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Ramanna Chief Prelate welcomes Govt's decision to convey facts on Port City Bill

IRANGIKA RANGE
Sri Lanka Ramanna Nikaya Chief Prelate Most Ven. Makulewe Wimala Nayake Thera said that the Maha Sangha appreciates the Government's decision to convey the true facts with regard to the Port City Economic Commission Bill to all religious leaders.
The President's decision to

make aware the Maha Sangha and other religious leaders regarding the Port City Economic Commission Bill is highly appreciated since there are various allegations and rumours about the Bill, the Chief Prelate said.
Most Ven. Makulewe Wimala Nayake Thera has expressed these views to State Finance Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal

and Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga when they visited Maha Nayake Thera to brief him about the functions related to the Port City on the instructions of the President.
State Minister Cabraal told the Maha Nayake Thera that the Port City will be vested only with the Government of Sri Lanka and no one else. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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42nd OBSERVER MOBTEL SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020
Observer SLT Mobitel Schools Cricketers of the Year 2020 today
All arrangements are in place for the 42nd Observer SLT Mobitel Schools Cricketers of the Year 2020 to be held at the BMICH today starting at 5.30 p.m.
Former Sri Lankan captain and ex-Chairman of Selectors Sanath Jayasuriya will be the Chief Guest while Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella will be the Guest of Honour.
There has been a tremendous interest in all corners of the country ever since the beginning of the contest, making it the Mother-of-All-Shows. This prestigious event, started in 1978/79 and is organized by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) and sponsored by the country's national mobile service provider Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel. **See page 16**

State Minister Susil Premajayantha clarifies

AMENDMENTS POSSIBLE FOR PORT CITY BILL

Claims of separatism dismissed Western Province to have jurisdiction



DINULI FRANCISCO
Education Reforms, Open Universities and Distance Learning Promotion State Minister Susil Premajayantha yesterday asserted that the

Colombo Port City will not be a separate entity and will fall under the jurisdiction of the Western Province.
State Minister Premajayantha said that amendments can

be done based on the Supreme Court verdict regarding the petitions on the Port City Commission Bill. "The Supreme Court can guide us through the process." **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Record Rs.349 m earned from Expressways during festive season



IRANGIKA RANGE
Highways Minister Johnston Fernando said a record Rs.349 million has been earned from expressways during the 11 days of the festive season.
During the 11 days of the festive season over 1.2 million vehicles had used the Colombo-Katunayake Expressway, Colombo Outer Circular Expressway and the Southern Expressway.
The highest number of vehicles amounting to 141 187, that used the Expressways during this period was on April 10 bringing a total income of over Rs.38 million.
The Minister made these remarks after receiving a detailed report on road traffic accidents and revenue from the entire Expressways network from the Acting Director, Expressway Operations, Maintenance and Management Division yesterday.

List of banned sports stimulants to be tabled in Parliament

Minister Namal
The official text of the prohibited list, including banned stimulants, introduced by the World Anti-Doping Agency in 2021 for various sports is scheduled to be presented to Parliament for its approval on April 21, states Youth and Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa.
The Minister stated the above at the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Youth and Sports held in the Parliament Complex yesterday.
The World Anti-Doping Programme annually publishes a list of prohibited stimulants for various sports. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Commencing duties for the New Year, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa met the Ministers, Parliamentarians and members of his staff at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday. The President said that all should work with more commitment and dedication to make the people's aspirations a reality. Picture shows the President greeting Ministers Wimal Weerawansa and Udaya Gammanpila. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

'Irresponsible behaviour could lead to COVID-19 spread'

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA
Health authorities yesterday warned that the spread of COVID-19 could increase if people continue to act irresponsibly.
Speaking to the media Deputy Director-General of Health Services Dr S.M. Arnold said that the Health Ministry had issued a set of COVID-19 health guidelines for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year season in order to prevent the further spread of the virus. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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Bring financial control of Port City under Parliament's purview - Kiriella
AELA KURULUWANA and SHAVINI MADHARA
The financial control of the Colombo Port City should be brought under the purview of Parliament, said Chief Opposition Whip Parliamentarian Lakshman Kiriella. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Observe two minutes' silence on April 21 - Cardinal

LAHIRU FERNANDO
Archbishop of Colombo Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith yesterday requested all Sri Lankans and religious places to observe two minutes' silence at 8.45 a.m. tomorrow (21) in remembrance of the victims of the deadly Easter Sunday Terror Attacks that took place two years ago.
Addressing the media at the Bishop's House in Colombo, the Colombo Archbishop said there will be special masses at all churches islandwide with the main commemoration to be held at St. Anthony's Shrine, Kochchikade to remember all those who died in the attacks. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



AG files appeal against granting bail to Bond Scam suspects

DILSHAN THARAKA
Attorney General Dappula de Livera filed an appeal in the Supreme Court challenging the order of the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar granting bail to the suspects in the Treasury Bond Scam case involving the Bond auction in 2016, Coordinating Officer to the Attorney General State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said.
On April 1, Former Minister Ravi Karunanayake and Seven others, who were remanded in connection with two separate cases related to the frauds that took place at the third bond auction held on March 29 and 31, 2016, were released on bail by the Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar.
The Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar issued the order for bail rejecting the **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Four institutions summoned before COPE, COPA

Four institutions have been summoned this week before the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) and the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA), Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake said.
Accordingly, the Sri Lanka Football Federation was summoned before **▶ TO PAGE 02**

SC commences hearing into Port City Economic Commission Bill

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA
The Supreme Court yesterday commenced hearing into the Special Determination petitions filed challenging the constitutionality of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill.
A Supreme Court five-judge-bench comprising Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, Justice Murdu Fernando and Justice Janak de Silva **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Maharagama UC female members clash: One arrested

SAMEERA ABEYSINGHE
Nugegoda group correspondent
A female member of the Maharagama Urban Council (UC) has been arrested for assaulting another female Urban Council member on April 15.
Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said that following a complaint received by the Maharagama Police, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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FIRE PROOF

Navy to enhance Northern surveillance operations

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE Northern Province Special
The Sri Lanka Navy will enhance its surveillance operations in the Northern seas to monitor the behaviour of the local and Indian fishermen in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and illegal businesses.

Accordingly, the Naval officers will be on alert on the Indian fishermen entering the local seas by crossing the international sea border.

India is currently experiencing a sudden increase of COVID-19 spread. As well, it has been revealed that the fishermen of both countries are exchanging goods at sea during their fishing rounds.

Therefore, the Sri Lanka Navy will increase night patrols and surveillance operations to minimize such incidents.

Man transporting Rs.10 m worth heroin arrested

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

A man was arrested on Sunday night (18) while transporting 126 grammes and 105 milligrammes of heroin worth around Rs.10 million in a car, Galle police said. The suspect is a 25-year-old married man residing in Bope, Galle.

Police had given chase to his car on a tip-off and stopped it after much effort. Following the inspection of the car at Ambalanwatta, Galle, the stock of heroin together with Rs.38,000 in cash, two mobile phones and an electronic weighing scale were found.

The suspect was to be produced before courts yesterday evening.

Alleged theft of water meters: PS Chairman, four others remanded

PRADEEP KUMARA DHAMARATNE

Five suspects including Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman of the United National Party, Lakshman Rajakaruna who were arrested by the Deraniyagala Police over the alleged theft of 98 water meters belonging to the National Water Supply and Drainage Board were ordered to be remanded till May 3 by Avillsawella Magistrate Janaka Samarasinghe yesterday.

Deraniyagala Police arrested the PS Chairman in Dehiowita for allegedly stealing 98 water meters at a NWS&DB project

office in Kamburugama on Sunday.

