is a fully owned subsidiary of the NDB Bank, one of the fastest-growing financial services conglomerates in Sri Lanka, with the strategic mission to be the leader in the financial services sector.

People's Insurance launches Solar Panel Insurance

To support the ongoing national-level initiatives of fostering sustainable and environmentally friendly energy production methods, Sri Lanka's foremost non-life insurance firm, People's Insurance, has announced the launch of a special insurance coverage for solar panels mounted in homes, offices and solar parks across the country.

As the number of solar panels installed in buildings and solar products in the country has seen a trend of exponential growth, year on year, the timely introduction of this insurance coverage seeks to mitigate the risk factor associated with roof-mounted solar panels and solar products, as they are of high-value investments.

The Basic Cover provides protection against fire, lightning, storms, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and accidental damage, inclusive of

electrical extra covers. Much to the customer's benefit, the insurer has also pledged more additional covers at no extra charge.

These include the labour costs of debris removal if panels are damaged by an insured peril, the cost of removing and repositioning the solar panel system if the building or structure is damaged and the cost of transporting damaged panels to the service agent's workshop.

Known for its efforts in being an insurer that always goes the extra mile by keeping the customer's best interests in mind, People's Insurance will also cover the damages caused to panels by malicious acts of other individuals. Additionally, if a customer loses income due to the perils mentioned above, that loss of revenue will also be covered by this special insurance scheme.



Royce Delpechithra receives the solar panel policy from People's Bank CEO Ranjith Kodithuwakku.

Those customers who wish to have their losses covered in case of an untimely theft of panels involving forced entry, riots, terrorist activities or electrical extras without visible burn marks can do so by paying a minimal premium.

Speaking at the launch of this cover Manager Fire and Miscellaneous Uvindu Pathirana said, "Many Sri Lankans are looking towards producing and sustainably using energy. While Solar Panels are the ideal choice for this, people often hesitate

because of the high cost and risks such as damage associated with solar panel usage." As a socially responsible insurer, this special scheme is expected to fulfil the hopes of an environmentally and energy-efficient Sri Lanka.

Revisiting traditions of Ridhi Aththama

The concept of Aththama was once the foundation of how Sri Lankan people trusted and did everything as a collective.

Life was ideal and harmonious as the entire community came together as an extended family

to help each other in times of need.

With this concept in mind, Pan Asia Bank, the truly Sri Lankan bank has decided to enrich and renew local society by bringing back these long-forgotten values via a unique borrowing proposition

centred on the concept of Aththama.

Pan Asia Bank has understood that now more than ever, the people of this country need to be reminded of this truly Sri Lankan value of helping each other.

The concept of Aththama was once the foundation of

how Sri Lankan people trusted and did

everything as a collective. Life was ideal and harmonious as the entire community

came together as an extended family to help each other in times of need.

"We have grown as a society because of this



warm and generous tradition of helping each other, so why not try and revive it among ourselves," an official from the bank said.

Sathosa Motors Service Complex to service all vehicle brands

Sathosa Motors and its vehicle service complex, services not just Isuzu but also any brand of vehicle. Pioneering automotive specialist, Sathosa Motors is the sole authorized agent for the world-renowned Isuzu Brand, but the newly developed Service Complex will now undertake all kinds of services required for any brand of vehicle.

The internationally trained specialists are ready to serve you at the Sathosa Motors Service Complex, at Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.

Sathosa Motors PLC guarantees its customers reliable and convenient service and will undertake vehicle inspections, periodic maintenance, body and undercarriage washing, interior cleaning and beautification, engine tuning, error diagnosis, accident repairs, Air Condition repairs, and many more at a highly affordable rate.

Also, genuine spare parts, as well as lubricants and industrial services are available at discounted prices at the Service Complex.



Sathosa Motors aims to provide high-quality services at all times and all services are carried out strictly under health guide-

lines due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation. Sathosa Motors is pleased to announce that it

has decided to keep all branches of the Sathosa Motors service network open to continue to serve its customers.

Seylan Bank offers discounts for the Avurudu season

With Avurudu just around the corner, Seylan Bank is offering amazing discounts to customers purchasing daily essentials.

The bank celebrates the New Year with "Ratatama Super, Avurudu offers with Seylan Cards" and "Seylan Tikiri Season of Gifts and Laughter."

The bank with a heart, commenced these exciting offers and promotions to provide the best Avurudu experience to its customers young and old and to reward them for their continued loyalty to the bank, in the spirit of festivity.

"At Seylan Bank, we want to make your Avurudu an unforgettable experience," said Assistant General Manager, Marketing and Sales at Seylan Bank Gamika De Silva. "These two promotions underscore our customer-centric approach which focuses on providing products and services that enhance the overall customer experience and convenience, adding value to your experience with the Bank with a Heart."

The Bank has partnered with leading supermarket chains on selected promotions; with Keells offering

30% off on fresh meat during the weekends, Cargill-providing 20% off on total bills during selected weekends, Glomark offering 20% off on the total bill on every Sunday for a limited time, Laug's Super providing 20% off on a range of goods on every Monday, and Premasiri Supermarket offering 20% off on vegetables & 10% off on fruits on every Wednesday & Thursday during the promotion period.

This festive season, Seylan cards have offered a host of exciting deals on essential categories.

Cardholders will now be able to receive offer notifications via smartphone on a respective day with the recently introduced new feature called 'Add to Calendar' on the www.seylanoffers.com website.

Seylan Tikiri, the most beloved Children's Savings Account from April 1 to May 31 will gift a stylish, handy "Sporty Bag" to its customers under the age of 15 who deposit LKR 10,000 or more into their existing or new Tikiri account.

Seylan Tikiri is one of the



leading minor's savings brands in the market and has always provided innovative and fun-loving offerings to kids, throughout the year. At a time when the whole island was put under lockdown, Seylan Tikiri continued to focus on children by offering new experiences through a host of social media activities.

Farmchemie wins CNCI Achiever Award again

Farmchemie Private Limited, a market leader in animal health products won the CNCI Achiever Awards for Industrial Excellence 2020, Manufacturing Sector, Extra Large Category, National Level award for the second consecutive year held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo.

Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries was the chief guest and presented the award to Uditha Wanigasinghe, Managing Director Farmchemie.

With a successful history exceeding 15 years, Farmchemie saw a remarkable growth extending to the international market.

The company manufactures and markets animal health products, veterinary pharmaceuticals, animal feed additives in several brands including "Farmstar" their flagship brand. Since 2018 Farmchemie has been exporting its products to India, Uganda, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and UAE.

"Having started in a very small scale with just three employees, Farmchemie has been able to record a speedy growth to become the market leader in animal health products sector because we are committed to investigate



MD Uditha Wanigasinghe and Manager Business Development Senitha Wanigasinghe with the award.

and identify problems and requirements at animal husbandry and provide solutions on time," said Wanigasinghe.

"Today, Farmchemie is the first and only animal health products company in Sri Lanka to have been accredited with ISO 9001:2015, WHO GMP quality certifications. In addition to a comprehensive manufacturing facility with sophisticated machinery the company has an exclusive BOI approved

plant for manufacturing export products which has ISO 9001:2015, GMP+ and FAMI QS standards."

Farmchemie has been recognized with many accolades in its journey to success including National Enterprise Excellence-2013 (Merit award), Gold Award at Agribusiness Awards-2014 organized by the department of agriculture, APEA-2014 (Emerging Entrepreneur) and CNCI Achiever Awards 2019.

Sri Lankan envoy in Republic of Korea holds bilateral discussions

The Mayor of the City of Ansan in the Republic of Korea, Wha-Sub Yoon, extended an invitation to Ambassador of Sri Lanka, Dr. A. Saj U. Mendis, to deliver a Special Lecture to Members of the City, Council Members, Legislatures and Ansan Migrant's Counselling Support Center at the City Hall of Ansan. Ansan is amongst the largest industrial cities in the RoK with a large foreign multi-cultural population including a large contingent of Sri Lankan migrant workers. The Special Lecture focused on culture, education, economy, tourism and most importantly the criticality and seminality of migrant workers for Sri Lanka, amongst others.

Mayor Wha-Sub Yoon conducted bilateral discussions with Dr. Mendis, before the com-

ment of the Special Lecture at the City Hall. The Special Lecture was attended by an audience of well over 100 and lasted over 60 minutes followed by Q&A Session.

During the bilateral discussions as well as during the Special Lecture, Dr. Mendis expressed appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the RoK and in particular to the City of Ansan for hosting and facilitating a large number of Sri Lankan migrant workers.

Dr. Mendis enunciated to Mayor Wha-Sub Yoon that in year 2019, the total foreign remittances of Sri Lanka were approximately USD 7.2 billion or 9% of the total GDP of the country. Dr. Mendis further accentuated that the total foreign remittances from the RoK alone in 2019 were USD 520 million or 0.65%

of the GDP, despite the total number of Sri Lankan migrant workers are only 22,000, relatively a much smaller number compared to the Sri Lankan migrant workers in other countries such as in Middle East.

During the lecture, Dr. Mendis touched upon the education system of Sri Lanka impressing the advancement of education with particular focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects as well as other liberal arts disciplines.

With regard to migrant Sri Lankans, Dr. Mendis earnestly implored and entreated His Worship the Mayor of Ansan and other dignitaries to seriously consider receiving new entry migrant workers, known as new-entrants, to the RoK.

This was stated in the context that there are over 2,000 Sri Lankan migrants, who have already pursued and passed the Korean proficiency-examination and undergone the required trainings and familiarization and are waiting for an extended length of time in Sri Lanka without being able to travel to the RoK to assume their new employment.

Dr. Mendis further stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has been re-asonably well controlled and contained in Sri Lanka and less than a dozen of Sri Lankan



The Mayor of City of Ansan, Wha-Sub Yoon, greeting Ambassador Dr. Mendis

migrant workers in the RoK has ever contracted the COVID-19 out of a total of well over 20,000.

MTI to advice on Pakistan's accession to WTO Agreement

MTI Consulting has been retained to independently advice Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce on Pakistan's accession to WTO's Information Technology Agreement (ITA).

The mandate to MTI calls for an independent evaluation of the opportunities and threats of the ITA to Pakistan, with special attention to its contribution toward the nation's ICT industry's long term objective of becoming a major ICT player among global value chains.

The project has been initiated under the Pakistan-Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA). PREIA is a USAID funded activity/project which intends to further the development of the country's trade sector by improving Pakistan's competitiveness in international markets. PREIA is implemented by the private development company,



Hilmy Cader, CEO, Naush Beg, MTI's Pakistan Consultant and Svanthi Jayawickrema, MTI's South Asia Projects Coordinator

DAI (under one of their integrated solutions, i.e. 'Economic Growth').

The ITA Information Technology Agreement, initially implemented in 1996 is most significant tariff liberalization arrangement negotiated in the WTO after its establishment in 1995. It has 82 signatories. ITA's IT product list

covers 97 per cent of world trade in IT products. 2015 saw the expansion of the ITA. The agreement was expanded to include an additional list of 201 products.

In the last 24 years, MTI has carried out 670 projects across 49 countries - covering both public and private sector.

Commercial Technologies Plus wins National Ingenuity awards

Commercial Technologies Plus Private Limited, a Smart Mobility Enterprise Solutions provider, a forerunner in SAAS Enterprise platform development was recognized as the National Winner for the Best Innovation in Business Process Management category at 'National Ingenuity Awards' 2021 organized by the SLASSCOM (Sri Lanka Association for Software Services Companies) for their flagship platform, Billa Cloud.

The company was also the winner of the same title in Western Province category in addition to the National Award. The winners were chosen via an all-island competition conducted and the SLASSCOM Ingenuity Awards recognizes and rewards innovations that fuel ingenuity. The grand awards ceremony was held recently at the Shangri-La hotel, Colombo. "As a startup we are much delighted to have been recognized as National Winners and this achievement greatly owes to the hard work of our dedicated team. I

appreciate and thank each and every one of my team for their indefatigable dedication." stated Supun Mayushan, CEO & Head of Innovations of Commercial Technologies Plus.

Commercial Technologies Plus Private Limited, was founded as a start-up company in technology in mid-2016 by Supun Mayushan Senarath, current CEO & Head of Innovations of the company. In its short history, Commercial Technologies Plus has performed tremendously well in building up innovative multi tenancy enterprise SAAS Platforms development.

The company's flagship platform, Billa Cloud-business management system has been previously recognized and appreciated at e-Swabhimani Awards 2020 by ICTA and Ministry of Technology under the Business and Commerce category as well. Billa Cloud is all in one, business management services platform for SME businesses which provides Cloud POS, Mobile POS, Ecommerce websites,



Supun Mayushan Senarath, CEO & Head of Innovation of Commercial Technologies Plus.

Order management platform, Driver app and many services in one tap registration.

Commercial Technologies Plus also helps the clients with data driven and strategic marketing via their subsidiary Brand Cubes (Pvt) Ltd to guide their businesses to extraordinary levels.

Request for Bids (RFB)

Ministry of Irrigation Thalpitigala Reservoir Project Improvements to the Project Manager Office in Kandaketiya Irrigation Camp

Bid No - PD/TRP/Infra/06/2018

- The Chairman of the Project Procurement Committee on behalf of the secretary to the Ministry of Irrigation now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Improvements to the project manager office in Kandaketiya Irrigation camp in Kandaketiya Divisional Secretary Division, Badulla District. Construction period is 3 months.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure (NCB).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidders shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirement.
CIDA Registration Grade C 5 or C6
- Qualification requirements to qualify for documents, contract award include: Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Thalpitigala Reservoir Project, Project Engineer Irrigation Department, Kandaketiya, T. P. / Fax No. - 055 - 2245626, E-mail - pdthalpitigala@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. during weekdays.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the address below from 12.04.2021 until 03.05.2021 from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 7500.00. The method of payment will be by cash for set of documents.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below at or before 1300 hrs. on 04.05.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 14.00Hrs on 04.05.2021.
- Bids shall be valid up to 91 days
- Pre bid meeting will be held on 22.04.2021 at 10.00 a.m. at Thalpitigala Reservoir Project, Irrigation Department, Kandaketiya.
- All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of Rs. 225,000.00. Bid security shall be valid up to 31.08.2021.
- Duly filled and sealed bids marked "Improvements to the Project Manager Office in Kandaketiya Irrigation Camp" and Bid No. - PD/TRP/Infra/06/2018 on the top left hand corner of envelope.

The address referred to above is:

**Project Director,
Thalpitigala Reservoir Project,
Irrigation Department,
Kandaketiya.**

T. P. / Fax No. - 055 - 2245626



CENTRAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Invitation for Bids

Purchase of Micro Water Supply Systems and Parachute Plates

Financial Provisions from the State Ministry of Paddy and Grains, Organic Food, Vegetables, Fruits, Chillies, Onion and Potato Cultivation Promotion, Seed Production and Advanced Technology Agriculture

Central Provincial Department of Agriculture

Bids are invited by the Chairman, Central Provincial Chief Secretary's Procurement Committee, from interested Suppliers having ability and qualifications, for the purchase of the equipment required for the projects stated below, implemented by the Central Provincial Department of Agriculture. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

The receipt received from the Finance Assistant of the Central Provincial Department of Agriculture for the payment of the non-refundable fee, stated in the table below, should be submitted to obtain the bid documents. As for the refundable Bid Security it can either be submitted as a Bid Security obtained from a reputed commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to the value as stated in the table, valid up to 04.08.2021, or paid by cash of the value stated in the table, made to the Finance Assistant of the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Bidders should submit separate bids for the equipment for which quotations are submitted. Bid documents can be inspected free of charge, from 15.04.2021 up to 05.05.2021 on weekly working days, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the Finance Assistant of the Central Provincial Department of Agriculture at No. 64, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya. All details relevant to the Supply of Equipment are stated in the bid documents.

S/No	Project	Required Quantity	Refundable Bid Security		Non-refundable Fee Rs.
			By Bank Security Rs.	By Cash Rs.	
01	Purchase of 1/4 Acre Micro Water Supplying Systems	540	2,593,500.00	1,296,750.00	35,000.00
	Purchase of 1/2 Acre Micro Water Supply Systems	157			
02	Purchase of Parachute Plates	225118	95,000.00	47,500.00	3,000.00

Relevant Pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held on 28.04.2021 at the Central Provincial Department of Agriculture at No. 64, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya. Bids should only be submitted on bid documents obtained making the relevant fees. Duly perfected bid documents could either be sent by registered post addressed to Central Provincial Department of Agriculture, No. 64, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya or placed in the Tender Box kept at the office to be received at or before 2.00 p.m. on 06.05.2021. Bids received late will be rejected. Bids received will be opened immediately after closing of acceptance of bids, at the Central Provincial Department of Agriculture at 64, Sarasavi Mawatha, Peradeniya. Bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the opening.

Bids should be prepared in two copies as the "Original" and "Duplicate" and should be placed in separate covers, marked accordingly and then should be placed in a single sealed cover marked, "Purchase of Micro Water Supply Systems" or "Purchase of Parachute Plates" at the top left-hand corner, as the case may be, and sent.

Further details can be obtained, during office hours, on Telephone No: 0812384153 from the Finance Assistant of the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

**Chairman,
Chief Secretary's Procurement Committee,
Central Provincial Chief Secretariat,
Provincial Councils Complex, Pallekelle,
Kundasale.**

12.04.2021

NEWS

Premier Ceylon Teas launches world's first **HONEY TEA**

In a bid to earn more foreign exchange to Sri Lanka, Premier Ceylon Teas and Spices has introduced the World's first hand made 'honey tea' to the market opening up a new chapter in the Sri Lankan tea exports.

Founder of Premier Ceylon and inventor of the Golden Line Honey Teas, Jagath Wijesekara said that they have registered the product with Patent Rights, No 21449 after extensive research and tasting teas for almost a decade.

"We have already talked to leading high-end supermarket chains in Europe, UK, Japan, Australia and the Gulf to export Golden Line Honey Teas from next July."

The product is exclusively hand-made from the finest of high-grown Ceylon tea buds, hand-picked from private tea gardens in Nuwara Eliya



Dr Tissa Jayaweera, Selvarajah Krishnakumar and Jagath Wijesekara

District and carefully hand-rolled and baked in the cinnamon wood-fired hearth and fermented and preserved in pure and natural bee's honey at their factory in Badaragama. "The process takes are two weeks."

