

## Port City Bill more transparent than GCEC Act - Minister

**CHAMINDA PERERA**  
Education Minister Prof.G.L.Peeris yesterday said that those who are filing petitions in the Supreme Court, challenging the constitutionality of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill, have forgotten the Greater Colombo Economic Commission Act (GCEC) which was passed in Parliament in 1978. He said the Greater Colombo Economic Commission Bill adopted in Parliament in 1978

exempted usual tax laws of the country such as Inland Revenue Act and Foreign Exchange Act.

The Minister said that a number of groups including the Samagi Jana Balawegaya and the United National Party are involved in a disinformation campaign over the Bill without any basis.

The Education Minister was speaking to the media after calling on the Most Ven. Ittappane Dhammalankara Thera at

Sri Dharma Wijayaloka Maha Viharaya in Pannipitiya yesterday. The Minister during the meeting had made the Thera aware of the current situation of the country.

“Over 20 petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill. But the SJB and the UNP have forgotten what was done soon after former President J.R. Jayewardene came to power in 1977”, he

said. The Minister said the incumbent President has to approve the Master Plan of the Colombo Port City and any revision in the Master Plan too has to be approved by the President under the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill. The accounts of the Commission are required to be audited annually and the final Audit report should be submitted to the President.



The Minister added that Security Forces and the Police have full access to the Colombo Port city. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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## MINISTER ALI SABRY ASSURES PORT CITY TOTALLY UNDER GOVT CONTROL



**ENTIRE LAND AREA BELONGS TO SRI LANKA**

**NO LANDS GRANTED OUTRIGHT TO CHINA**

**LANKAN LAWS WILL APPLY**

**LAHIRU FERNANDO**  
Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, yesterday flatly rejected claims that the Port City would be a “Chinese Colony” governed by China. Minister Sabry also denied that 43 per cent of the Port City's land area will be given as an outright grant to China. “The entire land area of the Port

City belongs to Sri Lanka,” the Minister told a news briefing held to explain the legal background of the Port City project at the Government Information Department.

He said the present Government will always act in accordance with the Constitution of Sri Lanka and will not go against the Supreme Court rulings.

Minister Sabry said: “Special Economic Zones are not a new concept. Sri Lanka cannot move ahead without foreign investment. The competition for investment is high at present. Therefore, we established this project to get down more investors and fast track investments. Our main intention is to bring in more Foreign Direct

Investments.” The Minister pointed out that Sri Lanka is at the 99th place of the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. “The complexity of the approval procedures discourages investors. Sri Lanka has been seeking a one-stop shop to facilitate investors for years now. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Remembering the Easter Sunday victims: Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, blessed the Monument to commemorate the victims of the Easter Sunday Bomb Attack at the Madampitiya cemetery yesterday. The Archbishop blessed and unveiled a similar Monument at Borella cemetery earlier in the day. Pictures by Sulochana Gamage.

## Nineteen Petitions against Port City Economic Commission Bill heard today

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA**  
The Supreme Court will hear 19 Special Determination petitions filed challenging the constitutionality of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill today (19).

These petitions will be heard before a Five-Judge-Bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya and Justices Buwaneka Aluwihare, Priyantha Jayawardena, Murdu Fernando and Janak de Silva at 10 am today (19). **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Port City governed within country's laws - State Minister

**ASELA KURULUWANA**  
The Colombo Port City has been gazetted as a land belonging to Sri Lanka and all its activities are being carried out in accordance with the laws of the country, State Finance, Capital Markets and Public Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal told Chief Incumbents of the Malwathu and Asgiriya Chapters in Kandy yesterday (18). **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## All schools re-open under 'New Normal' today

**DINULI FRANCISCO**  
All State and government approved private schools countrywide will commence for the second term today. Even though schools were re-opened in different phases in several parts of the country during the past few months, it is after more than a year that all schools in the country are re-opening. The Education Ministry stated that schools should function adhering to the health guidelines. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Global COVID deaths reach 3 million

The global death toll from the coronavirus has topped a staggering three million people amid repeated setbacks in the worldwide vaccination campaign and a deepening crisis in places such as Brazil, India and France.

The number of lives lost, as compiled by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the population of Kyiv, Ukraine; Caracas, Venezuela; or metropolitan Lisbon, Portugal. It is bigger than Chicago (2.7 million) and equivalent to Philadelphia

and Dallas combined. And the true number is believed to be significantly higher because of possible government concealment and the many cases overlooked in the early stages of the outbreak that began in Wuhan. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Fifty two killed, 669 injured in roads from April 13

**DINULI FRANCISCO**  
Fifty two persons have been killed and 669 persons have been injured in road accidents from April 13 to yesterday, Police Media Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana stated.

DIG Rohana stated that 399 road accidents were reported during this period. He also added that according to statistics around 10 persons have been killed within a day due to road accidents. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## PCol recommendations; BASL against Motion in Order Book

**LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA**  
The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) said that it will firmly resist any attempt to use a Motion in Parliament to withdraw any criminal action pending before a Court of Law.

The BASL said it has been brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka that a Motion was placed on the Order Book of Parliament on April 9 2021 to implement certain **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## SJB for a successful Port City - Harsha

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Dr. Harsha de Silva told a media briefing in Colombo yesterday that the SJB was engaged in constructive criticism on the proposed Port City Bill with the aim of making the Port City project a success. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



## Velan Swamy in fray for NPC Chief Ministership

**RASULA DILHARA**, North Special Corr.  
Several Tamil political parties are planning to contest the upcoming Northern Provincial Council elections as a joint alliance while fielding a common candidate for the Chief Minister's post.

Former Chief Minister of the Northern Provincial Council and now a Parliamentarian C.V. Wigneswaran has proposed the name of Hindu priest Velan Swamy as the common candidate of the alliance. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



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# Port City Bill Constitutional, US Ambassador making contradictory statements - Minister

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said that the Port City Act is fully compliant with the Constitution of the country without any prejudice. He said that the Attorney General had clearly stated this and that was why the relevant bill was included in the order book and prepared for

debate in Parliament. He was speaking at a media briefing in Kandy yesterday (18). He charged that the US Ambassador here was making contradictory statements on the project. The Minister said at times the US Ambassador says that black money could be brought to the Port City for

money laundering and at other times says that a number of Americans were ready to invest in the Port City. The Minister also said the fact that 21 petitions filed for and against the Bill show that there is no impediment to challenging the Bill in the Supreme Court and parties are free to do so.



# SJB will challenge Government's ploy in Port City - Opposition Leader

PAHAN WIJESSEKERA

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa said in Hambantota yesterday (18) that the government was planning to carry out financial terrorism and financial separatism, as well as economic terrorism and economic separatism. The Leader of the Opposition said the government had devised a plan to make the country a slave to foreign powers through the Port City project and that the Samagi Jana Balawegaya had gone to the Supreme Court against it and would take all possible steps to defeat this ploy of the government. He also said that the government



is doing this in blatant violation of the Constitution to completely betray the sovereignty of the people of the country. He pointed out that the government had brought the separatist process to the forefront in a new way and that the government had taken steps to build a racketeering financial capitalism through it. The Leader of the Opposition said that the Samagi Jana Balawegaya was coming forward unconditionally against this damaging process of the government and called on the real progressive forces to join it.

# Couple held with heroin in Talangama

DINULI FRANCISCO

Talangama Police arrested a couple with 500 grams of heroin during a raid at Heenatikumbura Talangama.



The car used by the couple in police custody.

Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that it was revealed that the couple was operating under drug kingpin "Kalu Sagara" and his mistress "Muthu" currently living in Dubai. DIG Rohana said that the male suspect is 30 years old and the female suspect is 33 years old from Ambalangoda and Nonagama areas respectively. The duo will be produced in the Kaduwela Magistrate's court today.



The contraband and the items recovered from the smuggling couple yesterday.

# Laws to control fake social media platforms - Minister

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Cabinet of Ministers is currently in a discussion on bringing in new laws to control the dissemination of disinformation via the social media platforms in Sri Lanka, Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC said. He said it is currently taking into the consideration the laws such as the Prevention of Online Falsehood and Manipulation Act that is effective in Singapore, India and Malaysia.

According to him, out of the entire social media profiles in Sri Lanka, 15 to 17 per cent is fake. Therefore, it is impossible to prosecute them if they disseminated something baseless. "Such moves could have direct impacts on the freedom of expression in the future. Freedom of Expression should be secondary to national security, reconciliation, dignity of the country, privacy, defamation and economic factors", he stressed.

# Myanmar releases 12 Sri Lankan fishermen

MAHINDA ALUTHGEDERA

Myanmar released 12 Sri Lankan fishermen arrested by Myanmar authorities for trespassing into their waters. The Sri Lankan fishermen arrested by the Myanmar Navy last February were released as a result of discussions with Myanmar authorities, the Sri Lankan High Commission in Myanmar said. In addition to these fishermen, two

fishing vessels were also seized by the Myanmar Navy and on several occasions the relatives of the fishermen had requested the Sri Lankan government to intervene to get them released as well. Accordingly, Sri Lankan fishermen released from Myanmar will be repatriated to Sri Lanka shortly, a Sri Lankan High Commission in Myanmar spokesman said.

## Port City governed within... From page 01



State Minister Cabraal briefing the Chief Prelates of the Asgiriya and Malwatta Chapters in Kandy yesterday.

State Minister Cabraal visited the Asgiriya and Malwatta Maha Viharaya yesterday (18) morning on the instructions of the President and the Prime Minister, and briefed both the Mahanayake Theras on the functions related to the Port City.

State Minister Lohan Ratwatte and MP Wasantha Yapa Bandara accompanied the State Minister.

Cabraal said the project will create 83,000 new jobs and that this was a turning point in the country's economy. He stated that some people with vested political interests were trying to scuttle the project. The State Minister said the present government has always sought the advice and suggestions of the Mahanayake Theras and that is why the Chief Prelates were first made aware of the misconceptions that were developing regarding the Colombo Port City.

The Port City is governed by a Commission, he said. This project, which brings in a huge amount of foreign exchange to the country, is a turning point in the country's economy and some people are afraid that this project will bring a huge economic boost to the country. He said that the government hopes to inform the Mahanayake Theras whenever there is any problem or question in this regard and that the present government will act in a very transparent manner and will not do anything secretly. The Most Venerable Thibbatuwawe Sri Siddhartha Sumangala Thera, the Chief Incumbent of Malwatta Chapter said he appreciates the steps taken by the government to inform the Maha Sangha about the Port City. He said people have given a huge mandate in the belief that the present government will not do anything harmful to the country and it is the responsibility of the government to protect that belief.

State Minister Cabraal said that the government will appoint a Committee to study the implementation of the Commission Act pertaining to the Port City. If such a committee is appointed, it should include not only those who are loyal to the government but also educated and moderate people, the Chief Prelate of Malwatta said.

## PORT CITY TOTALLY UNDER GOVT CONTROL... From page 01

The Port City is the best resolution for those issues," he added.

Out of this US\$ 1.4 billion initial investment for Port City, Sri Lanka expects an income of US\$ 15 billion after the completion, he said. Out of the entire 269 hectares reclaimed land area, nine per cent has been allocated for common facilities such as roads and parking, 116 hectares (43 per cent) for the Chinese company and the rest for the Sri Lankan Government.

These 116 hectares have been leased out for 99 years with the concurrence of the previous governments of Presidents Mahinda Rajapaksa and Maithripala Sirisena, he said.

The Minister said the Sri Lankan General Law and the Criminal Law will be effective within this new territory as the land area belongs to the Colombo Administrative District.

Accordingly, the Sri Lankan Government has total control over the Port City and can take over the lands in case of a violation of the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement signed by the Megapolis Ministry, Urban Development Authority (UDA) and the Chinese Company in 2016.

The UDA has to express its consent even when the lands leased out to China are sub-leased to a third party, the Minister noted. "The parties criticizing

the project are just creating a bogeyman. This is the turning point of the country's development drive. It is an occasion to celebrate," the Justice Minister said.

Parliamentarian Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC addressing the media said there is disinformation over the controversial Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill.

He said as per a letter sent to the President's Secretary Dr.P.B.Jayasundara by Attorney General Dapula de Livera on March 24, the provisions of the Bill are not inconsistent with the Sri Lankan Constitution. According to the provisions of this Bill, the Commission becomes the sole authority

to take decisions with regard to the functioning of the Port City. Powers to appoint and remove the Chairman and the Members of the Commission are vested with the Sri Lankan President and there is no provision that makes it compulsory to appoint foreigners rather than Sri Lankans to the Commission, he added.

Financial transactions of the Commission should be audited by an internationally recognised company on an annual basis and the report should be submitted to the President and the Parliament, he said.

He also pointed out that regulations enacted with regard to the Port City should be presented before



Parliament for its approval and no regulation(s) would be effective if rejected by Parliament.

"This is a great opportunity to benefit our citizens. We have to make the maximum use of it. It is sad that the Opposition is purposely attempting to mislead the public on this issue."

## Global COVID deaths reach... From page 01

China, at the end of 2019.

When the world back in January passed the bleak threshold of 2 million deaths, immunization drives had just started in Europe and the United States. Today, they are underway in more than 190 countries, though progress in bringing the virus under control varies widely.

While the campaigns in the U.S. and Britain have hit their stride and people and businesses there are beginning to contemplate life after the pandemic, other places, mostly poorer countries but some rich ones as well, are lagging behind in putting shots in arms and have imposed new lockdowns and other restrictions as virus cases soar.

Worldwide, deaths are on the rise again, running at around 12,000 per day on average, and new cases are climbing too, eclipsing 700,000 a day.

"This is not the situation we want to be in 16 months into a pandemic, where we have proven control measures," said Maria Van Kerkhove, one of the World Health Organization's leaders on COVID-19.

In Brazil, where deaths are running at about 3,000 per day, accounting for one-quarter of the lives lost worldwide in recent weeks, the crisis has been likened to a "raging inferno" by one WHO official. A more contagious variant of the virus has been rampaging across the country.

As cases surge, hospitals are running out of critical sedatives. As a result, there have been reports of some doctors diluting what supplies remain and even tying patients to their beds while breathing tubes are pushed down their throats. Globally, about 87% of the 700 million doses dispensed have been given out in rich countries. While 1 in 4 people in wealthy nations have received a vaccine, in poor countries the figure is 1 in more than 500. In recent days, the U.S. and some European countries put the use of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine on hold while authorities investigate extremely rare but dangerous blood clots. (ABC)

## PCoI recommendations; BASL... From page 01

decisions made by the Cabinet of Ministers on February 15, 2021 based on the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) to Investigate and Inquire into alleged political victimisations between January 8, 2015 and November 16, 2019.

The statement issued under the signature of BASL Secretary Rajeev Amarasuriya stated that the BASL Executive Committee has called upon the Prime Minister to refrain from pursuing with the said Motion.

The BASL maintained that this Motion has been placed before Parliament whilst certain proceedings challenging the said Presidential Commission of Inquiry Report are pending before the Superior Courts. The BASL further said this Commission Report has neither been made public nor a copy thereof provided to the BASL despite a request.

The Executive Committee of the BASL is extremely concerned about the manner and timing in which the said Motion has been placed on the Order Book of Parliament. The Executive Committee of the BASL is of the view that the said Motion, if passed, would be inimical to the Doctrine of Separation of Powers and an affront to the Rule of Law, the independence of the Judiciary and would set a very bad and unhealthy precedent with regard to due process, the BASL statement further added.



## Economic Commission Bill.. From page 01

Nineteen petitions have been filed so far against the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill. They are; Samagi Jana Balawegaya General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara, SJB MP Harshana Rajakaruna. Former JVP former MP Wasantha Samarasinghe, UNP Chairman Vajira Abeywardena, UNP General Secretary Palitha Range Bandara, Oshala Herath, Dr. Ajantha Perera, Jern Jagatheesan who contested the 2020 General Election under the UNP ticket, BASL President Saliya Pieris PC, BASL Secretary Rajiv Amarasuriya and engineer Kapila Renuka Perera, Center for Policy Alternatives and its Executive Director Paikyasothy Saravanamuttu, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), Ven. Muruththettuwe Ananda Thera and Attorney-at-law Dasun Nagasena.

The petitioners are seeking a declaration that the Bill in whole or in part requires the approval by people at a Referendum and requires a Two -Thirds majority in Parliament.

## All schools re-open under... From page 01

issued during the first term.

Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera said if the number of students in a class are 15, they can attend classes daily. If the number of students in a class are between 16 and 30, the class should be divided into two groups and conducted on equal days. If the number is above 30, they should be divided into three groups and classes held at least thrice a week.

Perera said that this division of classes must be continued until the Health Services Director General issues a new set of guidelines. He also said that if students are indicating any symptoms of illness, health authorities must be informed regarding the situation. He also added that emergency care units are active and sick beds are made ready to face the situation.

He further said that all parties involved in the Education sector must act responsibly since COVID-19 is still active in society.

Students are advised not to share their belongings such as lunch boxes and water bottles and food. Wearing a face mask is mandatory to enter the school and washing hands, maintaining a distance should also be strictly followed.

Dhamma schools were also re-opened yesterday. The Buddhist Affairs Department stated that all Dhamma schools are functioning adhering to the COVID-19 rules and regulations.



## Fifty two killed, 669 injured... From page 01

He said 2,242 vehicles have been taken to custody on charges of drunk driving and road traffic accidents. From them 1,429 motorcycles, 552 three wheelers, 128 cars, 38 lorries, 30 vans, 28 dual purpose vehicles, 22 cabs, 12 buses and two foot cycles and one container were involved in the accidents.

DIG Ajith Rohana stated that the majority of the accidents had occurred due to reckless driving and those lives lost could have been saved if the drivers are more responsible.

## Port City Bill more transparent... From page 01

The law enforcement authorities can take action if any crime is taking place in the Colombo Port City. The police can take action against any violation of law within the Colombo Port City

He said that the former President Jayewardene believed that an Act in the form of Greater Colombo Economic Commission Bill was the need of the hour to spur development by bringing more and more investments.

"This Act passed in the Sri Lanka Parliament in 1978 did not apply to the areas of authority that comes under the purview of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission. This Bill was presented in Parliament within 3 to 4 months of President J.R.Jayewardene forming the UNP government", he said.

The Minister said that Greater Colombo Economic Commission had allowed banking institutes to accept deposits from non Sri Lankans. "This Commission has allowed the banking institutes to operate secret numbered bank accounts of its constituents who are not citizens of Sri Lanka. Powers were given to the Commission to punish those who uncovered the identity of these depositors," he said.

He said that the Greater Colombo Economic Commission Act introduced by then President J.R.Jayewardene had allowed any fraudster to make deposits in the banking system.

## Velan Swamy in fray for... From page 01

Commenting on the matter Velan Swamy said at a time when the Tamil political parties were divided and the Tamil people were divided, it was the duty of the religious leaders to unite all of them.

He said in that sense he will accept any invitation to unite Tamil political parties under one banner. He said religious leaders had the strength to make matters clear to the politicians of the South as well. Velan Swamy of Jaffna was in the forefront of a Tamil political party march from Pottuvil to Point Pedro in Jaffna recently.



## SJB for a successful... From page 01

He said the 2020 Draft states that this requires the approval of Parliament to legislate. "But the Draft given now has been gazetted. That gazette should be tabled in Parliament only for information." "We want to know who changed it," he said.

The SJB is one of the parties which has filed determination petitions to be taken up for hearing today challenging the constitutionality of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill.





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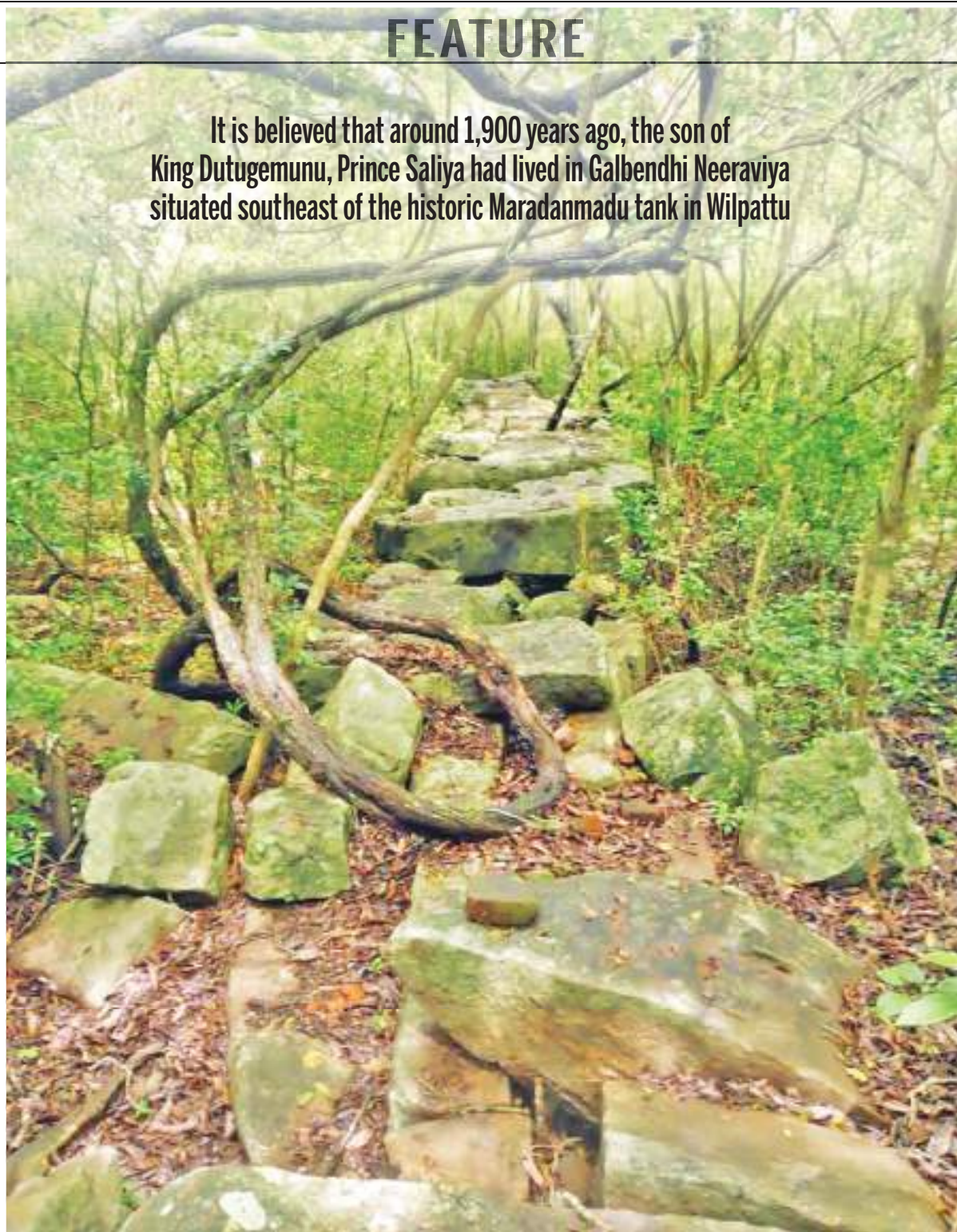
A Samadhi Buddha statue found in Wilpattu National Park



The Ochchappukallu ruins



Kadirmalai Point Miocene bed



Conveyance canal of Kuda Vilachchiya

It is believed that around 1,900 years ago, the son of King Dutugemunu, Prince Saliya had lived in Galbendhi Neeraviya situated southeast of the historic Maradanmadu tank in Wilpattu



Uppane Buddha statue



A stone inscription found in the sanctuary



Ruins of the Araliyagala Temple



Araliyagala ruins

# HIDDEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL



Kuveni Maligaya

# TREASURES IN WILPATTU



Galge Viharaya



Pomparippu pottery

**NIMAL WIJESINGHE**  
Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

The Wilpattu National Park (WNP) is not only significant from an ecological standpoint, but is also extremely rich in archaeological terms, housing a number of ruins and artifacts. Its proximity to Anuradhapura has also been a factor contributing to the rich archaeological heritage of the area.

The area around the Park is sparsely populated with very few rural settlements. The WNP is one of the least explored areas of the country despite it being documented in some ancient inscriptions. A total of 68 archaeologically important sites have been found, four of which were Miocene fossil sites. Twelve sites belonging to the prehistoric periods were also surveyed.

Several sites represent evidence of both prehistoric and historic periods. Forty-two were identified as a combination of proto-historic and historical sites. In addition, 28 irrigation structures such as tanks and abandoned paddy lands were also identified. One of the major findings of the archaeological surveys has been the discovery of the Weeransole ruins. This site, located near the Palu Vilandawa tank consists of three destroyed image houses and Buddha statues including two of the seated Buddha (Samadhi) and one standing statue. One of the destroyed Samadhi Buddha statues seated under the hood of a cobra, is a rare find. This is the fourth known Buddha statue belonging to this posture in Sri Lanka.

Foreign and local experts such as Begley (1981), Bell (1904), Brohier (1929,1934), Deraniyagala, (1955,1957,1958,1960a, 1960b,1972a.) Hawkey (2002), Nicholas (1963), Paranaavitana, (1956,1970), Seneviratne (1984), Sitramplam (1990), and Wattala (1979) and de Silva and Karunaratne (1979) have directly and indirectly contributed in developing the present knowledge base on the ancient Wilpattu civilization. However it is not an easy task to launch archaeological surveys and excavations in a landscape of 131,879 hectares covered with thick jungle.

The Irrigation Department is now on a move to unveil another irrigation marvel to the nation – the abandoned Kudawilachchiya tank. It believed to have been constructed during the era of Prince Saliya and

Asokamala. This is supposed to be the first-ever evidence of the hydrological knowledge of ancient Sri Lanka that can be proved with evidence. It is believed that around 1,900 years ago, the son of King Dutugemunu, Prince Saliya had lived in Galbendhi Neeraviya situated southeast of the historic Maradanmadu tank in Wilpattu.

Ruined monasteries were found in the forest areas where inscriptions were found on large rocks (Ochchappu Kullu and Veheragala). All these sites have been excavated and destroyed by bounty hunters.

The Ochchappu Kallu rock inscription is still well preserved but the Veheragala inscriptions are barely discernible and limited to a few lines. There were several inscriptions recorded at the WNP. An inscription of Kanitha Tissa (167–186) found on the rock of Ochchappu Kallu and 10 cave inscriptions were recorded in the vicinity of the site. In addition, one of the inscriptions belonged to King Kanasha which was unknown to chronicles such as the *Mahawansa* and *Deepawansa*. In Sinadiyagala, which is a rock about 1.5 miles from the Moderagam Aru, there is another inscription of King Vasabha which describes a scene of the granting of Kalapahanaka tank to the Dakkhina Viharaya at Anuradhapura. Other inscriptions recorded in the Park are the Timbiriwewa rock inscription of King Kumaradasa (508–516 AD), Andaragollagala inscription of King Dathotatissa II (667–683 AD), and an inscribed pillar dating to the 10th century at Pattiya Eliya.

Ruined Stupas are found at Tammannawala, Kimbula Ketugala, Veheragala, Ochchappu Kallu, Naipena Guhawa, Hunuvila Gama and Kalivila. The Stupa at Jumbula Ketigala near Thimbiriwewa has been completely demolished, but brick fragments can be seen in the forest below the rock. Legend suggests that the ruined pillars near the Kali Vila are the remnants of the palace of Kuveni. During a current survey, a ruined Stupa a few metres north of the pillars were observed. The present road network runs through the site and near the stupa and also through the foundation of the structure. Therefore, immediate action has to be taken to prevent further destruction of this site. Veheragala and Naipena Guhawa are somewhat further south from the present road network and hence these sites are not protected.

None of these sites in the Park has been declared or gazetted as archaeologically protected monuments.

The Weeransole ruins near the Palu Vilandawa tank consist of three destroyed Buddha statues, including two seated (Samadhi) and one standing statue. A well-preserved Samadhi statue was moved to the Park entrance (Hunuvilagama) during the 1980s by Army officers, and can now be seen in the image house. This statue is similar to the Samadhi Buddha statue in Anuradhapura. These three Buddha statues have been previously recorded in the Eastern Province – two from Seruvila Mangala Rajamaha Viharaya off Trincomalee and one at the Kantale sugar plantation, and are currently displayed at the archaeological museum in Anuradhapura. This is only the fourth Buddha statue of its kind in this posture. A broken lotus pedestal which belongs to the standing Buddha statue also can be seen at the site. The head and arms of the statue were found to be missing and no inscriptions indicating the same have yet been discovered at the sites. The site has also been excavated and destroyed by bounty hunters, and requires urgent conservation.

There are eight divisions within the Park and it is learnt that the staff presently available for guarding, guiding, developing field work, bungalow maintenance, administrative and finance management is not sufficient. This staff of around 85 is not strong enough to prevent growing illegal sand mining, timber rackets, poaching, chena cultivation, encroachment of the forest reservation, trespassing, etc., and enforcing law on vandals and all sorts of culprits.

No full-scale survey for discovering archaeologically important sites has been conducted in collaboration with the Archaeology Department. According to the Puravidya Chakrawartha Venerable Ellawala Medhananda Nayake Thera there are around 300 archaeologically important sites situated within the Park premises, the majority of them covered with thick jungle. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has initiated a lengthy survey aimed at documenting sites of cultural and archaeological importance, flora and fauna varieties, abandoned and existing water sources. There are around 100 safari vehicles and due to dearth of staff the safari vehicles travel to the interior of the Park without guides or field assistants.

The WNP needs more wildlife rangers, field assistants, guides and bungalow keepers – a minimum workforce of 150 immediately for the protection of the Park.

Nearby settlers, security personnel and local government authorities have very little environmental awareness of the Park.

This inhibits their ability to effectively coordinate and take decisions that would help manage the Park. Illegal deforestation contributes to accelerated loss of biodiversity and archaeological treasures because of habitat reduction and destruction.

Many people think that gold and other treasures lie hidden within the archaeological ruins. This encourages nearby residents or organized gangs from outside to venture into the Park searching for riches. It is observed that almost all the significant sites have been looted and are in need of urgent conservation. Treasure hunters not only destroy existing archaeological ruins, they become familiar with the area and might indulge in further nefarious activities. Therefore the findings made so far can be used as baseline data for future detailed exploration, and also to prioritize conservation action. It is vital to document and publish the available information of this unique ancient civilization for awakening public awareness, both local and international.

It is understood that except for the exploratory survey executed by the IUCN no local or world heritage organization has conducted a full-scale survey of the WNP in consultation with the Wildlife Conservation Department and the Archaeology Department for recording the monuments which have been destroyed by treasure hunters.

The IUCN research programme 'Supporting WNP Management in Sri Lanka' commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development with the Department of Wildlife Conservation working as the main technical implementing agency has been launched.

The programme running from 2019–2022 aims at enhancing the WNP's infrastructure, supporting inter-agency coordination, better patrolling to thwart poaching, securing and rehabilitating habitats. The government of Germany has extended financial support valued at eight million Euros to complete the project.



# Concerns over Port City being Chinese colony baseless – Minister Johnston



Chief Government Whip and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando yesterday said that the Colombo Port City will be a driver of growth and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and concerns over it being a Chinese colony are baseless and totally unfounded.

He was speaking to the media after attending a Sinhala and Hindu New Year festival in Kurunegala.

The Minister said that the Port City is going to be another special economic zone.

"When the Katunayake Free Trade Zone was set up under the Greater Colombo Economic Commission in 1978 under the leadership of Upali Wijewardene, the same fears were raised and some expressed concerns.

Now we have many Special Economic Zones (SEZ), including Export Processing Zones (EPZs), Industrial Parks (IPs) and Industrial Estates. We have 12 EPZs and two IPs throughout the country. These areas are considered vital for attracting investment and building industry and the fears raised when the Katunayake EPZ was set up were not raised when other similar zones were set up in Biyagama and Koggala," the Minister said.

"The Port City, too, is going to be an SEZ with tax exemptions and more latitude for the investors. Like in the case of Greater Colombo Economic Commission, which later became the Board of Investment, for the control of the Port City, a special commission is

proposed. The Government has submitted a Bill to Parliament for that purpose. Taking chunks out of that Bill, the Opposition and misled parties are now expressing fears," the Minister said.

He said that an SEZ cannot become a colony of another country. The UNCTAD has identified SEZ as a 'geographically delimited areas within which governments facilitate industrial activity through fiscal and regulatory incentives and infrastructure support' and such zones are widely used in most developing and many developed economies.

He said that in similar delimited areas, governments facilitate industrial activity through fiscal and regulatory

incentives and infrastructure support. There are about 5,383 SEZs across 147 economies worldwide. "None of those countries have lost their territorial integrity of their SEZs have become a threat to their sovereignty. We already have SEZs and India too has them. The fears being mongered are baseless," the Minister said.

Responding to a question by a journalist that MP Wijeyadasa Rajapakse raised concerns that the Port City would become a Chinese colony through this Bill, the Minister said that nowhere in the Bill, did the Government present a clause to imply that the Port City would be colonised by China. The Minister said that MP Rajapakse should have raised his concerns at the

group meeting instead of holding press conferences. "He should have followed what has been taught in Buddhist literature that the in-door fire is not to be taken out of doors," the Minister said.

The Minister said that the land reclaimed from the sea near the Galle Face for making a Port City and not for an esplanade where people could fly kites. "The Port City is going to be the very same objective that it has been set up. It has been always stated that this would be an SEZ, yet there were no concerns for the past years while the land was being reclaimed for the purpose. So people can understand that the Opposition and interested parties are just mongering fear among the public," the Minister said.