The Magistrate ordered the lawyer who appeared for the suspect to submit the bail application in writing on May 3 to consider granting bail to the suspect.

The Police was also ordered to file a further report with regard to the suspects on May 3. Police had found the water meters from the house of the PS Chairman's mother. Police informed Court that these water meters were stacked in boxed when they found them. Police have recorded a statement from the suspect's mother.

Observe two minutes'... From page 01

"Envoys from various countries based in Sri Lanka including the Apostolic Nuncio have been invited to participate in this event which will be represented by multi-religious leaders," he said.



On behalf of Pope Francis, the Apostolic Nuncio will address the occasion and convey his condolences to the affected families.

Commenting on the attack, the Archbishop said that although it was an attack targeting the Catholic community, individuals belonging to all the communities were affected. He said that there can be similar attacks taking place targeting other communities in the future.

Meanwhile, the Archbishop yesterday announced that all Catholic schools islandwide will be closed on April 21 in line with the commemoration.

Bring financial control... From page 01



Speaking at a media briefing in Kandy, MP Kiriella added that Parliament oversees the accounts of Government-affiliated institutions once a year and the COPE, COPA and the Finance Committee do not have the power to inspect the Port City's accounts.

He further says that the Government is in the process of selling Sri Lankan resources to China and India by making false promises to the people of the country.

He also stated that this Government has taken steps to oppress the people without paying any attention to the control of the prices of essential commodities.

MP Kiriella noted that although other countries where the COVID-19 virus was prevalent had controlled the prices of essential commodities and provided relief to the people, such a situation is not seen in Sri Lanka.

Maharagama UC... From page 01

The 49-year-old alleged perpetrator was arrested by the Police and produced before the Nugegoda Magistrate's Court yesterday.

She was released on two sureties of Rs.200,000 each by the Nugegoda Magistrate Prasanna de Alwis.

"The victim had been admitted to the Sri Jayawardanapura General Hospital for treatment due to severe pain in her arm and abdomen," Police said.

"When she attended the funeral of a retired Deputy Urban Councillor at the Godigamuwa Public Cemetery in Maharagama on April 15, the perpetrator had approached and pushed her away after an argument over a development project," Police said.

The victim had stated that she went home after the incident which took place at around 5.30 p.m. and was admitted to the hospital at around 9 p.m. due to abdominal pain. Maharagama Police are investigating.

'Irresponsible behaviour... From page 01

But certain sections of society had acted in an irresponsible manner during the New Year season.

He said that certain countries are now facing the third and fourth waves of the COVID pandemic. But as a result of the collective effort of all responsible groups, Sri Lanka has been able to successfully contain the virus so far.

Dr. Arnold further said that the Health Ministry would not hesitate to take strict legal action if people continued to act irresponsibly.

As of yesterday morning (19), a total of 357 more persons were confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Seventy Sri Lankan expatriates and 287 of those positive cases are locally-identified ones, including the majority 63 from Colombo District, 50 from Kurunegala District, 41 from Gampaha District and 133 others from different Districts, the National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) stated.

By yesterday morning (19), a total of 96,795 persons, inclusive of 91,786 of the fish market and Minuwangoda Brandix cluster have been confirmed positive from all over the country and 93,112 fully recovered COVID-19 patients have been so far discharged from hospitals. The rest (3,065) are still under treatment in hospitals and care centres.

In the past 24 hours, 281 recovered patients have left hospitals. One death has been reported in the past 24 hours. Accordingly, the COVID-19 death toll in the country remained at 618 by yesterday morning (19).

As of yesterday morning (19), 10,500 persons in 104 tri service-managed Quarantine Centers are still in quarantine. On Sunday (18), 4,286 PCR tests were conducted.

List of banned sports... From page 01

and where sports persons unknowingly or unintentionally use these substances to enhance their skills would constitute a reason for them to be disqualified from that event or would resort to some other form of action.

Accordingly, the list updated annually and maintained by WADA post an extensive consultation process which would come to effect from the 01st of January to 31st December 2021 is scheduled to be presented to Parliament.

Substances not to be used by participants of various sporting events, prohibited methods in competition, prohibited at all times, specified and non-specified including substance of abuse are listed out accordingly.



Four institutions... From page 01

The Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) on April 22 and the National Film Corporation on April 23.

Meanwhile, the Department of Wildlife Conservation is scheduled to appear on April 21 to discuss the 'Conservation of Muthurajawela Wetland' before the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) and the Inland Revenue Department on April 23 to inquire into Taxes and Penalties in Default to be Recovered from Taxpayers.

In addition, the COPA Sub Committee on Registration of Vehicles Imported for Special Purposes as Dual Purpose and HS Codes has re-summoned the relevant agencies on April 20.

AG files appeal... From page 01

application made by the prosecution to have the accused remanded until the end of the case.

Accordingly, Former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL) beneficiary owner Arjun Aloysius, PTL Chief Dealer Kasun Palisena, Chairman of PTL Jeffrey Joseph Aloysius, Chitta Ranjan Hulugalle, an executive officer of the Public Debt Department of the Central Bank Sangarapillai Padumathan and, an executive officer of the Employees Provident Fund Indika Saman Kumara were released on bail.

The Colombo High Court Trial-at-Bar granted bail to each of the accused on a cash bail of Rs. 1 million and two sureties of Rs.10 million.

The indictments were filed against the 10 accused in the Colombo High Court by the Attorney General. They are: Perpetual Treasuries Private Ltd, former Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake, CBSL former Governor Arjuna Mahendran, Perpetual Treasuries Limited (PTL) beneficiary owner Arjun Aloysius, PTL Chief dealer Kasun Palisena, Chairman of PTL Jeffrey Joseph Aloysius, Chitta Ranjan Hulugalle, Muthuraja Surendran, Ajahn Gardiye Panchihewa, Badugoda Hewa Indika Saman Kumara.

The Attorney General alleged that the accused could be charged for conspiracy to commit criminal misappropriation in respect of treasury bonds to the face value of Rs. 36.98 billion and Rs. 15 billion respectively in March, 2016.

SC commences hearing into Port... From page 01

fixed the petitions for further hearing for today (20). President's Counsel Kanag-Isvaran appearing for the Center for Policy Alternatives and Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) argued that International laws do not recognise an artificially created land as a sovereign territory. Kanag-Isvaran said territory is recognized as naturally created land. He contended that the proposed bill has erroneously recognised this artificially created land as a crown land.

"Offshore banking businesses are not subjected to banking laws in the country. The banking laws and company act regulations would not apply to this specific territory. The monetary board would have no oversight over offshore banks. This will be a heaven for casino and money laundering," Kanag-Isvaran added.

Counsel Darshana Weraduwage appearing for the President of the Association of Information Technology Professionals Sri Lanka (AITP) Kapila Renuka Perera raised preliminary objections against the proposed bill. Weraduwage claimed that the Bill was submitted to Parliament in an unconstitutional manner because it was not referred to any Provincial Council, despite the fact that the territory in question is situated within the Western Province.

He further said the proposed Bill would breach the people's sovereignty and franchise rights guaranteed by Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Constitution because the business entity would be operating without the representatives of the Republic.

President's Counsel M.A. Sumanthiran appearing for Civil Society Activist Gamini Viyangoda said the judicial power of the country has been taken away by the Port City project as it proposed to resolve disputes by way of compulsory arbitration. Sumanthiran said the project would also bring benefits for people who are not residents of Sri Lanka.

Counsel Eraj de Silva appearing for UNP General Sec-

retary Palitha Range Bandara, Ronald Perera PC appearing for UNP Chairman, Counsel Shanthe Jayawardena appearing for former JVP MP Wasantha Samarasinghe also made their oral submissions.