"In addition to Honey Tea, we also follow this same process and offers an exotic selection of fruits and spices varieties such as Strawberry Honey Tea, Apricot Honey Tea, Orange Honey Tea, Pineapple Honey Tea, Mango Honey Tea, Apple Honey Tea, Cinnamon Honey Tea, Cardamom Honey Tea, Clove Honey Tea, Green Honey Tea and Nutmeg Honey Tea and the range will be continually added on."

"Our next range would be adding an array of European fruits as Blueberry, Raspberry and Cranberry, Blackberry, Cherry and a selection of wild berries to the Honey Tea range."

Premier Ceylon



Teas and Spices is a specialized handmade products company that also offers a large range of spices and also Ceylon Cashew, Coconut Treacle, Kithul Treacle, Traditional Ceylon Coffee, Premium Arabica Coffee, and Premium Robusta Coffee & Premium Coffee Beans to the market. "With our patented 'Honey Tea' we hope to take our entire range to the global market," he said.

Golden Line Tea Range now includes a selection of fruits and spices as Strawberry Honey Tea, Apricot Honey Tea, Kivi Honey Tea, Orange Honey Tea, Pineapple Honey Tea, Mango Honey Tea, Apple Honey Tea, Cinnamon Honey Tea, Cardamom Honey Tea, Clove Honey Tea, Green Honey Tea and Nutmeg Honey Tea.

Premier Ceylon Teas and Spices is chaired by Dr Tissa Jayaweera and Selvarajah Krishnakumar a leading business personality living in the United Kingdom as the Deputy Chairman and Jagath Wijesekara as the founder Managing Director of Premier Ceylon Group.



Midea breaks the electricity cost barrier

Midea the worlds No 1 Air Treatment Company introduces an air conditioner that consumes as low as one unit of electricity per night's sleep for as low as what it costs for half a pound of bread, says Telesonic, the global giant's exclusive partner in Sri Lanka.

Touted as the most advanced inverter air conditioner, the Midea Xtreme Save Inverter Air Conditioner boasts of an adjustable Gear Shift power function that makes it ultra-efficient by reducing power consumption while at the same time not compromising on cool comfort.

The new air conditioning sensation is storming the Sri Lankan market with technological firsts that shatters operating costs, assures better indoor air quality (IAQ) with its triple filtration system while allowing you to talk to it!

Dramatically, its revolutionary triple filtration introduces air filtration of a higher grade than an N-95 mask, making Midea Xtreme Save Inverter Air Conditioner the ideal choice in a post-pandemic world, says Telesonic MD Arun Mahtani.

As temperatures keep rising, the need for air conditioning is felt more than ever. However, the exorbitant operating cost has kept it beyond the majority until now, says Mahtani who believes in total ownership rather than the instant investment.

Midea is the world's largest manufacturer of white goods ranked as a Forbes Global Fortune 500 company and while it's also the



Midea has brought the cost of running an A/C for a whole night to the price of half a loaf of bread.



world leader in Air Treatment, committing a colossal investment into research and development resulting in numerous patents in world-leading technological innovations. The Midea Xtreme Save Inverter Air Conditioner stands out for three core factors, its Gear Shift technology bringing adjustable intelligent cooling while its innovative triple filtration and self-cleaning technology

creating healthy buildings with advanced smart technologies and voice command features bringing value beyond performance with Telesonic's illustrious track-record spanning well over four decades. These are extraordinary features on the cutting-edge but to ensure returns on investment and optimal performance professional and timely after-care is exceedingly important. This is the lasting legacy of Telesonic.

Meanwhile, while leading the forays in air conditioning in Sri Lanka, Telesonic is also investing in ensuring a cooler climate outdoors as it helps fight climate change with a commitment to growing bio-diverse forests with its conservation partner Geo Explore Foundation. "Ours is an unwavering commitment to Sri Lanka in terms of cool air, both indoors and out. That's why we have emerged as a forest-growing company, not merely putting plants into the soil but ensuring the growth of bio-diverse forests", says Mahtani.

Employment Opportunities



MILCO (PRIVATE) LIMITED

(Affiliated to the State Ministry of Livestock, Farm Promotion and Dairy & Egg Related Industries)

MILCO is the pioneer in local dairy industry with a wide network in milk collection, production and sales throughout the island with "Highland" brand. It has four milk processing factories located in Colombo, Digana, Ambewela and Polonnaruwa. We are looking for dynamic & competent individuals to join our team.

Asst. Manager - IT (MM 1-1)

Qualifications :-

1. Degree in Information Technology/Computer Science or equivalent from a University recognized by UGC of Sri Lanka and 05 years post qualifying executive experience in the IT field in a recognized establishment.

-OR-

2. Having obtained a Certificate of Proficiency not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 7, issued by a Technical / Vocational Training Institute accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Educational Commission with 05 yrs. post qualifying Executive experience in the IT field in a recognized establishment.

(Applicants should have outstanding Administration & Management capabilities and communication skills)

Asst. Manager - Finance (MM 1-1)

Qualifications :-

1. Degree in Business Administration/ B.Com from a University recognized by UGC of Sri Lanka with partly qualified of ICASL/CIMA/ACCA and 05 years post qualifying executive experience in Finance field in a recognized establishment.

-OR-

2. Degree in Accountancy from a University recognized by UGC of Sri Lanka with 05 years post qualifying executive experience in Finance field in a recognized establishment.

-OR-

3. Intermediate certificate of ICASL/CIMA/ACCA with 07 years post qualifying executive experience in Finance field in a recognized establishment.

(Applicants should have outstanding Administration & Management capabilities, communication skills and Computer literacy)

Engineering Assistant (Electrical / Civil Engineering) (MA 2-3)

Qualifications :-

• Having obtained a certificate of proficiency in Electrical or Civil Engineering not below than the National Vocational Qualification Level 5, issued by a Technical/ Vocational Training Institute accepted by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission and one year experience in Engineering field in a recognized establishment.

(Computer literacy will be considered as a required qualification)

Boiler man (PL 2)

Qualifications :-

• Passed GCE (0/L) Examination with Class I Boiler Certificate from a recognized Institute.

Age :- 18-45 yrs.

Salary & Benefits :- According to the Government approved Salary Scales & Benefits applicable to the Posts.

Applicants may forward their CVs with names and contact., numbers of two non-related referees by registered post to reach the undersigned **within 07 working days of this advertisement**. Please indicate the "Post" on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

**Manager - Human Resources & Administration
MILCO (PVT) LTD.,
Millennium Tower, No. 345-7/1, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**



MINISTRY OF TRADE

MAHAPOLA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND



VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified citizens of Sri Lanka for the following post in Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund.

Officers in Government or Semi-Government institutions should channel their applications through the respective heads of institutions with their recommendation as to whether the applicant can be released fulltime.

DIRECTOR (C.E.O)

1. Educational Qualifications & Experience :

1.1 External : Bachelor's Degree in Management, Finance, Commerce, Law or IT from a University recognized by UGC with a minimum of 10 years' post qualifying experience in Administration, Finance, Managerial Level out of which 05 years' experience in Government Department/ Corporation Board/ Statutory Board.

OR

Corporate membership of a recognized professional institute in Accounting, Management, Finance with minimum of 10 years' post qualifying experience in Administration Finance, Managerial Level out of which 05 years' experience in Government, Department/Corporation Board/ Statutory Board.

1.2 Internal/Candidate from Secondment Basis:

Bachelor's Degree in Management, Finance, Commerce, Law or IT from a University recognized by UGC with a minimum of five (05) years satisfactory service in a post in the manager category Grade I in the subject area relevant to the post.

Note:

Preference will be given to Internal Candidates. Sound English & IT Knowledge will be added qualification.

2. Salary Scale :

HM 2-3 : Rs. (98,215 - 12x2,700 - 130,615)

EPF - 15% ETF - 3% Cost of Living, Attendance Allowance (Rs. 10,000/-) with Health Insurance Cover.

Other :

Every Applicant,

• Age should be not less than 45 years and not more than 57 years. The upper age limit will not apply to the internal candidates or the candidates applying on secondment basis.

• Should be a Sri Lankan citizen, should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the island. Should be of excellent moral character. Has a good command of English and Sinhala, Tamil would be an added advantage.

• Selection will be made by structured interview.

• Application giving full name, date of birth, age, nationality, educational qualifications, experience and any other details with names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Trade, CWE Secretariat Building, 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 2 under registered cover along with copies of relevant certificates to reach on or before 25/04/2021 indicating the post for which the application is made on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

• Applicants who have already submitted their applications as per the paper advertisement published on 15th February, 2021 will be treated as valid application for the above purpose.

• The Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund reserves the right to shortlist the applications.

• Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will not be entertained.

• Travelling or any other expenses incurred by you in this connection will not be reimbursed by the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust Fund.

**Secretary,
Ministry of Trade,
CWE Secretariat Building,
27, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.**

TESS donates shell of Cessna 152 aircraft for underwater sea museum

TESS (Pvt) Ltd a company that has pioneered the canning industry and focused on innovative technologies and safety equipment donated a shell of a Cessna 152 aircraft to the Sri Lankan Navy for the Sea Museum which is underway at the bottom of the Nilwella Sea Fishing harbour.

"We hope that our contribution will increase marine habitats and improve the tourism industry," said Shevan Fernando Director of Marketing & Special Projects.

Fernando commended the Commander of the Navy Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne and Admiral Priyantha Perera for their efforts to enhance and develop the reefs of Sri Lanka for future generations.



Sri Lanka Ports Authority launches 'Theertha' Magazine



The first copy of 'Theertha' magazine being presented to the Chairman SLPA, General Daya Ratnayake (left) by the Chief Manager (Communications and Public Relations), Chitral Jayawarna (Middle). Upul Guruge is also in the picture.

'Theertha', the official newspaper of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, was recently published and launched as a magazine. The first copy of 'Theertha' magazine was presented to the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), General Daya Ratnayake by the Chief Manager (Communications and Public Relations), Chitral Jayawarna. Launched in 2006, 'Theertha' is the only dedicated newspaper in Sri

Lanka to cover ports and maritime affairs. Taking into consideration the feedback received from the readers and with the aim of popularizing the newspaper to a new target group, 'Theertha' newspaper was redirected to the magazine format. 'Theertha' Magazine is published and distributed by the Communications and Public Relations Division of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA).

SriLankan Catering appoints Mangala Wijesekera as CEO

SriLankan Catering is pleased to announce the appointment of Mangala Wijesekera as Chief Executive Officer of SriLankan Catering, a subsidiary of SriLankan Airlines.

Mangala Wijesekera was

the former Chief Operating Officer for overseas hotel operations of Aitken Spence Hotels Group, and counts over 23 years of corporate experience, in the hospitality industry in Sri Lanka and overseas. He has extensive

knowledge of the industry, project management, hotel management, finance, administration, and property operations gained by working in different countries and with industry professionals in Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, and

Oman. He has a Bachelor's degree in Science from the University of Colombo, a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, Master Certificate in Hospitality Man-

agement from Cornell University, USA, and has undergone Executive Training in International Management from Stanford Graduate School of Business, California, and NUS Business School in Singapore.



CEO SriLankan Catering Mangala Wijesekera

NCE, SL Embassy in Washington host webinar

To improve market access to the US

The National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) is partnering with the Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington D.C. (SLEMB/DC) to better inform Sri Lankan exporters regarding the evolving trends in the US market and strategies that could help navigate challenges and overcoming bottlenecks.

At a webinar held recently, over 40 Sri Lankan registered exporters, engaged with 10 selected business entrepreneurs identified by SLEMB/DC, following its State level interactions of the recently constituted Overseas Sri Lankans (OSL) Network. The event was also live streamed through social media of the Chamber, making the discussion accessible to a broader base of those interested in exporting to the USA.

Moving forward, it was

agreed to conduct sector specific dialogues, where the Sri Lankan exporters will be provided with the opportunity to engage in discussion with the business community of the particular sector, in order to foster mutually beneficial trading relationships. Further a separate event is proposed as a dialogue to enhancing long term trade related relationships such as partnerships, Franchise and Investment opportunities between the two countries.

Inaugurating the session, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the USA Ravinatha Ariyasingha, while increasing the value of apparel exports to the US, a concerted effort is presently being made to diversify the export product basket to US. He noted that while the USA has remained the largest single buyer of Sri Lanka's exports since 1979

and in 2019 had a share of 26.3% of all exports, the products basket to the US had seen very little diversification. Apparel has been the dominant export item accounting for 74.5% of the total value, and did not benefit from GSP facility.

The rest which enjoyed GSP, were mainly rubber based products which accounted for 7%, and the other products included tea, iron and steel articles, activated carbon, precious and semi-precious stones and sea food. The Embassy was reaching out to the OSL community in the US and to Americans who are interested in doing business with Sri Lanka and helping them in identifying the products which they could import from Sri Lanka to the US. The increased production of some of these products could

also encourage greater US investment in to Sri Lanka. In the discussion that followed led by Chairman of the NEC Shiham Marikkar, focused on obstacles faced by importers when importing from Sri Lanka including quality assurance, pricing, promotion and communication and shipping and logistics. The need for adaptation to the largely e-commerce marketing strategies to increase exports.

SLEMB/DC Minister (Commercial) Suredha Ponnamparuma shared insights on the introduction of the US market, import system and current trends. The participating Sri Lankan professionals residing and doing business in USA shared insights regarding the current market conditions and the opportunities available.



Some of the participants at the webinar

Aruna Abeykoon from Las Vegas discussed obstacles faced by importers when importing from Sri Lanka. Jeevaka Fernando from Los Angeles shared his experience on aspects related to quality assurance, pricing, promotion and communication.

Anjana Aluthwate provided insights on sales and marketing strategies in the USA, Rick Miller from Virginia explained about the shipping and logistics including the potential to increase warehouse facilities to help mainly the SMEs exporting to the US in small

er quantities, Udeni Abeykoon from New York focused on the selling of Apparel Products in the US market online and marketing strategies to increase exports. Former Director General/ Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka Nimal Karunatilake also shared his experience regarding the regulatory aspects of the USA market. The discussion also focused on the prospects for collaboration between the NCE and the re-activated US-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce. Dilan Ariyawansa of the US-Sri Lanka Chamber, elaborated on the role they proposed to play in the future in the furtherance of two way trade and investment between the US and Sri Lanka.

The National Chamber of

Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) is the only private sector Chamber which exclusively provides services to Sri Lankan Exporters, who make a vital contribution to the economy of Sri Lanka earning valuable foreign exchange.

The Chamber would like to invite Sri Lankan exporters to hold hands with the chamber's initiative to enable expanded market access, whereby the destinations where proud Sri Lankan brands reach are expanded.

Interested Sri Lankan exporters are encouraged to contact the chamber via nce@nce.lk to indicate your interest in participating in future event, where the Chamber will register you accordingly.

New Sri Lanka Tourism Authority ...

From page 01

"There seems to be a move to amalgamate the four boards citing excess expenditure. This can be done by the back office and administrative areas working on shared services but we see no reason for the Boards to be amalgamated nor the need to keep the private sector out of it," said President Colombo Hotels Association, Shanthi Kumar.

"Though there is an official document of a draft in circulation, the authorities are for some reason keeping away officially sending the private sector a draft of the proposed new Tourism Act though it has been requested in writing."

Sri Lanka Tourism Chairperson Kimarli Fernando has stated that new thinking is needed to move the industry forward and a new Act was needed. She also did not respond to Daily News Business calls, SMS or Whatsapp requests for further comments.

SRI LANKA RAILWAYS

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Procurement for the Supply of 1 No. Crawler Excavator with Hydraulic Breaker & 1 No. 9000kg GVW 120hp Dump Truck to Sri Lanka Railways

01. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), Sri Lanka Railways, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka will receive sealed bids from Manufacturers/Suppliers for the Purchase of 1No. Crawler Excavator with Hydraulic Breaker and 1No. 9000kg GVW 120hp Dump Truck.
02. Bids will be closed at 2.00 p.m. (Sri Lanka time) on 05.05.2021.
03. Bids should be submitted on the forms obtainable from the Office of the Superintendent of Railway Stores, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka up to 3.00 p.m. (Sri Lanka Time) on 04.05.2021 on payment of a non-refundable document fee of Rs.8,000.00 only.
04. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing at the Office of the Superintendent of Railway Stores, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of bids.
05. Sealed bids may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered to: The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), Sri Lanka Railways, Office of the Superintendent of Railway Stores, P.O. Box. 1347, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.
06. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Superintendent of Railway Stores, Olcott Mawatha, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka and for further details, please contact:

Superintendent of Railway Stores,
Railway Stores Department,
Olcott Mawatha,
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

Telephone Nos.: 94(11) 2438078 or 94(11) 2436818
Fax No : 94(11) 2432044
E-Mail: srs.slr@gmail.com
Web site: www.railway.gov.lk

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee (Major),
Sri Lanka Railways.

Ref. No.: SRS/F.7724

CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION (MINISTRY OF ENERGY)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply & Installing of Aluminium Composite Cladding Work to the Roof Top of CPC, Head Office B/31/2021

1. The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply & Installing of Aluminium Composite Cladding Work to the Roof Top of CPC, Head Office as described below and estimated to cost Rs. 3.0 Million (approx).
2. The period of construction of this work is one (01) month.
3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
4. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the ICTAD Registration C8 or C7.
5. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include : Bidders applied for this tender should have ICTAD Registration C8 or C7. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Manager (Procurement & Stores) and inspect the bidding documents from the CPC official website: <http://ceypetco.gov.lk/public-tenders/>.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given below from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs until 04.05.2021 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000.00 (i.e. Rs. 1,851.85 + 8% VAT). The method of payment will be by cash.
7. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the bidders can download the bidding document from CPC website, i.e: <http://ceypetco.gov.lk/public-tenders/>, and all the payments can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Account in People's Bank (Head Office). Please submit the original of the bank receipt along with the bid.
8. Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address given below at or before 1400 hrs on 05.05.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Bids shall be valid up to sixty three (63) days after the deadline for submission of bids.
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security obtained from a Bank or Treasury approved insurance company to a value of Rs. 50,000.00. Bid Security shall be valid up to 05.08.2021.