## 'Polythene, plastics irreparably harm environment'

**S.M.WIJAYARATNE.**  
Kurunegala Daily News Corr

Nearly 100,000 turtles had died after consuming polythene and plastics in the past 10 years, a recent survey by environmentalists shows, Kurunegala District Senior Education Director W.M.Balasoorya said.

He was speaking at a meeting of school heads of the Kurunegala District

yesterday in Bingiriya, Kurunegala.

Irregular disposal of polythene and plastics has caused a fatal threat to the human life, too, he said.

The survey by the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) has revealed that about 10 million lunch sheets are thrown away into the environment daily in Sri

Lanka, he said. Early steps have to be taken to ban the indiscriminate misuse of polythene and plastics to avoid possible environmental pollution that may cause severe illnesses.

School community has to be educated well over the disadvantages and evil consequences of the usage of polythene and plastics in our country, he said.

## Customs urges two companies to re-export toxic coconut oil

**SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE**

The Sri Lanka Customs has instructed the other two companies that imported coconut oil containing carcinogens to take steps to re-export the consignments.

Out of the three controversial coconut oil importing companies, only one has so far re-exported the stocks.

The three compa-

nies had imported close to 1,850 MT of toxin coconut oil.

Of this amount, the Customs recently took steps to re-export the entire consignment of 105 MT to Malaysia brought by one of the companies.

The other two companies have been instructed by the Customs to take immediate action to re-export their consignments.

## Youth stranded after party on rock rescued

**SIGIRIYA SPECIAL CORR.**

Wilgamuwa Police rescued 13 youth who had stranded after a booze party on the top of a rock in the middle of the Heen Ganga in Wilgamuwa.

The youth, residents of Maligawatta, Negombo, Mahiyanganaya and Hebarawa, were on a New Year trip.

Police said that they had come to the Heen Ganga area in Wilgamuwa to celebrate the New Year and had held a liquor party on a rock in the middle of the river.

However, heavy rains lashed the area, causing the water levels to rise sharply and the Heen Ganga had overflowed around 4.30 pm, police said.

After informing the Wilgamuwa Police, lifeguards of the Laggala Police of the Matale District Life Saving Unit with the assistance of the Wilgamuwa Police and Army Special Task Force launched an operation to rescue the youth.

The rescue operation was carried out from 4.30 pm to 11.30 pm and officers were able to save all 13 youth without any injuries, Police Lifeguards said.



The Heenganga raging.

## Housemaids in detention centre in Riyadh will be sent back soon - SL Embassy

**MAHINDA ALUTHGEDERA**

The Sri Lankan Embassy in Saudi Arabia has announced that it will repatriate 41 Sri Lankan housemaids at a detention centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia at the earliest.

The embassy said that work has already begun in this regard.

The Sri Lankan embassy said that two foreign ministry officials had met the Chief of Staff at the detention centre recently to discuss the matter and

had received a positive response.

It is said that the issues with regard to flights due to COVID 19 also played a role in the delay in repatriation of these women.

According to a report released by Amnesty

International, 41 Sri Lankan housemaids have been detained in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for about 18 months mainly due to issues in the Saudi Kafala System.

The Sri Lankan Embassy said that the system

was being gradually changed.

Of the 41 housemaids being held at a Saudi detention centre in Riyadh, it is said 20 have fled their jobs and three others have been arrested for begging.

## Excise Ordinance to be amended

**SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE**

The Excise Department of Sri Lanka has decided to amend the 108-year old Excise Ordinance.

The Ordinance will be introduced as a new Act or an amended Act and it will be decided according to

the final report of a commission appointed for the purpose, the Excise Department said.

Commissioner General of Excise A.J. Gunasiri has appointed a committee of 15 members to propose the necessary changes.

## Number of COVID cases from abroad increases

**SANDYA KARUNARATNE**

The number of COVID cases among people coming to Sri Lanka from abroad has increased significantly, Epidemiology Unit Head Dr. Sudath Samaraweera yesterday (18) said.

He added that in many parts of the world, COVID 19 has now formed a third and fourth wave.

He said that there is a need to implement a programme to restrict

the number of people coming to Sri Lanka from the Middle East and other countries.

About 3,480 cases have been reported since the beginning of this month and 583 of them are from people who came from abroad.

He said that immediate steps should be taken to prevent the spread of the COVID 19 virus from foreign contacts.

## Cab in timber racket defies 'stop' orders injuring two soldiers at roadblock

The Army said that a cab loaded with timber, which defied orders to stop, had rammed into a roadblock at Omanthai injuring two soldiers at the roadblock on Saturday.

Two persons involved in an illegal timber racket were in the vehicle.

The cab had veered off the road and crashed in Omanthai.

The driver and his assistant in the vehicle

had fled. The two injured soldiers have been admitted to the Vavuniya Hospital.

A joint investigation is underway with the Omanthai Police to arrest the two suspects.

## Special traffic plan for St. Anthony's Church Service

**RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA**

A special traffic plan will be implemented for the service to be held at St. Anthony's Church, Kochchikade, Colombo, Police said.

The service will be held from 4.00 pm on April 20 to 12.00 noon on April 21.

According to the Police Headquarters, the traffic plan is carried out as there is a possibility of heavy traffic on the road.

Access to St. Anthony's Mawatha, Ram-anathan Mawatha and Christy Perera Mawatha will be restricted.

Vehicles can travel from Hettiyawatta to Pettah along George R De Silva Mawatha, Christy Perera Mawatha, Sangamitta Mawatha and Maha Vidyalaya Mawatha.

The Reclamation Road, China Street, Adu-ruppu Veediya, Maha Vidyalaya Mawatha, Armor Barber Light Signal Junction, George R. de Silva Mawatha could be used to travel towards Hettiyawatta.

The Police Media Division said in a statement that the special traffic plan was in place as a large number of people were expected to visit the church during the period.

## China's Henan Province to set up Sri Lankan pavilion

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to China Dr. Palitha Kohona has met the Deputy Governor of Henan Province He Jinping and the Deputy Mayor of Zhengzhou, Wu Fu Min recently, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Deputy Governor has detailed the current economic performance of the rich Henan province.

He stated that its historical and current strategic strength as a vital railway and highway hub in the center of China is outstanding and that the province is enriched with diverse culture, especially Buddhist tradition, educational opportunities and international connections.

He complemented Sri Lanka as the star of Indian Ocean and recalled Henan's strong Buddhist links with Sri Lanka in the past and hoped for similar links today on agriculture,



**Receiving the memento.**

manufacturing, trade, Buddhism, tourism, and energy.

Responding to Dr. Kohona's request, He Jinping enthusiastically supported establishing a Sri Lanka

National Pavilion at the enormous Bairong Wholesale Market which would facilitate and accelerate the entry of more Sri Lankan products to the lucrative Chinese market.

## Tittawelgaya in Ganewatta isolated

**RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA**

Travel restrictions have been imposed in Tittawelgaya in the Ganewatta Health Medical Officer's Division in Kurunegala from yesterday (18).

The Ganewatta Medical Officer of Health said that the decision was made after finding

29 COVID cases in Tittawelgaya.

The Health Officers said that 267 persons belonging to 64 families in the area have been quarantined so far. Meanwhile, 281 people who were infected with the COVID-19 virus and were at hospitals have been discharged yesterday.

**NTLB**

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that with effect from 19/04/2021, the NLB's Lottery draw programmes will be telecast on the ITN (Independent Television Network) channel at 9.30 p.m. every day, although the reverse of the NLB lottery tickets may state that the NLB's Lottery draw programmes will be telecast on the Rupavahini Channel.

**National Lotteries Board**

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# Doha Bank hosts meeting for Sri Lankan delegation

The Doha Bank recently hosted a meeting with a Sri Lankan delegation, which was headed by Sri Lanka's Money, Capital Market, and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal and Central Bank of Sri Lanka the Deputy Governor N. W. G. R. D. Nanayakkara. During the meeting, Doha Bank CEO Dr. R. Seetharaman highlighted the key developments in Qatar including the country's recent LNG expansion plans.

"Qatar Petroleum's (QP) North Field East Project (NFE) is expected to start production in the fourth quarter of 2025. The NFE Project represents the first phase of LNG expansion in Qatar, while the second phase is referred to as the North Field South Project (NFS)," he said.

"With an expected production start date in 2027, the NFS project involves the construction of two additional mega LNG trains and associated offshore and onshore facilities. According to IMF April 2021, Qatar's economy is expected to grow by 2.4 per cent in 2021". He said.

Seetharaman also gave insights on Sri Lan-

kan economy. Citing the IMF April 2021 report, he said that Sri Lankan economy is expected to grow by 4 per cent in 2021. Sri Lanka's recent monetary policy has maintained low interest rates and policy rate at which money is injected overnight at 5.5 per cent and the rate at which excess money is deposited at 4.5 per cent. The country's fiscal policy for 2021 has a deficit of 8.9 per cent of GDP.

He added that Sri Lanka's Vision 2025 has given thrust on FDI and exports and to improve per-capita income. Seetharaman reiterated the growing bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and Qatar.

"Sri Lanka has enjoyed close ties with Qatar, with over 120,000 Sri Lankans. There are more than 200 Sri Lankan companies established in partnership with the Qatari side. Doha Bank entered into agreements with the four biggest Sri Lankan banks to facilitate the remittances from Qatar to Sri Lanka," he said.

The Doha Bank also plays an important role to facilitate trade finance opportunities between Qatar and Sri Lanka and has seen

substantial growth in the past few months. Qatari businessmen should explore the huge investment opportunities in Sri Lanka and establish business partnerships and alliances with their Sri Lankan counterparts. Many Sri Lankan companies are looking to take part in Qatari projects and establish joint ventures in all sectors.

The Qatar Airways and the SriLankan Airlines had also previously announced a significant codeshare expansion in December 2019." Also speaking during the event, State Minister Cabraal gave an insight on investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.

"Construction of new terminals, Supporting logistic establishments, Ship building and Repairing industries, Developing minor ports and connectivity, Expanding related leisure activities and Marine support industries are some of the areas, which offer potential," he said.

Central Bank Deputy Governor Nanayakkara added that the delegation had a fruitful tour in Qatar, which has opened several avenues for Sri Lanka.

Meeting with Seetharaman was also very useful, he added. - *The Peninsula*.



Money, Capital Market, and State Enterprise Reforms State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka N. W. G. R. D. Nanayakkara (first right), Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Qatar Mohamed Mafaz Mohideen (second right), and Doha Bank CEO Dr. R. Seetharaman during the Doha Bank-hosted meeting in Doha.

## Dengue spreads in Batticaloa

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN, Batticaloa Special Corr.

The number of dengue infected in Arasady, Koolavady and Sinna Uppodai in the Batticaloa Municipal area has increased.

About 10 dengue cases are reported

every day, Batticaloa MOH Dr. K.Kirisuthan said.

The public has been advised to keep their surroundings clean and free from dengue breeding spots.

The Batticaloa MC is carrying out fumigation daily in the area.



A health worker fumigating an area in Batticaloa.

## PS Chairman remanded over water meter theft

W. ROHANA, Bulathkohupitiya Group Corr.

Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) Chairman Lakshman Rajakaruna has been remanded by Avissawella Acting Magistrate B.S. Ratnayake on April 17 under the Public Property Act for having 98 water meters belonging to the Water Supply and Drainage Board.

He was arrested by Deraniyagala Police on April 16 in Dehiowita.

The Engineer In-charge of the project of the Water Supply and



Police Officers inspecting the water meters.

Drainage Board has lodged a complaint with the Deraniyagala Police regarding the disappearance of 477 meters on March 30.

A driver and a warehouse manager of the project have also been arrested in connection with the theft of water pipes.

It was revealed that the water meters and wheels had been sold to two ironmongers in Deraniyagala.

The two traders had been arrested.

Deraniyagala Police had visited the house of a brother of the Chairman in Deraniyagala on April 16. Later, Police had gone to the house in Lassegama on the same day and found 98 meters in boxes.

The Chairman had been arrested and produced before Court. Five people including two traders are in remand custody now.

Deraniyagala Police OIC Chief Inspector Wasantha Alahakoon, Sub Inspectors Jayatissa, Chandrasena and Sergeant Nishantha along with other officers are investigating.

## 37<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary



The Late Mr. D. SAMSON RAJAPAKSA J.P.

(Deceased: 19th April 1984)

Founder Chairman

**DSI** Samson group

Fondly remembered by family members and staff.

## Christian Commemoration, Thanksgiving at Trincomalee Naval Dockyard

The Christian Commemoration and Thanksgiving in connection with the 70th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy was held at the Christ the King Chapel in Naval Dockyard, Trincomalee on April 17.

The spiritual ceremony was conducted by the clergy including Bishop of Trincomalee Rt. Rev. Dr. Christian Noel Emmanuel. Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne presided the occasion.

Buddhist religious programmes were held at Ruwanwelisaya, Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi and Temple



Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne inaugurating the event.

of the Tooth Relic in Kandy. The Christian Commemoration and

Thanksgiving Service were held in Trincomalee to pray for the souls of

Naval combatants killed in action and all Naval personnel were blessed including those disabled and retired from the Nnaval service.

Chief of Staff of the Navy and Sri Lanka Navy Christian Council President Rear Admiral Ruwan Perera, Commander Eastern Naval Area, Rear Admiral YN Jayarathna, Flag Officer Commanding Naval Fleet, Deputy Area Commander Eastern Naval Area, officers from the Navy Headquarters and Eastern Naval Command, sailors and members of Naval families participated.

## Vanushi Walters to address Rotary Int'l Confab on Zoom

RUZAIK FAROOK

The Rotary club of Colombo North has invited Vanushi Walters to address the Retractors and Interactors of the Rotary International District 3220 Sri Lanka and Maldives on Saturday April 24 at 9.30 a. m. Sri Lankan time, through a virtual platform.

Vanushi Walters is the first and only Sri Lankan born Parliamentarian to be inducted to the New Zealand Parliament. She is also the first Labour party member to be elected for the upper Harbour Street. She is a Lawyer by Profession, and a graduate of the University of Auckland She completed her Masters' in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford. She is a mother of three sons and is betrothed to her husband Rhys Walters.

She will be addressing the young Sri Lankans on "Integrity and Youth" and



Rtn.Maheema Weerasingha of Rotary Club of Colombo North will moderate the discussion from New Zealand. President of the Rotary Club of Colombo North Rtn. Lucien Pereira will be delivering the Welcome Address. The Vote of thanks will be delivered by Youth Services Chair and District Rotaract Committee Chairman elect Rtn. Marshad Barry. The Interact Club of Wesley College, the Interact Club of Carey College, the Interact Club of Colombo North, the Rotaract Club of Colombo

North, the Rotaract Club of Singer Sri Lanka, the Rotaract Club of Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and the Rotaract Club of Imperial College are the part of Organising Committee. Rotary District Governor Rtn. Ajith Weerasingha, Assistant District Secretary Rtn. Champa

Pereira, District Governor Elect Rtn. Aruni Malalasekara, Youth Service Chairman Rtn. Dr. Rohantha Athukorala, District Rotaract Committee Chairman Rtn. Anjad Yusof and District Interact Committee Chairman Rtn. Delvyn Perira will be participating in the event.

## Obituaries

**WICKRAMARATNE, JOHN RAYNOLD**, at rest with Jesus. Beloved son of the late Sam and Lilian, husband of Indrani, father of Dilkie, Swanthri, Rumes Shalani, Roshan and Dilanjan, father-in-law of the late Raja, Carmen, Kusum and Ayesha, grandfather of Rushen, Ruwangi, Rekha, Ranuk, Kavinu, Dewmini and Minudi. Funeral Service on Monday 19th April at 2.30 p.m. at **25B, Francewatte Lane, Mattakkuliya**. Burial at Madampitiya Cemetery, Mattakkuliya at 4.00 p.m. 028911



# Western conspiracies will be defeated

## – Minister Amaraweera

Western conspirators will not be allowed to destabilise the country, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said.

He said that the shortcomings of the Government will be resolved through dialogue and consensus. "Some Western countries are trying to destabilise the country. But we will not allow them to set the background for their goal. The country will be taken forward by addressing the shortcomings of the Government, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said.



at a function in Angunakolapelessa recently. "Many are talking about the

Port City issue these days. Some allege that the Government is trying to sell the land including the Port City to China. As the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), we have focused on this issue. The SLFP will not approve selling any State property to foreign countries," the Minister said.

He said that the President or the Prime Minister will not make decisions that are unfavourable to the country. "Problems will be discussed and resolved in the Government. Certain forces are setting the stage for Western powers to destabilise the country," he said.

The Minister said that the safety of the country will be the first priority. "Positions, parties and colours will be disregarded in this regard. If something harmful is going to happen, it will be opposed. None will be allowed to gain political mileage by spreading false propaganda," he said.

The Minister said that the Government also has shortcomings. "All governments make mistakes. For any shortcomings, we have solutions. The Government takes into account all views and discuss them and resolve problems," he said.



State Minister Lanza receiving a sapling from a member of the Maha Sangha to plant at Boys' Town in Ragama.

## Surekumata Parisaraya begins

Saplings were planted on April 16 at the Ragama Diyagala Children's Park (Boys Town) under the patronage of Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure State Minister Nimal Lanza under the theme *Surekumata Parisaraya* (Environmental Conservation) on a 6-acre land in Boys' Town in Ragama to mark the Sinhala and Hindu New Year.

The saplings were planted under the guidance of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Highways Minister Johnston Fernando on the instructions of Presidential Task Force on Economic Revival and Poverty Alleviation Chairman Basil Rajapaksa initiated the planting campaign under the "Vision of Prosperity" Policy of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Two million saplings will be planted in

four years under the *Surekumata Parisaraya* programme. Over 500,000 saplings will be planted this year alone.

Saplings will be planted at identified locations in the Gampaha District.

Economic crops were distributed among the residents of the Gampaha District.

Parliamentarians Nalin Fernando and Upul Mahendra Rajapaksa, Highways Ministry Secretary R.W.R. Pemasiri, State Ministry Secretary Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Gampaha District Secretary Sunil Jayalath, Road Development Authority Chairman Chaminda Athaluwage, Central Environmental Authority Chairman S. Amarasinghe, State Development and Design Corporation Chairman D.P.M. Chandana and several government officials were present.

## 'New Tourism Zones for local, foreign travellers'

IRANGIKA RANGE

New tourism destinations will be identified and those will be developed as tourism zones for local and foreign travellers, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said.

"Sri Lanka is rich with natural attractions such as paddy fields, tea plantations, national parks, beaches, wildlife, adventure and culture. Many places could be developed as new tourism zones and once those places are identified, those will be gazetted as new tourism zones," he said.

"The country boasts seven tourism zones including Nuwaraeliya, Ella, Arugambey, Pasikuda, Kalpitiya, Yala and Bentota. Once The new zones



are gazetted, infrastructure will be improved. Investors will be urged to participate in developing those zones, the Minister said.

The Minister said that these zones will be set up as a part of the programme to increase the revenue earnings from the tourism industry to Rs.10 billion by 2025.

## Daha Ata Sanniya Performance



Dancers performing during the traditional exorcism ritual, *Daha Ata Sanniya*, held at the Sumanarama Maha Vihara in Kalutara yesterday night to dispel illnesses and malevolent influences. Picture by Sulochana Gamage

## Two children drown

KANTALE GROUP CORR.

Two 14-year-old children who were bathing in a lake yesterday morning had drowned, Thambalagamuwa Police said.

The deceased were identified as Sahidi Aftan (14) and Mohamed Aske (14). They were Grade 8 students, Thambalagamuwa Police said.

Four friends had gone for a swim in the Thambalagamuwa Pareipangwewa and two of them had been swept away by the strong currents.

The other two youth reported the incident to the villagers.

Police and villagers had found the two students and brought them to the Kantale Base Hospital but they had been pronounced dead on admission to the hospital, Police said.

## Suspect arrested with 703 grams of heroin

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

A suspect was arrested with 703 grams of heroin worth over Rs. 7 million by the STF Headquarters on April 17. He was arrested in Hettiveediya in the Coastal Police Division.

The suspect is a 26-year-old resident of Colombo 13. He was handed over to the Police Narcotics Bureau, Police said.

The suspect was to be produced before the Hulftsdorp Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The Police Narcotics Bureau is investigating.

## She-elephant, cub electrocuted

THENNAKOON BANDARA, Moneragala Daily News Corr.

A she-elephant and its cub had been electrocuted when they attempted to enter a home garden in Okkampitiya, Minipuramaga on last Saturday.

Moneragala Wildlife Officers had arrested a suspect in this regard.

The suspect had set live wires in his home garden to prevent elephant from invading his garden, the wildlife officers said.

The suspect (42) is a resident of Okkampitiya. He was produced before Wellawaya Magistrate's Court on Saturday.

The Wildlife Officers found that the seven feet tall she-elephant about 25 years of age was burnt by the suspect and the cub about five years of age was buried in a pit.

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Articles pawned at these branches, which remain unredeemed will be auctioned as per the schedule below (Auction will commence at 10 a.m. on the dates given below).

Branches of National Development Bank PLC	Articles Pawned & unredeemed up to	Place & Date of Auction
Akuressa, Aluthgama Ampara, Anuradhapura Awissavella, Bandarawela Batticalo, Chilaw Digana, Embilipitiya Galle, Handala Jaffna, Kadawatha Kaduwela, Kahawatte Kandy, Katugastota Kegalle, Kekirawa Kochchikade, Kotahena Kuliyapitiya, Maharagama Malabe, Matale Matara, Matugama Minuwangoda, Narammala Natthandiya, Nawalapitiya Negombo, Nittambuwa Nuwara Eliya, Piliyandala Puttlam, Ratnapura Thambuththegama, Thirunelvely Trincomalee, Wattala Wellawatta, Wennappuwa Yakkala, Kandana Elpitiya, Kalutara Uragasmanhandiya, Ambalantota Mahawewa, Ja-ela	01.10.2020	Kotahena Branch 295, George R. De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 13, 08 & 09-05-2021

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Class 25: Clothing; footwear; headgear; belts.  
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# Daily News



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## Heroes of the 'working vacation'

Holidays, even nationally important ones such as the Sinhala and Tamil New Year and Vesak should not disrupt the smooth functioning of society. Granted, workers look forward to spending time with their loved ones, and take time off from the daily grind. But there used to be a time when this meant there was a significant disruption of normal life. Holidays a decade or so ago meant that certain vital trades such as the bakery business totally disappeared from the commercial radar.

Commercial establishments in the predominantly Sinhala areas had an attitude of lotus eating abandon when it came to the significant national holidays in April and May. Now this situation has largely changed. In the past few years, the vagaries of competition ensured that business establishments are kept open sometimes even during the New Year. Supermarket chains, for instance, kept their doors open during the recent holidays.

These establishments manage to do so by making sure that those who celebrate a given holiday are sent on leave during that holiday period, while others work, with the process being reversed when different national holidays come up. For instance, Buddhist and Hindu workers are relieved of their duties in the Avurudu season, while Christian workers are given off days during Christmas.

If establishments do not follow these commonsense guidelines, that would be a grave injustice to employees. All those who enjoy the holidays and avail themselves of the facility of functioning establishments during major public holidays, should spare a thought for workers who make their seasonal vacation more pleasant. In the old days, people suffered severe inconvenience when they were unable to stock up for extended holidays.

Now, they do not necessarily have to plan things out in advance and suffer from the anxiety of being severely inconvenienced during extended breaks when supplies run out. The workers who make this possible are making a tremendous sacrifice. Their families do too, because they would rather have their loved ones home during the vacations.

There must be better ways for a nation to register their debt of gratitude to these men and women who toil away when others are on holiday, than the occasional kind words by customers they will hear. There should be a more organized national effort at acknowledging their contributions and this goes for frontline workers and military personnel who made tremendous sacrifices during the lockdowns when the nation was semi-functional in the initial days of the pandemic.

It is a positive development that commercial monopolies that enabled civic dysfunction during New Years past have now been challenged. In other words, those days the mudalalis and ownership classes felt they had no obligation to the customer because if they all closed at the same time, everybody being at their mercy, there was absolutely nothing customers could do about it.

But there were those who saw the opportunity of selling during the vacation period when most establishments were closed. This gradually woke up others to the realization that in a competitive business environment, they leave the customers to their own devices at their own peril.

Today, the gig workers too do a tremendous service. It is sometimes heartrending to see young people on bikes, toiling to deliver food to those who have the ability to order from an App with the swipe of a finger, or the click of a button. These gig workers were indeed shown special appreciation by the Government for the services they rendered during the lockdowns.

The young are mostly able to withstand some of the rigours of gig delivery jobs, but there are older folk who sometimes do this work. Irrespective of age, these folk should be treated with the respect they deserve. The very fact that there are so many of them on the streets shows there is a slice of the youth demographic that would have been hard put to find any type of employment particularly during the pandemic, if the gig economy was not in existence.

Technology has made things more convenient for the consumer, and has provided employment at least on a part time basis as well — but it is not hard to guess who benefits most from the bargain.

Consumers who are able to order at the swipe of a finger are the runaway winners. That is not to say that the boys and sometimes girls who toil to deliver are not beneficiaries in the bargain, but indeed there should be some empathy for their lot. It is a thankless job sometimes, particularly when the customers tend to take things for granted.

If things are over-regulated, these boys and girls may see their jobs disappearing altogether. The same goes for service sector workers who toil during the public holidays. While certainly no stone should be left unturned to ensure that there is a minimum mandatory regulatory framework that respects their rights, human empathy should kick in, and all those who enjoy the conveniences afforded by the services sector during the holiday period in particular, should treat the mostly young workforce with great respect and kindness.



## Preventing accidents on roads and waterways

### Now & Then

BY NADIRA GUNATILLEKE

Last week was full of road traffic accidents, other types of accidents and deaths related to those accidents. The season started with the arrest and remanding of four youths and the driver of the car who put lives of other people in danger while travelling along the Southern Expressway. They spent the New Year in jail ensuring that they do not put the lives of other people in danger using that car again during the New Year. Then over eight vehicles collided along the same route on April 14. The police arrested 783 drunken drivers on April 14 and 15. A total of 30 people died and 150 injured due to various road traffic accidents during the 48 hours that ended on April 16 morning.

According to the Chief Nursing Instructor of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) Pushpa Ramyani De Soysa, a total of 309 cases had been reported to the NHSL between April 13 and 14 which was a 39 per cent rise compared to last year. Only 188 patients were recorded last year when there was a lockdown.

According to the Deputy Director of Accident Ward, 73 persons had been admitted for having fallen on the roads and other places and another 77 persons had met with road accidents during the New Year. Thirty-eight were wounded due to domestic quarrels, 38 had sustained wounds over physical assault and four incidents were linked to burn injuries caused when lighting firecrackers.

This Sinhala and Tamil New Year is not the first or the last New Year that recorded a high number of accidents and deaths. This will not be the first or the last festival of Sri Lanka which recorded a high number of accidents and deaths. When considering the past 73 years, we can definitely say that nothing or no one will be able to stop a large number of people dying from road traffic accidents and related issues, especially during festive seasons. The only way is removing unsuitable drivers and vehicles from Sri Lankan roads forever by imposing tough new laws.

After reading stories on the large number of accidents reported in the print media, especially websites, some readers have published their opinions just below the news items on accidents. According to those comments, anyone who has money can obtain a driving licence in Sri Lanka no matter whether he or she can drive. Those readers described how any person can get the driving licence here in Sri Lanka under the existing system for decades. This was proved recently after the Digana private bus accident when the authorities discovered that around 5,000 private bus drivers are not qualified and suitable to drive buses. There is no point of talking about other drivers who drive private vehicles.

The majority of drivers do not know how to use an expressway. Some of those drivers come along the right lane, use their horn and blink their headlights for another vehicle which travels at 101 per Km/h. The maximum speed is 100 Km/h. They do not know what they are doing. They think that they are the educated and rich heroes and all the others are poor idiots. They must look at them from the mirror of their own vehicle to find the real uneducated idiots.

The maximum speed in Sri Lankan expressways is 100 Km/h and if anyone wants to drive faster than that, they can go abroad and drive on expressways and highways in foreign countries with higher speed limits. Anyone can understand that there should be at least three seconds of distance between two vehicles while travelling at 100 Km/h. But Sri Lankan drivers do not understand this. There is no system to monitor and fine



them. The other burning problem is drivers who enjoy the natural beauty of the country while travelling along expressways. The drivers do not drive more than 50 Km/h and just enjoy the natural beauty of both sides of the expressway. Some do not forget to criticise the 2014 Mahinda Rajapaksa Government for constructing it with fantastic landscapes along the road. This is the nature of some people who enjoy the facility while criticising the leaders and the Government which offered the facility to them. But the problem is this practice blocks the expressway and all the other drivers who use the expressway get affected due to this practice.

It is the same people who do the children's homework, feed kids, put on make-up, text, etc., while driving to Colombo from the South along the Marine Drive every morning to go to work. There is no difference for them driving on the Marine Drive or the Southern Expressway. They eat, watch the natural beauty, etc., send text messages, use social media while driving along the expressway. They ignore all others who like to drive at 100 Km/h and use the right lane to overtake. Nowadays people who respect the rights of others are hard to find. They think the Southern Expressway is their private property.

Sri Lankan drivers hardly maintain mindfulness. They do not know until a fatal accident takes place. All good drivers who respect all road rules need to pay the price of these rich, uneducated, underage, reckless drivers. Tracking them only during festive seasons will not do any good. They are always there and especially during the night and during the festive season. Rarely do people make complaints about them because of the extremely expensive vehicles they drive which encourage people to think that they have some sort of 'power' and 'connections' to the right places and individuals.

The only way of disciplining Sri Lankan drivers is by imposing extremely high fines and other severe punish-

ments. It is high time for this because the number of innocent people dying on roads is rapidly increasing. The official statistics reveal and prove this situation. There is no point to give into the pressure put on the Government by drivers and killing time without introducing extremely high fines and other severe punishments for breaking road rules and causing fatal accidents. There is no way of compensating once a family member dies from an accident. Accidents that take place in Sri Lanka are not just accidents because most of the times the drivers, bus owners, etc., purposely put the lives of other people in danger.

The other pathetic situation is swimming in unknown rivers and lakes. No one cares about their safety and the individuals who care about the safety of themselves and others are ridiculed by others. This is the nature of some Sri Lankan people. Intelligent people just ignore both risking their lives and being ridiculed. But people without backbones risk

their own lives and the lives of others. They think that dying is better than getting ridiculed. They should be taught who really loves and cares for them and that real friends never encourage them to step into dangerous or unknown waters. It is individuals who are jealous and wish evil for others who push others to step into dangerous or unknown waters.

In addition to ridiculing others, the majority put their lives and others' lives in danger in order to obtain Facebook likes, etc. Their entire life is Facebook and they do everything just to put the photos, videos, etc., on Facebook. The competition is so high and some do not mind dying if they can get the highest number of likes, etc., for their photos, videos, etc. posted by them during their trip. This has become a type of mental disorder for the majority of the young and middle-aged men and women.

It seems everything leads to an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Sri Lanka. The dangerous situation that exists in neighbouring India may affect Sri Lanka. But unfortunately Sri Lankan people totally ignored all health guidelines during the festive season and did their best to spread the virus. No matter how many times consultant doctors stressed the importance of following all health guidelines all the time, they just ignored their appeal.

Now maybe some of them are waiting to point their finger at the Government if anything goes wrong. It is pathetic to see how the Government is at the receiving end no matter what happens in Sri Lanka and who breaks rules and regulations. The Government has become something like sky and earth, always becoming the culprit no matter what happens or when.

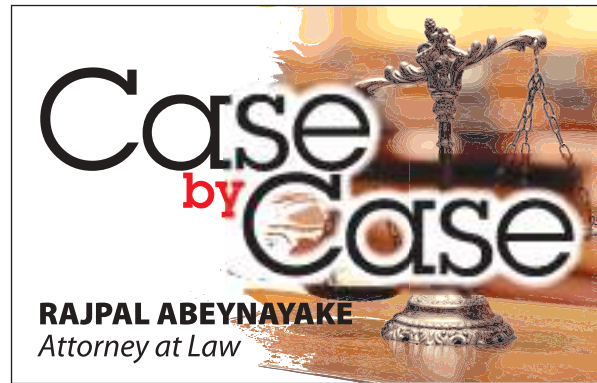


### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Honor lies in honest toil.  
- Grover Cleveland



# When clients sometimes 'disown' their Attorneys



sel took up the position that the Attorney, a certain Jayawardena, had no standing — *locus standi* — to claim in court that he had no instructions because, as the plaintiff now claimed, he was not appearing for her — or at least under her instructions. Also, the plaintiff's Counsel took up the position that there was no mention in the case record that the said Jayawardena was appearing on the instructions of the plaintiff's Registered Attorney.

The following case description is from an application in which the plaintiff appealed to have her case re-entered in the roll. The plaintiff had prayed for an order to have her District Court case restored to the trial roll, but the Judge had refused to do so. (*Gnanawathie and Others V Wijesinghe* - SLR - 132, Vol 1 of 2004 [2003] LKCA 10; (2004) 1 Sri LR 132 (May 23, 2003).