Further submissions are to be resumed today at 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris, Secretary to the President Dr. P.B. Jayasundera, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) General Secretary Attorney-At-Law Sagara Kariyawasam, SLPP Lawyers' Association, Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers had sought the Court's permission to intervene into these Special Determination petitions.

The Chief Justice announced that intervention petitioners would be given an opportunity to present their submissions after the conclusion of the submissions of petitioners.

Nineteen petitions have been filed so far against the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill. They are by; Samagi Jana Balawegaya General Secretary Ranjith Madduma Bandara, SJB Parliamentarian Harshana Rajakaruna, former JVP Parliamentarian Wasantha Samarasinghe, UNP Chairman Vajira Abeywardena, UNP General Secretary Palitha Range Bandara, Oshala Herath, Dr. Ajantha Perera, Jeran Jagatheesan who contested the 2020 General Election under the UNP ticket, President of BASL Saliya Pieris PC, BASL Secretary Rajiv Amarauriya, Engineer Kapila Renuka Perera, Centre for Policy Alternatives and its Executive Director Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), Ven. Muruthettuwa Ananda Thera, G.S. Shyamalee, Nagananda Kodituwakku, Rajika Kodituwakku and Trade Union activist Lesley Devendra.

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.

AMENDMENTS POSSIBLE FOR PORT CITY BILL... From page 01

If there should be amendments to the Bill, the Supreme Court will point them out," he said.

Premajayantha was speaking at a media briefing held at the Government Information Department yesterday. State Minister Premajayantha elaborated that Article 5 of the Constitution clearly states that "the territory of the Republic of Sri Lanka shall consist of 25 Administrative Districts, the names of which are set out in the first schedule". Accordingly, the Colombo Port City will be a part of the Colombo District. "The 72nd page of the Bill carries further evidence in this regard. The Bill clearly states the boundaries [of Port City] directing towards North, South, East and West," he added.

"Although the Colombo Port City Bill is exempted from several laws such as the Urban Development Act, the Municipal Council Ordinance, the commercial Mediation Centre of Sri Lanka Act, Town and Country Planning Ordinance etc., it will follow the Sri Lankan Civil and Criminal Law in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Sri Lanka," the State Minister said.

He said that Special Economic Zones

(SEZs) are not totally new to the country and the main purpose of this Bill is to attract more Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). "When considering the current situation of the world with the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great chance for us to move forward as a country," he added.

"The Port City Commission appointed by the President consisting of eminent professionals authorizes the companies or individuals to engage in business in this particular Zone. The Commission decides to whom the licenses pertaining to lands will go and who will be allowed to do business," the State Minister said. The State Minister also rejected claims that the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill will be creating another "Eelam". "President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa are the two main pillars that took down Eelam. The general public is intelligent enough to weigh the baseless allegations being made by the Opposition."

The state Minister also said that the Colombo Port City Economic Commission will have transparency in its financial transactions. "Financial transac-

tions of the Commission will be audited by an internationally recognized audit firm on an annual basis and the reports should be submitted to the President and the Parliament. None of the audit firms will do any act that tarnishes their brand name by foul play, they will stick to their norms and transparency is guaranteed," he added. Citing from the Bill, he added: "The funds of the Commission shall be audited annually by qualified auditors in terms of article 154 of the Constitution."

He pointed out that the Bill should be approved by Parliament and if rejected, it would not come into effect. "The Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill is only a draft. This will be included in the Order Book and debated in Parliament. There is plenty of room to have Amendments."

He also refuted reports that Colombo Port City will become a Chinese Colony. "The Port City project will generate employment opportunities for 80,000-130,000 persons, which will lead to a massive development in the country. An International Arbitration Centre will also be established which can also have myriad of benefits," he explained.

Ramanna Chief Prelate... From page 01

"Moreover, all other laws applicable to Sri Lanka will be in effect within the Port City as well. Therefore, it is wrong to misguide the people by say-

ing that the Port City is a separate entity free from the Parliament's monetary power," he has added.

Tourism Minister Prasanna Rana-

tunga said the Bill has been challenged in the Supreme Court. Therefore, there is no need to cause any unnecessary panic regarding the Bill.

REGISTRATION OF TEA LANDS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE ORIGINAL REGISTRATION

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Govt. will never betray country - State Minister Lanza



The Rajapaksa brought peace to the country by ending a 30 year terrorist war, said State Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure Nimal Lanza.

He said the Rajapaksa have always worked to protect and defend the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty without betraying the nation.

Lanza was speaking to the media at a function held in Ja-Ela recently.

The State Minister further said: "The Opposition is always making baseless accusations. We are working as a Government. The President is a leader who clearly loves the country. It was the Rajapaksa who ended the 30-year war and brought peace to the

country. "Everyone has the democratic right to express their views. The Government will never obstruct anyone from expressing their views. It can be clearly stated that as a Government, the President does not take decisions that are unfavourable to the country. He always takes decisions in the best interest of the nation. No Bill can be passed without bringing it to Parliament," he said.

"The Colombo Port Economic Zones Special Commission Bill has been brought to Parliament. Anyone can go to Court within the stipulated timeframe and point out any wrongdoings. If there are mistakes, we can correct them. If not, the Bill can be passed in Parliament. No Bill

can be passed in secrecy. Acts were secretly passed during the period of the Good Governance Government. It was during the period of Good Governance Government that the Hambantota Port deal was signed. Bills are not passed in a secret manner by our Government," Lanza added.

"The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna is the main party in Government. There are many other constituent parties within the main party. Those parties have the opportunity to hold meetings and freely express their views. This is the true essence of democracy. The constituent parties hold

meetings on ways to strengthen the Government. We see it as a very good thing for the Government. Everyone in the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna is of the same viewpoint on major issues. Today, the President has proved that he is a leader who listens to the peo-

ple. The majority of the people are satisfied with the programme being carried out by the President and the Government," State Minister Lanza said.



Veteran journalist Mohan Samaranayake assumed duties as the Director General of Government Information Department yesterday. With four decades of experience in the field of journalism, Samaranayake entered the profession as an assistant writer for the *Dawasa* newspaper. Thereafter, he served as an Assistant Editor at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and held the position of News Director at Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for nearly five years. He later served as the head of the United Nations Information Centre in Colombo. Samaranayake held the post of Chairman of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and also served as the Director General of the Presidential Media Division.

Caroline Jurie, Chula Padmendra granted bail



Caroline Jurie and Chula Padmendra

SHAVINI MADHARA

Reigning Mrs. World Caroline Jurie and former model Chula Padmendra, who were arrested and released on Police bail over the incident which took place at the Mrs. Sri Lanka pageant on April 4 were ordered to be released on bail by Colombo Chief Magistrate Buddhika Sri Ragala yesterday.

Jurie and Padmendra were released on a surety of Rs.100,000 each.

On April 8 the Cinnamon Gardens Police had arrested the two individuals when they came to record a statement.

The Cinnamon Garden Police informed the Magistrate that the two individuals had refused to apologize the winner of the Mrs. Sri Lanka beauty pageant 2020 Pushpika de Silva.

It was reported that Pushpika had also refused to settle the matter without an apology and the Police had arrested reigning Mrs. World and former model who appeared on the stage suddenly during the incident, Police stated.

However, later they were released on Police bail.

At the Mrs. Sri Lanka pageant which was held at Nelumpokuna on April 4, reigning Mrs. World and Mrs. Sri Lanka 2019 Caroline Jurie had snatched the crown from Pushpika de Silva, the winner of the Mrs. Sri Lanka beauty pageant 2020.