The Address referred to above is:

Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee,
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),
Procurement & Stores Function,
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,
1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 09,
Tel: 5455331, Fax: 5455424



CEYLON FISHERY HARBOURS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF 07 NOS NEW TRACTORS FOR BERUWALA, HIKKADUWA, GALLE, KUDAWELLA, KALPITIYA, COD-BAY & DIKKOWITA (NORTH) FISHERY HARBOURS

CFHC/SD/T/BR/NEW/TRAC/FH/2021/16

Sealed Tenders are invited by the Chairman, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation, No 15, Rock House Lane, Colombo 15 from Manufacturers, Agents or Authorized Dealers **02.00 p.m. on 12th May 2021.**

No.	Tender No	Description	Bid Bond Amount	Tender Fee(Rs)	Closing Date
01	CFHC/SD/T/BR/NEW/TRAC/FH/2021/16	Supply & Delivery of 07 Nos New Tractors for Beruwala, Hikkaduwa, Galle, Kudawella, Kalpitiya, Cod - Bay & Dikkowita (North) Fishery Harbours	1 % of the Tender Amount	1,000/= Non Refundable	12 th May 2021 at 2.00 p.m

A complete set of bidding documents in English Language can be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of written application to : **The Procurement Manager, Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation, No. 15, Rock House Lane, Colombo 15** during office hours from **09.00a.m to 03.00 p.m on 12th April 2021 to 11th May 2021** upon payment of a Non - refundable document fee as above mentioned. The method of payment is cash .

Sealed tenders prepared according to the instructions given in the Tender documents should be addressed to The Procurement Manager, Ceylon Fishery Harbours corporation, No. 15, Rock House Lane, Colombo - 15 and send by the registered post or to be deposited in the tender Box available in the Procurement Division before **2.00 p.m 12th May 2021** offer received after **2.00p.m on 12th May 2021**.will not be accepted. Tender document should be submitted with duplicate.Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidder or one representative could participate at the time of opening of Tenders.

The Tender board reserves all right to accept or reject any tender fully or partly . Further details can be obtained from the procurement Manager. **Tel: 011-2525063 & Manager Mechanical Engineer. Tel: 011-2529364**

Chairman
Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation
No 15, Rock House Lane,
Colombo 15

With Abans and KFHI

LG Ambassador 'Challenge Programme' commences rural development projects

The ground-breaking initiative to uplift rural communities, and help in the development of villages, The LG Ambassador Challenge, commenced its four selected community projects. With the partnership of world-renowned electronics giant, LG, and trusted Sri Lanka conglomerate, Abans Group; along with Korea Friends of Hope International, Sri Lanka (KFHI), this massive programme allowed Sri Lankan youth to bring forward solutions to the issues in their villages.

The first selected village problem came from the Sasthrikool-ankulam village in Vavuniya, which is inhabited by over six hundred families. These people are unable to get unpolluted, clean water for their daily needs. They stated that the water currently consumed by them is very unhealthy and poisonous for consumption. This issue has caused serious kidney problems amongst the villagers. This project titled 'The Drop of Life' will see the provision of a RO water purification system plant which will be constructed in their village, so they may get purified, clean water for their daily consumption.

The Handagiriya village's public midwife centre was the second selected problem, where the midwife centre is beyond any kind of usable condition. Pregnant mothers



and children below 5 years are unable to attend their check-ups and get the right advice and medicines for themselves and their unborn children. The current building is highly damaged and the walls are close to falling apart, putting every expecting mother and young child at high risk. The toilet facility at this building is also unusable.

This project named 'Nurturing the Future Generation' will see the renovation of the building to include a meeting place for the

midwife and mothers with their children, plus safe storage and sanitary facilities.

The third selected village concern was reported from Ampara. According to the villagers of the Muwangala area in Ampara, students who come home from school and are interested in sports, spend their time on a temporary ground as a way to practice their volleyball skills. Young people who are engaged in agricultural activities also come to play and release their day-to-day pressures and stresses in the

sport. These people are forced to play with two temporary head-lights on the playground due to a lack of resources.

Due to the high level of danger during night-time sports, the youth have brought the damaged nets of the fishermen from the Kalmunai area and repaired them to cover the area around the field. By initiating this project, titled 'Uplifting the Youth for a Better Tomorrow', over 2000 people in two neighbouring villages will be highly

benefitted and this will be a great opportunity to bring value to the youth of the village, by preventing them from engaging in dangerous and harmful activities such as drug addiction and alcohol abuse, cyberbullying and such.

The final chosen village concern came from the Batticaloa district, where the villagers of Sandiweli (over 8000 families) face an extremely life-threatening situation because they cannot travel to the next village, forcing them to cross the large river in an electric boat. The boat carries a capacity of 80 persons per trip, regularly. Therefore, school children, teachers, farmers, patients, and the rest of the villagers must travel to the next village without any safety measures, which places their lives at great risk on every journey.

Hence, the villagers requested life jackets as the first step in offering some kind of protection on their daily boating travels, as it is a huge life threat when crossing the river on the boat, especially during the rainy season, when the river floods and the people are at high risk. They have also requested for safety boards to be put up, to create awareness among all the people. This project named 'Every Life Matters' will see the provision of life jackets and safety boards to put up near the river.

ComBank funded CISCO virtual IT courses benefit many students

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon in collaboration with the CISCO Networking Academy has enabled around 500 students from government schools to follow IT courses of their choice on a virtual platform free of charge in 2020.

This collaboration was launched as part of the Bank's IT education-related CSR initiatives, to make optimal use of the IT labs donated by the Bank to schools to educate students in an up-to-date ICT curriculum with CISCO Networking Academy, the world's leading technology skills and career development programme. It provided an opportunity to transcend traditional classroom limitations during the pandemic to enable students to obtain industry-leading certifications from CISCO.

While the bank covered the lecture fee for these students, the CISCO Networking Academy provided the courses free of charge. Upon completion of these courses, students have the opportunity to win Scholarships for CISCO career-ready certifications such as CCNA, CCNP and Cyber Operations. These certifications have a high demand in the industry.

In 2021 the Bank invited students above the age of 13 interested in becoming the next generation technology experts to choose from five IT courses offered online by the Academy.

These courses are 'Get Connected,' a beginner course that explores essential skills such as how to use a computer, connect devices, and access search, email, and social media; 'NDG Linux Unhatched' that allows students to wade into the shallow end of Linux, the back-end operating system used by global titans such as Facebook, Google, Microsoft, NASA, Tesla, Amazon and others; 'Introduction to Cyber Security' that explores cyber trends, threats and the broader topic of cybersecurity; 'Introduction to Internet of Things' that helps students learn about transforming any business in any industry, and 'Entrepreneurship'.

Under its education-related Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, which emphasize IT literacy on a national scale, the Commercial Bank of Ceylon has donated 200 IT Labs to schools and other institutions and is a partner in the government-private sector 'Smart Schools' project currently encompassing 65 schools in the Western Province.

The Bank is also supporting a project to set up 100 Smart classrooms that focus on STEM subjects and is funding projects to set up math labs in schools and to enhance vocational training opportunities for students that do not qualify for higher education. The Bank has launched 'Sipnena' - its own innovative online educational website that brings the universe of knowledge closer to Sri Lankan children.

Additionally, Commercial Bank is funding a 150-hour IT hardware course conducted in collaboration with the Academy for ICT skills and Development and CISCO Networking Academy in selected schools to offer an 'IT Essentials' course for teachers and students free of charge.



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ministry of Trade

Invitation of Expression of Interest for the Supply of Essential Consumer Goods at a lesser price than the market price for year 2021

Expressions of interest is being invited from direct importers and local producers who can supply on ready cash basis (Payments will be settled within 7 days) following items for three (03) months from May to July 2021 at reasonable, competitive firm prices for the sales outlet network under Lanka Sathosa Limited, Sri Lanka State Trading (General) Corporation, Q-Shop and Department of Cooperative Development that operate under the guidance of the Ministry of Trade.

- 5 kilo Rice Packets (Kekulu, Nadu, Samba)
- Wheat Flour
- Sugar
- Red Lentils
- B Onions
- Potatoes
- Grams
- Dried Chillies
- Tinned Fish
- Sprats
- Chicken
- Powdered Milk
- Cowpea
- Ulundhu (Black Grams)
- Biscuits
- Coconut Oil
- Soaps
- Soya
- Noodles
- Green Grams

Applicants who wish to submit Expression of Interest should self-prepare an application giving all the undermentioned information and may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Additional Secretary (Administration), 5th Floor, CWE Secretariat Building, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02" or hand delivered between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on working days of the week to receive on or before 22.04.2021.

The caption "Invitation of Expression of Interest for the Supply of Essential Consumer Goods for three (03) months at a lesser price than the market price for year 2021 (Type of Goods)" should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

- i. Name of Applicant / Name of Company
- ii. Address
- iii. Telephone No. / Fax No.
- iv. Email Address
- v. Whether Direct Importer or Local Producer (Documentary Proof should be submitted)
- vi. Types of Goods for which Expression of Interest is submitted

Applications received up to the specified date will be opened at 3.00 p.m. on 23.04.2021 at the 9th Floor of the CWE Secretariat Building and the applicants may be present at the time of opening of applications. Secretary of the Ministry of Trade reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals.

Further inquiries : Assistant Secretary (Administration) 0112304078 / 0762566047
Secretary
Ministry of Trade
05th Floor
CWE Secretariat Building
No. 27
Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02

Date: 12.04.2021

MULTI PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, ALAWWA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Chairman, Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Limited Alawwa, Narammala Road, Alawwa, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Construction & Completion of proposed new building stage 1 at Giriulla Road, Alawwa. Stage 1 consists of completion of lower ground floor and finishing works of Ground floor.

Project	Duration (Days)	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	CIDA Grading
Proposed Commercial Building for MPCs - Alawwa - Stage I	180	80 Million	1.2 Million	5,000.00	C4 or above

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure and priority will be given to contractors who are registered in Kurunegala District. The Chairman, Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Limited Alawwa, Narammala Road, Alawwa, reserves the right to accept or reject bids received or part thereof.

To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have the ICTAD registration as a main Contractor for building works under the category of C-4 or above.

The Bidding Document in English Language can be purchased from the Multi Purpose Co-operative Society Head Office, Narammala Road, Alawwa on submission of a written application together with ICTAD/CIDA registration book original, upon a payment of non refundable tender fee in cash from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on any working day during 12.04.2021 to 02.05.2021. Each bidder shall have one bid.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of **Rs. 1,200,000.00 (refundable fee)**.

Duly perfected bids marked "Title of Tender" on the top left hand corner of the envelope, sealed bid deposited in the tender box located in Head Office, Multi Purpose Co-Operative Society Limited Alawwa, Narammala Road, Alawwa.

Bids will be opened at 3.00 p.m. on 03.05.2021 and incomplete or late bids will be rejected.

The Chairman
Multi Purpose Co-operative Society Limited Alawwa,
Narammala Road,
Alawwa.

Te1: 037 2278131, Fax: 037 2278613.

To build the regions first hotel apartments

Ru Boutique to revolutionize Kandy's hospitality landscape

Pinning another luxury boutique hotel to the Hill Country tourism catalogue, Ru Boutique was launched recently in Sangaraja Mawatha, Kandy.

Owned and operated by the newly formed Kings Lake Hotel Management Company in association with the Dinapala group, Ru Boutique Hotel offers a mixture of modern and stylish accommodation of 14 rooms including two suites, courtyard rooms, family rooms, lake view rooms and a single apartment targeting long stayers all with luxury amenities and service.

Ru Boutique Managing Director, Ruvini Gamage said that they combined two residences on an 80 perch land and re-built Ru Boutique, leaving a large space for a garden and sitting and relaxing areas.

Ru Boutique has invested heavily in high-quality kitchen, bathroom, furniture and other fittings maintaining the ancient kingdom culture. Each room comes complete with amenities like air conditioning, hot-cold water, a Safety box, mini-fridge,



es, cable TV, internet, and tea and coffee and 24-hour room service.

"In a bid to provide more luxury to the property we also have a rooftop swimming pool and also a pool table and special facilities to host mini-conferences. We also plan to introduce High tea and other activities soon."

The hotel also offers a mini cafeteria facing the Sangaraja Mawatha, (opposite the lake) Kandy which could accommodate around 30 guests. "Spe-

cialty of this restaurant is that all food items offered including ice creams, pastries and fruit juices are handmade."

Gamage said that they planned to open the hotel last October but was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the future developments she said that they have acquired land and two abandoned properties and are in the process of converting them to hotels offering diversified hotels.

"We have bought a 41 room hotel almost adjoining RU Boutique and will convert this to a 40 room luxury hotel. "Over 70% of the refurbishment has been completed and we hope to do it next January under the brand name, Kings Lake Hotel."

Kings Lake Hotel Management is also building Kandy's first 'long stay apartment hotel' in the heart of the city offering 20 apartments. "Our third and fourth projects would be 20 room Lux-



MD Ru Boutique Ruvini Gamage



ury hotels each in Upper Lake Road in Kandy and another location we plan to build two more hotels in lands which they have acquired last year.

She said that with the C-19 vaccinating process and the pandemic subsiding we expect the tourism to pick and this is why they are investing. "We are upbeat about the future of tourism and we believe this is the right time to invest in the future."

She also spelt out plans to have their travel arm and own over 100 'keys' by the end of 2022."

Resident Manager, Ruwan Mahagama said that they have started marketing the Ru Boutique through local and foreign travel agents and the feedback is encouraging especially from US and Scandinavian markets.



Capturing traditional cooking of the Northern Province

Sri Lanka Tourism's hosts Int'l Travel Blogger, Journalist Program to support SME's

The "Visiting Travel Blogger and Journalist Programme" an annual project in which Sri Lanka Tourism hosts to diversify and spread the visitation of foreign travellers visiting the country and also generate income for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Sri Lanka was relaunched.

Through the visiting blogger and journalist programs, interest has been created to popularize the lesser-known attractions such as the Jaffna Peninsula, Pidurangala, Wilpattu, Riverstone-Matale, Seelogama - Belihuloya, Bandarawela, Monaragala, Maligathenna-Gampaha, Ridi Viharaya-Kurunegala, Diyaluma Falls, Kondagala-Kandy and Tangalle in Sri Lanka. Thus, more experience-driven opportunities and diversity will be created and added to a visitor's expedition in Sri Lanka.

"So Sri Lanka", the theme that was used to provide travellers with a lasting taste of authentic Sri Lankan life; from authentic local food, nature, rich cultural values and lifestyle. Most travellers are now looking for unique experience-based options which Sri Lanka can provide, with the support of the rapidly increasing micro, small and medium businesses.



Janet Newnham receives an award from Tourism Ministry Secretary S. Hettiarachchi for her outstanding contribution to the Sri Lanka Tourism Industry.

International Travel Journalists and Travel Bloggers were identified based on their engaging content creation skills for travel blogs, popular social media platforms (such as YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook). Previously, locations like Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Passikudah, Badulla, Riverstone, Bandarawela, Wilpattu and Belihuloya and Monaragala, hardly saw tourists, which were not on the regular guided tourist routes before. However, now these locations are part of the campaign to enhance their visibility and also ensure that these areas which contain small and medium enterprises, become a beacon for more travellers.

Ireland based Female Travel Blogger, Janet Newnham who has an international travel blog site called 'Journalist on

the run', started blogging about Sri Lanka, commented that "I never expected to find some of the most beautiful hotels in the world in this small, but perfectly formed South Asian nation".

Travel Bloggers, journalists and tourists are now unearthing places like Pettah, venturing into the unseen spice markets to buy spices from local wholesalers, then expanding their trip to Riverstone in Matale for hiking trails. Tourists are now stumbling upon waterfalls like Diyaluma, Sera Ella, Bopath Ella, Bambarakanda Ella, Duwili Ella and stopping over at homestay accommodation in the areas.

Another highlighted activity planned to uplift the local community was "Day with the locals" which was conducted in Selagama, a remote village in Belihuloya and Kilinochchi (North). This program offered to create a community based rural tourism experience for foreigners.

The captured content over these journeys was shared and published on popular travel blogs, online and print publications and social media platforms which reached the masses of people from different demographics of travellers around the world.



Paddy fields in Jaffna

Swiss Hotel Management Academy launches VET by EHL

The Swiss Hotel Management Academy (SHMA) launched VET by EHL, a Vocational Education Training programme by Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL), Switzerland recently at the Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo. Education Minister Prof G L Peiris was the Chief Guest.

EHL is the world's first and number one hospitality management school with over 25,000 alumni worldwide boasting a 96pct employment rate among recent graduates. Based on one of the best education models in the world - the Swiss Competency Framework, the VET by EHL programme is characterized by a strong learning outcomes approach and a competence-oriented structure of training.

SHMA is the first hospitality management institute in Sri Lanka to offer an apprenticeship model through the VET by EHL programmes, heralding a revolutionary change to the hospitality industry. A Baur & Company Pvt Ltd Managing Director/CEO Rolf Blaser stated, 'We are proud to break through



Education Minister (Prof) G L Peiris and A Baur and Company Director/CEO Rolf Blaser speaking at the event.



traditional thinking and embrace more innovative and ground-breaking ways that will enable students to have the required practical experience and industry relations upon completion of their study. We are challenging the status quo together with VET by EHL and taking this bold initiative for the greater good of our hospitality sector and the country as a whole.'

All certificates and diplomas are signed and issued through VET by EHL and all trainers and lecturers at SHMA comprise renowned top industry professionals. Jens-Henning Peters, Head of VET by EHL said 'The team at SHMA has tirelessly worked to reach to where we are today.'

Director and Regional Head- EHL

Advisory Services Aman Aditya Sachdev said 'Sri Lanka is a key global tourism destination and despite the ongoing challenges I'm very convinced that Sri Lanka tourism will bounce back much sooner and stronger. This launch is a landmark initiative for the hospitality and tourism industry in Sri Lanka and we are excited to be a part of it.'

SHMA, one of Sri Lanka's leading hospitality academy since 2012, is now licensed by EHL to deliver the VET programme in 4 distinct streams; Culinary Professional Diploma, Service Professional Diploma, Rooms Professional Diploma and Hotel Administration Diploma.

The apprenticeship model is an inclusive curriculum with an intense weekly 2-day theoretical and practical learning followed by a comprehensive 4-day 'on-the-job' training at select-star classed hotels that will distinct SHMA graduates as trailblazers and game-changers in the industry.

The Karnivore opens offering gourmet meat and BBQ dishes

The Sri Lankan culinary landscape is set to experience a new concept that aims to rewrite the notion of a meat and barbecue restaurant with the launch of 'The Karnivore at Nawala'.

The dishes served at The Karnivore also include abundant health benefits. The meat is cooked in its natural essence with no added sauce or preservatives and is hand-picked and marinated with a curated touch and customers can enjoy the meat without any added flavouring which is an experience of its own.

This means that each of the dishes is grilled or cooked and are accompanied by a collection of homemade sauce on the side, that is put together with carefully chosen ingredients. The collection includes a delightful BBQ sauce, onion sauce, tartar sauce and rose-

mary sauce that stands out on its own.