The District Judge had dismissed the case when the plaintiff (now Appellant) wanted the case re-entered in the trial roll. The plaintiff's Attorney had on an earlier date submitted in Court that he did not have instructions from the plaintiff, his client. The plaintiff was also not in Court that day. The case was therefore dismissed with costs by the District Court (DC) judge.

However, in the appeal the plaintiff's Coun-

sel was taken up, Counsel was indisposed. On 25-07-1994 the case was called and trial was re-fixed for October 20, 1994. When the trial was taken up on 20-10-1994 the appellants were absent and their attorney-at-law had intimated to court that as the attorney-at-law for the defendant had got the trial date altered before the Additional District Judge the appellants could not have been aware that the trial has been re-fixed for 20-10-

1994. In the circumstances, the Court made an order that the respondent was not entitled to costs for the day and re-fixed the trial for February 13, 1995.



However, on 13-02-1995 the said Jayawardena appeared on the instructions of the appellant's registered Attorney-at-law S.A. Hemapala and informed Court that he has no instructions from the appellants to proceed with the trial. The Court of Appeal however, gave short shrift to the contention that the Counsel had not appeared on the instructions of the plaintiff's instructing Attorney.

Justice Somawansa who wrote the Appeal Court judgement observed that in paragraph 9 of the petition and paragraph 10 of the affidavit filed by the appellants they had already admitted that on 13-02-1995 the said Jayawardena appeared on the instructions of the appellant's registered attorney-at-law S.A. Hemapala and informed Court that he has no instructions from the appellants to proceed with the trial.

It appeared that the plaintiff had undermined her own contention by stating — perhaps almost by rote as these things are done in affidavits — that the Counsel had appeared on instructions of her Registered Attorney. Court held that she cannot state that under oath in her affidavit and contend the reverse, i.e., that the Counsel had no standing, and that he had not appeared on the instructions of the plaintiff's registered Attorney.

The rule in Section 181 of the Civil Procedure Code which confines an affidavit to 'a statement of facts as the declarant is able of his own knowledge and observation to testify to' is intended to restrict the contents of

affidavits to direct evidence as prescribed in Section 60 of the Evidence Ordinance. By necessary implication it excludes hearsay from such affidavits.



On certain other issues, the Court was sympathetic to the plaintiff's position. Though the respondent's Counsel submitted when the appeal was heard, that the plaintiff's affidavit contained hearsay, the Court of Appeal judgement held that this type of affirmation to a belief in an affidavit was indeed permitted in interlocutory applications. An interlocutory application is for an order, sentence, decree, or judgement, given in an intermediate or transitional stage before the end of an action in court.

Court held: "The only exception is that in interlocutory applications a statement of what is believed, as to the relevant facts, may

be included. This exception is subject to a proviso that reasonable grounds for such belief should also be set forth in the affidavit."

Applying this principle to the affidavit tendered by the appellants, Court held that though the appellants were not present in Court they have submitted reasonable grounds for their belief as to what transpired on 13-02-1995. For the appellants themselves in paragraph 09 of their affidavit state that this information was given to them by their registered Attorney-at-law S.A. Hemapala when they met him in the first week of March 1995.

"I would say this is reasonable grounds for their belief as to what transpired in Court on 13-02-1995," held Justice Somawansa in his judgement.

However, the Appeal itself was dismissed on the grounds that if a default was to be cured, the application should have been made within reasonable time. But it had taken eight months for the plaintiff to file the application and therefore Court contended that the plaintiff had been "sleeping on her rights" and dismissed the application on grounds of laches.

In matters of writs for instance, undue delay — or laches — could operate against a petitioner's chance of obtaining redress. However, delay *per se* is not an issue on which a case can be dismissed. "But in every case, if an argument against relief, which otherwise would be unjust, is founded upon mere delay, that delay of course not amounting to a bar by any Statute of Limitation, the validity of that defence must be tried upon principles substantially equitable."

The above is excerpted from a decision in *Biso Menika vs. Cyril de Alwis and Others* [1982] 1 Sri L R 368.

In other words, if the defence against relief for the petitioner is delayed, refusing relief can only be decided on the principles of equity, i.e.: mere delay alone would not suffice to dismiss a case.



# How will Biden pivot on South Asia?

MICHAEL KUGELMAN

The Biden administration's announcement this week that it will withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan by September 11 has significant implications for the sputtering Afghan peace process. The Taliban's own perceived victory could embolden them in future talks. And the next five months before the completion of the withdrawal will be critical.

The Afghanistan withdrawal also holds implications for US policy in South Asia more broadly. Washington has long viewed the region through the lens of the conflict in Afghanistan. With US forces on their way out, soon a new frame of reference will likely dominate US thinking on South Asia: China, and specifically the US-China rivalry.

For several decades, the United States has not developed a truly regional policy for South Asia. Instead, it approaches the region through a few silos: the war in Afghanistan, the relationship with Pakistan (in turn shaped by Afghanistan), and the US-India partnership. Other South Asian states have not figured prominently in US strategic thinking. When then-President Donald Trump unveiled a "Strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia" in 2017, Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan were the only countries mentioned.

Bureaucratically, the United States does not conceive of South Asia as a single, distinct region. The State



US President Joe Biden with Indian PM Narendra Modi



US President Joe Biden with Chinese President Xi Jinping

## After the US withdraws from Afghanistan, its rivalry with China is likely to define the new administration's approach to the region

Department's South Asia regional bureau also includes Central Asia, and two military commands split the region down the middle: Central Command oversees Pakistan, and Indo-Pacific Command oversees India.

This geographically limited approach to South Asia is misguided, given the region's strategic significance. It holds one-quarter of the

world's population and sits astride the Indian Ocean region — an area whose map Robert D. Kaplan predicts may be as "iconic" to the 21st century as Europe's was to the 20th. South Asia is also particularly vulnerable to threats such as natural resource stress and climate change that will define the coming decades.

During its first months in office, the Biden administration has contin-

ued the silo approach. It has closely focused on Afghanistan, enlisted Pakistan's support in the Afghan peace process, and moved to deepen its partnership with India. The United States has largely ignored the rest of the region, although climate czar John Kerry did make a visit to Bangladesh.

However, the coming US exit from Afghanistan means that China, arguably the Biden administration's biggest foreign-policy priority, will soon take centre stage in US strategic calculations about South Asia. Early signs, from the public spat with Chinese officials in Alaska to major overtures to Taiwan, suggest that Biden will take a hard line on Beijing. Expect him to approach South Asia through the lens of US-China rivalry.

India, which Washington sees as its best bet in South Asia to counter-balance Beijing, will remain a top priority for US policy. But Pakistan, a major Chinese ally, will likely be left on the outside looking in — despite recent pitches from Islamabad for a more multifaceted relationship with Washington that goes beyond security.

On the other hand, the US-China rivalry could finally prompt the United States to apply a broader geographic frame to its policy in South Asia. China's deepening footprint in the region, fueled by the expansion



US Climate Envoy John Kerry with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina

of its Belt and Road Initiative, means that smaller South Asian states will increasingly appear on the US strategic radar.

Additionally, the US Indo-Pacific strategy, a Trump administration initiative focused on countering China that the Biden administration appears likely to retain, calls for scaling up both security and non-security cooperation with Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Infrastructure development tools associated with the Indo-Pacific region, including the new Development Finance Corporation and the Blue Dot Network, could also be deployed to compete with the Belt and Road.

A truly regional US strategy in South Asia wouldn't necessarily be

problem-free. Countries across South Asia are experiencing democratic backsliding. The Biden administration, which has made democracy promotion a pillar of its foreign policy, could spark tensions by criticizing problem states — especially Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — for their democracy and human rights troubles.

Overall, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan gives Washington the opportunity to engage more broadly across a region that as a whole is significant for US interests. Motivated by its intensifying rivalry with China, the Biden administration is especially likely to pursue deeper ties with some of the smaller states of South Asia — countries often given short shrift in US policy calculations. (*Foreign Policy*)



US-India-Japan-Australia military exercise



US troops in Afghanistan will be heading home in September





DISHAN JOSEPH

Globally, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar heralds the period of religious fasting. It is a time of deep spiritual reflection, renunciation and devotion. The word Ramadan is derived from the Arabic word *ramadi* – meaning dryness. Thousands of adults and youth faithfully adhere to the sacred fast whilst working or attending university. Fasting is observed from sunrise to sunset. The observance is one of the five pillars of Islam. *Iftar* is the symbolic meal that breaks the day's fast. In order to appreciate the cultural and culinary heritage of *Iftar* we must understand the cultural background from where the religion of Islam was propagated. In keeping with the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed, the fast is broken by eating three dates. This is followed by drinking a rice-based porridge or *faluda* (chilled milk infused with rose essence). Arabian food can be traced back centuries and is embellished with exotic ingredients. Its menus are strongly influenced by the Persian and Turkish civilizations which were prosperous. With the region positioned on the crossroads of the once commercially dominant spice route, Arabian dishes display refined taste and skillful preparation. Ancient adherents of Islam based their food on pine nuts, dates, eggplant, cinnamon, rice, sugar, sesame, and saffron. In terms of meat, there was an abundance of beef, mutton and poultry. It is interesting to note that the

# The culinary unity within Ramadan

ancient Arabs also used a mortar and pestle to crush their garlic and spices like we still do today, in many regions of Asia.

Other traditional cuisine includes amar al-deen, fresh apricot cut and soaked in water for several hours. The solution is then mixed with enough water to make it smooth. Erk soos is another beverage where extracts of the liquorice plant are mixed with water to make this drink that is served in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. Tamar Hindi is a sour chilled drink usually

sold throughout the year in several Arab countries. Another cool beverage is jellab, a syrup made of grape and molasses mixed with rose water and sugar, then poured over ice and decorated with pine nuts. Some of these drinks are not popular in Sri Lanka, but we are all familiar with creative variants of the *faluda*.

The main course dishes of Ramadan (and throughout the Muslim culinary calendar) are rice-based dishes such as biriyani, mansaf and kabsas. As we all know, biriyani is popular in Sri Lanka and is served at

weddings and family gatherings by even non-Muslim communities. It has come to be a dish associated with celebration. This is how food can beautifully connect ethnic groups together, bringing us under one Sri Lankan flag. In the past few years, pot biriyani has become a firm favourite among discerning gourmets in Colombo.

Another segment of Ramadan cuisine consists of stuffed vegetables where large peppers, eggplant, tomato, and zucchini are stuffed with flavoured rice to make what is commonly known in the Arab world as *mahshi*. It is mainly served in Egypt. Among the lesser-known dishes in Sri Lanka is *couscous*. Originally a North African dish of granulated semolina, it is served with meat, chicken, fish or vegetables. When living overseas I was privileged to eat *masgouf*, a traditional Iraqi dish of baked fish. *Harees* is another popular dish in the Gulf consisting of coarsely ground wheat buried underground with chicken or meat. Another delightful Islamic food is *kunafa*, a sweet made from spun shredded wheat. It can be filled with cream, cheese, or nuts and raisins, depending on which Arab region it comes from. *Atayef* is an Arabic pancake usually filled with cheese or nuts, and served with a sugary syrup or honey. It goes down well with black coffee.

I presume it is from this that we find our coconut filled pancakes. When we explore the traditional



cuisine associated with Ramadan, soups are essential components of family meals. Chicken, lentil, vegetable and tomato soups are commonly served. I have had the famous chicken broth and beef soup of Slave Island in Colombo, which is a Malay delicacy. *Pittu* and *babath* (tripe) is another fast moving dish. Beef rolls are another delight of Ramadan in this area.

During this month if you walk along some of the predominantly Muslim areas in Colombo like Maradana and Slave Island you can witness food carts selling deep fried samosa and rolls filled with beef and goat meat (not mutton as many Sri Lankans mistakenly say). I used to cherish eating all of these with my classmates Shahabdeen and Shafraz Zubair. Another area that showcases Muslim cuisine is the road near the esteemed courts of Aluthkade. Here a few shops really manifest the taste and tradition of Muslim food. One such exponent of taste was the late Naleer, a rotund soul full of life and a passion to cook. He passed away this year but his family continues their

business. The 'dolphin kottu' served here is a stunning dish that has been featured on foreign cable TV. Another hit is the *adduku rotti*, layers of rotti filled with spicy minced beef. I need not elaborate on the bliss invoked by eating *wattalappam*, the hallmark dessert of Muslim cuisine.

Whilst fasting can induce self-discipline I assume it can also direct our minds to understand the elements of hunger and poverty which are global issues recognized even by the United Nations. Again, Ramadan whilst being exclusive to the Muslim people in the dimension of religion, can teach all Sri Lankans the fundamentals of sharing and caring. The areas of the Red Mosque and Colombo Grand Mosque will be busy with prayers.

Ramadan is observed out of sincere faith. It teaches us self-discipline. It is a holy month that brings Muslim together. A sacred month to revive their faith and reach greater spiritual levels. Ramadan must unite all Sri Lankans in the true essence of brotherhood, which we have cherished for decades.



NOUR Z. SUID

I was in the first grade when I was lucky enough to participate in the month-long holiday of Ramadan for the first time, being able to live out a powerful tradition that I cherish, with my family and friends. Since then, I have joyfully and gratefully been able to fast every year. I have countless beautiful memories, as this month is the most significant month of the year for me and many others around the world. A couple of my favorite memories include cooking with my mother, praying *Salah* with my dad and talking about what we want to eat with my brothers and sisters. We were never tired of hearing one of my siblings ask, "Is it time to eat yet?" or "What are you cooking tonight?" or "How much longer?"

There are roughly 1.8 billion Muslims around the world. These Muslims came together on April 13 (this date changes depending on the crescent of the moon) and begin to fast for the month of Ramadan which is one of the five pillars of Islam, which begins on the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. Ramadan is the holiest month because Allah, in that specific month, sent his Messenger *Jibreil (alayheee salaam)* to Prophet *Sayedina Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him)* to teach him to recite the Quran. The prophet memorized the Holy Quran; and later, Prophet *Sayedina Mohammad (PBUH)* went to some of 'the *Sahabaa'* or companions to recite the Quran to them for them to write.

There are countless reasons and

## Ramadan: A time for healing



benefits to why Muslims dedicate so much during this month. For some, Ramadan acts as a tool for us to get attuned with our religion. We take this month to build a deeper relationship with Allah (God) and become better Muslims. Therefore, during this month we do our best to say our prayers (five times daily), we repent and ask for forgiveness for our sins, and we give more charity where we can. This month is truly a time when we do not only cleanse our mind, body, and soul, but we also feel a sense of healing happening.

To prepare for their fasting, Muslims eat *suhoor* which is a pre-dawn meal to help them get through the day; that is then followed by the *Fajr* prayer, the first prayer of the day. Traditionally, a Muslim would break their fast by drinking some water and having an odd number of dates. Muslims then pray the *Magrihb*, their sunset prayer, which is then followed by *Iftar*, a large feast. *Iftar* is usually spent celebrating and socializing with friends and family members.

We take our last sip of water or bite

of food around 5.00 am and take our first sip of water and bite of food around 6:40 pm after the fast. As the days pass, the time changes by a few minutes.

There are also additional prayers called *Tawarih* which are usually prayed in a congregation at the

mosque. Despite what many may think, Muslims cherish the month of Ramadan and the challenges it comes with. For many of us, Ramadan is the most humble and rewarding month. Though it may have its challenges, those challenges are what make it more rewarding.



This month is filled with so many blessings, so many chances to get closer to Allah (God), a month where we get to spend more time with family and friends, a month where we are encouraged more to pray and give charity. It provides a chance for us to be better Muslims. Some of us, including myself, may feel a sense of sadness when the month comes to a close.

To all those Muslims fasting for this blessed month, *Insha Allah* (God willing) it will be a month filled with purity and good health. Remember to forgive one another, show love and respect to each other, help the poor and needy and practise other good deeds daily. May Allah shower you, your families and your friends with blessings.

May all your prayers be answered. To the non-Muslims, feel free to send a message to your Muslim friends saying "*Cul sana wa entee salama*" for a female friend or "*Cul sana wa enta salam*" for a male friend. This is a phrase we say to each other right before Ramadan, wishing the other person a happy and peaceful holiday.

(*Nour Z. Suid, was born and raised in the Virgin Islands. She has doctorates in clinical psychology and naturopathic medicine.*)





# Police tighten net around drunk drivers

DINULI FRANCISCO

An Islandwide 18-hour special operation was carried out by the Police from 12 noon yesterday to 6 am today to arrest drunk drivers. Police Media spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that police officers

in charge of territorial divisions and police stations have been informed by the Police Headquarters about the special operation. The Highway Traffic Division Director and the Colombo City Traffic Director were also informed

in this regard, he said. Random Breathalyzer Tests were carried out on drivers along the highways and cities, he said. The operation was carried out under the instructions of the Police Headquarters at entrances and

exits of the highways and on main roads, he said. DIG Ajith Rohana said that 1,834 persons have been arrested so far for drunk driving. He advised the public to abstain from drunk driving and driving at excessive speed.

# Sabaragamuwa Uni Faculties recommence today

BELIHULOYA GROUP CORR.

Several faculties of the Sabaragamuwa University will recommence today, Vice Chancellor Prof. Udaya Ratnayake said. Students of the Faculty of

Technology (2018/2019) will commence their first year studies today and the first year students of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages

will commence studies tomorrow. The Faculty of Management Studies will commence on April 24 for its first year students. Sabaragamuwa University Vice

Chancellor Prof. Udaya Ratnayake said that students in hostels have been asked to come to hostels at the respective faculties on the day before the commencement.



# University Courses to train manpower for fisheries industry

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Group CORR.

The Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Ministry in collaboration with the Ocean University of Sri Lanka will conduct several internationally accepted courses. Fisheries Minister Douglas Devananda said that repairing boat

engines, underwater welding, cultivating in lagoons, training in sea mapping communication equipment, fishery gear, sea harvesting and scuba diving courses will be conducted at the Ocean University Mattakuliya, Panadura, Galle, Tangalle, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Jaffna and Negambo Faculties.

“A high number of trained persons are needed to promote the fisheries industry. School leavers are reluctant to join the field. Therefore, the Government has allocated funds to provide the training for those who are willing to enter the field, Minister Devananda said.



# Thundershowers forecast

Showers or thundershowers will occur in the Western and the Sabaragamuwa Provinces and in the Galle, Matara and Puttalam Districts today, the Meteorology Department said.

Showers or thundershowers will occur at several places in the Central, Uva and Eastern Provinces and in the Mullaitivu District after 2.00 pm. Heavy rainfalls above 50 mm will occur at some places in the Western, Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces and in the Galle and Matara Districts.

Some places in the Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces will envelop in mist during the morning.

The public is advised to take adequate precautions during thundershowers to protect from strong winds and lightning.

Sea areas from Galle to Potuvil via Ham-

banthota and from Puttalam to Kankasanturai via Mannar will be rough at times.

Winds and seas will be rough during thundershowers.

# Army nab suspect with weapon

Army troops arrested a man with an illegal weapon last Friday (16) in Mullaitivu. The suspect with the weapon and his motorcycle were handed over to Puththukkudirippu Police, the Army Media Unit said.

# Lankan Envoy visits Shaolin Temple

Ambassador Dr. Palitha Kohona visited the Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng, Henan Province in China recently.

He was welcomed by Chief Monk Shi Yong Xin, Deputy Chief Monk Yan Pei. The Shaolin martial arts practicing monks also gave an awesome performance specially for the Sri Lankan Ambassador's delegation. The Ambassador and the Chief Monk exchanged ideas for cooperation between the Shaolin Temple and Sri Lanka, including visits by senior monks, student exchanges and the establishment of a Shaolin Centre in Sri Lanka.



Ambassador Dr. Palitha Kohona receiving a memento from Shaolin Temple Chief Monk Shi Yong Xin.

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**Class 14:** Precious metals and their alloys; jewellery, including chains, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings or pendants, brooches, jewellery charms; precious and semi-precious stones; horological and chronometric instruments; clocks; watches; jewellery boxes and boxes for watches; watch bands; cufflinks; tie pins; key rings [split rings with trinket or decorative fob]; key chains [split rings with trinket or decorative fob]; charms for key rings, charms for key chains; shoe jewellery; works of art of precious metal; hat jewellery; boxes of precious metal; watch cases [parts of watches]; dials [clock- and watchmaking]; watch chains; ornamental pins; pins [jewellery]; medals; pearls [jewellery]; clasps and beads for jewellery; sundials; rosaries.

**Class 18:** Leather and imitations of leather; animal skins and hides; luggage and carrying bags; umbrellas and parasols; walking sticks; whips, harness and saddlery; collars, leashes and clothing for animals; bags; shoulder bags; handbags; boston bags; waist packs; sling bags for carrying infants; shopping bags; duffle bags; tote bags; evening handbags; clutch bags; wallets; purses; leather credit card cases and holders; business card cases; travelling cases of leather; shoe bags for travel; briefcases; attaché cases; pouches of leather; carrying cases made of leather; school bags and satchels; suitcases; sports bags; bags and holdalls for sports clothing; key cases made of leather; backpacks; rucksacks; carry-on bags; vanity cases, not fitted; shaving bags sold empty; beach bags; covers for animals; garment bags for travel; hat boxes of leather; haversacks; labels of leather; pouch baby carriers; randsels [Japanese school satchels]; saddlebags; travelling trunks; travelling bags; travelling sets [leatherware].

**Class 25:** Clothing; footwear; headgear; belts. Our abovementioned clients have instructed us and wish to bring to the notice of the trade and the public that they attach singular importance to their abovementioned trade mark and reserve the right to take legal action against any person or persons who act in infringement of their rights.

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

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No. 371, R. A. De Mel Mawatha,  
Colombo 03,  
Republic of Sri Lanka.  
pts1@juliusandcreasy.lk

# Dengue ails 421 in 15 days

S.M.WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Over 421 dengue patients have been detected in the country during the past 15 days. Most of them (113) have been reported from the Batticaloa District.

The Gampaha District has reported 48 patients and the Colombo District 46. The Kurunegala District has reported 56.

About 5,487 dengue patients have been

detected countrywide this year so far. Therefore, school heads in the Kurunegala and Puttalam Districts have been instructed to conduct mosquito eradicating campaigns today for the next school term.

About 267 Public Health Inspects (PHIs) have been deployed to inspect schools and their surroundings, Kurunegala District DMO Dr.S.M.A.Priyadarshana said.

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**Class 25:** Clothing; footwear; headgear; belts.

**Class 35:** Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions; marketing. Promotion, advertising and marketing of on-line websites. Arranging, conducting and promoting special events for commercial and advertising purposes. Advertising by transmission of on-line publicity for third parties through electronic communications networks. On-line retail services and retail services relating to non-medicated cosmetics and toiletry preparations; non-medicated dentifrices; perfumery, essential oils; bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use; cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; non-medicated soaps; non-medicated hair lotions; make-up preparations; incenses; nail art stickers; body art stickers; nail glitter; nail polish; massage candles for cosmetic purposes; room fragrances; false nails; false eyelashes; nail varnish removers; potpourris [fragrances]; scented wood; transfer (decorative -) for cosmetic purpose; fragrances for personal use; blush; eye make-up; lipstick; scientific, research, navigation, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, audiovisual, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, detecting, testing, inspecting, life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling the distribution or use of electricity; apparatus and instruments for recording, transmitting, reproducing or processing sound, images or data; recorded and downloadable media, computer software, blank digital or analogue recording and storage media; mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating devices; computers and computer peripheral devices; diving suits, divers' masks, ear plugs for divers, nose clips for divers and swimmers, gloves for divers, breathing apparatus for underwater swimming; fire-extinguishing apparatus; magnetic data carriers; recording discs; compact discs, DVDs and other digital recording media; calculating machines, data processing equipment; eyewear, including glasses, sun glasses, frames, cases and lenses; accessories for communication apparatus including tablets, mobile phones, smartphones, MP3 players and computers namely cases, hands free kits, covers, chargers, straps, headphones; smartwatches; decorative magnets; wearable activity trackers; 3D spectacles; spectacle cords; spectacle chains; connected bracelets [measuring instruments]; personal digital assistants [PDAs]; downloadable emoticons for mobile phones; goggles for sports; mouse pads; protective helmets; wrist rests for use with computers; animated cartoons; downloadable music files; downloadable computer software applications; downloadable ring tones for mobile phones, downloadable and recorded computer game software; downloadable image files; downloadable wallpapers for computers and phones; smart clothing, leather goods, bags, glasses; connected clothing, leather goods, bags, glasses; precious metals and their alloys; jewellery, including chains, necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings or pendants, brooches, jewellery charms; precious and semi-precious stones; horological and chronometric instruments; clocks; watches; jewellery boxes and boxes for watches; watch bands; cufflinks; tie pins; key rings [split rings with trinket or decorative fob]; key chains [split rings with trinket or decorative fob]; charms for key rings, charms for key chains; shoe jewellery; works of art of precious metal; hat jewellery; boxes of precious metal; watch cases [parts of watches]; dials [clock- and watchmaking]; watch chains; ornamental pins; pins [jewellery]; medals; pearls [jewellery]; clasps and beads for jewellery; sundials; rosaries; leather and imitations of leather; animal skins and hides; luggage and carrying bags; umbrellas and parasols; walking sticks; whips, harness and saddlery; collars, leashes and clothing for animals; bags; shoulder bags; handbags; boston bags; waist packs; sling bags for carrying infants; shopping bags; duffle bags; tote bags; evening handbags; clutch bags; wallets; purses; leather credit card cases and holders; business card cases; travelling cases of leather; shoe bags for travel; briefcases; attaché cases; pouches of leather; carrying cases made of leather; school bags and satchels; suitcases; sports bags; bags and holdalls for sports clothing; key cases made of leather; backpacks; rucksacks; carry-on bags; vanity cases, not fitted; shaving bags sold empty; beach bags; covers for animals; garment bags for travel; hat boxes of leather; haversacks; labels of leather; pouch baby carriers; randsels [Japanese school satchels]; saddlebags; travelling trunks; travelling bags; travelling sets [leatherware]; clothing; footwear; headgear; belts. Organization of fashion shows for promotional purposes.

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# Prince Philip:

# Royal Family honours Duke's 'humour and humanity'



The funeral procession at Windsor Castle



The Security Forces pall bearers



Prince Charles walks behind the hearse

The Duke of Edinburgh was laid to rest in an intimate funeral at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle on Saturday (17).

The Dean of Windsor paid tribute to Prince Philip's "kindness, humour and humanity" during the ceremony.

The congregation wore masks and was socially distanced in line with Covid rules, with the Queen seated alone. The Duke's children walked behind his coffin in a funeral procession, followed by a national minute's silence.

More than 730 members of the Armed Forces took part in the event, but there was a limit of 30 mourners inside St George's Chapel, under Coronavirus rules.

Prince Philip died at Windsor Castle on Friday, April 9, aged 99.

His coffin was carried the short distance to St George's Chapel on a modified Land Rover Defender, which the Duke himself helped to design.

The funeral procession was headed by the Band of the Grenadier Guards, the Major General's party, and military service chiefs.

Princess Anne and Prince Charles made up the front row behind the vehicle, followed by Prince Edward and Prince Andrew. Prince William and Prince Harry walked either side of their cousin Peter Phillips. The brothers sat on opposite sides of the aisle but were seen chatting together after they left the service.

Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence and the Earl of Snowdon also walked behind the coffin, trailed by members of the Duke's household staff.

The Queen, 94, travelled with a lady-in-waiting in the State Bentley Mulliner at the end of the procession.

A ceremonial gunfire at nine locations across the UK and in Gibraltar marked the start and end of the national minute's silence.

No planes landed or took off at Heathrow for six minutes to coincide with the silence and all major sporting events were rescheduled to avoid a clash with the funeral.

The funeral service was conducted by the Dean of Windsor, with the Archbishop of



The Queen and Prince Philip at Balmoral. (Picture released by the Queen ahead of the funeral)

Canterbury pronouncing the blessing.

The Dean paid tribute to Prince Philip's "kindness, humour and humanity" and the "many ways in which his long life has been a blessing to us. We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith," he said during his bidding.

The Duke's association with the Royal Navy and love of the sea was also a focus of the service but no sermon was delivered, in line with his wishes.

The music included the 1860 hymn *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*, by William Whiting, which is associated with seafarers and the maritime Armed Services. There was a reduced choir of four singers but the congregation did not sing, in line with Coronavirus restric-

tions. Buglers of the Royal Marines sounded *Action Stations* – a signal that all hands should be ready for battle – as the coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault at the end of the service.

Buckingham Palace said the funeral plans had been modified to take into account public health guidelines.

The funeral took place entirely within the grounds of the castle and the public were asked not to gather there or at other royal residences. But the ceremonial aspects of the day and the service remained in line with Prince Philip's wishes and reflected his military affiliations and personal elements of his life.

Ahead of the funeral, the Queen shared a favourite photograph of herself with her husband in Aberdeenshire. Taken by the Countess of Wessex in 2003, the picture shows the



In a happier time: The Queen and Prince Philip

couple relaxing on a picnic rug on the grass at the Coyles of Muick beauty spot, near the Queen's private estate of Balmoral.

The 30 guests at the funeral wore morning coats with medals, or day dress, but not military uniform.

The Queen and the Duke's four children – the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex – and eight grandchildren attended, but none of their young great-grandchildren.

Spouses of the children and grandchildren are among the congregation, including two who have married into the family in recent years – Jack

Brooksbank and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, husbands of Princesses Eugenie and Beatrice.

But the Duke of Sussex's wife, Meghan, is heavily pregnant and was advised by her doctors not to fly in from the US. She watched the service, telecast worldwide by the BBC and CNN, from home.

The other mourners included the children of the Queen's sister, Princess Margaret, and three of Prince Philip's German relatives – Bernhard, the Hereditary Prince of Baden; Donatus, Prince and Landgrave of Hesse; and Prince Philipp of Hohenzollern-Langenburg.

(BBC)



The Queen arriving for the funeral service



A long view of Windsor Castle and the funeral procession



Members of the Royal Family walk behind the hearse



A gun salute for Prince Philip



The casket being placed on the special Land Rover Defender hearse



The Land Rover with the casket



# Goal is to increase forest cover to 30% by 2025 - Minister

M.IRFAN ZAKARIYA, Hambantota group corr.

Protecting the environment is the responsibility of all in the country, Minister Environment Mahinda Amaraweera said planting a tree for the national tree planting programme to co-incide with the New Year.

"Our goal is to increase the country's forest cover to 30 percent by 2025, according to the President's Prosperity Vision Policy Statement. Therefore, protecting the environment is the responsibility of all. All media outlets gave us extensive publicity for the tree planting programme. I

also think that all those who mentioned about the environmental damage must have joined in planting a sapling on Friday (16)," the Minister said.

Minister Amaraweera said that protecting the environment is the responsibility and duty of not only the government but the entire people of this country. The Minister said that just as people contribute to the protection of the environment by planting trees, it is also the duty of the people to prevent the release of plastic polythene into the environment and to prevent air pollution.



He was addressing a gathering after planting a sandalwood sapling in his home garden in Angunakolapelessa. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa presented the sandalwood sapling to the Minister for planting at the newly added National Tree Planting for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Minister Amaraweera said that it is important for all those who love the environment, talk about it and criticise environmental issues to plant a sapling in their backyards.

"President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and all members of the Cabinet supported us in planting this 'auspicious tree'. There are 5.3 million families in our country. I believe that all of them, irrespective of race or religion, joined this auspicious time. "If at least 3 million saplings were planted, our country will go down in history as the country that planted

the largest number of saplings in one day, at one moment. And if so, it would probably be a world record. Also, such tree planting programmes will be held in an even more organized manner on the auspicious day after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year every year and beyond. The government did not spend even five cents on this work we organized. The private sector made all the contributions today".

Tree planting programmes were held in Tangalle, Trincomalee, Colombo and Mahiyangana.

# Irrigation experts stress importance of sediment disposal

NIMAL WIJESINGHE in Anuradhapura

Irrigation experts have submitted to the Government that a prioritised programme for disposal of sediment from 73 major tanks and 170 medium tanks to enhance the water storage capacity in them.

It has been found that the depositing sediment in the tanks is the main cause for the contraction of tank systems. The present trend of clearing the jungle belt for various development projects and illegal timber ricketeering in tank reservations including tank beds are creating large scale soil erosion silting up in the tanks.

According to irrigation engineers the total water storage in the 70 major and 170 medium scale tanks in the country is 3,985 million cubic meters. It is pointed out that the present storage capacity could definitely be enhanced by a few fold if a well planned countrywide systematic sediment removal programme is embarked on by the Irrigation Department in collaboration with the Agrarian Development Department and the Mahaweli Development Authority. Irrigation experts have submitted that sedimentation resulting from soil erosion caused by unmethodical cultivation and construction of steep slopes being added to rivers and tanks suppress sunlight reaching their bottoms then causing eutrophication resulting in proliferation of algae and water weeds hindering the process of clean air mixing with tank water, helping to create water contamination. The deposition of silt in the bottoms of the reservoirs reduces the active storage capacity that could have been stored in them causing difficulties in supplying irrigational and drinking water.

Under the circumstances for the safety of the river and tank systems the government has been planning to amend the present National Environmental Act in existence for nearly two decades without being amended. It is learnt that it has been proposal to add 42 new Sections for the protection of water sources including rivers and tanks to the Act.



# Puttalam district sees surge in COVID cases

PRASAD PURNAMAL, Puttalam district group corr.