Soon after Pushpika de Silva won the title as Mrs. Sri Lanka 2020, Mrs. World Caroline Jurie snatched her crown claiming that Pushpika was disqualified as she was a divorcee and only a married woman could hold the title of Mrs. Sri Lanka.

The video regarding the crown being snatched by Mrs. World went viral on Social Media, Television, and many other platforms.

According to the video while Jurie was snatching the crown from Pushpika, former model Chula Padmendra also came on to the stage from the rear section and assisted Jurie to remove the crown while shouting at Pushpika.

Death of Sri Lankan in Japan: Family seeks answers

Family members of a Sri Lankan woman who died while in custody at an immigration detention facility in Japan have asked for facts about her death.

The mother and two sisters of the woman held an online news conference from Sri Lanka on Friday.

The woman in her 30s died on March 6 at a facility of the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau in the central prefecture of Aichi.

She arrived in Japan in 2017 and was taken into custody after overstaying her visa from 2019.

Last Friday, the Immigration Services Agency released an interim report on her death. The report said she was diagnosed as possibly suffering from reflux esophagitis and mental illness from January, and that she received medication.

Her mother said her daughter went to Japan to teach English because she was interested in Japanese culture. The mother also said she first opposed the idea of her daughter going abroad alone, but raised money to send her to Japan after learning the country is safe.

She said the interim report does not explain why emergency medical care, such as intravenous drips, was not provided when it was clear that her daughter was dying.

The mother asked for a police investigation that will establish facts about her daughter's death, and added that she has not been shown photos or videos that clarify what happened. (NHK)

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Two Years On: Geopolitics of the 2019 Easter Sunday Carnage

PART I

DARINI RAJASINGHAM SENANAYAKE

“We have met the enemy and he is us”—Walt Kelly from Pogo Comics, quoted in “The ISIS is the US: the shocking truth behind the Army of Terror”

On the first Sunday of March 2021 church congregations in Sri Lanka were joined by Buddhist monks and prominent Muslims for a multi-religious protest to mark “Black Sunday”; the second anniversary of the deadly Easter Sunday suicide bombings that rocked the country two years ago, killing 279 people and injuring many more.

Local and national religious leaders, aware of the ongoing weaponisation, fragmentation, and use of religion/s against core values such as *ahimsa* or non-violence, by external actors interested in advancing their geopolitical interests in this strategically located Indian Ocean island, stood together to call for justice and accountability for the victims of the mysterious ISIS-claimed attacks. Protestors held placards and demanded: “Tell us who the masterminds are?”

The simultaneous attacks staged at seven different luxury tourist hotels and coastal churches at Easter 2019 were mysteriously claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (IS), far from this strategic Indian Ocean island.

The carnage that sent the country into lockdown and the economy into a tailspin was clearly designed, hybrid-war style, to cause maximum damage to both the economy and society. The attack was clearly staged by a global-local network while the design of the crime reflected foreign interests.

Sri Lanka is in the crosshairs of great power rivalry as a hybrid cyber-Cold War unfolds in the rapidly militarising Indian Ocean region as big states use transnational religious networks and cultural ‘soft power’ and religious terror narratives including the Islamophobic ISIS narrative, which Delhi-based academic Saeed Naqvi has deemed a ‘diplomatic asset’, to cultivate local-global networks of political influence and bi-partisan corruption rackets to advance their geo-strategic interests.

While the attack on hotels was meant to cripple the tourist-dependent and highly indebted island economy, the attack on churches was meant to cause a cascade of inter-religious violence and destabilisation



of this multi-religious country, rendering it vulnerable to foreign boots on the ground or even to a foreign military base being set up to purportedly ‘protect Christians from ISIS terror’ in the rapidly militarising Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

However, since Christians and Muslims are minorities in this Buddhist-Hindu cultural majority country and have historically enjoyed excellent inter-religious relations, it appeared that the foreign masterminds behind the Easter crime had miscalculated and imported a Euro-American “Clash of Civilisations” narrative that has little traction in multi-religious South Asian context. There was no local history or motive for a clash of civilisations between Christians and Muslims who had amicable interreligious relations on the island.

From a local perspective, the designers of the crime seemed to have targeted the wrong religious community, and so the master plan behind the deadly Easter crime began to unravel when Colombo Archbishop His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith declaring that the attacks were staged by international actors who benefit from destabilising regions and countries and weapons sales.

It was in this context that the powerful Buddhist clergy of Sri Lanka, who have historically confronted colonial projects, backed the Archbishop’s demand for accountability and joined the Black Sunday protest to compel the Government of Sri Lanka to deliver the truth about the masterminds behind the attacks since the recently released Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCoI) Report into the crime had revealed no new analysis regarding those behind the attacks.

For non-recurrence of such violence, identifying the masterminds and holding them accountable would be surely imperative.

Fundamental questions unanswered

Fundamental questions, or perhaps co-incidences such as why the leader of the attacks, Zaharan Hashim and a second suicide bomber both targeted



and died at the Chinese owned super luxury Shangri La Hotel on Colombo’s seafont rather than in a church or Buddhist temple if their crime was primarily religiously motivated, have been ignored in investigations.

Aside from Shangri La the other hotels and churches that were bombed were hit by just a single suicide bomber. There is absolutely no evidence to indicate that Zaharan Hashim, leader of the National Thowheed Jamaat (NTJ), the obscure group blamed locally, knew about or was concerned about Uyghurs in China.

Intelligence experts also pointed out that a leader of a terror group would never kill himself at the outset and suggested that the attacks were staged by other actors fronting the local NTJ, which espoused the Saudi Wahhabi-Salafi project initiated during the Cold War years to weaponise Islam as a bulwark against communist and socialist ideologies.

Four Chinese marine scientists in Sri Lanka for joint marine exploration lost their lives in the attack on the Kingsbury Hotel. Remarkably, the US and Indian owned, Hilton and Taj Hotels that are next to Shangri La were untouched.

The global and local narrative after the Easter carnage focused on religious motivations in the Easter attack and elided the economic and geopolitical dimensions, while some foreign experts suggested that they were staged in retaliation for attacks on a mosque in New Zealand, a claim that was dismissed by New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

Too many strategic Chinese targets to be a coincidence? Did the designers of the Easter attacks use religion as a partial smoke screen? While media attention and investigations have been focused on the churches that came under attack, the media narrative has been crafted to obscure the vital facts of the crime that may provide clues to the masterminds and messaging evident in the geopolitics behind the Easter carnage and its economic motives.

There has been a veritable infodemic regarding swords in mosques in the local



media although no one died of sword attacks. Various other stories about ISIS setting up a Caliphate in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka were circulated by international experts.

Since answers to fundamental questions were missing after two years of investigations, people from all religious communities on the island came together to voice their disappointment with the Report of the PCoI, that increasingly appeared to be a bi-partisan party political ‘cover up’, especially of the international actors behind the attack. It was perceived by many locals as part of a larger hybrid war on both the economy and society of Sri Lanka caught in the midst of a Cold War waged by the USA and its NATO allies and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad friends, on China.

In the wake of the attacks, then Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera announced that the US Govt. was ready to disburse US\$ 450 million as a Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), ‘grant’ that would give US companies access to land and transport sectors to be re-structured despite a great deal of opposition from Sri Lankan Trade Unions and civil society groups.

Local-global networks

Seven simultaneous suicide bombings in the East and West coasts shook Sri Lanka on a bright quiet Easter morning with Hollywood style ‘shock and awe’ precision in April 2019. Youthful bombers with backpacks targeted seafont luxury tourist hotels

and churches killing more than 279 people and injuring many more. Four tourist hotels in Colombo and three churches on the West and East Coasts of the country were targeted.