The choicest ingredients such as extra virgin olive oil are used for cooking to ensure food quality while delivering health benefits.

Some of the most signature dishes at the restaurant are the Jumbo prawns and Combo dishes among the famous seafood Paella that has been given a unique Lankan twist with the inclusion of the renowned Kochchi chilli. Their star dish is the Karnivore combo which features a whole range of meats and seafood.

The key investors are Hasitha Kalansuriya, Nalinda Bamunusinghe and Roshan Gunawardane, a computer systems analyst, senior chartered accountant and a Sri Lankan businessman from Japan.

They also hope to open The Karnivore in Colombo and

Negombo and plans for opening in Japan are also on the cards.

Outlining the concept behind the restaurant, Nalinda stated that "We have recognized a market gap in high-end BBQ and meat dishes, thereby, it is with this in mind that we have decided to introduce fine dine culture into a menu of meats and barbecue loved by people of all ages.

The Karnivore offers Dine-in, Take Away and Delivery, with 100% compostable containers made from Bagasse which is a by-product of Sugar Cane and is 100% environmentally friendly. Seating at The Karnivore, is in two tiers, with the downstairs section set for family dining. The restaurant also has two private rooms that could be used for events, private parties and functions.



The founders of Karnivore; Nalinda and Hasitha with their team at the launch of the Restaurant.



The restaurant in Nawala.

Emirates reaffirms care for customers, extends complimentary multi-risk travel insurance cover

Emirates has announced the latest updates to its already generous booking policies, offering customers even more confidence and flexibility to make their travel plans.

Customers holding tickets issued before 30 September 2020 for travel before 31 December 2021, can now rebook to travel anytime within 36 months, an extension of 12 months from the previous policy.

Those holding tickets issued after 01 October 2020 for travel before 31 December 2021, can utilise their tickets anytime within 24 months. Fees for reis-

uing any ticket will be waived, and vouchers or unused portions of Emirates tickets may be refunded without penalty.

Customers who hold tickets issued directly by Emirates, whether via emirates.com or the airline's retail and contact centres, do not have to contact Emirates as the tickets are automatically extended. Customers who purchased their tickets via a travel agent will need to contact their agent before the expiry date to reissue their tickets.

Emirates was the first airline to provide global multi-risk travel insurance cover for all passengers, and the airline is

now extending this facility beyond 31 March 2021 until further notice, offering added value and peace of mind for its customers.

For its loyal frequent flyers, Emirates Skywards is extending the Tier Status of its Silver, Gold and Platinum members until 2022.

The validity of any Skywards Miles due to expire since April 2020 has been further extended until 31 August 2021, providing Skywards members with more opportunities to utilize them for an extensive range of flight and partner rewards as well as other privileges.



TNC

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

FEATURES EDITOR: (011) 242 9216 Fax: (011) 234 3494



A PROMISING Avurudda

PRAMOD DE SILVA

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year or the Aluth Avurudda (shortened to Avurudu) is our way of connecting with Nature and thanking the Sun for shining on our lives 365 days a year. Based on the astrological phenomenon of the Sun's transition from Pisces (Meena) and Aries (Mesha), it is actually a harvest festival that expresses our gratitude to nature in expectation of a bountiful year ahead. It is celebrated in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and many other countries and their Diasporas in many Western countries.

What makes Avurudu unique is the sense of community participation – an entire country engaging in one act such as lighting the hearth, partaking meals and worshipping elders at one moment in time. This paves the way for a sense of oneness that one cannot feel at any other national or religious event. It brings families – and a nation – together in a spirit of harmony. It is also a time to let bygones be bygones and start anew with our lives. Yes, it is time to forgive one's enemies and renew bonds with one's friends and relatives.

NATIONAL FESTIVAL

While the Avurudda is theoretically limited to Sinhala and Tamil, or rather the Hindu communities, it has become a national festival in scope with all communities and religious groups coming on board. This is how it should be in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country such as Sri Lanka. Avurudu sweetmeats are freely shared among the neighbours, no matter what their ethnicity is. Avurudu Games are open to all, regardless of race and religion. That is the very spirit of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year whose underlying theme is harmony among all.

But even Avurudu cannot escape everyday realities. The world is currently in the grip of a dreaded virus called the Coronavirus, which has infected 135 million people worldwide, whilst causing close to three million deaths. This is a once-in-a-century event, the last such contagion (the Spanish Flu) having appeared exactly 100 years ago, killing more than 50 million people. Medical science has moved on since then, so we have been able to keep the death count down, but there is still no cure per se for viral diseases. Instead, we have vaccines, several of which have come on to the market in less than one year. Remember, the first case of the virus was officially recorded only in late December 2019 (Hence the moniker COVID-19), but it took less than three months for it to go around the world and paralyse life as we knew it. Most countries



including Sri Lanka resorted to lockdowns to contain the spread of the disease which can be spread by airborne particles transmitted from person to person.

AVURUDU IN THE TIMES OF COVID 19

Around 12 months ago, the entire country – and the world – was in such a strict lockdown. One of the biggest casualties of this strict lockdown was the biggest national festival of Sri Lanka – the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. It was strange, almost eerie, to herald Avurudu in without the traditional firecrackers, Raban sounds and festivities. Avurudu this time last year was a strictly family affair, sans relatives and friends. Yes, the entire nation did celebrate Avurudu, but at household level, not as a national ceremony per se.

This time, things look much more promising. The pandemic is still raging around the world (some countries have actually seen a massive increase in cases that is even worse than last year), but Sri Lanka has managed it remarkably well even after a second wave back in October last year that saw an exponential increase in the number of cases and even deaths. The credit for this success (Sri Lanka was placed 10th in a list of countries that had managed the pandemic best by the prestigious Lowy Institute of Australia) should go to the political leadership, the healthcare sector and the Security Forces/Police, who collectively devised very effective strategies to contain the runaway contagion.

FOLLOW GUIDELINES AT ALL TIMES

Thus Sri Lankans have earned the freedom to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year this time around, albeit under the "New Normal" circumstances. This means that we cannot still go back to 2019-level (now referred to as "Before

Times") of celebrations of any given national festival, unless the virus completely dissipates, which might not happen this year. Thus the freedom that we have gained through the hard work of our healthcare and Defence sectors must be enjoyed with responsibility and prudence.

First, we must make sure that we follow all the COVID-related health guidelines at all times. It is best if crowded venues can be avoided altogether. Many people were seen heading to crowded shopping centres to buy Avurudu gifts, which many doctors frowned upon. As one prominent doctor said "you have to select what is more important for you – new clothes for the family or their very lives". That sums up the equation rather bluntly. In the same manner, we must avoid crowded Bak Maha Ulelas (New Year Festivals) where it will be next to impossible to maintain physical distancing (at least one meter apart from the next person), even though the attendees are supposed to be capped to 100. But this is more like to be observed in the breach once the festivities get going.

There could also be a tendency to let go of the mask in the midst of Avurudu revelry. Health authorities have warned against such complacency, noting that stern action would be taken against those who violate the health guidelines and laws. We have to take a cue from neighbouring India, where people let their guard down during several recent national festivals, leading to a massive spike in cases and deaths. This is a situation which we have to avoid at all costs as the Government already spends a massive amount of money on PCR Tests and other preventive measures. Any surge in cases at this point would place a huge burden on the healthcare system which has allocated most of its resources to fighting the pandemic. Thus organisers of all Avurudu festivals must strictly observe the restrictions and guidelines in place to ensure that the virus is kept at bay.

We must also be careful in visiting hometowns and other areas from the Western Province. There could be asymptomatic carriers among us who could 'gift' the disease to the elderly and vulnerable relatives. Again, the Government has arranged random Rapid Antigen Tests for those leaving the Western Province to the other provinces. Those

who are flagged down for these tests must cooperate with the authorities.

Even while at home celebrating the Avurudu, the health guidelines must be kept in mind. The frequent washing of hands is a must. It is also advisable to invite one's relatives to visit at separate times instead of having them all at once. Yes, this could be more expensive, but one cannot take chances with this runaway virus. This arrangement could ensure physical distancing and some leeway in case one or more of them have the virus. The health authorities must be informed immediately if one or more persons in your household develop any symptoms associated with COVID-19 following such visits by relatives and friends.

By a happy coincidence, the start of Ramadan for the Muslim Community also falls on April 13. This is one of those juxtapositions that we experience in our multi-ethnic, multi-religious milieu. Ramadan, based on the Five Pillars of Islam Faith (Sahada), Prayer (Salat), Alms and Generosity (Zakat), Fasting (Sawm) and Pilgrimage (Hajj) is a holy period for Muslims the world over where they engage in activities connected to the above. Just like their Buddhist and Hindu brethren, they will have to face certain restrictions in terms of religious activity this year, but that is the price we have to pay to ensure the health and well-being of all.

All communities in Sri Lanka are still reeling from the shock generated by the dastardly Easter attacks that took place exactly two years ago. It is thanks to the Sri Lankans' inherent belief in religious values that a massive blood-bath was averted on that occasion. Religious leaders worked hard to ensure that the attacks did not harm our very socio-religious fabric and they have succeeded to a great extent. In this context, the fact that all three major communities and religious groups in Sri Lanka are having a new beginning more or less on the same day is a happy omen for the future.

LOOKING AHEAD WITH OPTIMISM

This is the very premise and promise of the Avurudda – an all-new beginning. Granted, the previous year was a bad one, but we can look ahead with optimism to a brand New Year that will hopefully be a much better one. Let us hope that the Government's vaccination campaign can fully inoculate all adults within this year (if all goes well at the current clinical trials abroad, schoolchildren too will be able to get the shot this year) so that we can achieve herd immunity and defeat the virus at its own game. That will make this Avurudda the most meaningful one in years, if not decades.



SAVOUR THE SPLENDOURS OF SWEETNESS AND SPICES



Culinary expert Sunethra Ekanayake

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

Despite the ongoing global pandemic nature is in bloom! With April approaching and the dawn of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, it seems as though the environment itself is preparing to welcome the festive season.

Avurudu dawns on April 14 each year and the Sinhala and Tamil New Year is characterized by the many traditional Avurudu food prepared for the occasion. These treats inevitably have their own place in the Sri Lankan food scene.

The smell of cooking, frying, baking and the hustle and bustle that is characteristic of the season is evident in many households as everyone tries to do their bit to welcome a New Year. Our culinary expert Sunethra Ekanayake dishes us with some pointers to keep in mind when we get pounding, grinding, sifting, and seeping all those amazing delicacies.

"The Sinhala and Tamil New Year comes only once every 365 days. I don't see why

people can't reserve one day in their hectic schedule each year to prepare for this celebration. It encompasses of many important traditions which need to be handed over to the next generation. The mother in every household should take the lead and guide these youngsters in performing each ritual according to traditions," Ekanayake expressed, questioning why people make time to go on trips but fail to allocate a few hours to prepare for the festival.

She says that many of the traditions are now passed over by the youth today. If each ritual is followed according to the norms, it enhances their future.

"This is actually one of the gifts that a mother can give to her children. If rituals are followed properly, the children step into a brand new year armed with their mother's and elders' blessings. During our childhood people used to visit their villages during this time of year to celebrate this occasion with their families, relatives and loved ones. Today it has become a fad to spend this

holiday in a hotel with your spouse and kids," she said.

She notes that the essence of the season begins well ahead of the actual date. During her childhood elders used to make a swing for the children as soon as they announced school holidays. They also engage in other activities like rolling dices and Pancha Kelaiya. The households smell of treacle throughout these days as family members get together to make sweetmeats.

"Everyone lends a hand in making these sweet treats. So the burden of making these delicacies at home does not fall on the mother alone. Oil cakes, kokis, athirasa, mung kevam and aluwa are emblems of the Avurudda. Therefore, each of these are a must for the Avurudu table. If you buy these from a shop, the kids do not get the opportunity to learn how they are made. Getting together to make these at home also provides them with a mental and physical satisfaction. These are invaluable lessons that a mother can teach her children and house management is one of the most precious

things that a mother can teach her daughter," she opined.

The Avurudda also evokes blessings on the country as everyone boils a pot of milk in their home at the same time.

"We used to prepare the stove in advance using cow dung. This symbolized dressing the stove with a new outfit. Even the oil pan was placed on the fire first on days which are considered as prosperous. A tree is planted on Avurudu day so that the person who planted it can tend to it throughout the year," Ekanayake added.

Reflecting on her past experiences Ekanayake says that they used to prepare all the Avurudu food a couple of days earlier and store them in clay pots. These are kept sealed well before the celebration.

The first financial transaction too had more importance then. Some people used to drop a coin or betel leaf into their well and take a pot full of water. This would be kept aside till the year.

"People exchange a plate full of Avurudu food with their neighbours to signal that

they have kept their differences aside," she said.

Puddings are one category which can be made in advance. If one is concerned about health issues he or she can reduce the amount of sugar used to make a cake or pudding. Likewise it is a good idea to steam instead of bake.

"Prepare a cake using 50g sugar, 125g flour, 125g butter, 1 tea/sp baking powder, two eggs and a few drops of vanilla. Steam fish. You can stir fry as well. Make small changes like these instead of fearing it," she advised.

Ekanayake is attached to the Asian Lanka Hotel School. She also has her own catering service named Fun City Caters in Thalathuhugoda and Kegalle.

PILAU RICE

- Ingredients**
 Basmati Rice 500g
 1 small onion, finely chopped
 1 garlic clove, crushed
 2-3 tsp vegetable oil
 1 tsp fennel seeds
 1 ta/sp sesame seeds
 1 ta/sp ground turmeric
 1 tea/sp cumin seeds
 2-3 whole cloves

4 cardamom pots
 10 black peppercorns (Lightly crushed)
 Chicken stock 900 ml
 100 g cashew nuts
 Fresh coriander sprigs to garnish

- Method
 Soak the rice in water for 30 minutes. Heat the oil in a saucepan, add the onions and garlic and fry gently for 5-6 minutes until softened.

Stir in the fennel and sesame pods. Add the turmeric, cumin seeds, salt cloves, cardamom pods and peppercorns and fry for about a minute. Drain the rice well. Add to the pan and stir fry for a further 3 minutes.

Pour on the chicken stock. Bring to boil. Then cover, reduce the heat to low and simmer gently for 20 minutes without removing the lid. Do this until all the liquid has been absorbed.

Remove from the heat and leave to stand for 2-3 minutes. Fork up the rice and stir in the cashew nuts. Garnish with coriander sprigs.



DATE BALLS

- Ingredients**
 1 cup sugar
 ½ cup butter
 Pinch of salt
 1 ½ cup chopped dates
 1 cup chopped cashew
 2 cup rice cereal (Habala Pethi)
 Desiccated coconut
- Method**
 Heat first the three ingredients: sugar, butter and salt. Add dates and bring to boil, 5 minutes stirring constantly. Cool. Soak rice cereal in little water. Add rice cereal and chopped cashew, dates mixture and make balls. Roll in desiccated coconut.



SOFT RAISIN COOKIES

- Ingredients**
 2 cup raisings
 1 cup water
 ¾ cup butter
 2 cup sugar
 3 eggs
 1 tea/sp vanilla
 4 cup flour
 1 tea/sp baking powder
 1 tea/sp baking soda
 1 tea/sp cinnamon powder
 1 cup chopped nuts
 Pinch of salt
- Method**
 Add 1 cup water to raisins. Cook for five minutes. Set aside to cool.
 Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and vanilla and beat well. Sift together flour, baking



powder, baking soda salt, and cinnamon powder. Add a alternately with raisin liquid to creamed mixture. stir in raisings and nut.

Chill dough 4-5 hours. Drop by tea/sp on to greased cookies tray. Bake at 180C about 12 minutes.

POTATOES WITH CASHEW NUTS

- Ingredients**
 1 kg potato peeled and cut into three pieces
 2 tea/sp cumin seeds
 2 tea/sp mustard seeds
 1 B onion finely sliced
 4-5 large garlic cloves, crushed.
 1" ginger finely chopped
 2 large tomato
 1 tea/sp coriander power
 1 ta/sp chili powder
 ½ ta/sp turmeric powder
 2-3 tab/sp vegetable oil
 1 ta/sp red chili pieces
 Salt to taste

Cashew 100g
 Curry leaves

- Method
 Boil the potatoes until tender. Drain and leave to steam dry.
 Heat the oil in a large lidded pan oven a medium low heat. Add the cumin seeds and mustard seeds and fry for 1 minutes or until they start to sizzle. Add the onions garlic, ginger, tomatoes, spices and ta/sp water. Cook oven low heat for 5-10 minutes until softened. Add boiled potatoes and stir to coat. Add curry leaves and cashew nuts.



CARAMEL DATE PUDDING

- Ingredients**
 250g pitted dates
 1 tea/sp grated fresh ginger
 315 ml water
 1 tea/Sp bicarbonate of soda
 125g butter
 225g sugar
 3 eggs
 250g plain flour
 1 tea/sp vanilla
- For the caramel sauce**
 125g butter
 175g brown sugar
 300 ml fresh milk
- Method**
 Place dates, ginger and water in a saucepan and bring slowly to the boil. Stir in bicarbonate soda and cool.
 Preheat oven to 180 C.
 Cream butter gradually adding sugar until light and fluffy.
 Add vanilla and eggs, one at a time. Beat well after each addition.
 Add flour and grated ginger into creamed mixture.

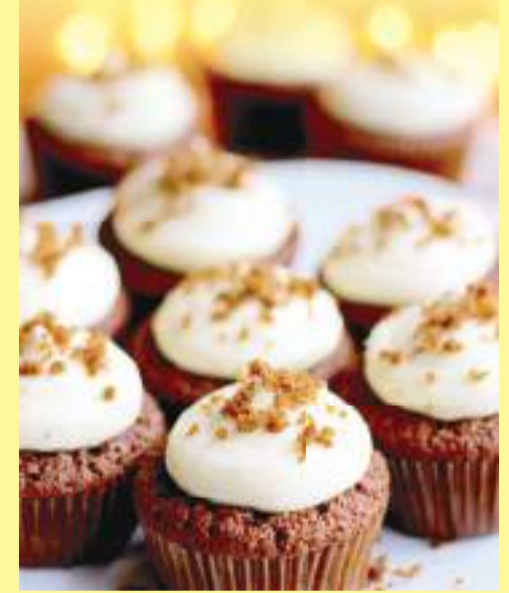


Pour batter in to a greased and paper lined round cake tin. Bake for 50 minutes or until risen, golden and cooked when tested with a skewer. If padding browns too quickly, cover with a sheet of brown paper.