The Puttalam district has reported 114 COVID-19 patients in the last two weeks. Puttalam District Deputy Health Services Director Dr.Dinusha Fernando said the main reason for this is that people have not adhered to health guidelines during the Festive Season.

In addition to this, the spread of COVID-19 in two garment factories in the adjoining Kurunegala District has also contributed to aggravate the situation.

Meanwhile 27 COVID-19 patients have been found from the Nattandiya Medical Officer of Health Division.

In addition, 25 cases have been reported from Dankotuwa, 13 from Kalpitiya and 11 from Wennappuwa, officials said.

# Ampara District Journalists' Federation (ADJF) AGM held


The Annual General Meeting of Ampara District Journalists' Federation (ADJF) for 2021/22 was held in Sainthamaruthu. President Meera S.Izzadeen presided. The new office bearers for 2021/22 of the Ampara District Journalists' Federation (ADJF) were elected.

Journalist P.M.M.A.Cader of Maruthamunai was elected as the new President, A.J.M.Haniffa of Sammanthurai was re-elected as new Secretary and U.M.Ishak of Kalmunai as Treasurer. Advisory Committee of the Federation: Meera S. Izzadeen, A.L.M.Saleem and M.L.M.Jamaldeen.

Eleven committee members were also selected representing the villages. The newly elected committee approved the AGM reports and resolutions.



Journalists Riyath Majeed, S.Karthikesu and B. Muhajireen were honoured and felicitated with a golden shawl and presented mementos, medals and certificates by the Federation officials at the AGM. Picture by A.L.M.Rizzen



Invitation for Bids

## THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Procurement of Teaching & Office Equipment

IFB NO : OUSL/SUP/EQ/IFB/02/01-01/2021

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Open University of Sri Lanka invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supplying, Delivering, Installation and Commissioning of Teaching & Office Equipment as per the details given below.

Item No	Item's Name	No of Units	Bid Security (SLRS)
01	Desktop Computers Type I - High End	18	69,480.00
02	Desktop Computers Type II - General Purpose	309	821,940.00
03	Desktop Computers Type III - Elementary & Multimedia Support	49	156,800.00
04	Laptop Computers for Multimedia	51	214,200.00
05	Laptop Computers for General Purpose	117	353,340.00
06	Multimedia Projectors - Movable	50	124,000.00
07	Multimedia Projectors -To Be Fixed	17	43,520.00
08	Dot Matrix Printers	4	10,720.00
09	Laser Printers	75	31,500.00
10	Scanners A 4 (Flatbed Colour Scanners)	13	26,000.00
11	UPS	640	83,200.00
12	Photocopy Machines	37	236,800.00
13	Digital Duplicating Machines	4	77,200.00
14	Smart Digital Panel	6	84,000.00
15	Laptop Note Pad	3	2,520.00
16	Multimedia Screen	1	7,000.00
17	Writing Pad	8	15,520.00

2. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a bank guarantee in the format given with the bidding document for the amount given in the above table. Bank Guarantee is confirmed by a bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The bid security shall be in the form of an unconditional demand and shall be valid up to 31/08/2021.

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB).

4. Bidders who have at least 03 years' experience in Supplying, Delivering, Installation and Commissioning of above equipment, in similar quantities to State or Private Organization may submit the bids.

5. Interested eligible bidder may obtain further information from Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka (Tel: 011-2881212) and inspect the bidding documents, free of charge at the same address during the office hours.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Assistant Bursar, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs 20,000.00 to the Shroff of the University on working days from 19/04/2021 to 11/05/2021 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

7. The bidding documents for above tender can also be downloaded from university website www.ou.ac.lk. Those who are obtaining bidding documents from university website should submit the tender along with a bank draft drawn in favor of the "Bursar, The Open University of Sri Lanka" for Rs. 20,000.00 as the non-refundable fee.

8. Duly perfected bids in duplicate in separate envelopes marked as "Original" and "Duplicate" and re-inserted in a single envelope mentioning the name of the bid and IFB No. on the top left hand corner of all three envelopes, sealed and may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Supplies Division, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda" or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Supplies Division of the Open University of Sri Lanka. Duplicate should be a certified photocopy of the original.

9. The bid should be delivered on or before 2.00 pm on 12/05/2021 to the address given above. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing time and bidder or their authorized representative is permitted to be present at the time of opening of bids.

10. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 30/04/2021 at 2.00 pm at the Board Room of the Registrar's Office of the Open University of Sri Lanka.

11. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

**The Chairman**  
**Department Procurement Committee**  
**The Open University of Sri Lanka**  
**Nawala, Nugegoda.**

Registrar, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda.



**Ministry of Fisheries**  
 State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Freshwater Fish and Shrimp Farming, Fisheries Harbour Development, Multi-Day Fishing and Fish Exports



## National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA)

Calling for Expression of Interest (EOI)

From the interested parties for the

**OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BRACKISHWATER SHRIMP HATCHERY – PUTHUKUDUIRIPPU, BATTICALOA**

Contract No: NQ / DPC / 2021 / PPP / 01

National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka which comes under purview of the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Freshwater Fish and Shrimp Farming, Fisheries Harbour Development, Multi-Day Fishing and Fish Exports has established shrimp hatchery and operating on Public - Private Sector Partnership at Puthukuduirippu in Batticaloa District.

It is expected to produce post larvae of brackish water shrimps for the Eastern Province from this hatchery.

Expression of Interest are called from the entrepreneurs who are willing to operate and manage the above shrimp hatchery for a further period of five (05) years with NAQDA on the basis of Public - Private Sector Partnership.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) shall include comprehensive details on the following (a). General Information of company (b). Legal Status of the entrepreneur (c). Documents proving the financial capability of the entrepreneur (d). Experience in field of brackish water shrimp production operations (e). Details of the technical personnel available (f). Affidavit stating that the entrepreneur has not been convicted by any court or authorized body in relation to the aquaculture industry.

Interested entrepreneurs may express their interest for the collaboration outlined above to the **Chairman, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka, No 41/1, New Parliament Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 19th May 2021 at 2.00 p.m.** Please indicate "Expression of Interest - Implementation of Brackish Water Shrimp Hatchery at Puthukuduirippu in Batticaloa District" on the top left corner of the envelope.

Upon a systematic evaluation of the EOIs received, the applicants shall be shortlisted and Requests for Proposals (RFP) shall be sent to the shortlisted applicants with the relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) in regard to this project. The proposals, both Technical and Financial shall be evaluated separately and the most qualified applicant shall be selected for the implementation of the project.

**For more Information,**  
**Assistant Director (Coastal)**

Tel. No: + 94112786578 /

+ 94112786578 /

+ 9471805 5360

Fax : + 9411 2786578 /

+ 9411278 6493

E mail : adcad@naqda.gov.lk

Web site : www.naqda.gov.lk

**Chairman,**  
**National Aquaculture Development**  
**Authority of Sri Lanka**

19.04.2021



**Ministry of Fisheries**  
 State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Freshwater Fish and Shrimp Farming, Fisheries Harbour Development, Multi-Day Fishing and Fish Exports



## National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA)

Calling for Expression of Interest (EOI)

From the interested parties for the  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF BRACKISH WATER AQUACULTURE PROJECT IN THE PREPARED POND COMPLEX AT REKAWA IN HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT WITH POND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION**

Contract No: NQ / DPC / 2021 / PPP / 02

National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) which comes under purview of the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Freshwater Fish and Shrimp Farming, Fisheries Harbour Development, Multi-Day Fishing and Fish Exports is the main Government Organization for development and promotion of aquaculture & inland fisheries in Sri Lanka.

Expression of Interest are called from interested, qualified entrepreneurs who are willing to implement brackish water aquaculture project at commercial level at the prepared pond complex at Rekawa in Hambantota district which aims to increase the export oriented production. The selected entrepreneur should enter into a tri party agreement with NAQDA and Pond Owners' Association and should able to carry out the production by providing fish seeds and technical know-how, and also to sell the harvest for the export market.

The following details should be mentioned briefly in the application. (a) General Information of the Company (b) Legal Status (c) Documents proving the financial capability of the entrepreneur (d) Experience in farming, breeding & marketing of brackish water aquaculture products (e) The details of ability of providing of fish seeds for this project (f) The Details of technical personnel (g) Interest in entering into the agreements to implement brackish water aquaculture production with the pond owners' association (h) Affidavit stating that the entrepreneur has not been convicted by any court or authorized body in relation to the aquaculture industry.

The applications with the details of interested parties for the relevant project should reach to the address of the **Chairman, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka No 41/1, New Parliament Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 19th May 2021 at 2.00 p.m.** Please indicate "Expression of Interest - Implementation of Brackish Water Aquaculture Project in the prepared Pond Complex at Rekawa in Hambantota District with the Pond Owners' Association" on the top left corner of the envelope.

Upon a systematic evaluation of the EOIs received, the applicants shall be shortlisted and Requests for Proposals (RFP) shall be sent to the shortlisted applicants with the relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) in regard to this project. The proposals, both Technical and Financial shall be evaluated separately and the most qualified applicant shall be selected for the implementation of the project.

**For more Information,**  
**Assistant Director (Coastal)**

Tel. No : + 9411 278 6578 /

+ 9411 278 6578 /

+ 9471 805 5360

Fax : + 9411 278 6578 /

+ 9411 278 6493

E mail : adcad@naqda.gov.lk

Web site : www.naqda.gov.lk

**Chairman**  
**National Aquaculture**  
**Development Authority of Sri Lanka**

19.04.2021



# World surpasses three million COVID deaths

Three million lives: That is roughly equivalent to losing the population of Berlin, Chicago or Taipei. The scale is so staggering that it sometimes begins to feel real only in places like graveyards.

The world's Covid-19 death toll surpassed three million on Saturday, according to a New York Times database. More than 100,000 people have died of Covid-19 in France. The death rate is inching up in Michigan. Morgues in some Indian cities are overflowing with corpses.

And as the United States and other rich nations race to vaccinate their populations, new hot spots have emerged in parts of Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The global pace of deaths is accelerating, too. After the coronavirus emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the pandemic claimed a million lives in nine months. It took another four months to kill its second million, and just three months to kill a million more.

"We are running out of space," Mohammed Shamin, a gravedigger in New Delhi's largest Muslim cemetery, said on Saturday. "If we don't get more space, you will soon see dead bodies rotting in the streets."

The deaths are the most tragic aspect of the pandemic, but they aren't the only cost.

Many millions more have been sickened by the virus, some with effects that may last for years or even a lifetime. Livelihoods have been ruined. Global work and travel have been disrupted in profound and potentially long-lasting ways.

The official toll almost certainly

ly does not account for all the pandemic-related deaths in the world. Some of those deaths may have been mistakenly attributed to other causes, like flu or pneumonia, while others have died as a result of the vast disruptions of life.

The pandemic has also sharpened inequalities that were hard to bear even in regular times. Nanthana Chobcheun, 67, who works at a wet market in the eastern Thai city of Bangsae, said her income had fallen by half since the coronavirus emerged. But she cannot afford to stop working, she added, even as Thailand's caseload rises.

"Young people, rich people are enjoying their nightlife, even when there's a contagious disease, and gathering without a care in the world," Ms. Nanthana, who has diabetes and high blood pressure, said at an open-air market on Saturday. "For us little people, and especially old people like me, it's different," she added, sitting on a stool amid piles of dried fish.

Some parts of the world may be turning the corner. The United States and Britain have seen death rates drop in recent weeks as they have rolled out aggressive vaccination programs. In Israel, 56 percent of the population had been fully vaccinated as of Friday, according to a New York Times tracker.

At the same time, new outbreaks are still cropping up persistently in rich countries. That has shocked millions of people — from Madrid to Los Angeles — who once expected regular life to resume in tandem with vaccine rollouts.

In France, which is in the



COVID patients share a bed in India

throes of a third national lockdown, a deep sense of fatigue and frustration has taken root over a seemingly endless cycle of coronavirus restrictions. The third lockdown has limited outdoor activities, forced nonessential shops to close, banned travel between regions and shut schools for a month. One of the few bright spots is the vaccination campaign, which has finally gathered speed after a sluggish start over the past few months.

More than 12 million people have received at least a first shot and the government expects an additional eight million to be vaccinated by mid-May, when a gradual reopening is set to begin. Poland is struggling to find its way out of its third wave of infections, even as the wave seems to have peaked. A recent spike in Covid-19 infections and

deaths is putting immense pressure on the underfunded and understaffed health care system. With record numbers of patients on ventilators, the government announced on Wednesday that it would extend the current restrictions by one week, shattering hopes of hotel owners for reopening during the traditional May break and prompting more protests from business owners.

Japan, which lifted a state of emergency less than a month ago and plans to host the Olympics this summer, on Friday said it would tighten restrictions in Tokyo and other cities to prevent a surge of infections from snowballing into a fourth wave.

And in the United States, dangerous variants are driving new outbreaks, even though new cases, hospitalizations and deaths have declined from their

January peaks. Michigan, the worst-hit state, is reporting an average of about 50 deaths a day, twice as many as two weeks ago, along with 7,800 or so new cases. The United States and parts of Western Europe bore the brunt of deaths for the first year of the pandemic. Now, the hot spots for fatalities are in regions like Eastern Europe, South Asia and Latin America.

In Brazil, Latin America's largest country, the virus has taken more than 368,000 lives and is killing people at a record rate of about 2,900 per day. Vaccinations are slow, variants are rampant and hospitals are overloaded.

In Mexico, where Covid-19 has killed more than 211,000 people, only about one in 10 people in the country have received a vaccine. (NYT)

## Scientists close to cracking blood clot mystery

Doctors say they are homing in on the cause of blood clots that may be linked with certain coronavirus vaccines, and their findings have important implications for how to treat the condition, regardless of whether vaccines cause it.

Even though the link is not yet firm, they're calling the condition vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia or VITT. It's characterized by unusual blood clotting combined with a low number of blood-clotting cells called platelets. Patients suffer from dangerous clots and, sometimes, hemorrhaging at the same time.

It's been linked most firmly with the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, which is in wide use in Europe and the UK.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration are checking to see if Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine also might cause the blood clots. Both AstraZeneca's vaccine and the J&J vaccine use common cold viruses called adenoviruses as a carrier and some experts suspect the body's response to those viral vectors might underlie the reaction. AstraZeneca's vaccine is not authorized in the US.

The FDA and CDC have asked for a pause in giving out the J&J vaccine while they investigate.

A team led by Dr. Marie Scully, a hematologist at University College London Hospitals, studied 22 patients who developed the syndrome after receiving AstraZeneca's vaccine, and found they had an unusual antibody response. These so-called anti-PF4 antibodies had only been seen before as a rare reaction to the use of the common blood thinner heparin.

The findings support a theory that an immune reaction might underlie the rare blood clots, but the findings don't yet explain it, Scully and colleagues reported in the New England Journal of Medicine Friday. (CNN)



## India waits for more vaccine doses



In India, the world's biggest vaccine producer, millions of people are waiting for Covid-19 vaccines amid a devastating second wave of infections.

India typically produces more than 60% of all vaccines sold globally, and is home to the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine maker. Its vast manufacturing capability is why the country signed on as a major player in COVAX, the global vaccine-sharing initiative that provides discounted or free doses for lower-income countries. Under the initial agreement announced last year, SII would manufacture up to 200 million doses for up to 92 countries.

But the situation in India is markedly different from just a few months ago. Its second wave began in March, quickly surpassing the first, which had peaked last September at more than 97,000 coronavirus cases a day.

On Sunday, the country reported 261,500 new cases — its highest single-day figure so far, according to data from the Indian Ministry of Health. India added a million new cases in less than a week, surpassing 14 million total cases on Thursday.

States and cities are imposing new restrictions, including weekend and nighttime curfews in the capital region Delhi, home to 19 million people.

Migrant workers are also leaving major cities en masse for their home villages, afraid any potential lockdowns will leave them stranded.

And through it all, vaccine supplies have dried up on the ground, with at least five states reporting severe shortages and urging the federal government to act.

In the face of crisis, the government and SII have shifted focus from supplying vaccines to COVAX to prioritizing their own citizens at home.

"Deliveries of doses from the Serum Institute of India will be delayed in March and April," said COVAX, which is run by a coalition including international vaccine organization Gavi and the World Health Organization, in a news release on March 25. "Delays in securing supplies of SII-produced Covid-19 vaccine doses

are due to the increased demand for Covid-19 vaccines in India."

India had provided 28 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine so far, and was scheduled to deliver another 40 million doses in March and 50 million in April, the release said, adding that COVAX and the Indian government "remain in discussions" about completing supplies.

It's not the first time India had to pause its COVAX contributions: In January, the government restricted the export of AstraZeneca vaccines produced by SII "because they want to prioritize for the most vulnerable and needy segments first," SII CEO Adar Poonawalla.

But these repeated delays have hit poor countries hard. The director of Africa's disease control body warned India's hold on exports could be "catastrophic" for the continent — while Pakistan, one of the biggest program recipients, decided to allow private vaccine imports and sales to fill the gap.

India is administering two vaccines domestically: the Oxford-AstraZeneca one, also known as Covishield, and its home-grown Covaxin, developed jointly by Bharat Biotech and the government-run Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The country started its vaccination program in January for health care workers and priority groups, with the goal of fully inoculating 300 million people by August. But the program had a sluggish start, facing logistical issues as well as vaccine hesitancy among the population — especially towards Covaxin, which was approved for emergency use before the efficacy data of its third phase trial were released.

To date, only 14.3 million people have been fully vaccinated — just over 1% of India's population of 1.3 billion, according to Johns Hopkins University.

But public confidence rose as the government stepped up an awareness campaign to assuage concerns, and the vaccination program picked up speed. As new daily cases accelerated in March and April, several states began reporting major vaccine shortages. (CNN)

## Exercise can ward off COVID complications — Study

Regular exercise habits appear to be just the thing for shaking off severe COVID-19 complications, according to a new study of more than 48,000 Kaiser Permanente patients in Southern California.

Kaiser members who reported that they were regularly engaging in at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-strenuous exercise per week — essentially a brisk walk or better — when they were diagnosed with COVID-19 had significantly lower odds of hospitalization, intensive care unit admission and death than those who estimated their weekly efforts at 10 minutes or less.

The results were less dramatic, but still visible, for those who said they exercised for between 10 and 149 minutes per week.

Researchers found that the risk of hospitalization for those with low activity levels was more than twice as high as for those who got moving for at least 2.5 hours every week. Low activity levels also correlated with death rates that were about 2.5 times higher than they were for those with high activity levels.

Consistent physical inactivity was found to be a more severe risk factor than pre-existing heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and high blood pressure among the group of patients studied. Only having had a previous organ transplant or pregnancy at the time of infection correlated with greater odds of COVID-related hospital admission.

Dr. James Sallis, a professor emeritus at UC San Diego's Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and co-author of the paper, said the findings reinforce what research has consistently and increasingly shown across many types of disease.

"Physical activity is one of the most powerful producers of health that exists, and yet it's basically ignored in most medical care," he said.

For years the empirical evidence has been growing stronger in cancer, for example. Cancer patients with seven main types of disease have been shown to have measurably-better outcomes if they keep exercising during their course of illness.

Kaiser, as it happens, was perfectly positioned to study physical activity among the coronavirus positive due to an initiative begun in 2009 that asks all patients to estimate their exercise levels during routine office visits.

A research team led by Dr. Robert Sallis, a Kaiser sports medicine specialist in Fontana unrelated to his colleague at UCSD, analyzed the aggregated electronic health record data of 48,440 Kaiser patients across Southern California who had COVID-19 diagnoses between Jan. 1 and Oct. 21, 2020, choosing only those who estimated their activity levels at least three times in the previous two years.

Because health records reflect data generally recorded before



patients tested positive, they indicate ongoing pre-existing exercise habits. After all, COVID-19 symptoms generally impinge upon even well-established workout routines.

Anne Swisher, a professor of physical therapy at West Virginia University who has studied the health effects of physical activity extensively, said the paper's conclusions were exciting. She said Kaiser's initiative to record physical activity as a vital sign in the same way that factors such as height, weight and blood pressure are routine parts of each office visit is industry leading.

She cautioned the public to avoid thinking of those who are not exercising enough as lazy. In

many cases, those who aren't moving much may have an illness or other condition that makes their life more sedentary than they would like. "Individuals who are very sedentary may have the greatest barriers to physical activity such as having significant mobility challenges like being wheelchair users," Swisher said.

James Sallis, who has spent much of his career studying the effects of exercise on overall health, said that the results should be a wake-up call for the public health community.

He said that though he and his colleagues urged that a call for maintaining as much exercise as possible be a major part of the pandemic message alongside pleas for hand washing and mask wearing, that urging generally fell upon deaf ears.

It felt like a missed opportunity, Sallis said, because there is plenty of research that shows that compounds critical to immune system function, and to inflammation reduction, are produced by the body's muscles.

"We feel like our concerns about physical activity were not being prioritized during the pandemic, when the message was generally to stay home," Sallis said. "We hope that the data in this paper will be seen as good evidence that we cannot ignore the power of physical activity during our response to a pandemic." (San Diego Union Tribune)

## Australia in no hurry to open borders

Australia is in no hurry to reopen its international borders and risk the country's nearly coronavirus-free lifestyle, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday.

Australia closed its borders to all non-citizens and non-residents in March 2020 and has been permitting only limited international arrivals in recent months, mainly its citizens returning from abroad.

The border closure, together with snap lockdowns, swift contact tracking and high community compliance with health measures, have made Australia one of the world's most successful countries in curbing the pandemic, limiting coronavirus cases to under 29,500 infections and 910 deaths.

"Australia is in no hurry to open those borders, I assure you," Morrison said at a televised briefing.

"I will not be putting at risk the way we are living in this country



Australian PM Scott Morrison with NZ PM Jacinda Ardern

which is so different to the rest of the world today."

For months now, except for some short snap lockdowns, Australians have been able to dine

out, gather nearly freely and stop wearing face masks in most places.

They exchanged their international forays for local trips, with

government figures showing big annual increases in intra-state travel in the first months of 2021.

From Monday, Australians and neighbouring New Zealanders will be able to travel between both countries without the need to apply for an exemption or spend time in mandatory quarantine.

New Zealand has had only 2,239 confirmed coronavirus cases and 26 related deaths.

Morrison flagged on Sunday that vaccinated Australians could be able to travel overseas "for essential purposes" and return via home quarantine in the second half of the year, but that possibility is only in "planning stages".

Australia recently abandoned a goal to vaccinate nearly all of its 26 million population by the end of 2021 following advice that people under the age of 50 take Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine rather than AstraZeneca's shot. (Al Jazeera)





# Clinical Royal dominate Wesley; tons for Ryan and Nipunaka

CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

Royal missed out another chance of pulling off an outright victory as they grabbed all the honours in their annual Inter-Schools Under-19 traditional encounter against Wesley College, which ended in a draw at Reid Avenue.

This encounter played for the Sir Frank Gunasekera Shield was completely dominated by Royal as they fell short by three wickets from recording an outright victory.

The Wesley tail-enders held on determinedly during a tense last few overs as they ended up with 114 for seven after they were set an impossible victory target of 227.

A couple of interruptions for bad weather on the second day of the match also frustrated Royal's progress as they looked to build up a solid combination ahead of next month's Big Match against traditional rivals S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.

Despite the drawn game, there were several positives that Royal would like to take forward and the outstanding batting of young Dasis Manchanayake was one classic example.

The 17-year-old elegant left-hander hit a career-best 78, while batting under tre-



Royal Skipper Ahan Wickramasinghe plays a shot

mendous pressure and helped Royal to compile a modest 188 runs in their first innings.

Manchanayake walked into the middle after his Skipper Ahan Wickramasinghe had departed cheaply and they were in deep trouble when inform batsman Kavindu Pathirathna fell at 102 for five.

However, thereafter Manchanayake steadied the Royal innings with a fighting knock which included 12 boundaries and lasted for just over two hours.

Royal then had the satisfaction of bowling out their opponents for less than 100 runs with Kavindu Pathi-

ratne, Gishan Balasuriya and Prashan Kalhara playing havoc with the Wesley batting.

The Royal bowlers continued to dominate as they reduced the Wesleyites to 82 for six in the second innings at one stage after having set a victory target of 227 runs.

However, Wesley Skipper Thenuka Perera came to their rescue with a stubborn batting performance stroking a valuable 48 with the help of six boundaries.

## S. Thomas' vs St. Peter's

Two magnificent centu-



St. Peter's Captain Nipunaka Fonseka celebrates his hundred.

ries from Ryan Fernando and Nipunaka Fonseka highlighted the annual Under-19 cricket encounter between S. Thomas' College and St. Peter's College, which ended in a draw at Mount Lavinia.

This traditional fixture played for the Michael Tissera-Roy Dias Trophy, produced some superb batting from both sides as they geared up for their respective Big Matches scheduled for next month.

First it was Thomian Fernando who produced another scintillating innings as he went on to register his second hun-

tered for the current season.

Last week of course, he missed out the three-figure mark by few runs against St. Joseph's College but this time the stylish right-hander made sure of his century with a determined effort, which lasted for nearly four hours.

Fernando seems to be the key player in the Thomian batting line-up and he performed his role to near perfection which helped his team to reach a healthy 227 in the first innings.

Fernando's score of 103 is almost half of S. Thomas' first innings total and that goes to show how val-

uable his contribution was for the team from Mount Lavinia.

The second day of the match produced another centurion and this time it was the St. Peter's Captain Nipunaka Fonseka who grabbed the opportunity to make his presence felt.

This was a very special moment for the left-hand middle order batsman as he powered his way to score his maiden hundred this season after having missed out the milestone on two other occasions.

Fonseka of course, had to really work hard for his runs as the Pederites had a shock start to their innings

while losing two wickets in the very first over.

This was something St. Peter's had rarely experienced this season as their middle order was exposed very early in the innings after paceman Yasiru Rodrigo had struck twice in successive deliveries.

However, the reliable Fonseka proved what he is capable of performing under these trying circumstances as he gave a fine display of building an innings through sheer determination and commitment.

He found an ideal partner in wicket-keeper batsman Lahiru Chethaka and the pair initially repaired the early damage and then went on to dominate the proceedings during a crucial partnership.

The Pederites eventually finished the game in style as they obtained some psychological advantage by claiming six wickets in the Thomian second innings for just 59 runs.

## Bens vs Gurukula

St. Benedict's College staged a superb fight back to force a draw to their traditional Under-19 cricket encounter against Gurukula College, worked off at Kotahena.

The Benedictines were in real danger of losing the game after they were skittled out for a paltry 118 runs in the first innings in a mere 41.5 overs.

They would have been bowled out even for a much lower total if not for an unbeaten 72 from middle order batsman Ashen de Soya who hoisted two sixes and struck nine boundaries.

But yet, Gurukula were still in command of the game as they went on to build up a lead of over 150 runs by accumulating 273 for five in reply.

The visitors proved their batting depth and constructed their innings on the back of three superb half-centuries from opener Neluka Heshan, Skipper Kemira Nayanatharu and all-rounder Janitha Shehan.

Despite the daunting task ahead of them and a huge first innings deficit, St. Benedict's took up the challenge and battled for 85 overs in their second innings to come out with a creditable draw.

Ashen de Soya once again was the star for the Benedictines as he completed twin fifties while Pasan Suwasas and wicket-keeper batsman Sharujan Shanmuganathan also made valuable contributions.

## Rugby Star Terrence was also a fine coach

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Wesley College, Colombo is a leading Christian School which has played a pivotal role in sports and studies. Rugby has a prominent place in their sports calendar producing several champion sides which have put up some belligerent performances. Some of their players' opted to continue their rugby career and played at club level later representing the country. Henry Terrence was another player who entered that elite rugby players list at school with a successful career.

Henry was born in 1986 in Colombo and his father is Peter Terrence a businessman by profession while mother Inul is a housewife. He has two siblings Diana and Enoch. Henry was enrolled at Wesley College in 1993 as a primary school student and completed his academic career in 2005.

He was a strongly built young man over six feet in height and weighing 115 kilos at the time of representing the senior team. He never intended to play rugby but engaged in football for a short period. It was his Maths teacher late N. J. Mudanayake who was also their rugby master in charge who spotted him and encouraged him to join the junior rugby team in 1999. He then played in the school under-13 team as a Prop Forward and won the all Island trophy for the first time for the college.

He continued to play in the under-15,17 and the first XV team until 2005 occupying the same position. It was Dishantha Priyadarshana, his coach

who took care of him from the day he touched the oval shaped ball in 1999 until he ended his school career in 2005. He maintained a regular place in the first XV team from 2003 to 2005 ending up as the vice-captain in the 2005 season. He got an opportunity of playing for CR and FC in 2005 under head coach Grant Dwyer which he rates as a great experience to play with some big names in the game during that time like Pavithra Fernando, Asanga Rodrigo, Savantha de Saran few to be named.

That team eventually went on to win the 'Caltex Knockout Tournament' in 2006 by beating Havelocks 37-5 in the final. In his first year at CR, he was rewarded for being



Henry Terrence

'Most Promising Newcomer'. He surged ahead to don the Red jersey from 2006 to 2011, where he was named as vice-captain in 2011.

In 2012, he decided to swap clubs and moved to Havelocks.

Asanga Seneviratne gave him the opportunity to captain the team which won the League tournament after 31 years for the Park Club, where he scrummed down for them for three seasons.

He then moved from



Havelocks to play a single season each with Navy and Police Sports Club. One of his most memorable matches in his Club Rugby career was in the 2014/15 season beating the mighty Kandy SC in Nittawela, after playing more than 15 matches previously. From 2016, he decided to keep away from the game due to his coaching and family commitments. But in 2019, he intended to make a comeback to play rugby again and played a season with CH and FC.

He had a regular place in the Sri Lanka team as a Prop Forward from 2007 to 2016, where he represented them in all tournaments. During his National career the most memorable moment was scoring his first try against Chinese Taipei in 2009 and becoming the Asian Five Nations champions in 2010 under Pradeep Liyanage's captaincy. Later they went on to win two more championships under Yoshitha Rajapaksa and Fazil Marija's captaincy in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

While he was playing Club rugby at Park Club, after winning the League in 2012, he got the oppor-

tunity to coach his 'Alma Mater' in 2013 and guided them to win the schools knockout tournament for the first time in the college history under the leadership of Rahul de Silva by beating Trinity College by 35-21 in the final.

Same year, he was also entrusted to coach the Sri Lanka under-20 team with Colin Dinesh and won the tournament held in Chinese Taipei. He had the rare honour of coaching the under-20 National squad while playing for the Sri Lanka National rugby team.

His tenure as coach with Wesley was for three years and later moved to coach Isipathana in 2016 with Nilfer Ibrahim for two years.

They became double champs and coached the under-20 National team with Nilfer Ibrahim in the same year. In the 2019/20 season, he was chosen to coach the Army team and currently is the head coach of Science College. He is a World Rugby level-three qualified coach and holds a level two certificate in strength and conditioning. His wife is Sandra and has one child Zack.

## Vinodi Kaushalya excellent athlete, netball and volleyball player

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Athlete, Volleyball and Netball Player Divalaka Hewage Vinodi Kaushalya has brought honour and glory to her Alma Mater Veyangoda Central College, University of Sabaragamuwa and her motherland. She was born on 26th November 1996 and was admitted to Ranpokunugama Maha Vidyalaya in 2002 when Mrs. Chandrani Karunanayake was at the helm of the school and her first class teacher was Mrs. Gamlath.

In 2005 she participated in the Inter House Sports Meet of the school and she came first in High Jump and Long Jump and came second in 50 metres and though she was selected for the Divisional meet she did not participate. In 2007 she was drafted to Veyangoda Central College and when she was in Grade 11 she took part in High Jump and Triple Jump and came first and at the Divisional and Zonal Meets she came second in her events.

In the mean time her parents Ajith Premalal and Sumeermna Girty Geekiyanage encouraged their daughter to take up to volleyball and she came under their coach and Master in Charge of Volleyball Indika Amarasekera. Same year she participated at the School Inter House Volleyball Competition and their house won and at the Divisional, Zonal and Provincial tournaments also they were victorious at the 13 age group they lost in the All Island Inter Schools Tournament and in the following

year in the under 15 they won all the lower tournaments. In the under 17 tournament they came up to Semi Finals in the DSI and All Island Schools in 2017. With all these performances and experiences under her belt she was a unanimous choice and toured China with the under 17 team where 15 countries participated and Sri Lanka lasses became 13th and this was a fine exposure for Vinodi.

After returning home she was awarded Gampaha School Colours and adjudged the Best Player of the District. In 2018 they became third in the All Island under 18 DSI Tournament and in the All Island Schools Tournament they came up to Semi Finals and in 2014 too they came up to Semi Finals and the DSI Inter Schools Tournament and in the same year



Vinodi Kaushalya

adjudged the Best Player of the District and awarded colours.

Due to 'A' Levels in 2015 she kept away from sports temporarily and in 2016 Munchee Novices she represented Air Force and Airwomen became the Runners Up. Once again in 2017 she toured Thailand with Sri Lanka under 23 Girls team and out of 11 countries they came ninth. Representing the Sri Lanka Army in 2018 they ended up third.

In 2019 representing the Mercantile Tournament for Meerigama Brandix Green Team Apparels they were the second. In All Island she represented the Sabaragamuwa University in the Inter - University Tournaments in 2017, 18 and 19 and she captained her school for three successive years and she was the schools Girls Sports Captain in 2014.