In the aftermath the country’s already debt-trapped, tourist-dependent economy and multicultural society went into a tailspin and lockdown, seemingly a dry run for the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns. The latter was imposed with four hours prior notice in 2020 again crippling the economy although COVID-19 data indicates that the illness is milder than seasonal flu in Sri Lanka, as in other countries in Southeast Asia, such as Vietnam Laos and Cambodia.

The leader of the small group of suicide bombers, Zaharan of the NTJ, and a second suicide bomber struck the brand new glittering Chinese-owned Shangri La Hotel on Colombo’s luxury hotel strip.

The fact that two suicide bombers, including the leader Zaharan, targeted a Chinese asset Shangri La Hotel, indicated that it was the ‘Jewel in the Crown’ of the Easter bombings. St Anthony’s church, famous for miracles, attracts people of all faiths—Buddhists, Hindus and occasional Muslims and overlooks the busiest and most

strategic port of South Asia was also bombed. The church was one of the three most important targets after the Hong Kong-owned Shangri La Hotel and Kingsbury Hotel where the four Chinese marine scientists were killed.

The economic and geopolitical targets of the attacks seemed designed to send a coded message to China—hands-off Sri Lanka’s maritime domain. This strategically located Indian Ocean Island sits at the centre of the busiest trade, communication and energy shipping routes and more importantly, at a spaghetti junction of Submarine Undersea Data Cables (UDCs), which carry over 90 percent of data that keeps the global economy and financial system going amidst COVID-19 lockdowns and is vital to secure what the United States terms its “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.”

(IDN-DepthNews)
(The writer is a cultural and medical anthropologist with research expertise in international political economy, peace, and development studies in South and South-East Asia. Her research spans issues in gender and women’s empowerment, migration and multiculturalism, ethno-religious identity politics, new and old Diasporas and global religion, particularly, transnational Theravada Buddhist networks in the Asia-Pacific region. Darini was a Senior Lecturer at the Open University of Sri Lanka. Her Bachelor’s degree is from Brandeis University and her MA and PhD are from Princeton University.)





State Ministry of Skills Development,
Vocational Education, Research & Innovation

CONGRATULATIONS!

NSBM CONVOCATION WEEK - FOR YEAR 2020

20TH - 23RD APRIL 2021-AT THE NSBM AUDITORIUM

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CONVOCATION WEEK - FOR YEAR 2020

- 20th - 21st April 2021 - National School of Business Management, Sri Lanka
- 21st - 22nd April 2021 - University of Plymouth, UK
- 23rd April 2021 - University College Dublin, Ireland
- 23rd April 2021 - Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia
- 23rd April 2021 - Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia



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India seeks early PC Elections: Jaishankar

India supports the call of the international community for the Sri Lankan Government to fulfill its commitments on devolution of political authority including through early holding of elections to Provincial Councils, according to S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister.

This also covers the commitment of ensuring that all the Provincial Councils are able to operate effectively in accordance with the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka. Dr. Jaishankar has stated in his letter sent recently to the AIADMK's Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) M. Thambi Durai.

The Minister's reply was in the

context of the AIADMK leader raising the Sri Lankan Tamil issue in the Rajya Sabha last month in the context of a resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Pointing out that the position of India was conveyed during the deliberations on the motion at the Council, Dr. Jaishankar said the country voted in abstention at the UNHRC but it made a "strong statement" as Explanation of Vote, stressing "our abiding commitment to aspirations of the Tamils of Sri Lanka for equality, justice, peace and dignity." It had also urged the Sri Lankan Government "to carry forward the process of reconciliation, address the aspirations of the

Tamil community and continue to engage constructively with the international community."

During the consideration of the resolution at the Council on reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, he said India had remained "closely in touch" with all countries and made a statement at the interactive debate on February 25, outlining its position.

Assuring Thambi Durai that "all efforts are being made to ensure that the safety and interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka are fully safeguarded," the Minister said the country "attaches high importance" to the matter. (*The Hindu*)



Leaders of the parties in the Sri Lanka Nidahas Sandanaya, led by the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, met at Temple Trees yesterday under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to discuss how May Day is to be celebrated this year. The party leaders drew attention to hold May Day rallies without the usual marches, in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines. Former President Maithripala Sirisena, Presidential Task Force Chairman Basil Rajapaksa, and Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris were also present.

One month remembrance



TUAN FAREED HALLALDEEN (TONY)

19.03.1940 - 20.03.2021

Allah will say to the righteous, "O tranquil soul! Return to your Lord, well-pleased with Him and well-pleasing to Him. So join My servants, and enter My Paradise." (Quran, 89:27-30)

Lovingly remembered by wife Seenar; children Sabina (Tina), Nilam, Rizan, Shahir, Farik; daughters-in-law, Rabia, Nasrin (Zeeniya), Muneera and (late) Shahana and grandchildren Nastashia, Senashia, Tehaani, Nataasha, Nishra, Rilhan, Raqib, Maleehah, Mishka, Amal and Mikaael.

NCB seizes 340 kg heroin and arrests 5

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Monday seized nearly 340 kg of heroin from a Sri Lankan shipping boat and arrested five people for drug trafficking in Kochi, people familiar with the matter said.

Initial interrogation of the five men has led the NCB to believe that the Sri Lankan boat had picked up the drug consignment from a red-coloured Iranian boat. The NCB hasn't clarified the intended destination of the drug consignment.

Officials said the Indian naval ship Suvarna intercepted the Lankan boat "DU Shashila" in the high seas of the Indian Ocean on suspicion of drug trafficking and brought the boat to Kochi's Mattancherry Wharf for an extensive search by the NCB.

The preliminary search did not yield anything. But a thorough hunt for the narcotics led investigators to the 340 packets of heroin concealed in ice in the boat's cargo hold. A senior NCB official said each packet was stamped with a crown symbol with the words "KING 2021", a practice followed by drug trafficking syndicates to brand their merchandise.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES



Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya with Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne. Picture courtesy: Navy Media Unit.

Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya retires

Relinquishing duties to which he was committed more than 34 years, Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya retired from Naval Services recently.

Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne and the Board of Management welcomed the retiring Naval Officer before he was accorded a Guard of Honour at the Naval Headquarters. Afterward, naval officers made their formal farewells to the outgoing senior officer. He was later sent off in a motorcade.

Rear Admiral Senarath Wijesooriya joined the Navy as an Officer Cadet of the 15th intake in 1986 and commanded various ships and establishments during his career. Some key appointments he held were Commandant of Naval Recruit Training Centre (Sampoor and SLNS Shiksha), Security Coordinator of Poonewa, Deputy Area Commander (Northwestern, Western, and Northern Naval Commands), Director of Naval Welfare, and Commander of South-eastern and Northern Naval Commands.

UNP ready to support Govt. for country's benefit - Abeywardena

ARIYARATNE GANEGODA, Colombo Central Group Corridor
Former Minister Vijaya Abeywardena yesterday said that the UNP is ready to extend its full support to the Government, when it does right things for the well-being of the country and its citizens.

"We are ready to extend our support for the development of the country. But a proposal made in Parliament to declare the reclaimed land from the sea as a part of the Colombo administrative district shows that one country has two legal systems," he said.

He was speaking at a press conference held at UNP headquarters - Sirikotha yesterday.

He said that the Government could have drafted the Port City Economic Commission Bill after obtaining opinions from political parties.

He said that the Bill could have been drafted in line with the country's foreign policy and the geopolitical situation.

Dr. Manmohan Singh tests positive for COVID-19

Former Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh tested positive for the coronavirus yesterday, a source close to him confirmed to The Hindu. Dr. Singh has been shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for observation and further treatment, said the source. The former Prime Minister was having fever since Sunday evening.