- To make sauce
 Combine butter, sugar and milk in a saucepan and bring to the boil stirring to dissolve sugar. Boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and serve warm with pudding.

GINGER CUP CAKES

- Ingredients**
 150 g butter
 1 cup golden syrup
 ¾ cup brown sugar
 1 cup ginger beer
 2 tea/sp baking soda
 * 2 ½ cup plain flour
 1 ta/sp ground ginger
 2 tea/sp mixed spice
 Paper cases
 Icing sugar for dusting
- Method**
 Melt butter, golden syrup and brown sugar in a saucepan large enough to mix all the ingredients. Remove from heat and add ginger beer and baking soda while the mixture is frothing mix in flour, ginger and mixed spice until mixture is smooth.



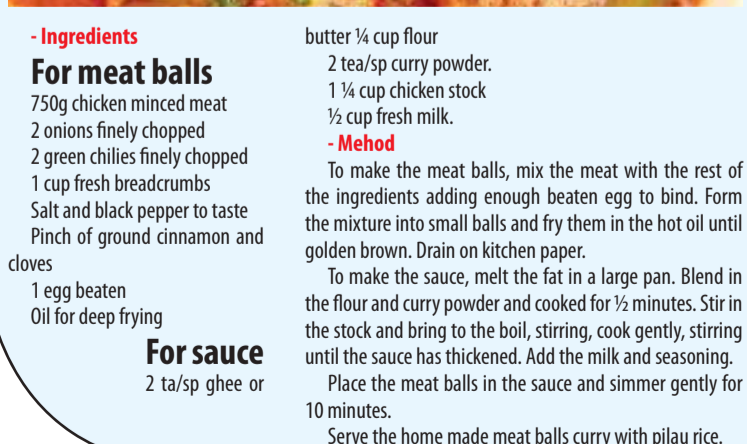
Place paper cases in muffin pans. Pour mixture in to three quarters to fill the cases. Bake at 180C for 15 minutes. Dust with icing sugar.

HOMEMADE MEAT BALL CURRY

- Ingredients**
 750g chicken minced meat
 2 onions finely chopped
 2 green chilies finely chopped
 1 cup fresh breadcrumbs
 Salt and black pepper to taste
 Pinch of ground cinnamon and cloves

butter ¼ cup flour
 2 tea/sp curry powder.
 1 ¼ cup chicken stock
 ½ cup fresh milk.

- Method
 To make the meat balls, mix the meat with the rest of the ingredients adding enough beaten egg to bind. Form the mixture into small balls and fry them in the hot oil until golden brown. Drain on kitchen paper.
 To make the sauce, melt the fat in a large pan. Blend in the flour and curry powder and cooked for ½ minutes. Stir in the stock and bring to the boil, stirring, cook gently, stirring until the sauce has thickened. Add the milk and seasoning.
 Place the meat balls in the sauce and simmer gently for 10 minutes.
 Serve the home made meat balls curry with pilau rice.



POL CAKE

- Ingredients**
 Brown sugar 150g
 ½ bottle kithul treacle
 1 scraped coconut
 Dates 250g
 Cashew 100g
 Mixed dried fruit 100g
 Semolina 200g
 Rice flour 50g
 Baking powder 2 ½ tea/sp
 Butter or margarine 50 g
 Cardamom, cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg in equal portions, ground into powder 2 tea/sp
 A pinch of salt
 Vanilla
 Rose essence
- Method**
 Put the brown sugar in a pan and heat. When it is caramelizing add 2 cups water and treacle. Add the scraped coconut and salt when the mixture starts to heat.
 Let the mixture cook for about 10 minutes and then add the dates. Cook for a further 2-3 minutes.
 Take off the heat and add the butter or margarine and keep aside to cool for about 10-15 minutes.
 Combine semolina, flour and baking

powder. Add this mixture to the cooled coconut mixture. Add the spice powder, vanilla and rose essence. Now add the cashew nuts and dried fruits.

The mixture should resemble a cake mixture. If it is too dry, add around 1 cup water. Put the mixture in a 10x10 tray which has been covered with oil paper. Bake at 160C for about 60 minutes.



CHICKEN AND PINEAPPLE CURRY

- Ingredients**
 1 Kg chicken cut into 2 inch cubes
 1 large onion, chopped
 2-3 ta/sp oil
 2-3 ta/sp curry powder
 2 cup chicken stock
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1 small pineapple, cut into chunks
 1 cup yoghurt.
 1 ts/sp chili powder
 Hand full of curry leaves
 Ginger and garlic 1 ta/sp
 Desiccated coconut 50g for garnishing
- Method**
 Fry the chicken, onion, ginger and garlic in the oil until the chicken and onions



are brown. The ginger and garlic needs to be tender. Stir in the curry powder, chili powder salt and pepper and cook for a further 3-4 minutes.

Blend in the stock and yoghurt. Add the yoghurt mixture, cover and simmer 30 minutes. Add the pineapple and simmer for a further 10 minutes.
 Sprinkle coconut over the curry and serve with rice.

FAST TIPS TO TURN YOU INTO AN AVURUDU KUMARA OR KUMARIYA

BE PAGEANT PERFECT!



When it comes to the pageant world, looking your best is vital. If you are new to the pageant scene, you may need some guidance. If you have been on the pageant circuit for a while it is always good to have a refresher on the most important things to consider for your beauty routine.

With Avurudu around the corner, many youth are setting their sights on nabbing the Avurudu Kumariya or Avurudu Kumara crown. Read on for our guide to beauty for this Avurudu pageant scene.

SKIN CARE

Beautiful skin is a must for pageants. To ensure that your body looks fit for the event you need to eat healthy, exercise and drink plenty of water. The same goes for your skin! Also, make sure you have a good skin care routine started at least a month before your competition. At the very least you should use a gentle cleanser and a good moisturizer to ensure your skin glows.

If you have any skin issues like acne or oily skin get products that specifically address those issues. To enhance your beauty or if your skin isn't looking as perfect as you'd like, use makeup. It is important to do some research to find the best concealer and foundation for your skin. Try a couple different types or see a makeup artist for advice on picking the best formulations for your skin. In the pageant world, it is also important to have beautiful skin on the rest of your body, not just your face.

As I've mentioned above, eating right, working out and drinking loads of water helps give you beautiful skin but there

are other things you can do to enhance your glow. First, make sure you remove unwanted body hair. Hairy armpits or hairy legs will not make you stand out in a good way. You can choose different methods to do this: shaving, waxing or hair removal creams. Waxing is a great option because it leaves your skin smooth and bump free

EMPHASIZE EYES

This is a big part of pageant preparation. It can hide flaws and accentuate your best features. Highlighting your eyes will really make them pop. Make sure that your cosmetics coordinate with your outfit or choose neutrals colors that go well with any look. You really can't go wrong with an elegant brown or black smoky eye.

ALL SMILES

Your smile is one of your competitive advantages so make it look great! Many girls choose a stand out lip colour, like a classic red, to make their smile stand out. If you are planning to wear a colourful lip than make sure you prepare beforehand. Exfoliate your lips in advance so they are smooth and soft and colour is uniform. Also, do not forget that lip liner is your assistant, not the star. Dark lip liner with pale lips should stay in the 90s! Use lip liner to help your lip colour stick and prevent feathering. Apply a colour that matches your lipstick or the colour of your lips. And always remember smile, smile, smile!

HAIR CARE

It should come as no surprise that hair completes the entire outfit and gives us an uncanny confidence on our best hair days. Perfectly coiffed hair inspires and

dictates how we look and feel. There are a few things to consider before deciding the hair you want. Start with your own natural hair to assess your personal goals, confidence level and style. Then, couple that with the division, age group and overall style of the particular pageant you are participating in.

Long hair is the traditional standard for pageants. If your tresses are long and you are entering a pageant, you should consider a few things when styling long hair. You should always consider your attire for each category. Up, down, straight or curly? Remember it's a pageant so volume is your friend!

If you don't have naturally long hair and want to achieve long hair for your pageant - never fret! Thanks to modern fabulousness in hair technology with sew-ins, extensions and clip-ins you won't have to worry as it can be a seamless transition.

MAKEUP

Going heavy with foundation is okay for pageant makeup since people aren't going to be close to you. First, make sure to pick the right foundation for your skin type and skin tone. When finding the perfect match, keep in mind that you are looking for a colour that is more dramatic than everyday wear. You want the colour to be close to your skin, but you also want something that will make you stand out on stage and will show through the stage lighting. Once you decide on the foundation, apply it evenly over your face using your favorite applicator. Apply a heavier layer on pimples or discolorations to make your face look more even and healthy. For extra coverage on stubborn areas, opt for a good concealer. In addition, make sure to blend the foundation around your hairline and jawline so it looks more natural and smooth!

Compiled by Ruwini Jayawardana

PAGEANT TIPS

Current or former, contestants are by far some of the most reliable people to give you insight into a prospective pageant system. The current contestants will be able to tell you exactly what they are experiencing and they'll be able to give you advice about the system, the director and the other contestants. These ladies and gent are very helpful because they are currently personally invested in this pageant so they will likely be quite upfront about their take on the whole thing, good and bad.



AT HOME BEAUTY HACKS FOR THE NEW YEAR

SABRINA K SAHNI

Each year we take time to reflect on the changes that help us become our best selves in the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. We may spend time and/or good money on items that promise us youthful looking skin, less joint pain, and even whiter teeth.

We are often led to believe that looking and feeling your best comes at a high cost. Did you ever stop to think what products could be right under your nose - or at least in your kitchen cupboard? Let's talk about three common household items and how they can help you look and feel your best in the coming Avurudu season.

TURMERIC

Turmeric is a common household spice that has long been studied for its scientific and medicinal benefits. Its active ingredient, curcumin, is a polyphenol and has been shown to have several health benefits. Here is how you can use turmeric to help your skin and joints.

- Skin

Turmeric has anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties, and when applied directly on the skin can help calm certain skin conditions like:

- Acne
- Rosacea
- Eczema

- Rosacea
- Eczema

In fact, in certain cultures, turmeric is actually mixed with other spices in addition to flour and honey to create a mask that is applied to brides and grooms before their wedding day to help their skin glow! Try adding a half-teaspoon of turmeric to a honey for a simple DIY mask. Even try squeezing a little lemon in it for a little extra glow!

If you have sensitive skin, you may want to try incorporating it in your diet. Adding a half-teaspoon of turmeric to a smoothie that is rich in fruits and vegetables is a great way to not only look good, but also feel great!

- Joints

Studies have shown that because of its anti-inflammatory properties, turmeric can help in ailments such as osteoarthritis. Studies have shown that turmeric is superior to placebo in improving joint pain secondary to osteoarthritis when taken daily. Turmeric can also be found in capsule form and is easily purchased over the counter at most drugstores.

The recommended dosage for powdered turmeric is 1800mg per day or if you are taking the extract, be sure not to exceed 90 drops per day. If you are on any blood thinners or have a history of gastrointestinal bleeding, speak to your healthcare provider before taking daily turmeric supplementation.

COCONUT OIL

Coconut oil is one of the most versatile beauty products and is a proven hydrator, anti-oxidant, and skin moisturizer. Because it contains several medium chain triglycerides (MCTs), it has several therapeutic benefits on the whole body, both inside and out.

- Skin

Not only can coconut oil be used to moisturize dry skin during the winter months, it can be

used in place of cuticle oil, or even shaving gels! Replacing shaving gels with coconut oil in the shower actually reduces the amount of cuts and razor burn. One of my favorite uses of coconut oil is as a simple makeup remover - it is a great chemical free way to get rid of stubborn waterproof eye makeup!

- Hair

As mentioned above, coconut oil contains fatty acids, which are essential for healthy hair growth and can help keep locks silky and smooth. It is particularly beneficial in treating and preventing dry, damaged hair because it actually penetrates the hair shaft and repairs from within. If you suffer from split ends, dry or damaged hair, try creating a hair mask with coconut oil. Though effective on its own, you can try adding an egg or mixing in an avocado to help lock in moisture and increase shine!

- Weight loss

Coconut oil is rich in Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which some studies have been shown to increase calories burned in a given 24 hour period by as much as 5 percent, leading to long term weight loss and maintenance.

You can even use coconut oil topically in conjunction with coffee grounds to create a body scrub to help minimize (not eliminate!) the appearance of stubborn cellulite!

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

Apple cider vinegar (ACV) has long been studied as a:

- Weight loss supplement
- Means to improve cardiovascular function
- Way to treat dandruff

Drinking this regularly has several health benefits, though, not widely supported by the current literature. What we do know however, is that ACV can do the following:

- Improve insulin levels

- Reduce overall blood sugars
- Help support a healthy gut micro-biome

- Skin

ACV contains alpha-hydroxy acids that help remove dead skin cells and help reveal bright, vibrant skin. Combine ACV with warm water to create a toner to help minimize the appearance of pores. Adding a splash of lemon can help minimize sunspots or areas of hyperpigmentation.

- Nails

Soak your fingernails for 1 minute in ACV before your next manicure. The vinegar

removes excess residue and moisture allowing for your base coat of nail polish to adhere better; thus leading to a longer lasting manicure with fewer chipped nails!

- Gut

Regular use of ACV can aid in improving absorption of certain nutrients, which can help improve overall immunity and digestion.

Try adding a tablespoon of ACV to a glass of warm water every morning to maximize the effects. It's important to dilute the vinegar so it doesn't ruin the enamel of your teeth!

Whether you want clearer skin, longer lasting manicures, or want to shed a few pounds, be sure to take a moment to stop and check your kitchen cupboard. You'll be surprised how many items you have in your home that you can use to step up your beauty routine this New Year.

Speaking of Women Health





A traditional New Year table



A Colourful Tamil New Year decoration



Pillow fighting not allowed this year

WELCOMING NEW YEAR WITH A SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS

DISNA MUDALIGE

The people across the country are suffused with celebrative moods as the eagerly-awaited time of the year has dawned giving them a much-desired break from the humdrum of life.

The traditional Sinhala and Tamil New Year, known as “Aluth Avurudda” or “Puthandu” in the two languages, is a perfect time for the people to renew family bonds and friendly connections. It allows the people to freshen up their hopes and purposes in life and get back to work with a new found vigour.

The traditional New Year is celebrated in many households in Sri Lanka, and it is a time-honoured cultural festival that allows all communities to come together to celebrate as one family.

This time of the year is marked with a series of customs and activities handed down from generation to generation such as preparing traditional sweetsmeats, gift-giving, visiting relatives, religious observances, worshipping elders to pay respects and seek blessings and also various fun activities known as “Avurudu kreeeda”. These events help to nurture a sense of togetherness keeping aside ethnic, religious and many other petty differences among the people.

The last year's celebrations of the traditional New Year were largely hampered due to the sudden outbreak of the novel Coronavirus and the people were strictly advised to observe the New Year rituals with their immediate family members without moving out of their homes.

Unlike the last year where police curfews were in force in many parts of the country, the people are allowed to celebrate the New Year in good spirits this year under a somewhat relaxed environment. Going by the official statistics, the situation in the country has very much improved compared to 800 plus COVID-19 cases reported daily several months ago.

Having said that, health authorities have repeatedly cautioned the public not to let their guards down as the country is not out of the woods yet, reminding that the irresponsible behaviour of a few could anytime wake up the hibernating COVID-19 monster.

Adjust to ‘New Normal’

The Health Ministry early this month issued a set of health guidelines to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year in a safer and responsible manner. While immersing in the joys and true meaning of this cultural event, one should not forget to follow those ‘New Normal’ guidelines at all times to keep COVID-19 at bay.

While large scale New Year carnivals or musical shows are not allowed, small scale regional festivals with less than 100 participants at a time are allowed under the guidelines. “Avurudu Pola” (fair for the New Year) and “Avurudu Kreeeda” (traditional games for the New Year) are also allowed except the games of tug-of-war and pillow fighting (Kotta Pora), but organizers have been asked to choose an open area and also to often disinfect the items used in them. The participants have been

thoroughly advised to follow the golden rules of wearing face masks, keeping social distance and washing hands.

Face mask is not a must for the contestants of “Avurudu Kumari” (New Year Queen), “Avurudu Kumaraya” (New Year Prince) and Fancy Dress Competition when they are performing, but it has to be worn while lining up and waiting for their turn.

This year, many people enjoy a five-day holiday period as the Government declared today as a special public holiday. Most of the people, especially those who return to their homes in outstation areas from Colombo during this holiday, must have been done with their New Year shopping by now. Buying new clothes for family members as gifts is a special feature attached to our traditional New Year. The apparel shops, whose revenue plummeted down last year owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, have got a new lease of life with satisfactory sales during the “Avurudu” season. Last minute shoppers will continue to patronize the clothing shops today as well. Health authorities have requested shop owners to be mindful about the health guidelines and avoid too much crowd.

More buses and trains have been added to the schedule from April 9 for those who travel to their home-towns and villages during the festive season and similar arrangements will be in place for their return. Overcrowding in public transport is a real risk when it comes to the spread of COVID-19. Controlling this problem was also seen challenging for the authorities given the sorry state of affairs in public transport modes in Sri Lanka.

Family time

One may have already noticed that the call of ‘Koha’ or ‘Asian Koel’, a migratory bird in the Cuckoo bird family also regarded as the harbinger of the traditional New Year, is at a peak during this year's “Avurudu”. This enhances the feeling of this season and is certainly a good omen.

The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is woven with the solar cycle, where the Sun crosses from ‘Pisces’, the last of the 12 zodiac signs, to the first zodiac sign ‘Aries’ in an astrological perspective. The beauty of the New Year's Day that adds value to this cultural event is that the pre-announced auspicious times, familiarly known as “Nekath” in Sinhala, make the whole country perform the same rituals at the same time.

The auspicious times are set for the lighting of the hearth, commencing work, doing first transaction, and partaking of the first meal on the New Year's Day, which usually falls on April 14. More rituals performed widely at auspicious times on days that follow the New Year's Day include anointing oil and leaving home for work.

A new auspicious time for planting a sapling was added to



Playing the Rabana



Koha or Asian Koel



A New Year game



Children taking part in a New Year event

the traditional New Year recently with the intention of cultivating environment friendly habits among the public, especially the younger generation. This year, the Environment Ministry, under its national programme “Husma Dena Thururu”, distributed many saplings to plant at the auspicious time of 6.40am on April 16.

Health authorities request the public to observe the New Year rituals only with a small intimate group of people one frequently meets. They also request the people to engage in religious observances during “Punya Kalaya” or “Nonagathaya” (a transition period with no auspicious times) in their homes and take all health precautions if visiting places of worship is necessary.