Sri Lanka Girls under 23 Volleyball tour of Thailand 2017. Front Row Standing L/R - Ridmi Sakunthala, Sachni Charuka, Sanju Dineshika, Chamali Sanjula, Thakshila Maduranghi, Back Row Standing L/R - Janaka Indrajith (Head Coach), Vinodi Kaushalya, Amani Kaushalya, Anuththara Sandamal, Kaveesha Lakshani (Vice Captain), Anurisha Chathuni, Apsara Sewmali, Thiilini Wasana (Captain), Morris Chaminda (Asst. Coach) Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

## Mutur AC Cricket Team T-20 limited over cricket champions

(Text and Picture by: I.L.RIZAN, Addalaichenai Central Correspondent)

The Mutur AC Cricket Team became champions of the 'T-20 Champion Trophy' limited over's cricket tournament conducted by Mutur Cricket Board at the Public Play Grounds, Mutur recently.

Mutur Cricket Board President N.P.Najin organized the T-20 cricket tournament while 24 prominent teams from the region took part.

Mutur AC Cricket Team beat Iraq Sports Club, Mutur in the final.

Iraq SC team batted first to score 144 for the loss of nine wickets at the end of 20 overs. In reply AC Cricket Team



The captain of the Mutur AC Cricket Team receiving the T-20 Champion Trophy from Chief Guest

reached the victory target in the 19.4 overs at the expense of six wickets.

The awards ceremony was held under the patronage of the Mutur Cricket Board President N.P.Najin.

Mutur Pradeshhiya Sabha

(PS) Chairman M.M.A. Aroos graced the occasion as Chief Guest and awarded the trophies. Winners were awarded with Trophies at the ceremony. Sports Clubs officials, players and many others were present.

## Pubudu outstanding basketball and netball player

(UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-

Kandy Sports Special Correspondent)

Pubudu Navoda Marasinghe is an old girl of Mahamaya Girls School, Kandy who is an outstanding netball player as well as a Basketball player. She was involved in Athletics too and did well in High Jump and Javelin Throw.

She was a netball player of the School team from 2009 to 2019 in Under 13 to under 19 age groups. She took part at the Zonal and Provincial Level Meets as well as All island and International level tournaments. She represented Sri Lanka at the 'Pesta-bola' International Netball tour-

namment held in Malaysia in the year 2013 and from 2017 to 2019 she was a member of the Sri Lanka Junior Netball Pool and in 2016 won the Bronze Medal in the All Island games by representing the Central province. Again in 2017 won the first place in the All Island Games representing the Kandy team and in the year 2015 to 2017 won the Championship in the National Youth Sports Festival. In 2018 emerged Champions, Runners-up and 2nd Runners-up in the Netball meet conducted by the Dept. of Education.

Their 'A' Division team emerged champions and

Runners-up in the Zonal Meet from 2010 to 2017 in the Inter School championship at the Milo Netball Tournament. Ruvinya Malporu was the Captain of the Netball team and Pubudu Novoda was selected as the Under 17 Best player in the Netball match, Mahamaya Girls School had with Stamford High School, England and she was awarded Colours at the School award ceremony. Pubudu excelled in basketball in the year 2016 and 2017 and became a member of the Kandy District Basketball team as a forward. In 2017 the School Basketball team became Runners-up in the

Kandy District team and became Champions at the Basketball tourney held by the Gangawata Korale Division of Kandy and in 2018 she was awarded a Merit Certificate for Basketball and she became a member of the YMCA, Kandy to continue playing basketball.

In athletics too she received many certificates in High Jump and Javelin Throw at School level and Provincial level competitions. She was the Games Vice Captain in the Maya House of the school. At present she is employed at Cargills Bank and her intention is to continue her sports career.



Pubudu Novoda with the medals she has received.



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Uncapped Mukidul Islam in action.  
Pic courtesy SLC



# BOWLERS IMPRESS for BANGLADESH in warm-up ahead of SL Test

## WORLD OF SPORTS

(April 19)

### LOCAL EVENTS

#### CRICKET

(U-19 Division One Tier 'A' quarter-finals):  
Royal vs Nalanda at Mount Lavinia  
Trinity vs St. Sebastian's at Reid Avenue

(U-19 Division Two Tier 'A' quarter-finals):  
Rahula, Matara vs Lyceum, Wattala at Darley Road

#### FOREIGN EVENTS

#### CRICKET

(Indian Premier League):  
Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals at Mumbai

(Nepal Tri Series):  
Nepal vs Malaysia at Kirtipur

#### FOOTBALL

(Premier League):  
Leeds United vs Liverpool

### CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

The touring Bangladesh Cricket Team wrapped up a successful Intra-Squad warm-up match in Katunayake yesterday, as they began their preparations for next week's Test series against Sri Lanka.

After their batsmen had piled up 314 for six on the opening day, the Bangladesh bowlers got their act together well with a pleasing performance on day two.

Left-arm seamer Taijul Islam was the most impressive as he captured three wickets for 38

during a controlled spell of bowling under hot and humid conditions.

The 29-year-old fast bowler is one of the main weapons in the Bangladesh bowling armoury as he looks to continue the same form which he displayed during the recent home series against the West Indies.

In fact, Bangladesh Skipper Mominul Haque has already revealed that a strong fast bowling unit will be the key to their success in the two-Test series.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has also

backed their decision and have named three uncapped fast bowlers in the 21-member squad, which could make a big difference during the series.

Apart from Taijul, right-arm off-spinner Mehidy Hasan also grabbed the opportunity to impress as he ended with figures of three for 41 as Bangladesh 'Green' were dismissed for 225.

Among the Bangladesh batsmen, wicket-keeper Liton Das had a good outing as he went on to complete a fine half-century while Mominul Haque remained unbeaten on 47.

The first Test between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka begins on April 21 while the second Test starts on April 29 with both matches at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy.

Chief scores  
Bangladesh Red: 314/6 decl (Tamim Iqbal 63, Najmul Hossain 53, Saif Hassan 52, Mushfiqur Rahim 66, Nurul Hasan 48)

Bangladesh Green: 225 (Liton Das 64, Mominul Haque 47 n.o., Mohammad Mithun 28, Shohidul Islam 20 n.o., Taijul Islam 3/38, Mehidy Hasan 3/41).

## Madugalle to officiate in SL-B'DESH Test series

ICC Chief Match Referee Ranjan Madugalle and ICC Elite Umpire Kumar Dharmasena will officiate in the two-Test series between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

### The officials:

(First Test): Match Referee: Ranjan Madugalle. On-Field Umpires: Kumar Dharmasena and Ruchira Palliyaguruge. TV Umpire: Raveendra Wimalasiri. 4th Umpire: Lyndon Hannibal. Reserve

Umpire: Prageeth Rambukwella. Reserve Match Referee: Graeme Labrooy.

(Second Test): Match Referee: Ranjan Madugalle. On-Field Umpires: Kumar Dharmasena and Ruchira Palliyaguruge. TV Umpire: Raveendra Wimalasiri. 4th Umpire: Prageeth Rambukwella. Reserve Umpire: Lyndon Hannibal. Reserve Match Referee: Graeme Labrooy.

## SLSRFA SEEKS APPROVAL for Tag Rugby Tournney

### ALTHAF NAWAZ

The Sri Lanka Schools Rugby Football Association (SLSRFA) is to introduce Tag Rugby among the schools due to the non-approval of their regular 15-a-side Tournament.

This new proposal is to be submitted to the Ministry of Education early next month for their final approval.

The SLSRFA Tournament Committee after a series of discussions decided to introduce this popular format among rugby playing schools if the relevant authorities fail to grant the green light for their regular tournaments.

"Rugby has been listed as the fourth

staged game by the Ministry of Health and so we are unable to pursue any tournaments," Secretary of the SLSRFA, N. Wijerama told the Daily News yesterday.

"Our Tournament Committee had a lengthy discussion to imply justice for these children. As a result, we opted to introduce Tag Rugby which is played in the safe zone," he added.

All schools will play in their respective divisions and the top two teams of the group will qualify for the knock-out stage.

With the GCE Advanced Level Examination scheduled for October, this tournament is likely to commence in June and to be concluded by August.



Dilanka Kumara (right) at the podium.

## Dilanka bags ASIAN WEIGHTLIFTING BRONZE

Sri Lanka's Dilanka Isuru Kumara won the Bronze Medal in the 55kg weight category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships which commenced in Uzbekistan yesterday.

Kumara won the overall third place to clinch the Bronze Medal after he lifted 241kg in this event.

Two lifters from Kazakhstan won the Gold Medal and the Silver Medals in this weight class.

A four-member Sri Lankan team is participating in this championship, which is also considered as a qualification event for the Tokyo Olympics.

(D.R)

## Super League Football Tournney begins today

### ALTHAF NAWAZ

The inaugural Super League Football Tournament will commence at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo with two matches down for decision today (April.19).

Colombo FC will take on New Young FC in the curtain raiser match at 4.30 p.m. while Blue Star SC will meet Red Star SC in the second match at 7.30 p.m.

Colombo FC are likely to have the services of few overseas players along with a combination of youth and experienced local players.

One of their key players to monitor will be M. Aakib who is a pretty dangerous player both in attack and defence.

New Young FC will also have



The Super League Cup.

the services of few foreign players and altogether, a close encounter is expected.

Meanwhile, the match between Blue Star SC and Red Star SC will be another cliff-hanger. Both teams experienced mixed fortunes during the pre-season league and will be

determined to put up a solid performance to commence the tournament on a winning note.

## Unbeaten Royal favourites against Nalanda

### DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Royal College will take on Nalanda College in their Under-19 Division One Tier 'A' Limited Over Cricket Tournament quarter-final game at S. Thomas' College Grounds in Mount Lavinia today.

Unbeaten Royal have a strong batting line-up with Skipper Aban Wickramasinghe leading from the front while Isiwara Dissanayake, Sadisha Rajapaksa and 17-year-old Dasis Manchanyake are also among the runs this season.

Paceman Kavindu Pathirathna is a fine all-rounder while Sonal Amarasekara and leg-spinner Gishan Balasooriya are the leading bowlers for Royal.

Meanwhile, Nalanda will heavily depend on their Skipper Raveen de



Raveen de Silva (Nalanda Captain)



Aban Wickramasinghe (Royal Captain)

Silva who could be the match winner for the team. Raveen is in fine form with his all round capabilities

and scored a superb 170 and took four wickets for four runs in their match against S. Thomas' College.

## Trinity-Sebs clash should be a thriller

### HAFIZ MARIKAR

Trinity College will take on St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa in their Inter-Schools Under-19 Division One Tier 'A' Limited Over Cricket Tournament quarter-final fixture at the Royal College Grounds in Reid Avenue today.

This game should turn out to be a keen tussle as both teams are equally good in both departments.

Even then, the Trintians should have the edge because of their superior bowling and batting line-ups.

However, St. Sebastian's also possess a strong batting line-up and a bowling attack.

Trinity with an all-round side have improved tremendously and are capable of producing something extraordinary.

Skipper Abhishek Anandakumar has already proved himself both as a cap-



Abhishek Anandakumar (Trinity Captain)



Sukitha Prasanna (St. Sebastian's Captain)

tain and player, and much will be expected from Shane Gunatillake, Umari Raizan, Matheesha Pathirana, Deemantha Bandara, Akram Muthalib, Ranuda Somaratne, Thevin Amarasinghe, Pasan Kularathne, Pasan Ganegoda and Pawan Pathiraja.

St. Sebastian's have also made steady progress with a good display and much will be expected from players like Savindu Rodrigo, Bihanga Mendis, Sukitha Prasanna, Kushan Herath, Chrishane Perera, Bihanga Mendis, Yashan Avishka and Malinda Perera.

# 42<sup>nd</sup> OBSERVER - SLT-MOBITEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

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SUNDAY OBSERVER





# Daily News Business

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



Minister Cabraal at the press conference on Friday.  
Picture by Dushantha Mayadunne.

## Colombo Port City to muster USD 15 bn FDI in next 5 years



CBL GROUP, LANKA'S BEST CORPORATE CITIZEN

PAGE 20

### Govt to woo multinationals to set up regional offices at Port City

The Colombo Port City project will help to elevate Sri Lanka from an average USD 1.5 billion per year FDI attracting destination to a US\$ 15 billion FDI yielding destination in the next five years said State Minister of Money, Capital Markets and State Enterprise Reforms

Ajith Nivard Cabraal at a Special Press conference on Friday. The Minister said that to do this Sri Lanka has to offer 'something attractive' for the investors and to formulate this, the government tabled a gazette on March 23 to formulate the 'Colombo Port City

Economic Commission'. The bill aims to provide for a special economic zone to establish a commission to grant registrations, licenses, authorizations and other approvals to operate a business in such economic zones.

"People are asking the government to make Sri Lanka another Singapore and the Colombo Port City will be the key to take the country to that level as well."

Multiple petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court last week against this proposed legislation on the Colombo Port City (CPC) and

depending on the outcome the government would change the laws if required. The Minister said that one of the key points an investor looks at before investing is the 'Doing Business Index' which was over the 100+ mark in Sri Lanka. However, it has now been ranked 99th in the latest edition of the index, the highest-ranking achieved since 2015. It had been flagging at 114, 109, 110 and 111 marks for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively.

"While we are taking more steps towards bettering this which takes time we are offer-

ing a special package of concessions to woo investors for the CPC subject to countries sovereignty."

"We need to show investors that doing business in CPC is different and easier and for this, we will also introduce a 'One Stop Shop' concept where approvals would be made very easy and legislation would be put in place to protect investments. He said that the directorate of the CPC Commission would be appointed by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the President has the power to remove them as well. He also said that

out of the land allocation for the government many investments would take place in it. "These include international, hospital, campuses and many Tourism related investments."

In addition, the Minister said that not only Chinese but several investment inquiries and visits to the Port City were also done by Europeans, Russians, Qatar and other countries. "We are also in the process to woo multinationals to set up their regional offices at the Port City and want to stress that the CPC is not only for Chinese investors and open to all."



Colombo Port City

## Driver of growth and foreign direct investment – Johnston

### Chinese colony claims baseless and unfounded

Chief Government Whip and Highways Minister Johnston Fernando yesterday said that Colombo Port City would be a driver of growth and foreign direct investment and concerns over it being a Chinese colony are baseless and totally unfounded.

fears were raised and some expressed concerns."

"Now we have many special economic zones (SEZ), including export processing zones (EPZs), industrial parks (IPs) and industrial estates. We currently have 12 EPZs and two IPs throughout the country. These areas are considered vital for attracting investment and building industry and the fears raised when the Katunayake EPZ was set up were not raised when other similar zones were set up in



Biyagama and Kogala. The Port City too is going to be an SEZ with tax exemptions and more latitude for the investors."

"Like in the case of Greater Colombo Economic Commission which later became the Board of Investment for the control of the port city a special commission is proposed. The government has submitted a bill to parliament for that purpose. Taking chunks out of that bill the opposition and misled parties are now expressing fears," the Minister said. **▶ TO PAGE 19**

## Lanka's 2021 economic growth at 3.4 per cent

### Competitiveness, debt sustainability to ensure rebound - World Bank

Despite the heavy toll of the COVID-19 pandemic on Sri Lanka's economy and the lives of its people, the economy will recover in 2021, though challenges remain, says the latest 'World Bank Sri Lanka Development Update: (SLDU) Economic and Poverty Impact of COVID-19'.

SLDU notes that the country, hit with an unprecedented economic downturn due to the pandemic, is now on the road to recovery. Sri Lanka's economic growth is expected to recover to 3.4 per cent in 2021, mainly due to foreign investments as well as normalizing tourism and other economic activities. However, the slow global recovery, coupled with continued trade restrictions, economic scarring from the slowdown, and the high debt burden may continue to affect growth.

The report provides an



World Bank Country Director Faris. H. Hadad-Zervos

update on Sri Lanka's economy and outlook, highlighting the devastating impact of the pandemic. Sri Lanka's economy contracted by 3.6% in 2020, the worst growth performance on record, as is the case in many countries fighting the pandemic.

The government acted decisively with steps such as cash transfers and postponed tax payments. The Central Bank's introduction of a debt moratorium and other measures to

encourage lending also helped reduce the adverse impact of COVID-19 on businesses and livelihoods. At the same time, increased expenditures and lower revenues amid the pandemic contributed to a deterioration of the fiscal situation. Public and publicly guaranteed debt is estimated to have increased to 109.7% of GDP.

Striking a balance between supporting the economy amid COVID-19 and ensuring fiscal sustainability remains a key challenge.

"As in countries around the world, COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on Sri Lanka's economy and people's livelihoods. But we are already seeing positive signs as the country enters the recovery phase," said Faris. H. Hadad-Zervos, the World Bank Country Director for Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. **▶ TO PAGE 19**

## Vehicle registration marginally down

### Tractor imports up 52.5%

Total vehicle registrations marginally reduced to 3,556 units in March down from 3,558 units in February but significantly down from 13,219 units 12 months ago. According to J. B Securities, the comparative figure was 35,150 units 24 months ago.

In the locally assembled category, Zotye Z100 cars recorded 22 units in March down from 79 units in February and 66 units 12 months ago.

Under SUVs/crossovers, Mahindra KUV 100 recorded 79 units in March down from 80 units in February. DFSK recorded 78 units in March down from 113 units in February but up from a mere 6 units 12 months ago.

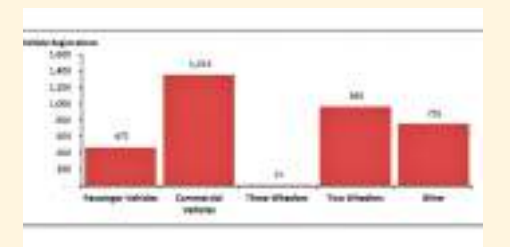
Large tractors recorded 740 units in March up from 485 units in Feb and 104 units 12 months ago.

2-wheelers recorded 965 units in March down from 1,239 units in Feb and 9,619 units 12 months ago. Of the 775-brand new 2-wheeler units TVS recorded 175 units.

Medium trucks recorded 250 units in March up from 216 units in Feb and 95 units 12 months ago. Brand new recorded 42 units and Pre-owned accounted for 208 units. Isuzu claimed a category share of 68%.

Hand tractors recorded 275 units in March up from 212 units in Feb and significantly higher than 23 units 12 months ago.

Large tractors recorded 740 units in March up from 485 units in Feb and 104 units 12 months ago.



## Tourism institution merger in line with the Manifesto

The tourism institution merger was in the national budget in 2020 and the Cabinet paper was there after approved and this was in line with the President's Manifesto to streamline and reengineer processes and make the public service efficient.



SLTDA Chairperson Kimarli Fernando

"The current tourism structure is counterproductive with wastage of resources whether financial and human capital.

Having chaired all four institutions in the past 14 months, I have witnessed the wastage, lack of coordination among the tourism institutions and how inefficient this structure is," Chairperson Sri Lanka Tourism, Kimarli Fernando said in response to the industry views against the merger.

"Previous governments too had attempted to merge the institutions. However, due to change in chairmen and having five chairmen in five years, projects like these were stalled."

In 2006 soon after the 2005 Tourism Act, a detailed report was done to merge the institutions. Thereafter consecutive governments have attempted to merge the institutions for good reasons.

The current structure with four institutions covering tourism cannot be considered a success, with only 2,500 odd hotels registered in Sri Lanka for over 20-30 years, while there are in fact over 20,000-30,000 unregistered tourism providers who are not supported at all. There is no safety net for SMEs.

"The private sector with majority board seats to date have failed to have an integrated global promotion since 2007. The only time a global

promotion was successfully executed was when the board seats were reduced," she said.

This structure has failed to develop domestic tourism, failed to use digital promotions, failed to position Sri Lanka, failed to reach the consumer; instead of focusing on going on travel shows spending nearly Rs 1 billion in 2019, that too not shared with all stakeholders nor ensuring that there is an acceptable return on investment. The tourism industry is not one or two associations with 200-300 members each, whilst they play a critical role, tourism impacts almost 3 million of our citizens who have not been represented nor their voice heard. Many vocal players in the industry have failed to build sustainable tourism, some handing over their hotels to hospitals, demanding from the government for debt restructuring, many of whom were in financial difficulties before Easter Sunday and some continually complaining about the health guidelines. The reality is that Sri Lanka is well ahead in managing COVID19. Many countries in tourism are not open for tourists including Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia. The Maldives is unique with one hotel and one island which is not comparable.

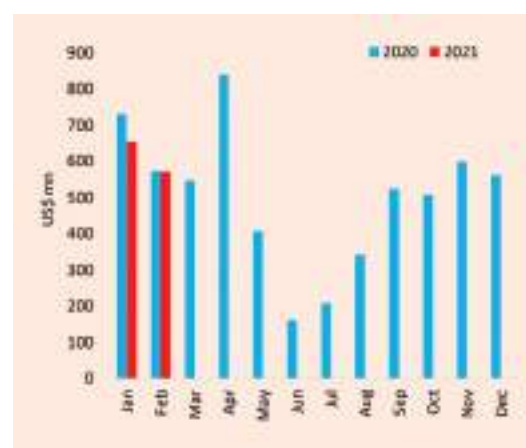
The new ACT would be in line with Global Best Practice including Singapore which has one organisation with 19.1 million tourist arrivals in 2019 and Malaysia which had 26.1 tourists arrivals in 2019. **▶ TO PAGE 19**

## Agricultural export earnings increase

The increase in exports to the pre-pandemic levels, the notable increase in workers' remittances and the relative stability in the domestic foreign exchange market supported Sri Lanka's external sector in February 2021. The trade deficit in February 2021 broadly remained unchanged at the level reported a year ago.

In the financial account, both foreign investment in the government securities market and the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) recorded net outflows in February 2021. The SAARC FINANCE swap facility of US dollars 400 million obtained from the Reserve Bank of India in July 2020 was repaid in February 2021 upon maturity. Net inflows to the domestic foreign exchange market eased the pressure on the exchange rate during the month and the regulatory measures enabled the Central Bank to absorb foreign exchange on a net basis, to build up gross official reserves.

The deficit in the trade account in February 2021 amounted to US dollars 572 million and broadly remained unchanged, compared to the deficit recorded in February 2020. Both exports and imports were slightly lower in February 2021, compared to February 2020. Meanwhile, the cumulative deficit in the trade account during January - February 2021 narrowed to US dollars 1,227 million from US



Monthly Trade Deficit

dollars 1,304 million recorded over the same period in 2020.

Export earnings from agricultural goods increased by 5.9 per cent in February 2021, compared to a year ago, mainly contribute by spices, coconut and tea.

Earnings from merchandise exports in February 2021 declined by 3.7 per cent to US dollars 952 million, compared to February 2020. Export earnings exhibited a recovery towards pre-pandemic levels since the peak of the second wave of COVID-19 spread in Sri Lanka, reaching levels close to those recorded in the same month of 2020 (US dollars 989 million) and

2019 (US dollars 981 million).

Earnings from the export of industrial goods declined by 6.3 per cent in February 2021, compared to a year ago, mainly due to the decline in earnings from petroleum product exports by 60.8 per cent (y-o-y) and textiles and garments by 5.3 per cent (y-o-y).

Earnings from the export of petroleum products declined because of the significant reduction in volumes of aviation fuel and bunker fuel supplied due to lower aircraft and ship arrivals in the country, as well as the reduction in prices for these export products. Earnings from garment exports to the EU increased, while exports to the USA and other destinations declined. Mineral exports in February 2021 were higher than that of February 2020, mainly due to the increase in exportation of items, such as titanium and zirconium ores, slag, graphite, and graphite powder.

Expenditure on merchandise imports was 2.5 per cent lower in February 2021 at US dollars 1,524 million, compared to February 2020. **▶ TO PAGE 19**

## Monetary Board relaxes export proceed controls

There has been a slight relaxation to controls on the 'Repatriation of Export Proceeds into Sri Lanka' set out earlier by the Monetary Board.

The Monetary Board, having considered the requests made by exporters of goods, has amended the Gazette.

The new gazette will look to reduce the percentage of mandatory conver-

sion requirement of export proceeds of goods into Sri Lankan Rupees from 25 per cent to 10 per cent, and to extend the number of days given to exporters to convert the export proceeds of goods into Sri Lankan Rupees, as required from fourteen (14) days to thirty (30) days, provided, however, that such date of conversion

shall not be a date later than One Hundred and Eighty (180) days from the date of shipment.

For more details, please refer to Rule No. 3 of 2021 as published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2222/60 dated 09.04.2021. ([http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2021/4/2222-60\\_E.pdf](http://www.documents.gov.lk/files/egz/2021/4/2222-60_E.pdf))

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Engineer's representation of in policymaking level very low

# IESL hosts 114th Annual Session

The 114th Annual sessions of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) was held on April 8, 2021, at BMICH Colombo. This marks the ceremonial inauguration of the 114th session which was initially scheduled to be held in October 2020, postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic situation in the country.

The main highlight of the annual sessions is the official handing over of the mantle of Presidency to the incoming President for the session 2020/2021, Eng. K P I U Dharmapala by the outgoing President, Eng. (Prof) S.B.S. Abayakoon.

Emeritus Prof. K N O Dharmadasa, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Peradeniya was the Chief Guest while Dr Ranjit Ranaraja (Former Appeal Court Judge) participated as the guest of honour. The keynote speech was delivered by Eng. Col. (Rtd). Nissanka N. Wijeratne, Secretary General/CEO, Chamber of Construction Industry of Sri Lanka.

The program was live telecasted through online platforms where foreign delegates from engineering institutions participated along with the members of the institution from overseas chapters from Australia, New Zealand and Qatar.



Vote of Thanks by Eng Arjuna Manamperi

The session was inaugurated with a welcome speech by Eng. (Prof) S.B.S. Abayakoon.

Dr Ranjit Ranaraja in his speech highlighted the importance of the doctrine of public trust. Similarly, engineers should also adopt the policy of equitable distribution when planning development projects and sustainably utilize the available resources for the benefit of the citizens of the country and ensure their safety.

Keynote speaker Eng. Col. (Rtd). Wijeratne stated that even though Sri Lanka is a country with a proud history in Engineering, the representation of engineers at the policy-making level in our country is very low



Award of certificates for members.

compared to other developing countries which have to be inclined to achieve greater success in national development.

Some of the features in modern-day structures are inspired by the structures in ancient cities such as Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa and this inspiration and the identity of the country should be carried out in heart of all engineers, Prof. K N O Dharmadasa mentioned addressing the audience.

After inducting as the President of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka for the session 2020/2021 Eng. K P I U Dharmapala addressing the gathering mentioned that Engineers should actively engage in

national issues and with the general public where engineering solutions can be applicable and more opportunities should be given to young engineers and inventors and innovations as they are the future of our country.

Certificated were bestowed upon members of the institution who were transferred to the class of Honorary Life Fellow, Honorary Life Member and Fellow. Further certificates were handed over to members who became International Professional Engineers and awards were given to the winners of IESL competitions.

The event concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Eng. Arjuna Manamperi, President-Elect for the session 2020/2021.



Presentation of Mementoes to Chief Guest



Induction of new President Eng K P I U Dharmapala



IESL Award Winners

## UD Services signs with Ramadia Ranmal Moratuwa as venue partner

UD Services, a newly established events services provider, recently signed an MOU with Ramadia Ranmal Hotel Moratuwa as their venue partner at the forthcoming one day workshop for entrepreneurs to be held on May 7, from 3 pm to 6 pm.

The Chairman of Ramadia Ranmal and its parent company, Rodessa Group, Rohan Fernando said they are pleased and pledged his support in future as well. "The event is organized for the betterment of entrepreneurs of the country."

UD Services is planning to gather entrepreneurs to come to a common platform and share their knowledge totally free of charge, with 4 objectives in mind: Identifying barriers, getting up on the path to success, getting awareness to deal with banks and other financial institutions, and how to win national business awards.

NEDA Chairman Anushka Gunasinghe would grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.



UD Service Event Manager Upul Devapriya exchanges the MOU with Ramadia Ranmal Front Office Assistant Manager Sasanka M Fernando. Also pictured are Dinesh Manju, Niranjala Perera, and Sujarni Athukorala.

Founder of FADNA Chamendra Somathunga, Chairman of Sampath Sofa Sampath Fonseka, Chairman of Mass Asia Group

Aloka Wahalawaththe and former SLIM President Suranjith Swaris will deliver the speeches on "How to become a successful

entrepreneur", reflecting on their experiences. The UD Services will also launch their web site at this event.

## To unleash the power within Tony Robbins online course for Sri Lankans



Success Zante CEO Shuvo Hridayesh (R) with Tony Robbins.

The world-renowned coaching sensation Tony Robbins will deliver an online course accessible to Sri Lankans. 'Unleash the Power Within' will be a 3 and a half day 'mindset transformation and leadership excellence' session held online. Organizers say the offering is a rare opportunity for Sri Lankans to be a part of the international coaching sessions.

Unleash the Power Within (UPW) is an interactive event hosted by Tony Robbins which is targeted at individuals striving to find purpose and fulfillment in the many areas of their life from improving health, reaching financial freedom, building stronger and deeper relationships in their work and personal lives.

The programme is scheduled to be held from June 3 to 7 2021, joined by participants from all over the world. The programme is being managed locally by Success Zante Pvt Ltd, who have offered career, personality and leadership training of international trainer and speakers such as Rajiv Taleja, Robert Kiyosaki, T Harv. Eker, Nas Daily, John De Martini among others.

Over his forty-year coaching career, Tony Robbins has built a giant reputation

in the fields of personal excellence, leadership and business.

He has had the privilege of working with esteemed personalities from past generations and his events and programs have impacted over 50 million people on how to shed self-limiting beliefs and become better versions of themselves. Tony Robbins says that unprecedented growth is possible when working on the fringes of the comfort zone. Situations of the discomfort cause stress, but also build endurance and what Tony Robbins refers to as "Emotional Fitness".

Owing to this year's pandemic, the program has shifted to the virtual sphere utilizing game engine technology powered by the CANVAS platform from Immersive Design Studios.

"Tony Robbins is a life strategist," says CEO of Success Zante, Shuvo Hridayesh, a leading world-class training and self-development events provider in the country. He expanded to say that Tony Robbins shows his participants "different ways of managing their mental state" and "helps individuals wherever they are in their lives."

More information and tickets/logins for this event are available through the UPW website.

## Ceylon Solutions launches SparetimeApp for turning spare time into income

Ceylon Solutions, a leading mobile app solution provider has launched Sparetime (www.sparetime.lk) a special mobile app to make easy money using a person's spare time.

This app helps the user to search for people providing domestic, official or personal services or one can earn an extra income by providing a wide range of services. Services such as masonry, plumbing, computer-related services, wholesale, distribution, medical & healthcare, teaching, legal, beauticians, cleaning, helping, babysitting and car wash can be either searched or provided using this app as it creates an online platform for such service providers and

those who seek such services. There are two apps compatible with android and apple phones; namely, "Sparetime Provider" for those who provide services and "Sparetime User" for those who seek such services.

"This is an ideal option for those who find it difficult to make ends meet with their salaries. Using this app, they can make use of their spare time effectively to earn extra money. This creates a comprehensive service hub. For example, a vegetable farmer can find both a whole seller and a transport service provider to transport his goods with just a click. Even students can find part-time work for their financial needs. This app works

as a platform for social workers to get together and mobilize people for tasks that they wish to perform. This is a very user-friendly app. However, operating instructions can be obtained by calling the hotline. An instructor will come to help you if necessary," said Chaminda De Silva, creator and owner of the Sparetime app. Regardless of being a service provider or a user, this app will be the one app to install. This app will pave the way to gradually reduce the unemployment rate in Sri Lanka thereby making employment opportunities and will subsequently contribute to the gross domestic product accelerating the economic growth of Sri Lanka.



Chaminda de Silva

## Market rises as deposit rates continue to dip – Acuity Stockbrokers

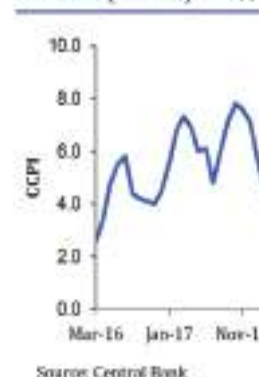
The Bourse ended the week on a positive note this week with ASPI increasing by 142.30 points (or 1.91%) to close at 7,600.57 points, while the S&P SL20 Index also increased by 50.93 points (or 1.69%) to close at 3,071.50 points.

Turnover & Market Capitalization

Browns Investments was the highest contributor to the week's turnover value, contributing LKR 1.49Bn or 12.64% of total turnover value. Hayleys followed suit, accounting for 10.65% of turnover (value of LKR 1.26Bn) while Royal Ceramics contributed LKR 1.20Bn to account for 10.21% of the week's turnover. Total turnover value amounted to LKR 11.79Bn (cf. last week's value of LKR 17.27Bn), while the daily average turnover value amounted to LKR 3.93Bn (13.79% W-o-W) compared to last week's average of LKR 3.45Bn. Market capitalization meanwhile, increased by 2.16% W-o-W (or LKR 70.34Bn) to LKR 3,328.94Bn cf. LKR 3,258.60Bn last week.