However, there has been no official statement, either from AIIMS or the Congress party so far. (*The Hindu*)

DEHIWALA LAKE HOUSE NEWS AGENT PASSED AWAY



MRS AMARA ROHINI ALWIS

The Lake House news agent for Dehiwala passed away on 18.04.2021.

Remains lie at residence No. 5, Siriwardena Mawatha, Dehiwala.

Funeral arrangements will be notified later.

Sales Department - Lake House



Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
State Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government Affairs

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Leasing of a Stores Building(s) on a Temporary Basis for Medical Stores

- Attention is drawn to the above Invitation for Bids (IFB) published in the "Daily News" newspaper on 1st April 2021.
- The deadline for the submission of bids as indicated in paragraph 8 is hereby extended till 14:00 hours on 27th April 2021.
- All other provisions in the said IFB remain same.

Secretary,
State Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs.

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED GOLD ARTICLES

All Gold articles pawned and pledged at all branches of Pan Asia Bank and unredeemed up to 21.05.2021 and due to be redeemed on or before 28.02.2021 will be sold by Public Auction from 22.05.2021 Daily (until auction is cleared) at 9.00 a.m. at the

Negombo Branch

No. 199, St. Joseph's Street, Negombo.

The Bank reserves the right to postpone or cancel the Auction.



PAN ASIA BANK
The Truly Sri Lankan Bank

Assistant General Manager (Operations and Administration)
450, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

MINISTRY OF TRADE CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENT

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS FOR GRANTING OF OFFICE PREMISES AND STORAGES MENTIONED BELOW ON LEASE BASIS

Tenders are invited for granting of office premises and storages belonging to the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment on Lease basis.

Serial No.	Location	Extent in sq.ft.
01	No. 160, CWE Stores Complex, Maligawatta, Colombo 10. Building No. 03.	100
02	Negris Building, No. 109, York Street, Colombo 01	25,092
03.	Badulla CWE Premises, No.29, Bandarawela Road, Badulla.	21,522
04.	Matara CWE, No. 16, Goodshed Road, Matara	21,207
05.	D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, No. 40, Colombo 10.	20,753
06.	CWE Premises, Nandimithra Mawatha, Kataragama, First Floor.	1,350
07.	CWE Junction, 484 - Store House, Hingurakgoda	7,100
08.	D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, No. 109 - Store House	21,223

Tender applications could be obtained from the Procurement Division after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1000.00 to the Cashier. A refundable Tender Deposit of Rs. 15,000.00 should be paid before 10.00 a.m. on 11.05.2021 when submitting tenders.

Tender applications should be inserted in the Tender Box No. 20 before 12.00 hours on 11.05.2021 and Bids will be opened at this very moment. The Bidder or an authorized representative could be present on this occasion.

The office premises could be inspected on Government working days from 27.04.2021 up to 07.05.2021 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Please contact on the Telephone Nos. mentioned below to obtain further information and for inspection of the office premises.

- Tel. Nos. : 0112-337549 / 2435554
- Mobile Tel. No.: 077-6939606 (Mr Sampath)

The Tender Board retains the right of the final decision.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Co-operative Wholesale Establishment,
No. 27, Vauxhall Street,
Colombo 02.**

Parliament to convene for four days from today

It was decided at the Committee on Parliamentary Business held yesterday under the patronage of the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to hold Parliamentary Sittings between today and Friday, from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The final report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Political Victimisations between 2015 and 2019 would be debated on April 22 and 23 as an

Adjournment Motion, without setting aside time for oral questions, Parliament Secretary-General Dhammika Dasanayake said.

Meanwhile, five regulations under the Foreign Exchange Act, two regulations under the Excise Ordinance, and more regulations under the Imports and Exports Act are to be debated today. Doping inn sports and the Kotte Urban Boundary issue are to be discussed tomorrow.

Obituaries

HAEGODA ANURA - Beloved husband of Chandrika (nee Lanerolle) (Retired District Judge) Loving father of Thilini (Attorney-at-Law), Waruna (Allianz Insurance) & Lahiru, father-in-law of Gayanthi (Areva Investments) grandfather of Randesh, loving son of late GDS Haegoda and Aeda Haegoda (Galle) and brother of Gaminda (Chartered Valuer) & Ranjanie (USA), expired. Remains lie at Jayaratne Funeral Parlour, Borella on Wednesday 21st of April. Cremation at 4.30 p.m. at the **General Cemetery (new crematorium), Borella**. Pansukula at 10.00 a.m. 0773403667/0779817944. 029062

HIRIPITIYAGE WIJESOMA (Retired Chief Engineer CEB), loving husband of Chandi, father of Jayanadhi (CEB) and Erandika (Legal Apprentice), father-in-law of Niluksha (Maliban Textile) and Mevan (Dialog Axiata). Remains lie at Kotikawatta Residence & Cortege leaves residence on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 2.30 p.m. for cremation at the **general cemetery Kolonnawa (Buddhist Section)**. 029031

ILAKUNATHAN RANJITHAPOOSHANI of passed away, Maya Avenue, Colombo 6 - Beloved wife of late Sanmugam Ilakunathan and loving mother of Shyamala (USA) and Merhala (USA) loving grand mother Dr. Nimesh Rajakumar (USA), mother-in-law of N. Rajakumar (USA) and K.Jeyanandan (USA), sister of Gnanapooshani Arumugam, late Jayapooshani Kandavel, V. Balabaskara and Manoranjithapooshani Dharmarajah funeral notice will be published later. 028926

One Year Remembrance Gerard Wilhelm Perera



04.09.1943

20.04.2020

We wish we could see you one more time
Come walking through the door
But we know that is impossible
We will hear your voice no more
We know you can feel our tears
And you don't want us to cry
Yet our hearts are broken
Because we can't understand why
Someone so precious had to die
We pray that God will give us strength
And somehow get us through
As we struggle with the heartache
That came when we lost you!
Until we meet again...

Affectionately remembered and sadly missed by your loving wife Bernice, beloved children Malin, Vasan, Upaka, In-laws Nirmala, Rasantha, Nelum and Grandchildren Manresa, Nilhana, Therani & Amelia

TRAIN DERAILS IN GALLE



A train plying from Beliatta to Colombo derailed near the Galle Railway Station, last Sunday, disrupting traffic on the coastal railway line and affecting over 1,000 commuters. Picture by Mahinda P. Liyanage, Galle Central Special Corr.

Navy arrests three suspects with 89kg of Kerala cannabis

Three persons with 89kg of Kerala cannabis were arrested in a special operation conducted by Naval personnel and Mannar Police in M u d d a l a m p i d d i , Mulankavil, on Sunday, the Navy stated in a communiqué yesterday.



The seized Kerala cannabis. Picture courtesy: Navy Media Unit.

The North-Central Naval Command carried out the operation, with the assistance of Mannar Police. They had searched a suspicious truck near the Sippiaru Bridge and found the contraband in five gunnysacks, the statement said.

It is believed that the street value of the seized stock of Kerala cannabis is over Rs.26 million.

The suspects held during the operation have been identified as residents of Vavuniya and Nanattan between the ages of 26 and 44, the Navy stated.

The operation was conducted adhering to health and safety protocols in place for the prevention of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, the accused, together with Kerala cannabis and the truck, were handed over to Mannar Police for legal action.

Shakkariya Tank Development Project completed



Batticaloa Government Agent K. Karunakaran inaugurating the event. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Corr.

SIVAM PACKIYATHAN,
Batticaloa Special Corr.