As is customary, milk rice will be cooked in

many households on the New Year's Day and it will serve as a perfect breakfast as this year's “Nekatha” for partaking of the first meal falls at 7.41am. Previously prepared mouth-watering sweetsmeats such as “ke-vum, kokis and mun kevum” will decorate the New Year table as usual.

In essence, the Sinhala and Tamil New Year is all about spending quality time with your family. It is a chance to show gratitude for the people whom you love and care for their part in your life. Lose yourself in the joys this season offer, but do not forget to give due regard to health guidelines.

The rest of the days of the year will be “happy and prosperous” true to the common New Year greeting if all of us behave in a socially responsible manner to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

HERE COMES THE ALUTH AVURUDDA



The children have a bewildering variety of choices. They invariably receive fresh garments. Games galore. Throwing cadjuncts at a hole in the ground, is a favourite New Year pastime for the young.

Unity

Adults have their own share of New Year fun. Swings allow even young women to have a free outing. Rabana – a round drum on wooden supports, summon the ladies to display their drumming skills. Most of these New Year games have their accompanying recitals. But, today, we just cannot recapture the old ‘New Year’ that enlivened the total rural community. Efforts are made today, to revive the vanished glory of the New Year past. But, that archaic spirit can in no way be fully brought back.

I remember reading about a remote Irish Village, where the folk perform a ritual to revive the age-old origins of the New Year Rituals. The village folk gather together. Enacting an ancient ritual, they mime the death of Nature's God and his diminished progress. To enact this, the women-folk of the village tie-up sturdy young men in the village, to mime the loss of God's power.

Fortunately, after a brief enactment, the young men are untied. Ropes gone, they live their New Year joys. In our own land there are efforts to give new life to the vanished glory of traditional New Year rituals. The efforts are praiseworthy but, the past is now beyond recall, I feel. The only option is to appoint a responsible group of eminent men and women, to record those wholesome eras and the lively New Year pageants that were a pulsating part of the life of those times.

This could, very well be our collective New Year Wish.
(This article first appeared in the Daily News on April 11, 2020. Reproduced here as a tribute to late Dr.Edwin Ariyadasa.)

Many facts of the New Year festival in villages are taken care of by the village temples.

The document setting down the auspicious hours for ritual-items is distributed by the village astrologers.

But, when everything is said and done the most humane aspect of the New Year, is the family reunion – which is decidedly a ‘core’ ritual of the Sinhala New Year.

Most persons from the deep South, display a marked proclivity to leave home, and seek success at distant destinations. (One cannot help but wonder whether this is a vestigial residence of the Aryan “wanderlust”).

The Sinhala New Year, is primarily a children-focused festival. Each household is keen to nurture the ‘Avurudu’ spirit, in the young ones. A vivid memory I cherish, is the urge I had as a child, to amass as many fire-crackers as possible, ahead of New Year's Day. When I am taken to visit a household, I am quite certain the host will present me boxes of crackers. In those early days, fire-crackers came to us from China, in elegant packs. I had an urge to hoard them, before firing. At this stage, it is quite apt to take a historical view of the New Year festival. Initially, the New Year festival possesses a hoary past, since it is one of the oldest festivals of mankind.

The ancient Man lived in great intimacy with Nature. In summer, the world around him offered him all the things he needed, with overwhelming lavishness. The earth was fertile. Streams flowed, at a pleasing rhythm. Birds were always on the wing. Game was widely available. Hunger and thirst fully satiated, the ancient man felt happy. But, in the fall – Autumn – the green leaves turned colour and fell to the ground. The trees withered. The whole world was covered in snow. Game was gone. Streams were still. Ancient man was devastated. Tormented by hunger and thirst, the ancients thought, the God of Nature was dead. They wept, lamented.

But, gradually, the Earth began to green. Trees flourished. Food was once again available. The ancients, rejoiced at the new birth of the God of Nature. With the risen God, they started a new life-cycle.

Rituals

In our New Year rituals, we still have those twin aspects. In the old year, hearths are not kindled. Food is not taken. The moderns do not weep and lament. But, at shrines they perform rituals.



When God has reawakened they rejoice in the New Year. Bouquets and lavish repasts are held. All transactions are newly initiated. Games, both indoor and outdoor, articulate the newly won New Year joy. This is the ‘secret’ of the so-called ‘Nonagata’ period of austerity. We in our ultra-modern way, relive the experience of those ancient proto-humans.

In the traditional villages, the preparation of the New Year repast, assumed the sanctity of a sacred ritual.

The women-folk take charge of the food department. The complicated process of food preparation, brought out the whole range of culinary skills of the women folk of the village. The artificial ripening of the banana, in a hole dug in the ground, was a display of a kind of rustic science.

The New Year Sinhala smorgasbord offers a bewildering range of indigenous cuisine. Kiribath – (milk-rice), Ke-um, rice-cake,

kokis are staples. Various pickles, fish-preparations and curries, supported the main rice-dish.

Of all these Sri Lankan food items, I count ‘Kiribath’ as my distinct special choice. Please allow me, present a minor ode to kiribath, that adorns the New Year table everywhere.

In the culinary psyche of all races, a special dish is enthroned as their mass delight for all seasons. The favourite item may not necessarily be a five-star goodie that could swoon elite gourmet foodies. But, on the other hand it could very well be humble, simple or just plain-like Sri Lanka's milk-rice kiribath. In Sri Lanka, kiribath comes into its own, during the New Year season. It is presented with embul-thiyal fish dish, pickles, or sambol, fiery salad leavened with Maldivian-fish. When I was young, my mother had a way of presenting kiribath, with a spicy dried-fish preparation. Although this particular preparation is still deeply embedded in my inner taste-portfolio, I have no memory of its recipe.

In its sociological implications, the Sinhala New Year Festival is a unique mechanism of pragmatic social integration. The specific ritual – moments associated with New Year, are held at various pre-planned times, by the total population, simultaneously.

When the auspicious moment arrives to partake of the New Year Meal, the totality of the nation, begins the ritual at one specific moment. Such auspicious moments brought the whole community together, all performing the rituals exactly at the same time. In those by-gone eras, bereft of such mass media as the Radio and the TV, the masses were alerted by the temple bells.

A morally exalting facet of the New Year Festival is the worship of the elders. Offering a sheaf of ritual betel leaves, the young ones honour their seniors. Old simmering grudges are forgotten. Unity is, wholesomely restored. In the traditional village home, the New Year joys begin with the arrival of the invited chief guest, who is offered the privilege of taking part in the New Year repast. He engages in transactions with the host family.

SALE OF TODDY RENTS 2021/2022
MUNDEL DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION -
PUTTALAM DISTRICT

Tenders will be received up to 10.30 a.m. on 22nd of June 2021, for rent sales to the following toddy taverns in the Mundel Divisional Secretariat Division of Puttalam District for the period from July 01st 2021 to 30th June 2022.

Please refer to the Gazette of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 16th April 2021.

Division	Village	Hour of Opening	Hour of Closing	Date & Time of Close of Tender	Tender Deposit (Rs.)
Mundel Divisional Secretariat Division	1. Mundel	11.00 a.m. 05.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	10.30 a.m. 2021.05.17	1000.00
	2. Madurankuliya	11.00 a.m. 05.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	10.30 a.m. 2021.05.17	1000.00
	3. Mukkuthoduwawa	11.00 a.m. 05.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	10.30 a.m. 2021.05.17	1000.00
	4. Udappuwa	11.00 a.m. 05.00 p.m.	2.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m.	10.30 a.m. 2021.05.17	1000.00

Date : 30th of March 2021

J.A. Vijani Wasanthika
Divisional Secretary,
Mundel.



Northern Provincial Department of Education

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Procurement of Computer Items, Electronic Items and Furniture



The Chairman Departmental Procurement Committee (Major) invites sealed bids from interested eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of following items to three Computer Resource Centers in Northern Province. Brief details are given below.

Procurement No.	Item	No. of Category Items	Estimated Cost in Rs. Mn.	Bid Security (Rs.)	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)
NP/20/05/PROC/COMP/2021/04	Computer Items	04	35	500,000	5,000
NP/20/05/PROC/ELEC/2021/05	Electronic Items	03	3	50,000	1,000
NP/20/05/PROC/FURN/2021/06	Furniture	11	7	100,000	2,000

- Bidding Procedure will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Process.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents could be purchased from **12/04/2021 till 03/05/2021** during 0900 Hours to 1500 Hours on working days,
 - upon submission of **Bank Paid Slip** received from the Bank of Ceylon for the non-refundable fee paid as shown above to the bank Account No. 0005932043 of "Northern Provincial Director of Education",
 - copy of Business Registration** and
 - "Application for Bid Documents"** available in the Department.
- Completed Bids must be delivered to the below address or deposited in the tender box available in the Chief Accountant's Room on or before the closing time of bids **1100 Hours on 05/05/2021**. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of the bids in the presence of the bidders or their permitted representatives.
- All rights are reserved to the Chairman of DPC to cancel the bidding process at any stage without paying any compensation to any party or to accept the part of the bids in this bidding process.

Name: **S. Uthayakumar.**

Designation: **Provincial Director of Education / Chairman – DPC (Major).**

Northern Provincial Department of Education, Chemmani Road, Nallur.

TP No.: 021 2242806 / 021 2242804 / 0212242800, Fax No.: 0212242646, E-mail: npedufin@gmail.com

DISTRICT SECRETARIAT - KEGALLE

RECALLING OF BIDS REGARDING A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

- The Procurement Committee of the District Secretariat Kegalle has decided to cancel all bids submitted in response to the advertisement published in the Dinamina, Daily News and Thinakaran newspapers dated 08.02.2021 relevant to the project mentioned below and recall for quotations.
- As such, sealed bids are accepted up to 4.00 p.m. on 03.05.2021 by the Procurement Committee from contractors possessing the CIDA registration for the construction work mentioned below.

Details of Work	Estimated Value of the Work (Rs. Mn.)	Period of Completion of Work (Months)	CIDA Grade (Should be valid for the Year 2021)	(Non-refundable) Tender Form Fee	(Refundable) Bid Guarantee
Construction of the Deraniyagala Divisional Secretariat Building Stage V	25.05	07 months	C-5 & C-4	Rs. 2,000.00	Rs. 260,000.00

- The bidder should be eligible, not have been blacklisted and should submit documents in proof of validity of the CIDA registration for the year 2021. A copy of the relevant letter issued by the Department of Inland Revenue for being an active VAT tax payer should be submitted if VAT registration has been obtained.
 - The bidder should have completed one construction equivalent to or more in value, similar to the projects mentioned above in state, local government or a semi-government institution within the last 05 years. (The relevant evidence should be submitted in proof of this).
 - A regional preference of 5% will be granted to Regional Contractors according to the Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (III) at the Bid Evaluation.
- A letter obtained from a commercial bank registered at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in proof that this institution is able to obtain a loan to the value of 1/5 or more of the estimated cost, should be submitted.
- A set of bid forms printed in English could be obtained on working days from 15.04.2021 up to 30.04.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000.00 to the Shroff of the District Secretariat. Further details could be obtained from the Chief Accountant of the District Secretariat (Tel. No. 035-2223112).
- Bids should be valid for 91 days from the last date for accepting bids.
- All bidders should submit the bid guarantee by submitting an unconditional Bank Draft obtained from a recognized commercial bank or by depositing the money with the shroff of this office. The Bid Security should be valid up to 06.09.2021. Any bid sans the valid bid guarantee will be rejected.
- Bids should be prepared in two copies as original / duplicate and inserted in separate envelopes and sealed and the name of the project should be marked on the top left-hand corner of these envelopes and sent by registered post to be received at or before 4.00 p.m. on 03.05.2021 or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Chief Accountant's room of the District Secretariat. Tenders received after this stipulated time will be rejected. Tenders will be opened at 4.15 p.m. on this day and the bidder or his authorized representative could be present on this occasion.
- The full right of selecting a suitable bidder rests with the Departmental Procurement Board. Canvassing in any form will be considered as detrimental for selection. The Kegalle District Secretary retains the full right in taking decisions relevant to any matter not covered by either this Bid Invitation or bid documents. The District Procurement Committee retains the right of the final decision regarding selection of a suitable contractor, cancelling a bid or all bids.

Mahinda S. Weerasooriya
District Secretary / Government Agent,
Procurement Committee Chairman - Kegalle.
12.04.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Strengthening of Local Authorities (Capital) Programme-2021

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TRINCOMALEE

- The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of below mentioned Local Authorities invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated value of work to be performed under this procurement (Excluding VAT and other taxes) is Rs. below 50 Mn, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered in the field and grade mentioned in the table below with the Institute for Construction Training and Development (ICTAD) / Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA).
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule (Section 5) of the bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Regional Assistant Commissioner of Local Government, Trincomalee. (TP No: 0262222427, Fax No: 0262223639) and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 9.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Regional Assistant Commissioner of Local Government, Trincomalee from 12th of April 2021 until 29th of April 2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 3,000.00. The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Office of the Assistant Regional Commissioner of Local Government, Trincomalee at or before 15.00 hrs on 30.04.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 77 days (Seventy Seven) after the deadline for bid submission.
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid security as per the information given in the Table.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at the Office of the Regional Assistant Commissioner of Local Government, Trincomalee on 21st April 2021 at 10.00 hrs. Interested bidders may participate in this meeting at their own expense.

Contract No	Description of Work	Estimated Cost / (Rs in millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Required Bid Security	
					Security Amount	Valid Period
EP/C-IG/01	Construction of Shopping Complex at Kachchakoditheevu in Kinniya	9.26	150 Days	C7 & C6 Buildings	100,000.00	From 01.05.2021 To 13.08.2021
EP/C-IG/02	Construction of Kawanthissapura Water Tank and Extension of Water supply distribution line at Thissapura New Water Supply Scheme	9.15	150 Days	C7 & C6 Water Supply	100,000.00	From 01.05.2021 To 13.08.2021

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government,
St. Anthony's Road, Trincomalee.

12.04.2021

TEACHING HOSPITAL, MAHAMODARA - GALLE

INVITATION FOR TENDERS FOR MAINTAINING CANTEEN

- Applications are invited from eligible bidders for maintaining the canteen at the Teaching Hospital, Mahamodara, Galle from 01.06.2021 up to 31.05.2022.
- A non-refundable sum of Rs. 2000/- will be charged as application fee. Tender applications could be obtained (from 9.00 a.m. up to 2.00 p.m. on normal working days) from 15.04.2021 up to 05.05.2021 from the Accounts Division of the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital by submitting the National Identity Card and the receipt obtained for payments made.
- The words "Provision of canteen services for the year 2021/2022" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Bid application and sent by registered post to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Teaching Hospital, Mahamodara, Galle to be received at or before 10.00 a.m. on 06.05.2021 or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Director's Office.
- Bids should be prepared in 02 copies and marked appropriately as original and duplicate and inserted in separate envelopes and thereafter, these two covers should be enclosed in a single envelope and submitted.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids at 10.00 a.m. on 06.05.2021 and the bidder or a representative could be present on this occasion.
- Bids will not be issued to persons who have defaulted Government Contracts and have been blacklisted.
- The Procurement Committee has the right to accept or reject the relevant bids in entirety or a part of same.
- You may contact the Accountant of the Mahamodara Teaching Hospital for further details. 091-2222261.

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Teaching Hospital, Mahamodara,
Galle.

1000 KW SOLAR POWER PROJECT

Solar Installation Companies are invited to bid for 1000 KW rooftop Solar Installation, in Hambanthota.

Closing Date 19th April 2021

Chief Executive Officer,
Lanka Salt Limited,
Mahalewaya, Hambanthota.
047-2220208/ 047-2220847 / 077-9195499
Email: lankasalt@sltnet.lk

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

Hotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzsuro@gmail.com

PLACE YOUR AD ON ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD ON WEBSITE

AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION AMENDMENT ACT NO. 28 OF 1964

Notice Under Section 7(1) of the Land Acquisition Act.

The Government intends to acquire the land described in the following schedule for development. For more details see Part 3 of the Gazette No. 2220/231 of the Republic of Sri Lanka dated 23rd day of March 2021.

Schedule

District : Kurunegala
Divisional : Polgahawela
Secretariat :
Village : Walagammulla
Name of the Land : Wekumburehena and Paraddarahena
Plan No. : Ku. 2483
Lot Nos. : 1 and 2
Extent : 0.1044 Hectares

Divisional Secretary/Land Acquisition Officer,
Divisional Secretary Division,
Polgahawela.

WYCHERLY INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED LOST SHARE CERTIFICATES

Share Certificate bearing distinctive Numbers 1881946 to 1897847 and 613934 to 620074 of Wycherly International Management Company Limited previously known as Regent International Management Company Limited for a total of Twenty Two Thousand and Forty Three only (22,043) ordinary shares in the name of John Paul Irugalbandarage Kamal Kithsiri of No. 170, Inner Flower Road, Colombo 07 is deemed lost. An Application has been made to the Directors of the Company for issue of a duplicate thereof by Mr J.P.I.K. Kithsiri.

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


BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Company Secretary
WYCHERLY INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED
previously known as **REGENT INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED - (PB549)**
"Ceylinco House",
No. 69, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01.

EXTENSION OF BID SUBMISSION DATE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PERADENIYA

- Invitation for bids notice published on 31.03.2021 for the purchase of goods, for paddy, chillies, maize undu / ulundu, green gram kawpea, soya gingelly kurakkan and peanuts cultivation promotion project by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Extension and Training Centre, Department of Agriculture Peradeniya has been amended as follows.
- Period of obtaining bidding documents and bid forms has been extended up to 2.00 p.m. on 28.04.2021. Validity period of each bid and of the bid security should be extended by 07 days ahead.
- Bids will be closed at **10.00 a.m. on 29.04.2021**. Bids will be opened on the same day at the extension and training centre, Department of Agriculture at the times mentioned according to the relevant procurement works.
- All other terms and conditions given in the previous notice published on 31.03.2021 remain unchanged.

Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Extension and Training Centre,
Department of Agriculture,
Peradeniya.