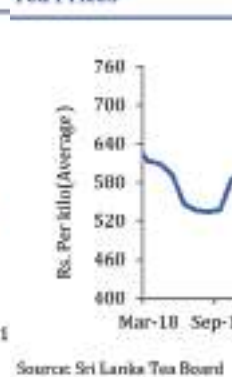
Liquidity (Value & Volume)  
The Capital Goods Industry Group was the

Inflation (CCPI-N) YoY%



highest contributor to the week's total turnover value, accounting for 38.53% (or LKR 4.54Bn) of market turnover. Industry Group's turnover was driven primarily by Hayleys, Royal Ceramic, JKH and Vallibel One which accounted for 82.09% of the sector's total turnover. Materials Industry Group meanwhile accounted for

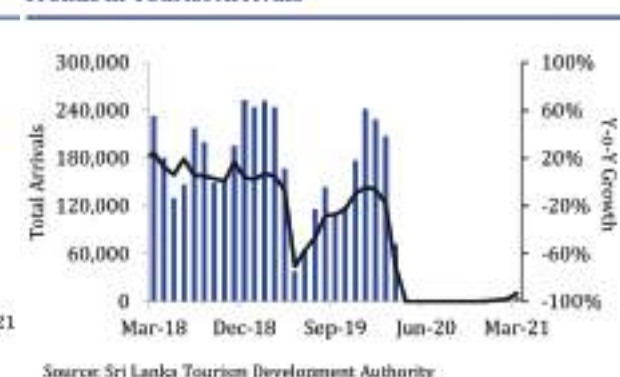
Tea Prices



16.29% of the total turnover value while Food Beverage and Tobacco Group contributed 16.19% to the weekly turnover.

The Food, Beverage & Tobacco Industry Group dominated the market in terms of share volume, accounting for 57.25% (or 245.08Mn shares) of total volume, with a value contribu-

Trends in Tourist Arrivals



tion of LKR 1.91Bn. The Materials Industry Group followed suit, adding 12.44% to total volume (53.25Mn shares) while Capital Goods contributed 12.13% (51.91Mn shares) to the weekly share volume.

Key Economic Indicators  
Prime Lending Rate: 5.67%, Ave. Wtd.

Deposit Rates: 5.2%, Ave. Wtd. Fixed Dep. Rates: 6.29%, CCPI Inflation Y-o-Y %: 4.1%. Net Foreign Position Foreign investors were net sellers this week with a total net outflow amounting to LKR 0.88Bn relative to last week's total net outflow of LKR 1.50Bn

(41.3% W-o-W). Total foreign purchases decreased by 50.79% W-o-W to LKR 0.23Bn from last week's value of LKR 0.47Bn, while total foreign sales amounted to LKR 1.11Bn relative to LKR 1.97Bn recorded last week (-43.55% W-o-W).



NEWS

# Vidullanka joins *Surakimu Ganga* programme

## For Baduluoya river cleaning project

Given the heavy waste flow in the Baduluoya River (The River which runs into the Dunhinda falls) and the introduction of the "Surakimu Ganga" National Program on Conservation of Rivers in Sri Lanka, Vidullanka PLC Rid-heepana Mini-Hydro Power Plant initiated a river cleaning process under the waste-management initiative "WE MANAGE" (WM).

The official launch of this program will be held on April 21 in Badulla.

"WM is a green initiative program commenced by Vidullanka PLC to manage waste at all the

Mini-hydro Power Plants of Vidullanka PLC. WM's main objective is to collect all the waste comes through the rivers at each power plant and then recycle them in a meaningful and productive manner, so that we support to clean the water, manage the waste, reduce landfill issue and also run the power plants at its optimum capacity," said Director - Operations, Vidullanka PLC, Roshan Siriwardana.

Further, our aim of this project is to add job opportunities, educate people, create awareness and promote the urgent need to protect the



river for future generations. Vidullanka PLC has initiated the same in each Power plant and expects to expand the process effectively. To carry out the process efficiently, we have implemented several innova-

tive solutions and processes as well.

Vidullanka PLC is a hydropower company and produces electrical energy and transmits it to feed the national grid.

# Bitulink Emulsion bags two CNCI Achievers Awards

Bitulink Emulsion Private Limited, the leading bulk supplier of bitumen in Sri Lanka, reaffirmed its significance at CNCI Achiever Awards 2020 by receiving two awards. The event organized by the Ceylon National Chamber of Industries was held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo with Wimal Weerawansa, Minister of Industries gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Contesting under the manufacturing sector, the extra-large category the company won the National Merit award and Provincial Silver award respectively.

Commenting on the achievement, Mahesh Wijeratne, the Chairman/Managing Director, Bitulink Emulsion stated "This is a remarkable milestone in our history and must emphasize that being a truly Sri Lankan company we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of bitumen products used in road constructions as well as industrial and civil."



MD Mahesh Wijeratne and Director Chandrika Adhikari receiving the Award.

Having established in 2006 to cater to the emerging needs of the development sector, Bitulink Emulsion specializes in supplying a range of bitumen-based products. The company has a massive production capacity of decanted bitumen and bitumen emulsion a day

having acquired the latest high-tech production equipment from the UK and technical know-how from the USA, UK, Sweden and Spain.

Bitulink Emulsion's main factory located at Epaladeniya, Giriulla is an ISO 9001:2015 and ISO

14001:2015 certified facility, with a storage capacity exceeding the requirement.

The company's transport service manned by fully trained drivers and equipped with all required specialized vehicles from browsers to bitumen sprayers.

# Lanka SSL wins National Gold at CNCI Achiever Awards

Lanka Special Steel Limited (Lanka SSL), a fully-owned subsidiary of E B Creasy & Company PLC, was recently awarded the coveted National Gold Award under the Extra Large category in the Manufacturing Sector at the annual Achiever Awards 2020 for Industrial Excellence.

"It is a huge leap from just winning a Merit Award the last time around, and this incredible achievement certainly reflects our highly ambitious plans to strive for

continued excellence. We would like to thank our valued customers and all stakeholders," said Pravin De Silva, CEO of Lanka SSL.

Lanka SSL also won a Gold Award at the very recent National Convention of Quality and Productivity 2020 held by the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Quality and Productivity.

During the latter part of last year, Lanka SSL strengthened its long-standing partnership with TATA Steel Ltd's Global Wires to further expand its

growing portfolio. The company is the sole agent and distributor for all of its premium quality wire products in Sri Lanka.

Further, Lanka SSL recently introduced the 'PermaWeld' brand welding electrode for all general purpose welding requirements.

Lanka SSL has won various awards in the past, including National Business Excellence Awards by NCCSL. An ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 45001: 2018, SLS 31: 1988 and SLS 139: 2003.



Lanka SSL CEO Pravin De Silva with the awards. Also pictured are Ishan Buddhika, Lalinda Geekiyanage, and Gayan Pathinayaka.

# Three Sinha Group bags Silver at CNCI Achiever Awards

Three Sinha Group, a forerunner in the constructions industry received the Silver Award, Manufacturing Sector, Extra Large Category, National Level at CNCI Achiever Awards for Industrial Excellence 2020. The flagship event organized by Ceylon National Chamber of Industries was recently held at Hotel Galadari, Colombo with Industries Minister Wimal Weerawansa, gracing the occasion as chief guest who presented the award to Three Sinha Group Managing Director Manjula Ariyakumara.

"Our unwavering commitment to quality and providing a valuable service to the customers is the reason behind our success in achieving many awards and accolades. On the other hand, our success is the result of the dedication of our indefatigable staff, to whom I express my gratitude. Also, my thanks go to our customers who have trusted us for so long" said Ariyakumara.

Having started way back in 1968 as a small business, Three Sinha Group has recorded tremendous success over the years to become one of the leading constructors in Sri Lanka venturing into diverse areas in the construction industry.

The company has won many awards and



accolades to its pride including Gold and Silver from CNCI Achiever Awards, Gold and Silver from FCCISL Entrepreneurship Excellence, and consecutively receiving awards for constructions from the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. Eco-friendly solar panels are the latest introduction from Three Sinha Group. Also, the company has started constructing low-cost prefabricated steel buildings with modern technology. Three Sinha's range of products includes roller doors, roller shutters, sectional overhead doors, window shutters, fire-resistant doors, aluminium fabrications, sensor doors, stainless steel railings and stairways, polycarbonate canopies, stainless steel pantry cupboards, steel buildings, automatic barriers and motored sliding and swing gates.

## Lanka's 2021... From page 17

"Through an enhanced focus on an export-oriented growth model that taps the full potential of private investment, Sri Lanka could increase its competitiveness and sustainably raise growth."

The Update includes a special focus section, which discusses the impact of COVID-19 on poverty. With jobs lost and earnings reduced, especially in urban areas and among private-sector employees and informal workers, the \$3.20 poverty rate is projected to have

increased from 9.2% in 2019 to 11.7% in 2020.

The report notes that the current social protection system could support the reintegration of those who lost their jobs.

It suggests that more targeted social safety nets could help the authorities to scale up support to the poor and vulnerable quickly and effectively in times of crises. Investments in digital technologies and literacy can also help Sri Lankans find new economic opportunities

## Tourism institution... From page 17

In the new act, the independent source of funding will be maintained, with an industry consultative committee that would be the voice of the complete industry. The main income for the tourism institutions is embarkation tax and TDL. Embarkation tax is paid by all arrivals including arrivals that came with booking on OTA's.

"Post COVID we need to support all in the industry, position Sri Lanka to meet the post covid travellers expectations."

Looking at the stakeholders in the industry it is apparent we have not been able to build a sustainable industry. We need to expect to face different challenges in the future. The industry has had to face terrorism for 30 years, tsunami, Easter Sunday incident and now COVID-19. We need to build an industry that is able to face future challenges.

There is a need to include the younger generation in tourism, those who are creating unique products and experiences, digital-savvy players, building brands and positioning Sri Lanka and move away from the 80's thinking and embrace the new reality. Other key stakeholders such as the wildlife department, CCF and ICTA need to be included and partner tourism.

Currently, there are 36 board members with four institutions that at their height had only 2.3 million tourist arrivals.

That too many coming via OTA's such as Airbnb, Booking.com, Expedia, Agoda etc, which is the unregistered and unrepresented SME segment. The current board is not representative of the industry nor what is needed for the future.

"Currently, we only have a working document for the new act which needs to be studied internally first and thereafter we will share with the complete industry and seek their feedback, to ensure what is enacted is good for Sri Lanka and tourism. In November 2020, the Secretary to the Ministry M. Hettiarachchi wrote to all stakeholders requesting their feedback. Only a few associations even responded. The very vocal associations seem to be concerned about having board seats. The question needs to be raised besides representing their 200-300 members and enjoying board seats, what have they achieved for the country and our citizens? The merged institution will be in line with the need to build a people-centric economy and in line with global best practices such as Tourism Singapore and Tourism Australia.

## China and US pledge climate change commitment

China and the US say they are committed to working together and with other countries on tackling climate change. It comes

after several meetings between Chinese climate envoy Xie Zhenhua and his US counterpart John Kerry in Shanghai last

week. They both agreed on further specific actions to reduce emissions, a joint statement on Sunday confirmed. (BBC)

## Driver of growth... From page 17

He said that an SEZ cannot become a colony of another country. The UNCTAD has identified SEZ as a 'geographically delimited areas within which governments facilitate industrial activity through fiscal and regulatory incentives and infrastructure support' and such zones are widely used in most developing and many developed economies.

Fernando said that in similar delimited areas, governments facilitate industrial activity through fiscal and regulatory incentives and infrastructure support. There are about 5,383 SEZs across 147 economies worldwide. "None of those countries has lost the territorial integrity

of their SEZs have become a threat to their sovereignty. We already have SEZs and India too has them. The fears being mongered are baseless."

The Minister said that the land reclaimed from the sea near the Galle Face with the objective of making a port city and not for the purpose of becoming an esplanade where people could go fly kites. "The port city is going to be the very same objective that it has been set up. It has been always stated that this would be an SEZ yet there were no concerns for the past years while the land was being reclaimed for the purpose," the minister said.

## Agricultural export... From page 17

The increase in expenditure on intermediate goods, and machinery and equipment categorised under investment goods contributed to the pickup in import expenditure. However, restrictions on the importation of certain non-essential goods continued to restrain import expenditure on non-food consumer goods, and transport equipment and building material that is categorised under investment goods.

Expenditure on the importation of consumer goods declined by 16.7 per cent in February 2021, compared to February 2020, with a 3.0 per cent reduction in food and beverages and a 26.4 per cent reduction in non-food consumer goods.

The import expenditure on medical and pharmaceuticals for February 2021 included US dollars 2.63 million incurred on COVID-19 vaccines.

Expenditure on the importation of intermediate goods increased by 3.8 per cent in February 2021, compared to a year ago.

Import expenditure on investment goods declined by 4.7 per cent in February 2021, compared to February 2020. Expenditure on building material and transport equipment recorded a year-on-year decline, while expenditure on importation of machinery and equipment increased, mainly due to increases recorded in relation to computers, transmission apparatus, certain engineering equipment, and industrial and agricultural machinery, among others.

The tourism sector commenced recovering slowly following the reopening of the country's borders for foreigners.

Accordingly, tourist arrivals in February 2021 recorded at 3,366, compared to 1,682 arrivals recorded in January 2021. However, arrivals in February 2021 were 98.4 percent lower than the arrivals of 207,507 recorded in February 2020, immediately prior to the onset of the spread of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka.

Foreign investment in the government securities market recorded a marginal net outflow during the month. A net outflow of foreign investment amounting to US dollars 2 million was recorded in the rupee-denominated government securities market in February 2021, reducing the cumulative net inflow to around US dollars 1 million during the period from January to February 2021. The total outstanding exposure of foreign investment in the rupee-denominated government securities market remained low at US dollars 36 million by the end of February 2021.

There were net outflows of US dollars 26 million from the secondary market of the CSE in February 2021. On a cumulative basis, the CSE recorded a net outflow of US dollars 70 million during the two months ending February 2021.

The level of gross official reserves stood at US dollars 4.6 billion as of the end of February 2021. The Central Bank settled the SAARCFINANCE swap facility of US dollars 400 million in February 2021 upon maturity. Gross official reserves as of the end of February 2021 were equivalent to 3.5 months of imports.

Overall, the rupee recorded a depreciation of 6.8 percent against the US dollar in 2021 up to 16 April 2021.



DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

## ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

Rs. 45,000 million Treasury Bills are to be issued through an auction on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

The Details of Treasury Bill issues are as follows :

Maturity Period	91 Days	182 Days	364 Days	Total
ISIN*	LKA09121G232	LKA18221J225	LKA36422D220***	
Amount Offered (Rs. Mn.)	10,000	15,000	20,000	45,000
Maximum yield rate for acceptance (%)**			5.18	

Date of Auction	: 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
Date of Settlement	: 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021
Date of Issue	: 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021
Closing date and time of bid submission	: <b>Wednesday</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2021, at 11.00 a.m.
Minimum amount of a bid	: Rupees five million (Rs. 5,000,000/=) and multiples of Rupees one million (Rs. 1,000,000/=) there onwards.

Bids are invited from the Primary Dealers in Government Securities.

Bids should be made only through the electronic bidding facility provided by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL).

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

The general public is invited to purchase Treasury Bills from the following Primary Dealers or any other Licenced Commercial Banks

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

\* International Securities Identification Number

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

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

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

### Issuing Office

Public Debt Department

CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Telephone: +94 112477011 Fax: +94 112477687

Web: www.cbsl.gov.lk



Annual Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards 2020

# CBL Group, Lanka's Best Corporate Citizen in Sustainability

The CBL Group was awarded first place at the recently held 17th Annual Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards 2020.

Organized by the Chamber of Commerce, the award is the highest recognition of the private sector for sustainability and good corporate citizenship.

The award recognizes CBL's contribution to creating meaningful growth across its value chain and beyond and assesses its commitment to sustainable business practices. The win reflects CBL's sustainability journey, having been in the top 10 Best Corporate Citizens in Sustainability in Sri Lanka consistently for 14 years.

"Through our food, we are helping to change lives for the better in every part of Sri Lanka. This is a constantly evolving journey and not one that we can do alone and we rely on our value chain partners to support us to achieve our purpose, so ensuring that our partners and our consumers grow with us is a very important part of our business. We are very proud to have won first place the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Awards



The CBL team with the Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability Award.

and grateful to our consumers for the opportunity to contribute to the growth of Sri Lanka," said CBL's Group Managing Director, Sheamalee Wickramasingha.

Despite the tremendous challenges of a sudden lockdown at the end of a tumultuous year and a complete halt of its operations, CBL's companies were able to rally very quickly to adapt to the COVID safety requirements and resume operations. As an essential player in the food supply

chain, the company focused on getting its products to its consumers and ensuring that there was no shortage of the products that consumers rely on.

To achieve this the Group streamlined its vast portfolio to manufacture consumer essential food needs and focused on managing staff constraints. Tackling resource consumption and waste were also key priorities with heavy investments made in shifting to renewable energy, reduc-

ing its impact in farming and tackling waste. CBL's partnership with the International Finance Cooperation to empower its retailers and distributors for a future-ready retail sector, CBL's Senehasin Jayamaga, aims to build competencies for over 5,000 distributors and sales staff in the CBL network. By 2023, the project will support 40% of CBL's distributor network to shift towards digital payment methods and double the number of women in its network.

CBL's brands also carry out extensive work to uplift communities. Munchee Tikiri Shishyadara is a scholarship programme of the private sector and has granted over 3000 scholarships to date. Munchee Samaga Gamata Sarana builds essential rural infrastructure and Ritzbury is a strong driver of Sri Lankan Sports and athletics.

CBL also won an award for the manufacturing sector. The stringent evaluation process for the award is highly competitive, with an eminent panel of judges evaluating submissions from listed and unlisted companies across the Sri Lankan industry.



Bank of Ceylon GM D.P.K. Gunasekera and other officials with the "Top Ten Corporate Citizen in Sri Lanka" award.

## BOC adjudged among 'Top Ten Corporate Citizens'

The "Best Corporate Citizen Sustainability" Awards 2020 recognized Bank of Ceylon as one of the "Top Ten Corporate Citizens in Sri Lanka".

Bank of Ceylon has always borne the interest of enhancing the socio-economic wellbeing of all its stakeholders. The Bank recognizes this award with honour, as accreditation to this commitment.

Organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to empower corporate citizens who sustain industry best practices with an emphasis on aspects of People, Planet and Profit for corporate sustainability, this event is one of the leading corporate award ceremonies in the country.

The Bank of Ceylon's General Manager D.P.K. Gunasekera accepted the award for "Top Ten Corporate Citizen in Sri Lanka" on behalf of the Bank.

The Main award came along with one triple bottom line award and two other category awards which are; Triple Bottom Line Award for Economic Sustainability (Profit) and Category Winner for Employee Relations, and Category Winner of Financial Performance.

The Bank has always been vigilant in the distribution of its value creation to the entire country with special attention to socio-economically disadvantaged areas. In terms of resource allocation, the Bank of Ceylon has the most widespread branch network.

"Apart from physical branches BOC also has established a strong digital channel presence and played a pivotal role in bridging the fin-tech gap between urban

and rural communities. Although accounting for Head Office cost, benefits of modernization of branches and the technology upgrades such as software, network etc. are mostly benefited by rural and marginal communities."

"Our roots are strongly bonded to every corner of the national economy ranging from the rural sector to blue-chip conglomerates and state sector. Hence, our contribution to the national economy is substantial and vital. Bank of Ceylon is one of the largest contributors to the national coffers in terms of tax and dividend."

Bonding with the Sri Lankan community with a set of common values being a Good Corporate Citizen is woven to the core since its inception. Observing the United Nations commitment to Sustainable Development, urging its member states to comply with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Bank of Ceylon has considered incorporating these objectives when formulating its business strategies.

This approach has allowed the Bank to achieve better performance in People, Planet and Profit (3Ps) of sustainability. With this consideration, the Bank was able to comprehensively address almost all aspects of corporate sustainability in its own way. The Bank has been able to achieve more measurable, productive results by implementing these initiatives and at each step, BOC has been creating value for Economic Sustainability, Social Sustainability and Environment Sustainability for itself and all stakeholders.

## 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.

Despite the many challenges including a halt in information technology education in schools due to the pandemic and school closures, internet connectivity problems experienced by students attempting to learn virtually from their homes and enrolment issues for virtual classes due to the low-income background of the students, the project was a success, the Bank said.

This is because the Bank was able to reach a large number of students who saw the value of being associated with the CISCO brand and earn scholarships to follow career-ready courses.

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. At present, there are 3000 students enrolled on this programme and 500 students have already started the courses.

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.

CISCO Networking Academy helps individuals prepare for industry-recognised certifications and entry-level information and communication technology (ICT) careers in every type of industry.

## An invitation for Green Energy Startups

# Green Energy Champion Accelerator 2021 launched

The fourth edition of Green Energy Champion Sri Lanka kick-started on 15th April 2021 and invites all energy innovators from across the island for a chance to gain exclusive access to an advanced business accelerator program (Green Energy Champion Accelerator 2021), which will further prepare them for exciting local and international partnerships in the Green Energy ecosystem.

All startups and SMEs are invited to present their creative and innovative products, activities, and projects in the

areas of sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, and renewable energies. The most promising candidates will gain the opportunity to fine-tune and develop their business within the Green Energy Champion Accelerator.

All applicants must have a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) or Prototype with the potential to sustain and scale, and will be reviewed on the technological viability and market fit of the idea, innovation or product. Following a two-week review and selection process, selected applicants will be on-boarded

into the Green Energy Champion Accelerator - where they will be granted six months of intense and immersive training which includes being mentored by industry experts.

The Green Energy Champion Accelerator will: actively support the participants with business and market intelligence to establish and grow their businesses; enable them to identify potential opportunities and take calculated risks for smooth market entry; and offer networking opportunities and exposure to potential partnerships, distributors,

investors, customers as well as media partners - while simultaneously enabling participants to create a positive impact on the environment, community and economy.

The accelerator program will be followed by a formal Partner Matchmaking Event - to match local and international partners in the Green Energy ecosystem, and a Demo Day - to showcase the companies completing the program. Green Energy Champion will offer visibility among key political stakeholders such as the Ministry of Power, State



Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development and the German Federal Foreign Office, while also extending potential penetration opportunities in global mar-

kets via the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka. Those interested can directly apply online or download the application form via [www.greenenergychampion.lk](http://www.greenenergychampion.lk)

## Mövenpick Hotel Colombo welcomes travellers

Mövenpick Hotel Colombo now invites all Sri Lankans, Dual Citizens and Foreign travellers returning or visiting Sri Lanka to stay in their hotel.

"The Hotel is now pleased to welcome all Sri Lankans, Dual Citizens and Foreign travellers returning to the island two weeks after the recommended doses of the vaccination, for a hassle-free one-night stay in the heart of Colombo, a convenient and comfortable break before they leave to their residence, all safe and sound," a hotel official said.

For a night's stay, the hotel offers very attractive packages for single or double occupants. This rate is on Half Board basis

and includes the arrival PCR test, safe and secure airport pick up and an upgrade to a stunning Ocean View Room. That's not all - the hotel also offers a 24-hour check to ensure utmost convenience to the travellers arriving at different times of the day.

The Mövenpick Hotel Colombo was awarded the "Safe & Secure Level 1 Hotel" certification back in March 2021 and has continued to accept travellers since. It is also the only international star-class establishment in the city to provide accommodation for all travellers. The hotel has continued to maintain the highest operational standards when accepting travellers from all parts of the world.

"Your family and friends abroad can now visit Sri Lanka once again and check into the Mövenpick Hotel Colombo where a PCR test will be carried out. Check out the next day and enjoy a hassle-free stay until you return home to your family or your next destination."

"It's not easy being away from home. Especially when it's your island home, deeply rooted in nature, history, heritage and values. Family, friends, the hospitality and its rich, melting-pot cuisine all adding up to either visiting Sri Lanka on holiday or simply returning home to your loved ones."

More information could be obtained from their email [hotel.colombo.sales@movenpick.com](mailto:hotel.colombo.sales@movenpick.com)



## Seylan Bank installs ATM at Ratnapura Teaching Hospital

Seylan Bank recently installed a new off-site ATM unit at Ratnapura Teaching Hospital, enhancing convenience to the public to effect emergency cash transactions.

The new ATM will allow customers in the vicinity to carry out their transactions in the hospital at any given time of the day without the hassle of having to commute a distance.

The ATM was opened by Ratnapura Teaching Hospital Director Dr Anoj Rodrigo and Seylan Bank Deputy General Manager Branches ZONE II Delvin Pereira. The participants in attendance included the President of the Ratnapura Hospital committee, Members of the Hospi-



tal committee, Seylan Bank Area Manager of Ratnapura, and Branch Manager of Ratnapura Seylan Bank. With a growing purpose towards

offering the ultimate banking experience to its valued customers, Seylan Bank continues to expand its footprint and strengthen its pres-

ence in the banking sector with over 172 Branches island-wide and a growing ATM network of over 216 units.

## Elephant House Cream Soda shines at SLIM-Nielsen People's Award

Elephant House Cream Soda has once again clinched the highly coveted "Beverage Brand of the Year" award at the recently concluded SLIM-Nielsen People's Awards 2021 which was held at the BMICH.

This is the 15th consecutive win in this category for Elephant House Cream Soda, which has maintained a winning streak extending from the inauguration of the SLIM-Nielsen People's Awards in 2006.

The achievement of the beloved beverage Elephant House Cream Soda is a clear indication of the popularity the beverage brand currently enjoys among the youth. Ele-



phant House Cream Soda has captured the hearts of many and has established itself as a fun and youthful brand in the market.

The SLIM Nielsen Peoples Awards', is one of the most awaited marketing events in the corporate calendar as it resonates with the

voice of the people when it comes to the selection of nominees and awardees. The awards show recognizes brands and personalities that have made a profound impression in the minds of the people of Sri Lanka.

Jude Martino, Head of Beverages

said, "It is truly astounding to see Elephant House Cream Soda securing a win for the 15th consecutive year, showcasing the trust and respect of all Sri Lankans. This is a very inspiring achievement going over and beyond any accolade, recognition or award."



# W n G

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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The most authentic thing about us is our capacity to create, to overcome, to endure, to transform, to love and to be greater than our suffering.

Ben Okri

## IN THE BEGINNING

# There was a River



for its supposed anti-aging properties; the two opposing political parties ("The Party of the Rich" and "The Party of the Poor") and their constant clashes and corruptions. Okri's characters shift between material and spiritual domains, and the setting literally traverses the urban grit of African slumlands and a phantasmagoric dream world.

As Glyn Hughes, the first critic to review 'The Famished Road' for the Guardian writes, throughout the book, Azaro's fellow spirits pursue him, attempting to steal him back again causing 'magic realism' to open its 'dire trapdoor,' making some of the novel to fall through it. "Sometimes fantasy widens the dimensions of the novel, but often it is overlaid. At various points, it flows from one scene to the next like a surreal watercolour painting left in the bath, and as the archetypes pile upon one another, one begins to wonder if the novel doesn't require a dream analyst more than a literary critic. This is all straining to convey the pregnant madness of vast Africa, where anything may occur, but... it is not the 'unreality' but the reality of Africa that is so very moving in 'The Famished Road,' and quite mad, desperate and illogical enough to satisfy any appetite."

Not all critics, however, are satisfied with such a stance. Sam Jordison reviewing the book for the 'Booker Club' claims "Ben Okri's dreamlike tale of post-colonial Nigeria has many fans, but for me it was a long nightmare." Jordison quotes the first paragraph: "In the beginning there was a river. The river became a road and the road branched out to the whole world. And because the road was once a river it was always hungry." And questions, "How did the river become a road? Why does being a river make anything hungry? Isn't this a cheap attempt to import the rhythms of the King James Bible to create a feeling of gravitas? And who actually gives one?"

According to Okri, readers like Jordison, are clearly on the wrong road. Okri emphasizes the dangers of searching for subject matter as you read a book, especially a book focusing on subjects outside the periphery of the West: "An anomaly of perception is often brought to black and African writers. They tend to be considered only important for their subjects. We read Flaubert for beauty, Joyce for innovation, Virginia Woolf for her poetry, Jane Austen for her psychology. But black and African writers are read for their novels about slavery, colonialism, poverty, civil wars, imprisonment... in short, for subjects that reflect the troubles of Africa and black people as perceived by the rest of the world. They are defined by their subjects."

From what I have read thus far, it is clear folkloric and mystical elements that are generally attributed to African tribes are certainly featured in *The Famished Road*. On the first page itself, Okri describes, "In that land of beginnings spirits mingled with the unborn.

We could assume numerous forms. Many of us were birds. We knew no boundaries. There was much feasting, playing, and sorrowing. We feasted much because of the beautiful terrors of eternity. We played much because we were free. And we sorrowed much because there were always those amongst us who had just returned from the world of the Living. They had returned inconsolable for all the love they had left behind, all the suffering they hadn't redeemed, all that they hadn't understood, and for all that they had barely begun to learn before they were drawn back to the land of origins."

It is clear that inventiveness of this caliber is often categorized as exoticism by Western readers mainly because whatever they are unable to understand is attributed to their lack of familiarity with the writer's culture. Thus,

many critics are of the view, where a Western writer is likely to be read as artful, a third-world author is seen as simply expressive of an impenetrable "otherness." Hence to simply frame *The Famished Road* as a magical African epic feels somehow diminishing. For, the story is also a political fable that looks at the adversities of civic stability for an African democracy.

And it's also something entirely its own, impossible to label. It is the beautiful isolated passages which need no context, that is most fascinating in Okri's novel.

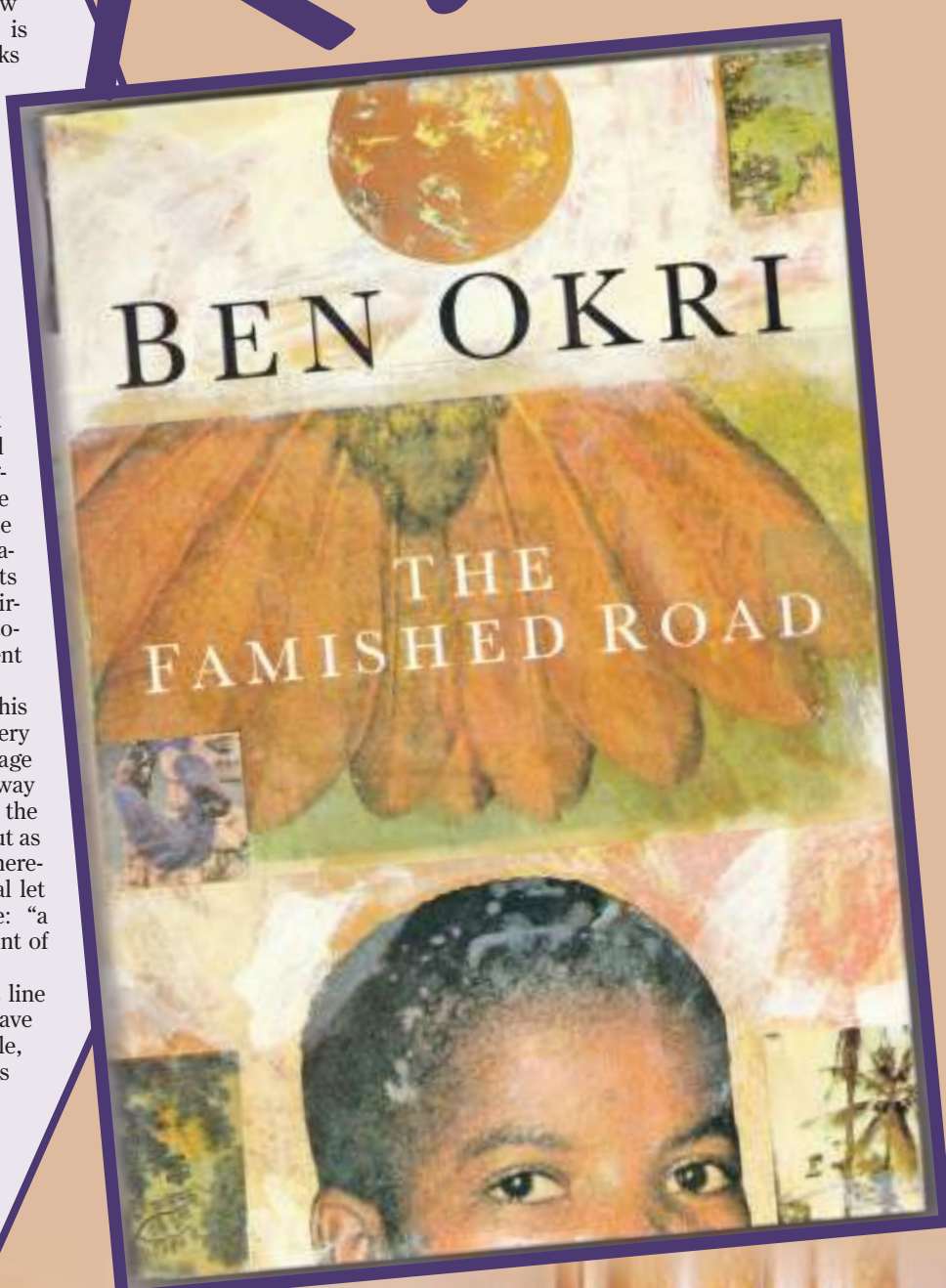
For example here's Azaro's father, Black Tyger: "It is more difficult to love than to die. It is not death that human beings are most afraid of, it is love. The heart is bigger than a mountain. One human life is deeper than the ocean. Strange fishes and sea-monsters and mighty plants live in the rock-bed of our spirits. The whole of human history is an undiscovered continent deep in our souls."