Under the Youth-Led Water Management Scheme, the eco-based youth-led development project launched at the Shakkariya Tank in Karayakantivu, Mannunai West, was completed on Sunday.

The main objective of the project is to harvest rainwater and provide drinking water to nearby villages. The project has been organised by the Thurka Youth Club in Karayakantivu and is being funded by Child Fund - Sri Lanka, Child Fund - New Zealand, and Child Fund - Korea. The project is being implemented by AU Lanka.

The Agriculture Development Department, Mannunai West Secretarial Division, Mannunai West Pradeshiya Sabha, and District Disaster Management Centre has also been involved in the project, which aims to provide water for irrigation activities of the upcoming 'Yala' Season.

Batticaloa Government Agent K. Karunakaran, AU Lanka Project Officer K. Satheeskanan, Youth Service Officer A. Thayaseelan, and farmers' organisations representatives were also present.

Bank of Ceylon

Requires a suitable building on long lease for the relocation of the following Area Office in the Eastern Province

Batticaloa Area Office

The proposed building should conform to the following specifications :

- ▶ Should be a legally constructed building.
- ▶ Should be situated within the heart of the town facing the Main Road
- ▶ Sufficient parking facility
- ▶ Should have minimum 2,000 - 3,000 square feet of floor area. If the building is two-storied, ground floor should have a minimum 2,000 square feet of floor area for office use.
- ▶ 60 AMP 3-phase electricity, water supply, Sri Lanka Telecom Telephone connection, separate toilets for male and female, emergency exit and other infrastructure facilities.
- ▶ To arrange the Staff Quarters, minimum two rooms should be available to accommodate four persons and separate access to be available for staff quarters
- ▶ Floor area of the building should be properly tiled
- ▶ Should have ceiling
- ▶ Properly ventilated 100 square feet (10'x10') room behind the building for a power generator (Should have a separate pathway to move the Generator)
- ▶ Should have a disable ramp
- ▶ A water storage tank with a capacity of 1,000 litres
- ▶ Doors and windows should be secured by heavy-duty iron grill
- ▶ Fire Insurance for the building to be obtained

Interested parties are requested to forward the copies of building plans, with all details to reach the following address within 14 days. Please mark "Suitable Building for Batticaloa Area Office" on the top left corner of the envelope.

Asst. General Manager (Eastern Province)
Bank of Ceylon
Eastern Province Office,
No. 455, Main Street,
Trincomalee.



TENDER NOTICE



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Tender Number	FMD/MTN/HO/2021/02
Tender Description	Tender for Janitorial Services for the Centre for Banking Studies - Rajagiriya, Lloyd's Building, Central Point Building and Whiteaways Building of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
Bid Closing and Opening	Date: 06th May, 2021 Time: 1430 Hrs. Location: Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo -01
Pre-bid Meeting	Date: 28th April, 2021 Time: 1000 Hrs. Location: Head Office Building, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo -01

For further information, please refer <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/tenders> or contact Maintenance & Project Engineer 011-2477208

Bank of Ceylon

Requires a suitable building on long lease for the relocation of the following Branch in the Eastern Province

Karaitivu

The proposed building should conform to the following specifications :

- ▶ Should be a legally constructed building that is not older than 10 years
- ▶ Should be situated within the heart of the town facing the Main Road with a minimum road frontage of 30 feet
- ▶ Sufficient parking space for minimum four vehicles
- ▶ Should have minimum 2,000 - 2,500 square feet of floor area. If the building is two-storied, ground floor should have a minimum 2,000 square feet of floor area
- ▶ 60 AMP 3-phase electricity, water supply, Sri Lanka Telecom Telephone connection, separate toilets for male and female, emergency exit and other infrastructure facilities
- ▶ Floor area of the building should be properly tiled (2'x2')
- ▶ Should have ceiling
- ▶ Properly ventilated 100 square feet (10'x10') room behind the building for a power generator (Should have a separate pathway to move the Generator)
- ▶ Should have a Disable ramp
- ▶ A water storage tank with a capacity of 1,000 litres
- ▶ Doors and windows at the rear side of the building should be secured by heavy-duty iron grill
- ▶ Fire Insurance for the building to be obtained

Interested parties are requested to forward the copies of building plans, with all details to reach the following address within 14 days. Please mark "Suitable Building for Karaitivu Branch" on the top left corner of the envelope.

Asst. General Manager (Eastern Province)
Bank of Ceylon
Eastern Province Office,
No. 455, Main Street,
Trincomalee.



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news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

The cost of complacency

Have the worst fears expressed in these spaces on the dangers posed by the unrestricted movement of the public during the festive season come to pass? According to the latest reports, a surge in Coronavirus cases has been observed in several areas in the aftermath of the New Year festivities with medical experts fearing a possible 'third wave' of the pandemic. At least two villages in the Kurunegala district have been placed under virtual lockdown with some 2,000 persons in 500 families sent into quarantine following the detection of a number of positive cases.

The outstations that were relatively free of the pandemic, it appears, have now caught the bug well and truly, with the large influx of people from the cities to the rural outback to celebrate Avurudu. This, despite warnings by the Director National Institute of Infectious Diseases (IDH) Dr. Hasitha Attanayake of the real possibility of an 'Avurudu Cluster' if the public dropped their guard and acted irresponsibly.

The Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) too have reported a drastic surge in COVID-19 from several areas in the island and they blamed the free movement of the people during the New Year season, disregarding the health restrictions for the current state of affairs. The Secretary of the PHI's Union Mahendra Balasuriya called for increasing the number of PCR tests from the current level if they are to prevent another wave in the coming days. He lamented that despite strict instructions being issued to the public to observe the prevailing guidelines during the festive season, they were observed in the breach and now the country would have to brace for the consequences. It is this very same warning that the PHIs, who work with the grassroots, issued during the Christmas season urging the authorities to continue with the lockdowns in Colombo, which went unheeded resulting in a huge spike in the contagion. What is more, Colombo which was witnessing a drop in the number of cases is once again under the radar with fears of a new variant being spoken of in medical circles. According to Chief Medical Officer of the CMC Dr. Ruwan Wijeyamuni, a new variant of the virus with a very high risk of transmissibility has been found to be circulating in Colombo, by medical researchers at the Sri Jayawardenepura University. He has called for the immediate shutting down of all nightclubs, entertainment spots, gyms and also the cancellation of wedding receptions and parties.

This certainly is a dire warning which is an indication that all is not well. The reopening of all schools after a one year hiatus too could not have come at a worse time. Not just in the classroom, the risk also is prevalent in the school vans where the distance rule is bound to be flouted. Even public transport such as trains and buses too are back to business overloading beyond capacity despite warnings by the Police and the Ministers concerned that only seating accommodation is allowed.

It certainly seems that complacency on the part of the public has brought the country back into this situation. It is this same behaviour that was witnessed in India too after the initial harsh crackdowns by the police, with teeming masses attending ritual bathings and Hindu festivals in their hundreds of thousands that has brought that country almost to its knees today with the detection of new cases topping 300,000 on a daily basis and deaths averaging 1,500 a day with the total Coronavirus infected nudging 15 million, only behind US on a global scale, having overtaken Brazil. This, in a country which is the world's number one producer of the AstraZeneca Coronavirus vaccine, which has been given to more than 100 million Indians.

The situation could escalate here as well what with the delays in the arrivals of the second dosage which could negate the effect of the first jab. How safe are those who will have to settle only for the first dosage though medical opinion suggests that there is around 60 percent immunity in those who received the first dose? Certainly not from the evidence and the ground situation when one considers the global picture.