Telephone Nos. 071-8047509
081-2389127



Ministry of Education, Isurapaya, Battaramulla

Technological Education Development Programme

Funding - OPEC Fund for International Development & GOSL

Loan No: 13170P

Construction of Proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Buildings for

- Sri Sumangala M.M.V., Wariyapola (21/06/E/Wari/OPEC/NCB/C3)
- Al-Aqsha National School, Kalpitiya. (21/07/E/Put/OPEC/NCB/C4)
- Dhammissara National School, Nattandiya (21/08/E/Wen/OPEC/NCB/C5)
- Vijayaba National College, Maho (21/09/E/Maho/OPEC/NCB/C6)

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from the OPEC fund for international development (OFID) towards the cost of Technological Education Development Programme and intends to apply part of the proceed of this loan to payments under the Contract for Construction of proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Buildings for Sri Sumangala M.M.V. Wariyapola (21/06/E/Wari/OPEC/NCB/C3), Al-Aqsha National School, Kalpitiya. (21/07/E/Put/OPEC/NCB/C4) Dhammissara National School, Nattandiya (21/08/E/Wen/OPEC/NCB/C5) and Vijayaba National College, Maho (21/09/E/Maho/OPEC/NCB/C6)
- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Provincial Director of Education (NWP) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Construction of Proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Buildings as described below.


Bid Code No.	Title of Proposed Contract	Divisional Engineer's Office	Required CIDA Grade (Buildings)	Contract Period (Days)	Engineer's Estimate (without VAT) (Rs. Million)	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)
21/06/E/Wari/OPEC/NCB/03	Construction of Proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Building for Sri Sumangala M.M.V., Wariyapola.	Wariyapola	C4 or C3	280	56	650,000/=
21/07/E/Wari/OPEC/NCB/04	Construction of Proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Building for Al-Aqsha National School, Kalpitiya.	Puttalam	C4 or C3	280	55	650,000/=
21/08/E/Wen/OPEC/NCB/05	Construction of Proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Building for Dhammissara National School, Nattandiya.	Wennappuwa	C4 or C3	280	54.8	650,000/=
21/09/E/Maho/OPEC/NCB/06	Construction of Proposed Three Storied Technological Faculty Building for Vijayaba National College - Maho.	Maho	C4 or C3	280	56.4	650,000/=

- To be eligible for contract award the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the above grade of the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) registration.
- Qualification requirement to qualify for contract award include following criteria,
 - The average of the annual volume of construction work performed in the last five years shall be at least Rs. 11.00 Mn.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the contract shall be not less than Rs. 18.00 Mn.
 - The staff shall include 01 no. of Technical Officer having NDT (Civil) or equivalent with 5 years experience or NCT with 10 years post qualifying (full time basis) experience.
 - Bidder should have experience in single building with similar nature undertaken within the last five years of at least 42.00 Mn
 - Bidder should be registered under the Public Contract Act No.03 of 1997 and submit the certificate.
- Bidding procedure will be conducted in accordance with the National. Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further Technical information and inspect the bidding documents during office hours up to **6th May 2021** from **Director, NWP Engineering Department, 2nd Floor, Provincial Council Office Complex, Kurunegala. Tel - 037-2222700 / 037-2222057, Facsimile 037-2223186.**
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application and upon payment of a non refundable fee of **Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Rupees (Rs. 12,500/=)** for each construction to **Provincial Director of Education (NWP) from 12th April 2021 to 6th May 2021** during the office hours on working days. (09.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs). **The method of payment will be in cash.**
- A pre bid meeting will be held on 29th April 2021 at 10.00 hrs at Provincial Department of Education (NWP).**
- Sealed bids marked "**Bid for Construction of Proposed three Storied Technological Faculty Building for (School Name)**" on top left hand corner of the envelope & Bids must be delivered under registered cover to the address given below or deposited in the "**Tender Box**" provided for the purpose, at the **Chief Accountant's office at the Provincial Department of Education (NWP), Kandy Road, Kurunegala at or before 10.00 hrs on 7th of May 2021. Bids will be closed at 10.00 hrs on 7th May 2021.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend in person at the **Chief Accountant's Office at the Provincial Department of Education (NWP).** All bids must be accompanied by "**Bid- Security**" as mentioned above.
- The address referred to above is:

A.S.K. Jayalath
Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee,
Provincial Department of Education (NWP),
Kandy Road,
Kurunegala.

Telephone : 037-2222422
Facsimile Number : 037-2222422
Web address : www.nwpedu.lk

Date: 12th April 2021



NATIONAL YOUTH CORPS
UNDER THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS FOR SALE OF CONDEMNED VEHICLES NO. 03

DETAILS OF VEHICLES AND CONDITIONS

- Sealed bids are invited for sale of the undermentioned vehicles parked at the Yakkala Training Centre belonging to the National Youth Corps.

Serial No.	Vehicle No.	Category	Model	Year of Manufacture	Refundable Bid Deposit (Rs.)
01	53-4583	Mitsubishi	L200	1992	15,000.00
02	18-1895	Nissan	BBAB 13-Sunny	1992	4,000.00
03	18-1896	Nissan	BBAB 13-Sunny	1992	4,600.00

- Inspection of vehicles will commence from 12.04.2021 up to 10.05.2021 during working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at the Yakkala National Youth Corps Training Centre.
- Quotation should be submitted on application forms prepared for purchase of condemned vehicles and could be obtained by paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000/= to the Shroff in the Accounts Division at the Youth Corps Headquarters from 12.04.2021 up to 10.05.2021 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. as above.
- Sealed bids should be sent to the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (Minor), National Youth Corps Headquarters, No. 420, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 by registered post or could be hand-delivered to the Bid Box near the National Youth Corps Main Auditorium to be received before the last date and time for accepting quotations at 11.00 a.m. on 11.05.2021.
- Accepting of bid will close at 11.00 a.m. on 11.05.2021 and they will be opened immediately after closing of accepting quotation.
- Further details concerning this matter could be obtained from the Additional Director (Administration & Finance) on Telephone Nos. 0112688885 / 0112690294.

Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee (Minor),
National Youth Corps Headquarters,
No. 420, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 07.
12.04.2021

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

STATE MINISTRY OF GEM AND JEWELLERY RELATED INDUSTRIES

RENOVATION OF EXISTING BUILDING AT THE STATE MINISTRY OF GEM AND JEWELLERY RELATED INDUSTRIES, COLOMBO 05 - PHASE 1

CONTRACT NO: SMGJ/ADM/05/01/02

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), on behalf of the State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **Renovation of Existing Building at the State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, Colombo 05 -Phase 1** as described below and estimated to cost Rs. 25 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of Complete Renovation of First Floor Lobby, Second Floor Balcony area including extension of Roof, Waterproofing of Roof slabs with provision of necessary M&E services of existing Building. The Works are to be organized accordingly to avoid any interruption or disturbance to regular function of the State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, since normal office works of the State Ministry and other offices located in the building are to be functioned while the renovation works are going on.

The site is located at the premises of State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No.561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

The construction period is 84 Days

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements:
 - Registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) for Building Construction Works - Grade C4&C5
 - The Bidder shall possess a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in accordance with the Section 8 of Public Contracts Act No.03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds the bid price of 5.0 million Rupees [Vide Section 2 of the Act].
- Qualification requirements to qualify for Contract award include:
 - Average of the annual turnover of construction work performed in last five years shall be at least Rs. 50 million.
 - Successful completion as a main contractor/ sub contractor of a building renovation project of similar nature and complexity with a project value at least Rs. 25 million or a higher project value completed within a reasonable time period, completed during last five years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets and /or credit facilities exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract shall be not less than Rs. 15 million.

- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Director Planning, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No.561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 (Telephone: 011-2589087, Fax: 011-2369790, E-mail: smjadm@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs from 15.04.2021 until 30.04.2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Administration Officer, Administration Division, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 from 15.04.2021 until 05.05.2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs upon payment of a non refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Thousand (Rs. 8,000.00). The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below at State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No.561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 on or before 14:00 hrs on 07.05.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 05.08.2021
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Thousand (Rs. 300,000.00) obtained in favour of The Secretary, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05. Bid Security shall be valid up to 02.09.2021
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00hrs on 28.04.2021 in the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 and will be followed by a Site Visit.

The address referred to above is:

The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)
State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries,
No.561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo 05.

BE BETTER INFORMED!

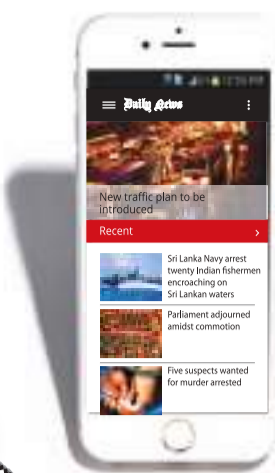


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BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA

NEW YEAR HOLIDAY NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka will be closed on 15th April 2021 (Thursday) as well on account of Sinhala & Hindu New Year.

Director General,
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka.

LOLC FINANCE VEHICLES FOR SALE

AMBALANTHOTA						
TRUCK	TATA WINGER CARGO	1948CC	2011	SP	PC	XXXX
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	198CC	2013	UP	AAK	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009	SP	QI	XXXX
	BAJAJ	198CC	2010	UP	YI	XXXX

AMPARA						
LORRY	FOTON	2540CC	2011	EP	LL	XXXX
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	198CC	2013	EP	AAF	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007	EP	QK	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007	EP	QL	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008	EP	QN	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008	EP	QP	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009	EP	QT	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009	NE	QT	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	QW	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	QX	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	QY	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	QZ	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	YA	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	YB	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	EP	YD	XXXX
	BAJAJ	200CC	2011	EP	YS	XXXX
BAJAJ	200CC	2011	EP	YS	XXXX	

BADULLA						
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	198CC	2013	UP	AAK	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008	UP	QI	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	UP	YA	XXXX
	PIAGGIO	395CC	2011	UP	YO	XXXX
TRUCK	TATA ACE	702CC	2011	UP	PR	XXXX

DAMBULLA						
HARVESTER	DANXIA MUBOTA					
MOTOR BIKE	HONDA DIO	110CC	2020	NC	BIS	XXXX
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	173CC	2007	NC	QM	XXXX
	BAJAJ	200CC	2011	CP	OS	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008	CP	OS	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009	CP	OV	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009	CP	QW	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	CP	YB	XXXX

GRANDPASS						
CAB	DFSK	1357CC	2012	WP	PW	XXXX
BUS	TATA 909	4788CC	1991	61		XXXX
TIPPER	TOYOTA	4000CC	1991	48		XXXX
TRUCK	FOTON AUMARK	1809CC	2015	WP	DAB	XXXX
	MAHINDRA MAXXIMO 909CC	2015	WP	DAE	XXXX	

WELLAMPITIYA						
CAR	TOYOTA COROLLA AELDE	1490CC	1996	30		XXXX
	DFSK GLORY	1248CC	2016	WP	CAR	XXXX
	TOYOTA DAIUNAR	1790CC	2013	WP	KY	XXXX
THREE WHEELER	BAJAJ	150CC	2004	WP	JK	XXXX
	BAJAJ	150CC	2004	WP	JM	XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QA	XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2005	WP	QD	XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QE	XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QF	XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QG	XXXX
	BAJAJ	145CC	2006	WP	QH	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007	SP	QL	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007	WP	QN	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QJ	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2008	WP	QK	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2009	WP	QV	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2007	WP	QW	XXXX
	BAJAJ	173CC	2010	WP	YA	XXXX
BAJAJ	173CC	2010	WP	YC	XXXX	
BAJAJ	198CC	2010	WP	YG	XXXX	
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	WP	YM	XXXX	
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	WP	YN	XXXX	
BAJAJ	198CC	2011	WP	YO	XXXX	
BAJAJ	198CC	2012	WP	YV	XXXX	
PIAGGIO	395CC	2009	WP	QW	XXXX	
PIAGGIO	395CC	2010	WP	YB	XXXX	

The Company reserves the right to withdraw any vehicle/vehicles from the Sale without prior Notice. Tender forms can be collected from the Head Office - Rajagiriya & the relevant branches of the above addresses

Tender closes at 12.30 P.m on 19th April 2021
LOLC FINANCE PLC
 No.100/1, Sri Jayawardanepura Mw, Rajagiriya.

- HOUSES

- LANDS

- COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

- APARTMENTS

Sunday Observer



- Buy & Sell
- Rent or Lease
- Wanted

HOUSE & PROPERTY



STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL & REGIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The chairman of the Department Procurement Committee invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following works.

#	Description	Minimum ICTAD Registration & Experience	Value of Bid Security (Rs)	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Validity period (Days)	Place of Issuing of Document & Contact Person And bid closing date	#	Description	Minimum ICTAD Registration & Experience	Value of Bid Security (Rs)	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Validity period (Days)	Place of Issuing of Document & Contact Person And bid closing date
Ratnapura District													
1	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground Tank- 02 in Waleboda CBO, Waleboda, Balangoda. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/01	C8 and above	50000	2500			25	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Vikasitha CBO, Koswaththa South, Naththandiya DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/12	C7 and above	70000	3500		
2	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground tank - 02, Pump House-01 in Samanala CBO, Wikiyawatha, Balangoda. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/02	C7 and above	70000	3500			26	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated with plant room Bogahakaduwa CBO,Yatakalana, Mahawewa DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/13	C7 and above	80000	3500		
3	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground Tank - 01, 6m Dia 8m Depth dug well concrete, Pump house 4.5m*5m for Ayagama CBO, Ayagama, Ayagama. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/03	C7 and above	80000	3500			Kurunegala District						
4	Construction of Dug well 6m dia x 8m depth,Pump House, 3mx3m in Hindurangala CBO, Hindurangala, Eheliyagoda. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/04	C8 and above	45000	2500			27	Construction of 3m x 3m pump house, 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated, 60m ³ capacity Ferro cement ground tank Rambawa Paniya Jala CBO, Rambawa 285 , Rasnayapura DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/KN/01	C7 and above	95000	3500		
5	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground tank, 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5x5 Pump House in Mudunkotuwa CBO, Mudunkotuwa, Kiriella. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/05	C7 and above	80000	3500			28	Construction of 3m x 3m pump house, Dug well (6m dia and 8m high) 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated, 60m ³ capacity Ferro cement ground tank Ganthiriyawa Paniya Jala CBO, Ganthiriyawa 1230, Bammunakotuwa DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/KN/02	C6 and above	140000	5000		
6	Construction of 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Haldola CBO, Haldola, Elapatha DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/06	C7 and above	55000	3500			29	Construction of 3m x 3m pump house, 40m ³ capacity Ferro cement ground tank, 50m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Ulpothagama CBO, Ulpothagama 061, Galgamuwa DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/KN/03	C7 and above	85000	3500		
7	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground tank, 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Jathuwangoda CBO, Jathuwangoda, Kalawana. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/07	C7 and above	80000	3500			Jaffna District						
8	Construction of 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Kapuhenthota CBO, Kapuhenthota, Pelmadulla. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/08	C7 and above	55000	3500			30	Construction of 30m ³ -12m height elevated tank, 3m * 3m Pump House, type 1 valve chamber in Chulipuram Central Water User Association CBO, Chulipuram Central,Valikamam West DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/JF/01	C7 and above	60000	3500		
9	Construction of 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Madampe South CBO, Godakawela. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/09	C7 and above	55000	3500			31	Construction of 30m ³ -12m height elevated tank, 3m * 3m Pump House, type 1 valve chamber in Marisankoodal Water User Association CBO, Marisankoodal J/154, Valikamam South West DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/JF/02	C7 and above	60000	3500	91	Place of Issuing of Document & Contact Person Director (procurement) Department of National Community Water Supply, No. 1114, Pannipitiya Road, Thalawatugoda
10	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground tank, 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well,4.5m * 5m Pump House in Pothupitya CBO, Pothupitya, Kalawana DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/10	C7 and above	80000	3500			32	Construction of 30m ³ -12m height elevated tank, 3m * 3m Pump House, type 1 valve chamber in Irupalali East Water User Association CBO, Irupalali East, Valikamam East(Kopay) DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/JF/03	C7 and above	60000	3500		TP 0112774927 Bid closing date and time 4th of May 2021 , 10.00 a.m.
11	Construction of 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Miyadeniya-Ovitigama CBO DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/11	C7 and above	55000	3500			Mullaitivu District						
12	Construction of 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Opathagama Swarna Nadee CBO, Opatha, Godakawela. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/12	C7 and above	55000	3500			33	Construction of 60m ³ -12m height elevated tank, 3m * 3m Pump House, type 1 valve chamber in Alampil Water User Association CBO, Mu/47, Alampil South DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/MU/01	C7 and above	80000	3500		
13	Construction of 100m ³ Ferrocement Ground tank, 6m Dia 8m Depth Dug well, 4.5m*5m Pump House in Saliya CBO, Kongahamankada, Balangoda. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/RT/13	C7 and above	80000	3500			34	Construction of 60m ³ -12m height elevated tank, type 1 valve chamber in Kuravil Udaykattu Water User Association CBO, Udaykattu South, Puthukudiyirippu DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/MU/02	C7 and above	70000	3500		
Puththalama District													
14	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated tank with plant room Sahayogitha CBO, Rathmal agara, Madampe. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/01	C7 and above	80000	3500			35	Construction of 60m ³ -12m height elevated tank, 3m * 3m Pump House, type 1 valve chamber in Sirradikulam Water User Association CBO, Mu/15 Sirradikulam, Manthai East DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/MU/03	C7 and above	80000	3500		
15	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Mahagama south CBO, Mahagama South, Madampe. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/02	C7 and above	70000	3500			Vavuniya District						
16	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated with plant room Shakthi CBO, Galmuruwa-North, Madampe. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/03	C7 and above	80000	3500			36	Construction of 60m ³ -12m height elevated tank, type 1 valve chamber in Ananthapuram CBO, Samalankulam, Vavuniya. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/VU/01	C7 and above	80000	3500		
17	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Ekamuthu CBO, Athuwana, Madampe. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/04	C7 and above	70000	3500			Mannar District						
18	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Eksith CBO, Galamuna Kalimulla , Mahawewa DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/05	C7 and above	80000	3500			37	Construction of 60m ³ -12m height elevated tank, type 1 valve chamber in St. Joseph Rural Water Supply Society CBO, Achhankulam, Nanattan DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/Mn/01	C7 and above	70000	3500		
19	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated with plant room Katupuliyankulama CBO, Katupuliyankulama, Wanathawilluwa. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/06	C7 and above	80000	3500			38	Construction of 60m ³ -12m height elevated tank, type 1 valve chamber in AVE Mariyal Rural Water Supply CBO, Mullikkulam, Musali DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/ML/02	C7 and above	70000	3500		
20	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated with plant room Ekamuthu Srama Shakthi CBO, Kola eliya, Pallama. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/07	C7 and above	80000	3500			General instructions and conditions for above subject						
21	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Pubudu CBO, Maningala Dunkannawa Gurugodella, Naththandiya. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/08	C7 and above	70000	3500			Instructions						
22	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated Budula CBO, Lihiriyagama, Dankotuwa. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/09	C7 and above	70000	3500			1. Bidding Documents will be issued on submission of a written application on the applicant's letterhead and deposited slip of non-refundable (Director General, Department of National Community Water Supply, Account No:-0007040440 BOC) to the Department of National Community Water Supply.						
23	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated with plant room Siya Shakthi CBO, Thummodara West, Naththandiya. DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/10	C7 and above	80000	3500			2. Bidding Documents can be collected between 09.00 hours and 15.00 hours up to 3 rd of May 2021 on normal working days (please make an appointment to collect documents via telephone).						
24	Construction of 60m ³ capacity 12m height elevated with plant room Wendakaduwa CBO, Wendakaduwa, Pallama.w DNCWS/PRO/2021/CV/01/PU/11	C7 and above	80000	3500			3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Department of National Community Water Supply and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.						
							4. Duly completed bids shall be either deposited in the Tender Box placed in the 2 nd floor of the department or dispatched by registered post or courier to the address given below at or before 10.00 a.m. on 4 th of May 2021.						
							5. Pre bid meeting will be held on 28/04/2021 at 10.00 am at the department.						
							6. All bids will be opened at the same address on 4 th of May 2021 at 10.15 a.m. in the presence of the bidder's representative who chooses to attend. Late bids will be returned unopened.						
							7. Bid security should be addressed to Director General, Department of National Community Water Supply, No. 1114, Pannipitiya Road, Thalawatugoda.						
							Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Department of National Community Water Supply, NO. 1114, Pannipitiya Road, Thalawatugoda						
							12/04/2021						