Finally, even as I realize this is the ultimate crime of every reader, to read the last page when you are only half way through the book, as well as the ultimate reviewer faux pas, but as the novel holds no plot and therefore has no secrets to conceal let me end with the last line: "a dream can be the highest point of a life."

By the time you reach this line you are bound to feel you have stepped into the unutterable, luminous and weightless world of dreams.

A world nevertheless filled with Jobs' dots. Hence this last line of my own. Had I not known you... I would not be here today.

aditha.dissanayake@gmail.com



**E**ADITHA DISSANAYAKE  
ver since I heard Steve Jobs talking about how our past experiences connect with each other and influence our present lives, I have been conscious of such events in my own life. "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards," said Jobs. "So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life."

Today, as I look backwards at my life it's easy to see Jobs' theory is true. Had I not had the freedom to read what I liked as a child, had I not read so avidly each time there was a break in my education (awaiting results after O/levels and A/levels and 'extended vacations' in my university life) I would not have been able to write this column for so long. Then again, perhaps these dots go back to my father's childhood. Had my grandfather not introduced the world of books to my father, had my father not handed this legacy to me, I would never have become a bookaholic.

Just as there are dots in my life dating back to the beginning of the 20th century when my grandfather was born there are more recent incidents too that have connected with each other in amazing ways. Had I not started to write this column I would not have found an ardent reader, a mentor and friend in Dr. Namel Weeramuni who never misses reading 'Words on Words.' Had I not visited him two weeks ago I would not be writing about Ben Okri today. The dot that appeared with the 'Just Write' column of a few years ago and went on to connect with 'Words on Words' has today, joined another dot called 'The Famished Road,' that is now beside me as I type this, with Dr. Weeramuni's handwriting on the flyleaf saying, "for your 'Words on Words.'" A copy that is doubly precious because on the next page is Ben Okri's autograph wishing Namel and Manel Weeramuni, "Much joy, on the great road of our lives," dated 29th November 1991.

Star struck by this monumental gift, I yet, confess within the two weeks gone by I could not finish reading the book entirely. The total lack of the structure of a conventional novel with a beginning, middle and end, makes 'The Road' slightly hard to read, and yet, believing in the dots theory I am determined to reach the final page sooner than later, with the hope one day I will be looking back and thinking, had I not read Okri that April, 2021.....

To borrow the summary given by Porochista Khakpour

the main character of Okri's third novel, which won him the Booker Prize (1991) is Azaro (a nickname, he is quick to point out, for "Lazarus," or "Lazarus"). Azaro is an abiku, or "spirit child" of Yoruban myth. He is tugged by his sibling spirits to retreat into the otherworld of the dead while he feels compelled to face his hard life among his loved ones of the living. All sorts of episodes push and pull him — his father's attempts to be a boxer; the sorceress/bar owner Madame Koto's interest in his charms for her customers as well as his blood



A painting by Hanson Okere that resonates with Ben Okri's "The Famished Road"



Ben Okri, (born March 15, 1959), Nigerian novelist, short-story writer, and poet



PERMACULTURE

# HOW TO MAKE YOUR home garden WORK!



Carlotta Tafel



**P**ISHARA JAYAWARDANE  
 Permaculture is a guiding life principle or philosophy that has everything to do with nature. This philosophy can be used to great effect in your home garden. Basically the idea here is - Good for the planet, good for people. *Green Thumbs* speaks to Manager of Amuura, Carlotta Tafel, on the interplay of various activities used in gardening that ultimately contribute to a flourishing home garden - in other words Permaculture Gardening.

Permaculture has many branches including ecological design, ecological engineering, regenerative design and environmental design. But we need not complicate things by delving into these extremely complex concepts! From the start Tafel said - 'If you do this you will get much too deep into theory and lose that connection with what you actually want to do - work in your garden.' So in this article we are only concerned about how to make our home garden work! After all we are not writing a thesis!

"Pesticides and artificial fertilizers will boost your vegetables to a selling size or a size fit for consumption by the members of the household. They grow huge and puffy due to the chemicals inside, but they have no nutrition. The big sized chemically grown ones have huge amounts of chemicals in it along with water, but they have no nutrition and will cause cancer eventually," said Tafel.

**HEALTHY FOOD**

When you are growing organically, no poison in the form of chemicals is added to the soil. The resources are recycled and there is minimum disturbance for the fauna and flora. This is because you always care about their well-being. Then in return no poison from the garden comes into your system. The food in your garden is healthy. You are also supporting biodiversity and both plants and animals are happy. Soil erosion is minimized mainly due to the grass we leave on ground. So run off water will not flow with high pressure or speed due to the ground cover. Also when chemicals are there the runoff water is contaminated with the chemicals.

"Permaculture is about seeing the whole picture, from growing your fruits and vegetables to avoiding overuse of electricity. It's basically always maintaining good practices. It has everything to do with our behavior. Permaculture is not just one action. All actions are interconnected. When you practise permaculture, you become very conscious about the natural resources we are not supposed to overuse. We are supposed to plan everything in our garden in a very sustainable manner. So, once you gain that habit you automatically respect the Earth. Then you tend to be careful of your electricity consumption," explained Tafel.

"Old traditional agriculture practices are the main principles of permaculture. In Sri Lanka the change from traditional techniques to big scale fertilizing farming is much more recent than in western countries. Some of the old generations still have the knowledge of farming without pesticides and unfortunately this knowledge is not given enough attention," added Tafel.

**DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES**

Tafel's comment can be attributed to the home garden as well. There are many techniques. Growing by following the moon cycle, composting all-natural left over, not burning inside the garden, always mulching the surface not



exposing to sun light, talking to plants and touching them to get rid of pests, not much tilling, worshipping before taking the mammy to start work and then using methods like companionship planting and using neem solution or soapy water for harmful insects are some of them.

"When using permaculture principles you mix different plants, planting them next to each other which directly supports each other when it comes to nutrition and pest control. It's a symbiotic principle at its best. Some examples are roses and garlic, or potatoes together with beans," pointed out Tafel.

**COMPANIONSHIP PLANTING**

We call this *Companionship Planting*. One plant may be good at absorbing nitrogen from the atmosphere and it nourishes the soil while the others can't. So automatically the other one too gets nitrogen (Beans and Okra). Some plants have broad leaves which can block sunlight coming on to the ground controlling weeds. Narrow leaved plants next to it can also benefit, having less competition by weeds for nutrition. (Cabbage and Chillies). Plants like garlic, marigold (dahas pethiya) lemon grass and basil produce a strong smell so pests don't come close to them. All plants in the vicinity get protection from those pests.

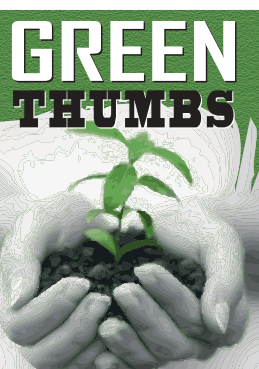
98 percent of weeds in Sri Lanka are either herbs or medicinal plants or plants that can be used as manure. Only alien invasive plants are the real problem. All weeds are part of the biodiversity which help other animals. So normally we take out the weeds inside the beds, but they should be left alone in other areas.

**USE NATURAL METHODS**

"It can be said as long as you don't work against nature you're doing good. This can be said for every country in this world. Work with what naturally grows in your region including the animals. If you have some chickens in the garden use them. When you prepare a vegetable bed, use your chicken to walk on it, they will eat the seeds and weeds, dig the ground loose and poo in between giving an amazing natural fertilizer," explained Tafel.

**TIPS FOR PREPARING BEDS**

When preparing beds, better bury banana stems, green leaves like *Gliricidia* cut into small pieces before you add compost as a top layer. They will slowly release nutrients to plants when growing. Also, another method is using coconut husks - coconut husks lining along the beds. They will help to keep moisture and also add nu-



trients into soil. Adding charcoal to beds when preparing is another good practice.

"Through Permaculture the immune system is boosted. If you eat nutritious food your body can use the food to get stronger. Also you will be less likely to develop sicknesses like diabetes or cancer. What I have experienced is that people who start to change their lifestyle will get 'sick' at first. This is a natural reaction of the body. It will start to get rid of all the unhealthy stuff in the body which at first will be seen as pimples, fever, cough and unhealthy skin. But if you reach that point it won't be long before you will be feeling much more active healthy and fit," explained Tafel.

**GROWING ACCORDING TO THE CLIMATIC FACTORS**

Permaculture is simply going with the flow of the landscape in design and growing according to the climatic factors of the land. It is basically what we had in Sri Lankan traditional agricultural practices or in home gardens. We never flattened the land to grow. We did not go for square beds. It was all either curved or round or just wavy according to contours. We allowed bushes or vines which love shade to grow under the big trees and let the vine like Kiri Ala climb the big Jack tree. When there is a sunny spot on the land, we planted sun loving crops and flowers for bees and butterflies. We had chicken, ducks, cows and goats in our land who naturally nourished the garden. We did not want to make a *chicken tractor* (Chicken tractors are movable pens that you can use in your yard or farm. They are just a movable cage that chickens live in part or full time) like in modern permaculture practice. They were everywhere. In the night chickens climbed the hut made up on coconut trees and stayed there till next morning, until the farmer put up the ladder for them to come down, so they would loosen our soil and provide poop for manure. So it's basically what our grand parents practised on Earth, growing with minimum harm to nature.

Though there is a slight difference when it comes to an organic farm and a home garden the principles are the same.



# GROW CORIANDER AT HOME!

**C**oriander herb can be grown indoors under a wide range of climatic conditions. However, hot weather during the summer months causes coriander to bolt quickly and reduces foliage development. A coriander crop will mature in 40 to 45 days. It is often used as a rotation crop. Some growers double-crop in a given year.



**HOW TO PLANT CORIANDER**

Growing coriander at home is the best way to have ready access to this fresh herb. Sow coriander seeds indoors in late winter or early spring. For a flavoursome and lush, leafy coriander crop, follow the following simple steps as you plant the herb.

**Tips**

**Step 1:** Coriander crop thrives well in temperatures between 17° to 27°C. Coriander is best sown directly in pots rather than growing them in seed trays and then transplanting the sprouts.

**Step 2:** You can grow coriander in full sun and well-drained soil with a pH of 6.2 to 6.8. Sow the coriander seeds about half to one inch deep in the soil. Space the seeds at a gap of approximately 6 inches. Press the soil over the seeds and cover with the half-inch layer of fine mulch. Water thoroughly.

**Step 3:** Water the plants in dry periods. Be sure to not over-water the plant to avoid root rot. Good soil drainage is essential to ensure healthy root health as coriander has deep taproots.

**Step 4:** Germination of coriander takes up to 2-3 weeks. Remember to thin young plants to 20 cm apart to allow them to grow to their full size. To extend the coriander harvest, regu-

larly snip soft stems, rotating the plant while you harvest.

**CARING FOR CORIANDER**

Coriander prefers cool weather similar to spinach and lettuce alike. It can be grown in partial sun as the herb does not demand full sun.

- Avoid transplanting or repotting the germinated seeds and prefer starting from the seeds straight. This will help you avoid bolting.
- The key to growing healthy coriander herb is regular and steady watering. Remember to mulch to keep the soil surface cool.
- For a steady supply, we suggest planting small patches every 2-3 weeks throughout the growing season.

**HARVESTING CORIANDER HERB**

Coriander can be harvested when the plant has become six inches tall. At this height, the leaves of the herb will be tender and least bitter. The stems tend to be more pungent as compared to the leaves. Cut the gentle stems at soil level.

**GROWING CORIANDER IN POTS**

Coriander is a fast-growing annual plant that reaches up to 12 - 22 inches in height. With a little extra care, coriander can grow indoors as well as it would grow outdoors.

We recommend you grow coriander herb in a huge planter with rest of the herbs as herbs make great neighbours and encourage healthy growth for each other.

Follow the step by step instructions below for growing coriander indoors.

- **Spot** Pick a spot for your container that exposes the plant to run for at least four to five hours. Prefer exposing the plant to morning sun as it enjoys a lot of light but not too much heat.
- **Container** Take any container or planter (approx 10 inches) deep enough for the roots. Make sure that you have plenty of drainage holes in the bottom of the container.
- **Soil**

Coriander needs extra fertile soil if growing indoors. The root system range is limited and can't access as much soil for nutrients as in the garden, hence the nutrition content in the soil needs to be higher.

- **Sowing** Pre-soak the seeds overnight. Space the seeds 3 to 4 inches apart while sowing in the container. You can also sprout the seeds before sowing.
- **Watering** Water the plants when the soil is dry to the touch. Water thoroughly until the water comes out the drainage holes. Keep the soil moist and not soaked.

- *allthatgrows.in*





CECA HOSTS SECOND ROUND OF ITS ART COMPETITION

# REACHING OUT FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

**C**olombo Expats Cultural Association (CECA), a vibrant community in Sri Lanka comprised of over 160 expats from India, Bangladesh and Nepal, successfully concluded the second round of its Art competition to help and motivate children in care homes through art. This event was conducted in association with the Education Ministry, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Women and Child Development, Pre-schools and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services State Ministry, The High Commission of India, Colombo as well as many other sponsors, partners and well-wishers. The event was held at the Taj Samudra Colombo recently and was followed by a dazzling cultural event which was attended by the Chief Guest, Education Minister Professor G.L. Pieris, Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay as the guest of honour and Women and Child Development, Pre-schools and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services State Minister Piyal Nishantha among many other esteemed dignitaries.

This second round of the art competition was held for 60 winners from the various age categories of the first round, which was held for children in care homes throughout the country. The winners of the second round were awarded with monetary prizes in the form of a savings account by Pan Asia Bank and all other participants too were awarded with consolation prizes which can be redeemed upon reaching adulthood. The total prize money which was distributed amounted to 1,185,000 Rupees (LKR). Pan Asia Bank provides these savings accounts with a special interest rate which is above industry standards as its effort to provide these



The Children on a tour of Colombo City

children with a head-start in life when they reach adulthood.

In addition to this, the children, along with one caregiver were also hosted at the Taj Samudra Colombo for one night on April 10. On the following day, the 60 children and their caregivers were taken on a tour of Colombo, they were able to watch a movie at Scope Cinema and were also treated with lunch from McDonald's afterwards. All children who participated were also provided with a gift bag of toys and amenities.

Going another step further, CECA also provided a desktop for all the care homes from which the children came. This was done in order to ensure that all the children of these care homes will be able to continue their education without hindrance. During the lockdown period, many of these children were unable to continue their education online as they did not have access to a computer. All gift bag items and desktops were provided by various mem-

bers of CECA.

Commenting on the event, CECA President Captain A. Banerjee stated "We want to show these children who are living in care homes that there is a better life which they can attain if they strive hard and utilize their talents in a proper manner. The ongoing pandemic has brought a host of unprecedented challenges for everyone and these children too have been affected due to the closing of schools. We are certain that this initiative undertaken by us and our well-wishers will have a lasting positive impact on these children and that they will cherish these memories for years to come".

This campaign was organized to show these children that there is another world out here which they can work to be a part of. CECA believes that motivation is key for a successful future and the betterment of society.

CECA has carried out many Corporate Social Responsibility Projects to serve the Sri Lankan community. Among its pioneering efforts, CECA supplied 15 tons of dry rations to 52 children's homes covering 1,311 children for a full month. CECA also initiated "Santa Returns" last year, a program to distribute toys & clothes for children's homes during Christmas.

-AK



Senior Age Group Contestants with Dignitaries



## The Kingsbury delivers range of Ramadan meals

**D**uring the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Muslims fast every day from sunrise to sunset. Fasting is one of the five pillars of the Islamic faith and Ramadan is a time of spiritual discipline, increased charity, generosity, and fellowship. To break the fast, a meal known as Iftar (literally, breaking of the fast) is consumed.

During this sacred month of Ramadan, The Kingsbury Colombo brings to you several meal options worth sharing with your loved ones.

On The Kingsbury Indulgence platform, you can choose from the Premium and Deluxe Break Fast meals, Kidu Rice Meals or Biryani meals; each portion sufficient for 4-6 persons. From Date Milkshakes,



to Chicken and Rice Kanjito Malay Pasthool, Cheese and Spinach Sambusek, to desserts such as Muhlabia, the Break Fast options are perfect for sharing with friends and family this season.

The Kidu Rice, an all-time favourite during Ramadan, comes with Potato Curry, Dhal Curry, Sweet Mango Curry, Kaliya Curry (deep-fried ash plantains with brinjals), and Keeri Samba Rice, and offers the meat options of either Chicken or Beef. The Biryani meals offer a choice of Chicken, Lamb, Mutton, Jumbo Prawns or Lobster.

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

-AK



## Crepe Runner fourth outlet at Marine Drive, Kollupitiya

**C**repe Runner, joins the iconic Marine Drive food hub with the grand opening of its fourth outlet – the Crepe Runner Café. The café recently opened its doors to the public for dine-in, take away and delivery services.

The Crepe Runner Café is conveniently located at the heart of Kollupitiya and is easily accessible through Marine Drive. Open Tuesday to Thursday from 2 pm to 10 pm and Friday to Sunday from 2 pm to 11 pm, customers can now enjoy phenomenal views of the ocean and witness epic sunsets all while feasting on the delectable range of sweet and savory crepes Crepe Runner is famous for.

Crepe Runner's story of success dates back to January 2019 with a simple food truck promising a revolutionary change to the food scene in Sri Lanka. They were the first ever food truck to offer sweet and savory crepes in the streets of Colombo with a capacity to serve over 200 crepes a day. Due to overwhelming demand from their growing base of customers, Crepe Runner opened two more outlets; a café in Galle Road, Mount Lavinia and an outlet at the Food Court of Cool Planet, Maharagama. The newest café down Marine Drive is their second biggest outlet to open.

The new outlet will see several new additions to its menu alongside its signature range of sweet and savory crepes. By popular demand, Crepe Runner's latest addition includes Loaded Fries topped off with either spicy meat or melted cheese. Their range house beverages will now offer a variety of hot and cold coffees, coffee frappes and hot chocolate. All items at Crepe Runner are made to order and made to perfection with guaranteed consistency throughout all outlets.

"We are thrilled to launch our fourth outlet and second café within a very short span of just two years since we started. The business has continued to grow bigger over the years and we are so grateful for our loyal customers and our hard-working team. We started Crepe Runner with a food truck running on the very same Marine Drive in Bambalapitiya and we are beyond excited to open our café on the same stretch to give our customers more of their favorite crepes" shares Founder, Abdus Salaam.

Recently, Crepe Runner was awarded the merit award at SLIM Brand Excellence Awards 2020 under the category of Small Medium Enterprises for the brand's rapid growth and success in the market.

TT



BEST CREPES IN TOWN



Education Minister GL Pieris and Managing Director/CEO A Baur & Company Ltd Rolf Blaser

### Best of Swiss Hospitality here

## VET By EHL launched

**T**he Swiss Hotel Management Academy (SHMA) launched VET by EHL, a Vocational Education Training Program by Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL), Switzerland on March 25 at Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo. The event was graced by its chief guest Education Minister Prof G L Pieris and saw the participation of many industry professionals and dignitaries.

EHL is the world's first and number one hospitality management school with over 25,000 alumni worldwide boasting a 96% 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 programs, heralding a revolutionary change to the hospitality industry. Rolf Blaser, Managing Director/CEO at A Baur & Company Ltd, stated "We are proud to breakthrough 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. We had the great pleasure to connect and work closely in workshops, trainings and visits with the team and we have full confidence in this collaboration."

Director and Regional Head- EHL Advisory Services Aman Aditya Sachdev, said "We are very pleased to have partnered with A. Baur & Company Pvt. Ltd. for the VET by EHL programs under its SHMA umbrella. Sri Lanka is a key global tourism destination and despite the ongoing challenges I am 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."

-TT

## OPPO launches Avurudu Song



**O** PPO recently launched an Avurudu jingle ahead of the Sinhalese and Tamil New year. Sung by OPPO brand ambassador and the Voice coach Umariya Sinhaswama, the song also features popular personalities including actor and singer Gayan Gunawardena and choreographer Ramod Malaka and his dance troupe, Cool Steps.

The visual for the song has been shot in a scenic village atmosphere and features a host of New Year traditions of great cultural significance. The video also features the newly launched fan-favorite OPPO F19 Pro which is on offer during the season.

OPPO Sri Lanka CEO Bob Li said: "This project helped us to immerse into Sri Lankan culture better. In keeping with the spirit of the season, evolving and upgrading, OPPO has launched two concurrent promotions"

-NM

## Exclusive beauty workshop series by Shiseido



**S**hiseido, through its partnership with LUXASIA, continues to bring delight to Sri Lankan beauty-lovers with fresh retail innovations, workshops, and seasonal offerings.

The brand recently delivered a series of successful workshops showcasing Shiseido's skincare and makeup collections through skilful demonstrations by some of the island's top makeup and skincare experts. It was an exciting and fun-filled evening for all LUXASIA consumer, who had the opportunity to network and spend time with one another at this one-of-a-kind workshop.

This series of workshops commenced with Dr. Shanika Arsecularne highlighting a proper skincare regime followed by makeup sessions with

three professional makeup artists demonstrating three variations of stunning looks, made possible by Shiseido's cosmetics. Each session was tailored for consumer education and practical replication, featuring the finesse underlying Shiseido's beauty methodology. It was an engaging and exclusive VIP-day, where the genuine and contagious enthusiasm of the presenters lifted spirits all-round.

As part of LUXASIA's road map to enhance brand awareness and in-market reception of the luxurious Japanese beauty brand, this series of workshops is the first of many to come. Shiseido is renowned for infusing both quality and efficacy into their products, backed by rigorous scientific research. All these are imbued into the workshop sessions to engender a robust appreciation for the brand.

-NI







## SAMAN WEERAMAN: MAN WHO WORE MANY HATS

**S**aman Weeraman was a man of many parts. He was actively involved in the cinema industry. He was a producer, director, writer and quite often the main person behind the scene, who somehow made things happen. There are numerous projects / productions that would never have happened if not for his involvement.

A lawyer, a Provincial Councillor, a Media Advisor, Working Director of ITN and the producer and creator of a number of musical scores and events. I was lucky to have his friendship.

We traveled together with the Producer of the film, to Myanmar, Thailand and India in search of suitable locations to shoot the movie "Siddhartha Gautama". Saman and I, with the help of many others brought the story of "Siddhartha" to the screen. He was very proud of it.

Saman made a major contribution to the film industry while he was the General Manager of the National Film Corporation and later as a screenplay writer and producer of numerous films.

Saman did not use the word "No" in his vocabulary. He was always there to help and find a way forward.

I shall miss our discussions and numerous meetings at the club over a drink. His early demise is a loss to the local film industry. He was looking to the future with great anticipation with numerous projects planned.

I shall surely miss my friend, Saman.  
- Chandran Rutnam



**T**hico Films, a subsidiary of Thico Group (Pvt.) Ltd has announced their first international movie production 'Back to Elephant Walk'. The movie will be producing by Thico Films (Pvt.) Ltd Chairperson Thilini Priyamali and Dr. Isuru Bandara.

'Back to Elephant Walk' is a script by Nisanaka Prasadhani Jayathilaka and will be directed by Nihal Bandara. The Executive producer of the production is Kapila Gunathilaka. Joining hands as the team's cheerleader is Win-stone lifestyle hotel school who made this concept a reality while also sharing the guidelines for international film platforms. The Company is also working closely with the Sri Lanka Tourist Board on behalf of Thico Films.

The story revolves around a young girl of Sri

Lankan born and brought up in the US. Having heard about her beautiful motherland from her mother, she decides to visit her country of origin upon her mother's demise and also, she didn't forget to bring her mother's remains upon her mother request. While in Sri Lanka with her relatives she meets her life partner, of US origin and decides to travel around the country. Romance, adventure and the beauty of Sri Lanka are some striking elements blended into this unique production. While highlighting the historic and cultural importance of Sri Lanka, the production therefore aims to boost the local tourism industry in a pandemic-stricken environment apart from taking local movie production to the international arena. The producers anticipate to release the movie on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime and 22 other sites.

As one of its signature brands, Thico Films provides the space for creative minds to bring their creativity to life. Some of its services include the provision for tele drama and film crews while providing the equipment and resources for script writing and film, tele drama and video productions and also, they will be looking forward to bring international Producer to direct their own films in Sri Lanka. They will be providing all the necessary equipment's and facility

With a diverse range of products and services in a variety of industries, the Thico Group (Pvt.) Ltd has ventured into exploring novel opportunities to benefit its clientele. Each subsidiary registered under the Group has something unique to offer to its customers, be it construction, real estate, gem and jewellery, entertainment or trading.



### JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH

# OSCAR WORTHY

CHANNA BANDARA WIJEKOON

**R**acial unrest and civil rights movements' uprising were at an all-time high in the 1960s in America. After being suppressed and discriminated for centuries, black people were fighting back like never before.

While President JFK was struggling to respond positively towards ethnic issues, a Bahamian-American actor called Sydney Poitier was steadily making his way to white-dominated Hollywood.

Martin Luther King Jr and Muhammad Ali meanwhile were fighting in the political arena and in the boxing ring towards achieving social justice for black people. However ironically, it was habitual for the two to be sexually attracted to white women. Whether the desire ignited from inferiority complex, vengeance or the urge to be the dominating force was only known to them.

Once when questioned by a journalist, why Ali was not 'so black' in complexion, Ali replied, "White masters back then brought black slaves from Africa. While the menfolk worked in their gardens, black women worked indoors as maids. The white masters pleased themselves by going to bed with these black maids and my not-so-black complexion is a result of that lineage".

While the African-American radical civil rights activist Malcolm X urged Black Americans to protect themselves against white aggression "by any means necessary", Black Panther movement founded by two college students took up arms to resist police brutality on black people.

The movie 'Judas and the Black Messiah' (2021) revolves around true events that took place in the era and demystifies 'Black Panther Party' (BPP) activists and suppression enforced by white authorities on civil rights activists and black communities. Resisting police brutality and 'Cop watching' was commonplace for BPP activists at the time.

The plot revolves around the betrayal of BPP Chairman Fred Hampton (Daniel Kaluuya) by FBI informant William O'Neal (Lakeith Stanfield). The two actors earlier collaborated for the movie 'Get Out' (2017).

O'Neal being a car thief is caught red-handed and approached by FBI special agent Roy Mitchell who offers the former to work undercover for FBI to neutralize Hampton. He is assigned to gain access to BPP and keep the FBI informed of its developments. O'Neal who becomes Hampton's most trustworthy associate finally sedates him with drugs prior to Hampton being murdered by the police.

With his great betrayal O'Neal becomes a Judas to Hampton, who is the black messiah in the movie.

The movie flawlessly crafted by Shaka King would make moviegoers feel they are living in the 1960s. Daniel Kaluuya as Hampton brings out an intriguing piece of acting. As a revolutionary he delivers power packed dialogues in the movie. Once he says aloud in a gathering, "You can murder a freedom fighter, but you can't murder freedom". Kaluuya could easily become Sydney Poitier of modern times with the characters he portrays.

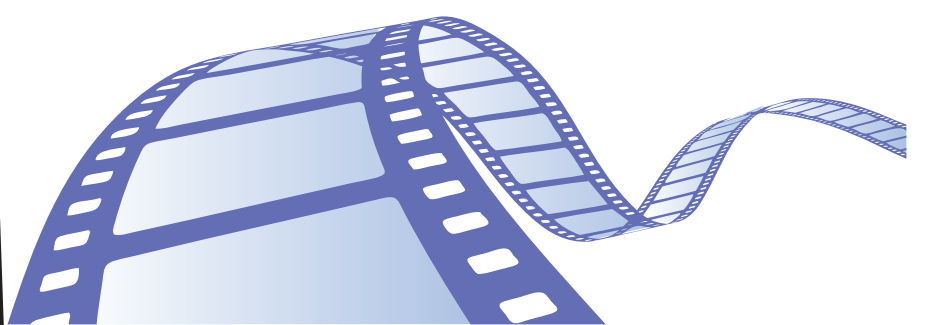
Yet in this particular movie Lakeith Stanfield plays a more complex role as an undercover. His character in the movie is more multifaceted than that of Kaluuya which sheds light on method acting. Hence apart from Kaluuya Stanfield too would become an Oscar contender.

Dominique Fishback as Hampton's girlfriend and BPP member Deborah Johnson induces romance to a burning plot. The scenes depicting the two together surfaces the magic in true love, warmth and motherhood.

Director Shaka King has harnessed many attributes skillfully to make Judas and the Black Messiah a top-of-the-mind one. However, in the hands of Quentin Tarantino of 'Reservoir Dogs' fame it would have been a totally different presentation.



## AIMING FOR INTERNATIONAL HEIGHTS



## REEL REVIEWS



## 'KODI GAHA YATA' BEGINS WORK

**A** new teledrama, 'Kodi Gaha Yata' began work by hosting a colourful muhurat cereal at Shangrila Hotel, Colombo, recently. The teledrama brings Anil Bandara forward as a teledrama and film producer. Based on a series of incidents that a youth has to face once he leaves his home town and enters Colombo, 'Kodi Gaha Yata' is 3 Win Force Organization's first production. The teledrama is also skilled actor Jagath Manuwarna's maiden direction.

The teledrama stars Dilhani Ekanayake, Savior Kanishka, Tharindi Fernando, Nadeesha Hemamali, Randika Gunathilaka, Thilakshani Rathnayake, Dayadewa Edirisinghe and others. Lasantha Francis is joint director. Aruna Premaratne penned the script.

Chinthaka Somakeerthi is the cinematographer. Jayantha Wijeratne is the assistant director. Vihanga Wijesekara is the music director. The make up department is handled by Naradha Dhananji Thotagamuwa.

Sanka Malwaththa is the editor. The art director is Piyatissa Akuramboda. Raja Ranasinghe is the production manager. Red Pen Event handles the media coordination.



## GENERAL MEETING OF THE SRI LANKA FILM DIRECTORS' SOCIETY

**T**he general meeting of the Sri Lanka Film Directors' Society happens once every two years. This year the event took place in April 6 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. Seasoned film directors as well as young filmmakers took part in the event. A person has to have at least one film run in local theaters to take part in the event. Directors who have also screened their films at International film festivals and have won International awards but haven't screened their films in local theaters too took part.







## UNIVERSITY OF THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

#### Supply and Installation of a new Next Gen Firewall (NGFW) for Albert Crescent Premises

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the University of the Visual and Performing Arts now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply and Installation of a New Next Gen Firewall (NGFW) for Albert Crescent premises.

- Bidding will be done through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include,
  - Business Registration Certificate (Registration in Sri Lanka under the business registration or incorporated under the Companies Act)
  - Bidders' experience in service and selling the quoted brand in Sri Lanka for three (03) or more years.
  - Minimum number of certified Engineers of the bidder, for the quoted product/brand should be one.
- Bidders can contact Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration T.P. 011-2033710 for details. Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the General Administration Division at the University of the Visual and Performing Arts, No. 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written request to the Senior Assistant Registrar/General Administration from 19th April 2021 until 07th May 2021 from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm upon payment of document fee of Rs.1,500/=. The method of payment will be in cash to the Shroff of the university.
- Completed bids addressed to Chairman, Department Procurement Committee C/o Senior Assistant Registrar (General Administration), University of the Visual and Performing Arts, No 21, Albert Crescent, Colombo 07 shall be deposited in the tender box available in the General Administration branch on or before 10th May 2021 at 2.00 pm. Name of the bid should be written on the left hand corner of the envelope. Bids will be opened immediately after closing at the board room. Bidders or representatives can participate for this occasion.
- Bids shall be valid up to 12th July 2021.
- Each bid should be accompanied by a bid security in favour of Vice-Chancellor, University of the Visual and Performing Arts to an amount of Rs. 50,000/- valid upto 09th August 2021.
- Late bids will be rejected.

**Registrar**  
University of the Visual and Performing Arts



## AMERICAN EMBASSY, COLOMBO

### DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (DB)

The US Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka hereby invites interested and legally eligible Architecture Design & Construction Companies who can provide design build construction services (DB) in Sri Lanka to propose for DB services on the forth coming and future construction projects. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) anticipates awarding design build contracts for construction of humanitarian assistance and institutional projects such as District Hospitals, Rural Clinics, Primary and Secondary Schools in Sri Lanka.

Phase 1 of the solicitation will be posted during the first two weeks of April, 2021 on the US Embassy website. Interested and eligible companies are strongly encouraged to visit the US Embassy website;

<https://lk.usembassy.gov/embassy/colombo/contracting-opportunities-2/> and contact [ctha.asia@usace.army.mil](mailto:ctha.asia@usace.army.mil) prior to the solicitation posting. Instructions for submitting Phase I proposals can be obtained by visiting the specified avenue.

Companies are responsible for all costs and fees associated with preparation of proposals in Phase 1. This project is contingent on availability of funds. If the project is cancelled, all proposal preparation costs will be borne by the proposing companies.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER & INSPECTION SERVICES (QA)

The US Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka hereby invites interested and legally eligible Quality Assurance Companies who can provide QA services for design build construction projects. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) anticipates one contract for the required Quality Assurance Engineer & Inspection Services (QA) in support of Various Humanitarian Assistance project sites in Sri Lanka.

The solicitation will be posted late April on the US Embassy website. Interested and eligible companies are strongly encouraged to visit the US Embassy website;

<https://lk.usembassy.gov/embassy/colombo/contracting-opportunities-2/> and contact [ctha.asia@usace.army.mil](mailto:ctha.asia@usace.army.mil) prior to the solicitation posting in late April. Instructions for submitting proposals can be obtained by visiting the specified avenue.

Companies are responsible for all costs and fees associated with preparation of proposals. If the project is cancelled, all proposal preparation costs will be borne by the Offeror.



## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

### CEYLON PETROLEUM STORAGE TERMINALS LIMITED

#### SUPPLY OF TWIN SEAL DOUBLE BLOCK & BLEED (DBB) VALVES

TENDER REF NO: KPR/14/2021

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL), Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya, Sri Lanka hereby invites sealed bids from Manufacturers or their Accredited Export Agents abroad or Accredited Local Agents in Sri Lanka for the Supply of Twin Seal Double Block & Bleed (DBB) Valves.

Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding procedure.

Interested parties may refer the bidding document (only for viewing purpose) and obtain necessary information through the websites [www.cpsl.lk](http://www.cpsl.lk) or [www.dgmarket.com](http://www.dgmarket.com) and the original bidding documents in English language (full set) could be obtained on submission of a written request (the request letter shall be on the company letter head and signed by an authorized person) via an email to [procure@cpsl.lk](mailto:procure@cpsl.lk) during working days between 0900 hrs. and 1400 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT+5.5) up to Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Considering bidder's request, Manager Procurement, CPSTL may issue the consent via email for depositing the non-refundable bidding document fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Four thousand (LKR 4,000.00), if appropriate. Bidders are requested to inspect the bidding document, which is available on the above-mentioned websites, prior to purchase and once it is purchased, bidding document fee is not refundable for any reason whatsoever.

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

A Pre-bid meeting will be held at 1000 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT+5.5) on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via video conferencing method.

Bids shall be submitted on the bidding document issued by the Procurement Function-CPSTL and the original of the duly filled bids may be sent by post/courier under registered cover or sealed cover to reach the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, C/o Manager Procurement, Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited, Procurement Function, 01<sup>st</sup> Floor, New Building, Oil Installation, Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya, Sri Lanka or could be deposited in the tender box kept at the main entrance of CPSTL, on or before 1400 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT+5.5) on Tuesday, 01<sup>st</sup> June 2021. Late bids will be rejected.

In case, the bidders are unable to submit the original bids as above, they could submit the scanned copy of the duly filled bids in PDF format via email to [tenders@cpsl.lk](mailto:tenders@cpsl.lk) to reach on or before 1400 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT+5.5) on Tuesday, 01<sup>st</sup> June 2021, at their own discretion. However, the original bids shall be securely kept to be submitted to the Manager Procurement-CPSTL, when requested.

Bids will be closed at 1400 hrs. Sri Lanka local time (GMT+5.5) on Tuesday, 01<sup>st</sup> June 2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the office of Manager (Procurement). Due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, the authorized representatives of the bidders may allow to participate/witness the tender opening procedure via video conferencing method.

Bids shall necessarily be valid for acceptance minimum until 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021, from the date of opening of the bid.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of Sri Lankan Rupees One hundred fifty thousand (LKR 150,000.00) or United States Dollars Seven hundred eighty (USD 780.00), which shall be valid minimum until 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 from the date of opening of the bid.

Bidders shall register themselves at the Registrar of Public Contracts of Sri Lanka [www.eproc.drc.gov.lk](http://www.eproc.drc.gov.lk) in accordance with the Public Contracts Act. No 3 of 1987, only if the total contract value exceeds Sri Lankan Rupees Five million (LKR 5,000,000.00).

Clarifications (if any) shall be sought from the Manager Procurement on Tel: +94-11-2572156/ +94-11-5750764, Fax: +94-11-2572155, Email: [procure@cpsl.lk](mailto:procure@cpsl.lk).

The Chairman  
Department Procurement Committee  
C/o Manager Procurement  
Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited  
Procurement Function  
01<sup>st</sup> Floor, New Building  
Kolonnawa, Wellampitiya  
Sri Lanka.

## PEOPLE'S BANK

### AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNEED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.03.2020 (pawned for 01 year) at the undermentioned People's Bank Branches and Service Centres in Kurunegala Region and not redeemed upto the dates indicated in the schedule given below will be sold by Public Auction at 9.00 a.m. on the dates and the places stated below.

No.	Branch	Pawning Centre	Unredeemed Articles as at	Date of Auction	Place of Auction
01	Melsiripura	-	13.05.2021	15.05.2021 & 16.05.2021	Branch Premises Melsiripura
02	Ethugalpura	Hiripitiya Mallawapitiya			Branch Premises Ethugalpura
03	Maho	Nagollagama			Branch Premises Maho
04	Makandura	Pannala			Branch Premises Makandura
05	Giriulla	Bammanna Dambadeniya			Branch Premises Giriulla
06	Nikaweratiya	Nikaweratiya Rasnayakapura Girilla			Branch Premises Nikaweratiya
07	Hettipola	Bandarakoswatta			Branch Premises Hettipola
08	Kurunegala	Hospital Unit M.C. Unit	21.05.2021	22.05.2021 & 23.05.2021	Branch Premises Kurunegala
09	Alawwa	Boyawalana			Branch Premises Alawwa
10	Bingiriya	Weerapokuna			Branch Premises Bingiriya
11	Narammala	Katupotha			Branch Premises Narammala
12	Kobeigane	Boraluwewa Dummalasuriya Udubaddawa Bihalpola Kandanegeedara			Branch Premises Kobeigane
13	Kuliyapitiya		28.05.2021	29.05.2021 & 30.05.2021	Branch Premises Kuliyapitiya
14	Wariyapola	Maspotha			Branch Premises Wariyapola
15	Polgahawela	Godawela			Branch Premises Polgahawela
16	Galgamuwa	Ambanpola			Branch Premises Galgamuwa
17	Mawathagama	Paragahadeniya	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 & 06.06.2021	Branch Premises Mawathagama
18	Ibbagamuwa Polpithigama	Kumbukgete			Branch Premises Ibbagamuwa
19	Maliyadewa	Maliyadewa St. Piduruwella			Branch Premises Maliyadewa
20	Pothuhera	Mathawa			Branch Premises Pothuhera
21	Ridigama	Panagamuwa Dodamgaslanda			Branch Premises Ridigama

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate or postpone these Auctions without further notice.

Regional Manager,  
People's Bank,  
Regional Head Office,  
No. 03, Wathimi Rd.,  
Kurunegala.

www.peoplesbank.lk

AA+ (Ika) Fitch Rating, AA - Brand Finance Rating





# GEOLOGICAL SURVEY & MINES BUREAU



Ministry of Environment

## PROCUREMENT NOTICE

### PURCHASING OF HIGH PRESSURE WATER DELIVERY HOSES FOR THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY & MINES BUREAU

Tender No.: PR/07/Q/114/20

Sealed tenders are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Geological Survey & Mines Bureau from qualified parties for the above subject. Interested parties could obtain relevant tender forms, specifications and other details from the Procurement Officer, Administration Division upto 3.00 p.m. on 07.05.2021 upon payment of a non-refundable sum of **Rs. 1000.00**.

Perfected tender forms should either be sent by registered post to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Geological Survey & Mines Bureau, No. 569, Epitamulla Road, Pitakotte or deposited in the relevant tender box kept at the Administrative Division at or before **2.00 p.m. on 10.05.2021**. Tenders will be opened on the same day (Closing date) at 2.00 p.m. and tenderers or their authorised representatives are permitted to participate at the time of opening of tenders.

Please indicate the name and No. of the tender on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

**Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
Geological Survey & Mines Bureau,  
No. 569, Epitamulla Road,  
Pitakotte.**

## OBSERVER JOBS

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

IMP/ADV/2021/08

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

Quantity	Description
20 MT	80 GSM - D/S Art paper - Gloss - Size : 24" x 30"

Packing: Palletized packets with extra Seaworthy Export packing with moisture barrier.

### Foreign Offers

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

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

### Local Offers

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

Offers should be sent to the **Head of Procurement to reach on or before 05th May 2021 at 2.30 p.m.** which will be opened immediately. No separate documents will be issued. Suppliers may use their own formalities.

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

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

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

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



**Head of Procurement  
The Associated Newspapers of  
Ceylon Limited**

**No.35, Lake House,  
D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,  
Colombo - 10.**

**For details: 2429451, 2429452**

## Invitation for Bids



## Ministry of Agriculture

Provision of

- (1) Cleaning and Janitorial Services
- (2) Security Services

for "Govijana Mandiraya" Building

01. Chairman, Procurement Committee of the Ministry, on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture invites separate sealed bids till **10.05.2021** for the provision of Security Service & Cleaning and Janitorial Service for the three storied Govijana Mandiraya building and the premises of Ministry of Agriculture at 80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya", Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla.
02. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
03. Eligible bidders may obtain further information from Senior Assistant Secretary (Procurement) on 011-2887406 or by inspecting the bidding documents kept at the following address from **19.04.2021** to **07.05.2021** during **8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.**
04. Basic qualifications required for eligible bidders: (Copies should be attached to the bids)
  - The eligible bidder shall be currently registered under the Business Names Act or with the Registrar of Companies.
  - Shall be institutions or individuals involved in relevant activities with at least 5 years of experience including government agencies.
  - Bidder shall not be blacklisted.
  - A list of institutions received services during the last 05 years should be submitted.
  - At the time of bidding for the provision of security services, there should be a valid certificate of registration for the provision of security services issued by the Ministry of Defence.
05. Bidding documents can be obtained from **19.04.2021** to **07.05.2021** during **8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** and **10.05.2021** during **8.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.** from the Procurement Division of the Ministry of Agriculture on the first floor of Govijana Mandiraya by presenting the receipt obtained for the payment of the non-refundable deposit of **Rs. 3500/-** to the Shroff, Ministry of Agriculture.
06. Perfected and sealed bids shall be sent to the following address via registered post or deposited at the tender box kept at the Procurement Division of the Ministry of Agriculture on the first floor of Govijana Mandiraya
  - at or before **11.00 a.m. on 10.05.2021** for Cleaning and Janitorial Service
  - at or before **1.00 p.m. on 10.05.2021** for Security Services.

Bids received late will be rejected.

	Procurement Name and Contract No	Value of the Bid Security (Rs) (obtained from a recognized commercial bank)	Time and date of opening the bid
1	Cleaning and Janitorial Services (MOA/NCB/04/2021 - Cleaning and Janitorial Service)	Rs. 200,000.00	10.05.2021 11.00 a.m.
2	Security Services (MOA/NCB/05/2021-Security Service)	Rs. 200,000.00	10.05.2021 1.00 p.m.

07. Bidders or their authorized representatives may attend at the bid opening.

**Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture  
80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya"  
Rajamalwatta Road,  
Battaramulla.**



**Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
Ministry of Trade**

## Amendment to the Advertisement published on 12.04.2021

### 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.

● Kekulu, Nadu, Samba Rice	● Garlic	● Gram	● Soya
● Rice Packets (5 Kg)	● Dried Chillies	● Green Gram	● Noodles
● Wheat Flour	● Condiments	● Cowpea	● Dates
● Sugar	● Tinned Fish	● Ulundhu (Black Gram)	● Biscuits
● Red Lentils	● Sprats	● Coconut Oil	● Butter
● Potatoes	● Chicken	● Soaps	● Margarine
● B Onions	● Powdered Milk		

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 "**The 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 27.04.2021.

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 28.04.2021 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  
07th Floor  
CWE Secretariat Building  
No. 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02**

Date: 19.04.2021



**THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT (CHAPTER 460) AS AMENDED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) ACT No. 28 of 1964**

**Notice under Section 33**

**My No. - 4/2/1/4/42**

I hereby give notice under Section 33 of the Land Acquisition Act (Chapter 460), that the Compensation money has been deposited to the following Case Numbers in the District Court of Mawanella regarding the Acquisition of the lands mentioned in the schedule below. For more details refer the Extra Ordinary Gazette dated 06.01.2021 and No. 2209/32 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

**SCHEDULE - I**  
Name of land :- Pinidiya Kiyana Kapuge Idama  
Plan No. :- M.P.K. 3474  
Lot No. :- 05  
Extent :- 0.0005 Hectare  
Location :- situated at Mawana Grama Niladhari Division in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Mawanella in Kegalle District in Sabaragamuwa Province.

Case No. to which money deposited - LA/03/20  
Amount of Money, deposited to the court - Rs. 310,000.00 (Three Hundred and Ten Thousand Rupees)  
Name and address of the compensation Holder - M.S.A. Jelaaldeen, No. 177, Aluthnuwara Road, Mawanella.  
Reason of depositing compensation money to the court - Land owner has passed away.

**SCHEDULE - II**  
Name of land :- Bogahagodawaththa  
Plan No. :- M.P.K. 3481  
Lot No. :- 04  
Extent :- 0.0010 Hectare  
Location :- situated at Rankothdiwela Grama Niladhari Division in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Mawanella in Kegalle District in Sabaragamuwa Province.

Case No. to which money deposited - LA/04/20  
Amount of Money, deposited to the court - Rs. 300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Rupees)  
Name and address of the compensation Holder - Y.M. Ibrahim, No. 67/2, Kandy Road, Mawanella.  
Reason of depositing compensation money to the court - Land owner has passed away.

**SCHEDULE - III**  
Name of land :- Pinidiya Kiyana Kapuge Idama  
Plan No. :- M.P.K. 3474  
Lot No. :- half out of the No. 09 (0.00015 Hectare)  
Extent :- 0.0003 Hectare  
Location :- situated at Mawana Grama Niladhari Division in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Mawanella in Kegalle District in Sabaragamuwa Province.

Case No. to which money deposited - LA/06/20  
Amount of Money, deposited to the court - Rs. 86,000.00 (Eighty Six Thousand Rupees)  
Name and address of the compensation Holder - W. Udayananda Mahinda Wickramarathne, "Nandana", Dewanagala.  
Reason of depositing compensation money to the court - Not appeared to receive compensation as the land owner has gone abroad.

**SCHEDULE - IV**  
Name of land :- Walawwaththa  
Plan No. :- M.P.K. 3471  
Lot No. :- 14 and 15  
Extent :- 0.0009 Hectare, 0.0002 Hectare  
Location :- situated at Rankothdiwela Grama Niladhari Division in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Mawanella in Kegalle District in Sabaragamuwa Province.

Case No. to which money deposited - LA/05/20  
Amount of Money, deposited to the court - Rs. 406,000.00 (Four Hundred and Six Thousand Rupees)  
Name and address of the compensation Holder - M.T.L. Yusuf Ali, No. 77, Thakkiya Road, Mawanella.  
Reason of depositing compensation money to the court - Land owner has passed away.

**SCHEDULE - V**  
Name of land :- Hondenigodawaththa  
Plan No. :- M.P.K. 3471  
Lot No. :- 01, 02 and 21  
Extent :- 0.0019 Hectare, 0.0019 Hectare, 0.0023 Hectare.  
Location :- situated at Rankothdiwela Grama Niladhari Division in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Mawanella in Kegalle District in Sabaragamuwa Province.

Case No. to which money deposited - LA/07/20  
Amount of Money, deposited to the court - Rs. 2,156,000.00 (Two million one hundred and fifty six Thousand Rupees)  
Name and address of the compensation Holder - Samsudeen Lebbe Mohamed Yasin, No. 275, Kandy Road, Mawanella.  
Reason of depositing compensation money to the court - Submitted documents fail to prove the title.

**SCHEDULE - VI**  
Name of land :- Hondenigodawaththa and Thatiyawala Kumbura.  
Plan No. :- M.P.K. 3471  
Lot No. :- 03, 04, 05, 06, 16, 17, 19 and 20  
Extent :- 0.0056 Hectare, 0.0015 Hectare, 0.0050 Hectare, 0.0004 Hectare, 0.0009 Hectare, 0.0002 Hectare, 0.0015 Hectare, 0.0005 Hectare.  
Location :- situated at Rankothdiwela Grama Niladhari Division in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Mawanella in Kegalle District in Sabaragamuwa Province.

Case No. to which money deposited - LA/02/20  
Amount of Money, deposited to the court - Rs. 5,142,000.00 (Five million one hundred and Forty Two Thousand Rupees)  
Name and address of the compensation Holder - S.M. Hassan, No. 30, Court Road, Mawanella.  
Reason of depositing compensation money to the court - Land owner has passed away.

**R.K. Saman Anura,**  
Divisional Secretary,  
Mawanella.  
Divisional Secretariat,  
Mawanella.  
Date: 06.04.2021

**REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I, Tuan Rukshan Oumar of 267/48, St. Mary's Road, Enderamulla, Wattala and presently of 1207B Block, Al Diyafa Building, Near Al Diyafa Medical Center, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates do hereby wish to inform the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that the Special Power of Attorney dated 22nd September 2015 granted by me to Tuan Azmil Oumar of 658/80 Mahavila Gardens, Colombo 09 is hereby cancelled and revoked and henceforth it should be regarded as null and void.

**SALE FOR TODDY RENTS 2021/2022**

**DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT, CHILAW**

Tender will be received for Toddy Rent Sales for the Period from 01.07.2021 to 30.06.2022 at 10.30 a.m. on 05.05.2021. For further particulars please see the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 23.04.2021.

**B.W.M.M.S. Bandara**  
Divisional Secretary - Chilaw  
Divisional Secretariat  
Chilaw  
Date: 09.04.2021

**SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION (SLSI)**  
Under the Ministry of Technology

**INVITATION OF BIDS FOR SUPPLY POOL-TRANSPORTATION SERVICES 2021/2022**

**Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) invites offers for selection of a contractor to provide Pool-Transportation Services by Vans; for SLSI employees on following routes.**

- Route 1 -Panadura to SLSI Office
- Route 2 -Mathihogoda to SLSI Office
- Route 3 -Hanwella to SLSI Office
- Route 4 -Dewalapola to SLSI Office
- Route 5 -Payagala to SLSI Office
- Route 6 -Andiambalama to SLSI Office
- Route 7 -Horana to SLSI Office
- Route 8 -Homagama to SLSI Office
- Route 9 -Malwatthu- hiripitiya to SLSI Office

**Two journeys to be operated on each day on each route (Morning & Evening)**

Quotation Forms and other details could be collected from **Director (Administration), of Sri Lanka Standards Institution**, on payment of a non-refundable fee of **LKR 2,000.00 + VAT 8%** (Cash only) from **2021-04-20 to 2021-05-11 between 0900 h to 1500 h** during working days.

Dual A/C Vans Manufactured after **2008-01-01** and located in Colombo suburbs will be considered. The Bidder shall quote for all the 09 routes mentioned above. Quotations will be accepted up to **1400 h on 2021-05-12.**

**Director General**  
**Sri Lanka Standards Institution**  
No.17, Victoria Place,  
Elvitigala Mawatha,  
Colombo 08.  
Tel : 011 2671567 - 72

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**OBTAINING VANS ON RENT FOR PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF IRRIGATION - YEAR 2021**

**NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE**

Bids are invited by the Departmental Procurement Committee for obtaining 03 Diesel vans on rental basis for field duty activities of the North Central Provincial Department of Irrigation for a period of one year.

02. Bid documents could be obtained during office hours from 19.04.2021 upto 3.00 p.m. on 10.05.2021 by Suppliers able to supply vans according to standards mentioned below after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 500/- to the shroff of the Provincial Department of Irrigation and submitting the Vehicle Registration Certificate.

- Hoping to cover a minimum distance of 3000 Km per month.
- Should contain a minimum of 07 seats. (These vehicles should be comfortable with adjustable seats with Head Rest).
- The vehicle owner should provide the driver and fuel and should do all the servicing and repairs by himself.
- Should have dual air-conditioning facilities.
- Full insurance for the vehicle and the registration certificate should be in the name of the vehicle owner.
- When a breakdown occurs, the supplier should supply a substitute vehicle with similar facilities.
- Allowances and accommodation will not be provided to drivers.
- The period should be limited to a maximum of 10 years from the year of registration of the vehicle.
- When fuel costs rise by 5%, consideration will be given to the matter.
- The asking price per Km based on the first 3000km run should be submitted.
- The asking price for every extra Km thereafter should be submitted.

03. Duly completed bids prepared according to the conditions above, should be sent to the "Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Irrigation, North Central Province" by registered post to be received before 3.00 p.m. on 11.05.2021 or could be hand-delivered to the Bid Box kept in the official room of the provincial director of irrigation. Bids will be opened immediately after closing time for accepting bids and bidders or their authorized representatives could be present on this occasion.

04. The decision of the North Central Provincial Department of Irrigation, Departmental Procurement Committee regarding this procurement is deemed final.

**Provincial Director / Chairman of Irrigation,**  
**Departmental Procurement Committee,**  
**Provincial Department of Irrigation,**  
**North Central Province.**

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

**GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA**  
**MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY**

**WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**  
Credit No.: Cr. 5685-lk

**BID NOTICE**

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the International Development Agency of World Bank towards the cost of Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contracts given below.
- The Chairman, Procurement Committee now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for projects described below.

Name of Contract & Contract No.	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Security Requirements (Rs)	Eligibility Requirements	Place of Issuing of Documents & Contact Person	Closing Date and Time
<b>Project Procurement Committee (Major)</b>					
<b>Supply Tenders</b>					
Supply and Delivery of 15,000 Nos. of 15mm (1/2") Diameter Gunmetal Ferrules (Lot 02). Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/PMU/NCB/Ferrule-Lot 02/2020/27	Rs.12,500/-	Bill No. 01 : Rs.108,000/- Bill No. 02 : Rs.108,000/- Bill No. 03 : Rs.108,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agents for supply of Gunmetal Ferrules and Registration of Public Contract in Sri Lanka according to the Act No. 3 of 1987 of the Government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notification and the paper advertisement appeared on 16.10.2018 on Ceylon Daily News.	Project Director's Office, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, No. 230, E. W. Perera Mawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda. Tel/Fax: 011-2890943/ 011-2890941	<b>19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 13.00 hours</b>
<b>Works Tenders</b>					
Reference to the advertisement dated 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021- <b>Please note that the closing date of following bid has been extended as follows;</b>					
Rehabilitation of Group 07 (Hanguranketha) Nuwara-Eliya Rural Water Supply Scheme. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/Nuwara Eliya/Haguranketha/RE/ Group 07/2020/04				Bid Closing - <b>27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 12.00 hours</b> (Bid Securities should be valid up to 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Bid Validity shall be up to 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021)	
Rehabilitation of Group 6 NuwaraEliya Rural Water Supply Scheme. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/NuwaraEliya/NuwaraEliya/RE/ Group 06/2018/32				Bid Closing - <b>27<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 13.00 hours</b> (Bid Securities should be valid up to 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 and Bid Validity shall be up to 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021).	

- Bidding documents will be issued on submission of a written application on the applicant's letterhead to the office of Project Director.
- Bidding documents can be collected between 09.30 hours and 15.30 hours on normal working days up to the closing date.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Project and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.
- Bids shall be either hand delivered or dispatched by registered post or courier to the address given above.
- All Bids will be opened at the same address soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. **Late bids will be returned unopened.**

**Project Director,**  
**Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Project**

ජල සැපයුම පිළිබඳ හදිසි අමතනු ලබන සඳහා ගාස්තු අයකිරීමෙන් තොර 1939 අංකය පැය 24 පුරාම ඔබ වෙනුවෙන් ක්‍රියාත්මකයි.  
පුරා ජල යෝජනාමය ගැටලු වෙනුවෙන් 1914 අමතන්න.



LANKA ELECTRICITY COMPANY (PVT) LIMITED

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited

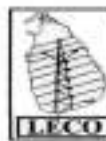
(Ref. ERD/SDD/PROC/2021/204/T006)

Sealed Bids are invited from the prospective suppliers to supply & delivery of

#### HV Bundled Conductor Accessories (Large Angle Assembly for ABC 185 sq.mm ) 100 Nos.

Bidding documents could be obtained from the Procurement Department, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, No. 411, E.H. Cooray Building, Galle Road, Colombo 03, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days, on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00. Bidding documents will be issued from 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 to 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. Draft bid document (Not for Bid) is available on [www.promise.lk](http://www.promise.lk) or [www.leco.lk](http://www.leco.lk) websites for reference purpose.

Completed Bid documents shall be addressed to General Manager, Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited under sealed cover. The Bid documents shall be placed in the Tender Box at the Ground Floor of the address below, not later than 2.00 p.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2021. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time, in the presence of the Bidders who wish to attend.



**General Manager,**  
Lanka Electricity Company (Private) Limited,  
411, Galle Road,  
Colombo 03.  
Tel: 011 2371660 / 2371637

# BANK OF CEYLON

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR CONSORTIUM CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR A BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

### Selection of a Consultant for Construction of a new "A" Grade Branch Building for Bank of Ceylon at Anuradhapura New Town and Regional Loan Centre Anuradhapura

#### BID NO. : BOC/PROP/P/2021/66

The Chairman, Corporate Procurement Committee on behalf of the Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, now invites proposals for consortium consultancy services from eligible and qualified Consultants for Construction of a new "A" Grade Branch Building for Bank of Ceylon at Anuradhapura New Town and Regional Loan Centre - Anuradhapura as described below and the construction cost is approximately Rs.82.0 million.

- The building is mainly to operate as an "A" Grade branch of BOC including banking hall with smart zone and regional loan center.
- Ample car parking facility to be provided and the minimum number of parking slots shall be complied with the regulatory requirements.
- Two storied building and expected total floor area is approximately 7600 sq.ft.
- It is expected to obtain a green certificate for the project.

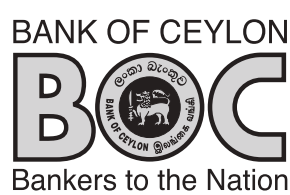
1. Selection of Consultants will be through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
2. A Consultancy organization will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures described in this Request For Proposals (RFP).
3. To be eligible to submit Request For Proposals(RFP), the Consultancy Firm should fulfill the following criteria :-

- Should be a company/firm registered in Sri Lanka for providing consultancy services for construction of buildings
- Should be an active Consortium Consultancy Service Provider during last five (5) years.
- Should have completed at least two (02) similar nature consortium consultancy assignment where the value of each construction exceeds Rs.66.0 million during last five (5) years.

(Failure to submit documentary evidence to prove above will lead to rejection of the proposal)

4. RFP may be inspected free of charge at the office of the Chief Manager (Properties and Procurement), 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, during 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs on working days from 19.04.2021 until 10.05.2021.
5. A complete set of RFP in English language may be purchased by interested Consultants on the submission of business registration and a written application to the Chief Manager (Properties and Procurement), 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1430 hrs from 19.04.2021 until 10.05.2021, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.3,780.00 including VAT (Rs.3,500.00 + Rs.280.00 VAT). The method of payment will be in Cash.
6. Sealed proposals shall be deposited in the Tender box available at the Ground Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01, or sent by registered post addressed to Chief Manager (Properties and Procurement), 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 to reach on or before 1000 hrs on 11.05.2021. Late proposals will not be accepted and returned unopened. Proposals will be opened immediately after closing of receiving Proposals. Representatives who are authorized in writing of the Consultancy firms may attend the opening.
7. The proposal shall be valid up to 12.08.2021.
8. The pre proposal meeting will be held at 1100 hrs on 28.04.2021 at Auditorium, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01.
9. For further details, please contact Chief Manager (Properties and Procurement), 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bank of Ceylon, "BOC Square", No. 01, Bank of Ceylon Mawatha, Colombo 01 on Telephone No. 0112-204269, 011-2544310 / 2204260.

**The Chairman,**  
Corporate Procurement Committee  
Bank of Ceylon,  
"BOC Square", No. 01,  
Bank of Ceylon Mawatha,  
Colombo 01.



[www.boc.lk](http://www.boc.lk)

## Classifieds

### Automotive



**Cars**  
For sale

**UP CAV-8636** Datsun Redigo, 2016, car for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0714542958. 028311



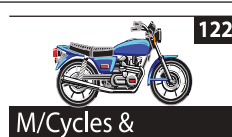
**Honda Cars**  
For sale

**SPKY-6240** Honda Fit Shuttle, 2013, car for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0714542958. 028307



**Jeeps & Pickups**  
For sale

**NW PD-0915** Nissan Navara, 2007, cab for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0714542958. 028305



**M/Cycles & T/Wheelers**  
For sale

**SG QJ-5837** Bajaj, 2007, WP AAO-4084 Bajaj, 2014, SP ABB-0962 Bajaj, 2015, threewheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0711210810. 028315

**Repeat Your ad For Better Offers**

## LEARN

### Supply of Dedicated Unprotected IPLC from Singapore to LEARN

Lanka Education and Research Network hereby requests quotations for supply of Dedicated Unprotected IPLC from Singapore to LEARN. The detailed document with requirements can be obtained at our office located at the Information Technology Centre, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya or by sending an email to [amo@learn.ac.lk](mailto:amo@learn.ac.lk) with the subject of the email as "RFQ - SUPPLY OF DEDICATED UNPROTECTED IPLC FROM SINGAPORE TO LEARN."

Sealed Quotations/Bid-response should be sent by registered post or hand delivered to Assistant Operations Manager, Lanka Education and Research Network, Information Technology Centre, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya on or before **11:30 AM on 03rd May 2021**. The tenders will be opened at 12:30 PM on the same day at the same address.

**Consultant**  
Lanka Education and Research Network  
[www.learn.ac.lk](http://www.learn.ac.lk)

**WP BCH-2072** Honda Dio, 2015, SG BIK-6616 Honda Dio, 2019, motorcycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0711210810. 028304

**WP BIA-7869** Yamaha Ray ZR, 2019, NC BGK-6222 Yamaha Ray ZR, 2018, NW BEH-8751 Bajaj CT100, 2016, motorcycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03. Tel: 0711210810. 028313

### Employment

**Positions Vacant**  
Professional

**Site Supervisor** Construction requirements - Should have at least 3 years working experience minimum NVQ Level 4 in Site Supervising preferred an applicant living close proximity, please forward your CV to: [splankaconsruction@gmail.com](mailto:splankaconsruction@gmail.com) on or before 31/04/2021. Further clarification Call: 0112178278 Site Location Passara Road, Matigahathanna. Salary negotiable. 028097

**Positions Vacant**  
General

**Pharmacy Sales** Asst. Males/Females with experience from Negombo area. Good salary, extra allowance. 0717508485. 027868

### General

**Tuition Available**

**Economics tuition** by Econ Master, BSc Finance, CIMA, First Ranker in School - 2021 Revision Sunday 8.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m., 2022 Theory Sunday 11.00 a.m. - 01.00 p.m., 2023 Theory Sunday 02.30 p.m. - 04.30 p.m. Whatsapp Now: 0776533337. 028798

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the **Daily News** should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.



## Invitation for Bids (IFB 02)

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
District Secretariat, Jaffna

### Procurement of Desktop Computers and Office Electronic Equipment

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the District Secretary, Jaffna invites sealed bids for the procurements mentioned in the table below from eligible and qualified bidders possessing a minimum laid down experience.
2. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**.
3. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna (Room No.42)** and inspect the Bidding Documents for free of charge at the same address on any working day from **9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m from 19.04.2021** or on **Jaffna District Secretariat's web site - [jaffna.dist.gov.lk](http://jaffna.dist.gov.lk) (only for reference and not for printed document)**. Contact numbers are : phone - 021 221 4633 or 021 222 2233, 021 222 2234 (Ext. - 140), Facsimile : 021 221 4633, Email- [jkprocurementunit@gmail.com](mailto:jkprocurementunit@gmail.com)
4. A complete set of bidding documents in English language shall be obtained by interested bidders from the **Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna only**, on any working days from **19.04.2021 up to 04.05.2021 between 9.00 am and 2.30 pm** on submission of a written request with a certified copy of Business Registration Certificate and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as described in the table below.
5. Bids should be submitted **only on the documents obtainable from the Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna** and Securely Sealed bids shall be sent by registered post addressed to **The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, District Secretariat, Jaffna or deposited in the Tender Box available at the Procurement Unit, District Secretariat, Jaffna on or before 05.05.2021, 10.30 a.m.** Late bids will be rejected. Original and duplicate bids should be enveloped separately and the both envelopes (Original & Duplicate) should be sealed in one envelope. Bidders should write the **Goods description and Bid No.** on the top left hand corner of this envelope. Bids will be opened at **10.30 a.m on the same day** in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
6. Pre bid meeting will be held at District Secretariat, Jaffna on **27.04.2021** at 10.30 a.m
7. Procurement Committee will keep the right to make final decision in regard to accept or reject Bids.

S/ N	BID ID & Description of Goods	Items and Qty	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security Amount (Rs.) Valid Period Up to	Non Refundable fee Rs.	
01	JK/PROC/Office electronic/06/03 2021  Desktop Computers & other Office Electronic Equipment	Desktop Computer i3	30	Rs. 5.25 million	Rs. 80,500.00 17.08.2021	Rs. 2,600.00
		Desktop Computer i5	10			
		Desktop Computer i7	05			
		UPS 650VA	41			
		DSLR Camera & Camera External Flash	01			
		Camera Tripod	01			
		Laser Fax Machine	01			
		USB Head Phone	01			
		Voice Recorder w/ Conference Microphone	01			
		40" LED TV	01			
10.1 Tab	01					
AA AAA Rechargeable Battery and Chargers	02					

**The Chairman,**  
Department Procurement Committee (DPC),  
District Secretariat,  
Jaffna.