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AVISSAWELLA 036-2230446
Famous Bake House, No. 31, Seethawakapura

ANGODA 011 3069404
Kotikawatte Junction, Kudabuthgamuwa,

ATHURUGIRIYA 011 2760479, 011 4876968
267, Godagama Road,

BATHTHARAMULLA 011 2866705, 077 0736770
West Town, Bake House, Sweet House,

BORALES GAMUWA 071 6505533, 011 2519954
No. 17, Wewa Rd,

HANWELLA 011 4967962, 011 4967960
Sithumina Newspaper Agency, 144, High Level Rd, Pahathgama,

HOKANDARA 071 8685437
No. 501, North Hokandara,

HOMAGAMA 011 2892262, 077 7304046
"Aradanas", Sonanayake Shopping Complex, Station Road,

KADUWELA 011 2579609
Nayana Bake House

KADUWELA 011 2412291, 011 4443566
375/1, Pahala Bominiya, Yakkala,

KALUBOWILA 077 3551145, 011 2767259
No 195, Hospital Road,

KESBEWA 011 2703415
Seedeve Newspaper Office, 19, Horana Rd,

KIRULAPONE 071 5439396, 011 2514166
Ramani Book Shop, 27-A High Level Rd,

KOTTAWA 011 2842569, 071 2510950
Srisara Groceries, No. 101/2,

MAHARAGAMA 077 7686683, 011 2896373
Supermarket Complex, 88, High Level Rd,

MALABE 011 2791782
Kumudu Stores,

NEEGODA 011 2858290, 011 2831120
Mandana Stores, No. 635/3, Padukka Rd,

MORATUWA 011 2647410, 077 5486719
Wijesekara Stores,

MORATUWA 0112 657326, 0114 212989
S.J.M. Fareed, 222, Egoda Uyana, Modera

MT. LAVINIA 011 2724820
Dayal Stores, Galle Rd,

NUGEGODA 077 3458785, 011 2811833
Ekawaththa Rd, Minihana,

NUGEGODA 011 2846100, 077 1652800
No. 4, High Level Plaza, Deikanda,

PADUKKA 011 2859186, 011 5638677
No. 03, Hanwella Road,

PILIJANDALA 011 2619967, 072 8069487
No. 05, Seeko Gardens, Gedabuwana,

PITAKOTTE 011 2823960, 077 0858585
No. 435, Pothgala,

RAJAGIRIYA 011 2861338
No. 51/2A, Rajahewatharana Road,

RATHMALANA 011 2626106, 011 2632006
Thrusitha Newspaper Agency, Galle Rd,

RAWATHAWATTE 011 2655153, 071 4274689
No. 3, Soysa Road, Galle Road

UDAHAMULLA 077 6859780, 011 2810042
No 138, Station Rd,

classified@lakehouse.lk
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Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

(NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURE)

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

MORAGAHAKANDA - KALUGANGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT-MORAGAHAKANDA, KOONGAHAWELA

Sealed quotations will be received for the provision of the dry rations for the months of May and June, 2021, for the families resettled in Curuwela and Welwela Divisions under the Moragahakanda Kaluganga Development Project of the Ministry of Irrigation. These prices should be valid for 60 days from the bid opening date.

Description of Dry Food Items to be supplied:

- Bid Invitation No : MKDP/SUP/Q/5204
- Type of Dry Food Items required - Rice (Local Badabath) Nadu - 125310 Kg
 - Sprats - 4115 Kg
 - Dhall - 8235 Kg
 - Sugar - 8235 Kg
 - Tinned Fish (400gr) - 7875 Tins
 - Tinned Fish (200gr) - 715 Tins
 - Milk Powder - 200 Pkts
- Place to be Supplied - To the Moragahakanda Main Stores

Instructions and Conditions:

Obtaining of Tender Forms:

1. Relevant bid documents containing description of goods to be supplied and the bid forms can be obtained from 15.04.2021 up to 10.05.2021, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m., on weekly working days, on submission of a written request, from the Procurement Section of the Office at the address below and on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00, made to the Accounts Section.

Submission of Quotations:

Quotations sealed and prepared in accordance with the quotation forms could either be sent by registered post or placed in the Tender Box kept at the office, to be received at or before 2.30 p.m. on 11.05.2021.

- The cover containing the quotation should be marked the Tender Number at the left-side top corner.
- Bids received will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on 11.05.2021 and bidder or one of his authorized representatives can be present at the opening.

For further details:

01. Procurement Engineer,
Procurement Section,
Moragahakanda Kaluganga Development Project,
Project Director,
Moragahakanda - Kaluganga Development Project
Moragahakanda, Koongahawela.
Tele No: 066-2053601

STATE MINISTRY OF PADDY AND GRAINS, ORGANIC FOODS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS, CHILLIES, ONION, AND POTATO CULTIVATION PROMOTION, SEEDS PRODUCTION AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Construction of One Stop Shop at Kurunduwaththa ASC Area in Kandy District

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Department of Agrarian Development invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for "Construction of One Stop Shop at Kurunduwaththa ASC Area in Kandy District"

The site is located at Kurunduwaththa Agrarian Service Centre, Kandy District and the construction period is 90 days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB). Since the Total Cost Estimate 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).

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of Building Construction for C6 and C5 with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), valid until the date of closing of the bids. Further the registration should be valid at the date of award.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Commissioner, Agrarian Development District Office, No.60, Gatambe, Peradeniya and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from 9:00hrs to 16:00 hrs.

Contact numbers are: Phone: 081-2388138, Facsimile: 081-2388138

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Deputy Commissioner, Agrarian Development District Office, No.60, Gatambe, Peradeniya from 12.04.2021 until 27.04.2021 from 9:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Rupees. (Rs.3500/-)

6. Bids shall be delivered or sent by registered post in duplicate to the address below at Deputy Commissioner, Agrarian Development District Office, No.60, Gatambe, Peradeniya to reach on or before 28.04.2021 at 14.00 hrs. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the same address mentioned above in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

7. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 Days from the date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.

8. All Bids shall be accompanied by, An original Bid Security which shall be;

- In the form included in the Section 09 in the Bidding document.
- In favour of Deputy Commissioner of Agrarian Development, Kandy District,
- For an amount of Rs. 110,000.00
- Valid up to 28.06.2021
- Issued by one of the agencies indicated in the Clause 16.0 of the Schedule

OR

- A refundable cash deposit for an amount of Rs.55,000.00 should be paid to the Agrarian Development District Office, Kandy and attached the original receipt.

Commissioner General of Agrarian Development,
Department of Agrarian Development,
No. 42, Sir Marcus Fernando Mawatha,
Colombo 07.
12.04.2021

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

N-97

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, Sri Lanka, invites Bids from Suppliers in Sri Lanka for the supply of following item.

Hot Melt Glue for Perfect Binding Machine BQ 470

Item	Qty	Bid Reference No.	Bid Fee
Side Glue (HM 409)	100 Kg	SCP02/NCB13/S/B/Glue/2019-20	Rs. 1500
Back Glue (HM 225)	600 Kg		

Closing Date of Bid : 05.05.2021 - 2.00 p.m.


Bidding Documents relevant to this notice will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing, 118, Dr Danister de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 08 on written application along with a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1500/= per each Bid. Bidding Documents will be issued by the Supplies Division itself before 2.00 p.m. on or before the day prior to the closing date given above.

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

Gangani Liyanage
Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.
Telephone / Fax : 011-2694898
Website : www.documents.gov.lk
12.04.2021

Invitation of Proposals for the Development of National Education Policy Framework – 2020-2030



National Education Commission (NEC) was established by an Act of Parliament - Act No. 19 of 1991. The main functions of the NEC are:

- to make recommendations on National Education Policy in all its aspects, with a view to ensuring continuity in educational policy and enabling the education system to respond to changing needs in society,
- to review and analyze periodically the National Education Policy and plans in operation and where necessary to recommend changes in such policy and plans, and
- to advise the President on any other matter relating to education which may be referred to it by the President, for its advice.

NEC has undertaken this mandate since 1991 and formulated education policy proposals in periodic intervals on key sub-sectors of education - early childhood education, general education, higher education and technical and vocational education, and submitted to the President and also made many recommendations the President on many matters pertaining to education.

NEC has commenced the formulation National Education Policy Framework - 2020-2030, with a view to developing policies and strategic activity plans to reform the education sector to cater for present and future needs.

Herewith, the NEC invites proposals from the general public, institutions and organizations for consideration of the NEC in the ongoing policy formulation process. Written submissions are requested for eight sub-sectors of education, namely, Early Childhood Education, General Education, Higher Education, Technical and Vocational Education, Pirivena Education, Special Education, Non-formal Education and International & Private Schools under the following 12 core areas: i) Access, Equity and Inclusiveness, ii) Curriculum Design, Content and Learning Outcomes, iii) Teaching—Learning Process and Assessments, iv) Learning Environment and Learners Welfare, v) Benchmarking and Quality Assurance, vi) Knowledge Creation, Technology Transfer and Nurturing of Art & Culture, vii) Personality Development, viii) Promotion of Patriotism and Civic Consciousness, ix) Financing of Education, x) Quality of Human Resources, xi) Quality of Physical Resources and xii) Regulations, Governance and Efficiency.

Written submission must be presented in the following format: Sub-sector, Current Context and Issues/Gaps and Recommended Policies and Strategic Activities and the length of the submission should not exceed more than 5 (A4 size) pages. NEC may invite proponents of written proposals that need further elaborations for oral submissions.

Written submissions may be sent by e-mail, fax or by post addressed to the Secretary, National Education Commission, 126, Nawala Road, Nugegoda on or before 30th April 2021. Please indicate 'Proposals for National Education Policy Framework (2020-2030)' on the top left-hand corner of the envelope/cover page.

E-mail : secnec@slt.lk **Fax:** 0112816178
Website : <http://www.nec.gov.lk>

Chairman
National Education Commission
5th April 2021

STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL AND DIVISIONAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY

EXTENSION OF THE LAST DATE FOR ACCEPTING PROCUREMENT DOCUMENTS

The last date for accepting procurement documents was extended up to 10.00 a.m. on 27.04.2021 as published in the Procurement Notice dated 29.03.2021.

Further, it is hereby informed that a pre-bid meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 21.04.2021.

Other terms and conditions remain same.

Chairman
Departmental Procurement Committee,
Department of National Community Water Supply
No. 1114, Pannipitiya Road,
Talawathugoda.

Procurement Notice

MINISTRY OF ENERGY

CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CPC)

Disposal of Dispensing Pumps, Air Compressors, Hibouys, Used Tyres & Rims, Batteries, Floating Hoses, Scrap Iron etc..

(B/30/2021)

Sealed bids are hereby invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Ceylon Petroleum Corporation for the Disposal of following items available at RDD Yard at Ex-Nylon 6 premises, Sapugaskanda.

Lot A : 127 Nos. Dispensing Pumps
 32 Nos. Air Compressors
 29 Nos. Hibouys

Lot B : 256 Nos. Used Tyres & 12 Nos. Vehicle Rims

Lot C : 123 Nos. Non-Hybrid Batteries & 18 Nos. UPS Batteries

Lot D : 07 Nos. Hybrid Car Batteries

Lot E : Floating Hoses (includes hoses, chains, wire rope, iron scraps, etc received from off shore SPBM facility)

Lot F : Scrap Iron

Bidding Documents can be obtained after payment of non-refundable fee of **Rs. 500/= (i.e. Rs. 462.9) + 8% VAT** to CPC on working days between **0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs up to 04.05.2021** from the office of Manager (Procurement & Stores), Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, 01st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 09.

Bids will be closed at **1400 hrs on 05.05.2021** and opened immediately thereafter at the Office of Manager (Procurement & Stores).

Items to be disposed under Lot A to Lot F are presently available in the Ex Nylon 06 premises, Sapugaskanda and CPC Head Office and inspection of the items could be arranged on prior appointment with the Manager (Procurement & Stores), until **04.05.2021**

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from Manager (Procurement & Stores), over the Telephone No. 5455331 or Facsimile No.: 5455424.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the bidders can download the bidding document from CPC website, i.e. www.ceypetco.gov.lk, and all the payments can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office). Please submit the original of the bank receipt along with the bid.

Chairman,
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation
1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 09.

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

National Institute of Education

GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKS FOR BUILDINGS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION BUILDINGS AT MAHARAGAMA & MEEPE 2021/2022

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the National Institute of Education invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Repair & General Maintenance Works for buildings of National Institute of Education at Maharagama and Meepe and their surroundings in the year 2021/2022 as described below and estimated to cost accumulating up to the ceiling of **SLR 30 Million** without Value Added Tax (VAT) within the period of one year. The works include Civil, Mechanical & Electrical Works.
- Bidding will be conducted following National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (ii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and must be registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA-successor to ICTAD) for Building Construction **Grade C5 and C4**.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include;

The Bidders shall have previous experience at least in one construction project of value not less than SLR 10 Million within last three years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director (Engineering Services), National Institute of Education, Maharagama (Tel 0117601600) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs on working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by the interested bidders from the Director (Engineering Services), National Institute of Education, Maharagama (Tel 0117601600) on submission of a written application to the Director General, National Institute of Education, No 21, High level road, Maharagama from **16.04.2021, until 05.05.2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of SIR 7,000.00 made to A/C No 607628 Director General, NIE (Bank of Ceylon branch situated in the NIE premises).
- Sealed bids may be delivered to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, National Institute of Education, Maharagama to reach before **2.00 p.m. on 06.05.2021**. Bids could also be placed in the tender box kept at the office of the Deputy Director General (Administration, Finance and Support Services) before the date and time mentioned above. The title of the bid and contract number should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope.
- Bids shall be valid up to **02.09.2021**.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Security of SLR 450,000.00**, which should be obtained from a Commercial Bank accepted by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka valid until **30.09.2021**. The Bid Security should be "On-demand" & "Unconditional" and as per the format given in the Bidding Document.

Director General,
National Institute of Education,
No. 21,
High Level Road,
Maharagama.

AUCTION OF UNREDEEMED GOLD ARTICLES

Gold articles left as security for gold loans at Vavuniya, Balangoda, Moratuwa, Kalutara, Kurunegala, Galle, Medawachchiya, Polonnaruwa, Dehiattakandiya, Kanthale, Walapane, Kandy, Chilawa, Keagalle, Nikaweratiya, Bandarawela, Monaragala, Kirulapone (City Branch), Ampara, Mannar, Mallavi, Ratnapura, Batticaloa, Dambulla, Halton, Horana, Jaffna, Matara, Nuwara-Eliya, Puttalam, Trincomalee, Matabele, Pottuvil, Thisamaharamaya, Badulla, Galenbindunuwewa, Gampaha, Ja-Ela, Negombo, Nittambuwa, Kaduwela, Neeliyadi, Wennappuwa, Padaviya, Welimada and Nawala Head Office HNB Finance branches/Service Centres up to 31/12/2020, and not redeemed or renewed by 16/04/2021, will be sold by public auction.

Auction Date : 19/04/2021
Auction Time : 10.30 am
Auction Venue : HNB Finance, No.168, Nawala Road, Nuwegoda.

- 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, Nuwegoda
 Tel: 0112 02 48 48
 Fax: 0112 17 62 63

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION MAHARAGAMA

Invitation for Bids

Tenders are invited by the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of the National Institute of Education from eligible suppliers in Sri Lanka for the Supply and Installation of Auditorium Chairs in the Auditorium in the five storeyed building of the National Institute of Education.

Tender File No.	Item	Value of Non-refundable Bid Form Fee (Rs.)	Value of Bid Security (Rs.)
01 NIE/LP/2020/73	Supplying and Installation of Auditorium Chairs	1500.00	77,500.00

Tender documents with all other details could be obtained during working days of the week between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from the Procurement Officers by submitting the receipt obtained after depositing the non-refundable fee to Account No. 607628 (Bank of Ceylon, Maharagama) in favour of the Director General. Issuing of Tender Documents will close at 3.00 p.m. on 03.05.2021.

A pre-bid meeting relevant to this matter will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 22.04.2021 at the Deputy Director General's (Administration, Finance & Supportive Service) Office.

Duly completed sealed bids should be sent by Registered Post addressed to the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, National Institute of Education, Maharagama to be received before 2.00 p.m. on 04.05.2021 or should be inserted in the Tender Box kept in the Deputy Director General's (Administration, Finance & Supportive Services) Office. The relevant Tender No. should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing the Tender. Tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on 04.05.2021.

The decision of the Director General of the National Institute of Education regarding this procurement is deemed final.

You may contact on : 0117601797 or 0117601799 for further details.

Director General,
National Institute of Education,
Maharagama.
12.04.2021

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For more Details -
Piyumi - 011 2 429 383 / Ramani - 011 2 429 347