Most countries in the West which lifted the lockdowns are today in a far worse situation than before having to clamp down even harsher restrictions such as the closure of all schools and blanket bans on social activity. With the situation in our neighbourhood growing dire each day, we too are bound to experience its fallout sooner rather than later and every precaution should be put in place without delay even if we have to go back to lockdowns however injurious this would be to the economy.

The public this time around should strictly be made to fall in line and severe punishment meted out to violators of the health regulations. As Dr. Hasitha Attanayake said when he issued a warning vis-a-vis New Year shopping: "You have to think about what is important. New Year clothes, or the lives of your family members". This ought to be the main guiding principle.

Political intrigue at the United Nations

The following excerpts are from a newly-released, 220-page book titled "No Comment – and Don't Quote me on That", a rich collection of political anecdotes, both serious and hilarious, reflecting over 40 years of reporting from the United Nations.

THALIF DEEN

The United Nations, along with the 193 diplomatic missions located in New York, have long been veritable battlegrounds for spying, wire-tapping and electronic surveillance.

When the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA) held its annual award ceremony in December 2013, one of the video highlights was a hilarious skit on the clumsy attempts at spying going on inside the highest levels of the Secretariat—and right up to the 38th-floor offices of then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

When I took the floor, as one of the winners of the UNCA gold medals, I gave the Secretary-General, standing next to me, an unsolicited piece of light-hearted advice: "if you want to find out whether your phone line is being tapped, you only have to sneeze loudly, and a voice at the other end would instinctively and courteously respond: 'Bless you', I said, amid laughter.

Perhaps by coincidence, three days later, the *New York Times* ran a story about the widespread electronic surveillance by the US National Security Agency (NSA) and Britain's spy agency, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), which had targeted over 1,000 political leaders, diplomats, and international institutions.

These included the UN children's agency UNICEF and the Geneva-based UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

At the UN, virtually all the big powers play the spying game, including the US, the Russians (and particularly the Soviets during the Cold War era), the French, the Brits, and the Chinese — and none of them can afford to take a "holier than thou" attitude.

During the height of the Cold War in the 1960s and 1970s, the UN was a veritable battleground for the United States and the now-defunct Soviet Union to spy on each other. The American and Soviet spooks were known to be crawling all over the building—in committee rooms, in the press gallery, in the Secretariat and, most importantly, in the UN library which was a drop-off point for sensitive political documents.

Cold War espionage

The extent of Cold War espionage in the United Nations was laid bare by a 1975 US Congressional Committee, named after Senator Frank Church (Democrat-Idaho) who chaired it while investigating abuses by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), National Security Agency (NSA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

The evidence given before the Church Committee included a revelation that the CIA had planted one of its Russian lip-reading experts in a press booth overlooking the Security Council chamber so that he could monitor the lip movements of Russian delegates, as they consulted each other in low whispers. Obviously, there was nothing sacred in the corridors of power at the United Nations.

In his 1978 book, "A Dangerous Place," Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former US envoy to the United Nations, described the cat-and-mouse espionage game that went on inside the bowels of the world body, and particularly the UN library.

Back in October 2013, When Clare Short, Britain's former minister for international development, revealed that British intelligence agents had spied on former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan by bugging his office just before the disastrous US invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the UN chief was furious that his discussions with world leaders had been compromised.

And as she talked to Annan on the 38th floor of the UN Secretariat building, Short told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), she was thinking, "Oh dear, there will be a transcript of this, and people will see what he and I are saying."

Nearly 10 years later, the accusing finger was pointed towards the United States, not Britain.

James A. Paul, who monitored the politics of the United Nations for over 19 years as executive director of the New York-based Global Policy Forum, told me that electronic spying at the UN is a logical part of



Thalif Deen

the worldwide espionage programme by the US National Security Agency (NSA).

The programme came to light following documents released by Edward Snowden, a US whistleblower who was a NSA contractor, worked for the CIA, and is currently living in political exile in Russia.

"It shows us the latest electronic approaches to surveillance 'listening', including the reports that the US has cracked into the UN's encrypted video system and that there is very aggressive monitoring of UN officials and high-ranking diplomats," Paul said.

He also pointed out that none of this came as a surprise (though it is no less outrageous) in view of the tapping of the phones of 35 heads of state, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and the collection of information from some 70 million calls during one month in France.

"The UN has argued that surveillance targeting the organisation is contrary to international law and to the US's responsibility as the host country, but such claims have been systematically and flagrantly disregarded," he noted.

Meanwhile, in April 1978, UN Under-Secretary-General Arkady Shevchenko of the then USSR had the dubious distinction of being the highest-ranking Soviet UN official to defect to the United States—with bag, baggage and a mistress, to boot.

Shevchenko, who was head of the UN's Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, was accused of being a double agent working for US intelligence while spying for the Soviets inside the United Nations.

Back in September 2013, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, throwing diplomatic protocol to the winds, launched a blistering attack on the United States for illegally infiltrating its communications network, surreptitiously intercepting phone calls, and breaking into the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations.

Electronic surveillance

Departing from a longstanding tradition of closed-door diplomacy on bilateral disputes, she dropped a political bombshell on the Assembly hall overflowing with world leaders, foreign ministers and ambassadors from 193 countries sitting in rapt silence.

Justifying her public criticism, she told delegates that the problem of electronic surveillance goes beyond a bilateral relationship. "It affects the international community itself and demands a response from it."

Rousseff said revelations concerning the activities of a global network of electronic espionage have caused indignation and repudiation in public opinion around the world. But in Brazil, she said, "The situation was even more serious, as it emerged that we were targeted by this intrusion." She said that the personal data of citizens was intercepted indiscriminately. Corporate information, often of high economic and even strategic value, was at the centre of espionage activity.

At the same time, Brazilian diplomatic missions, among them the Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the president's office, had their communications intercepted, she charged.

Rousseff unleashed her attack even as US President Barack Obama was awaiting his turn to address the General Assembly on the opening day



of the annual high-level debate. By longstanding tradition, Brazil is the first speaker, followed by the United States.

Even though Obama, and the US, had the right of reply, he did not address the issues raised by Rousseff, who also canceled a proposed official visit to the White House protesting the electronic surveillance of her country. "We have let the US government know our disapproval, and demanded explanations, apologies and guarantees that such procedures will never be repeated," she said.

According to documents released by US whistleblower Edward Snowden, the illegal electronic surveillance of Brazil was conducted by the US National Security Agency (NSA). The Germany-based *Der Spiegel* magazine reported that NSA technicians had managed to decrypt the UN's internal video teleconferencing (VTC) system, as part of its surveillance of the world body.

The combination of this new access to the UN and the cracked encryption code led to "a dramatic improvement in VTC data quality and (the) ability to decrypt the VTC traffic," the NSA agents reportedly said. In the article, titled "How America Spies on Europe and the UN", *Spiegel* said that in just under three weeks, the number of decrypted communications increased from 12 to 458.

Subsequently, there were new charges of spying—but this time around the Americans were accused of using the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) in Baghdad to intercept Iraqi security intelligence in an attempt to undermine, and perhaps overthrow, the government of President Saddam Hussein.

The charges, spread across the front pages of the *Washington Post* and the *Boston Globe*, only confirmed the longstanding Iraqi accusation that UNSCOM was "a den of spies," mostly American and British.

Established by the Security Council immediately after the 1991 Gulf War, UNSCOM was mandated to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and destroy that country's capabilities to produce nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The head of UNSCOM, Richard Butler of Australia, however, vehemently denied charges that his inspection team in Iraq had spied for the United States. "We have never conducted spying for anyone," Butler told reporters. Asked to respond to news reports that UNSCOM may have helped Washington collect sensitive Iraqi information to destabilize the Saddam Hussein regime, Butler retorted: "Don't believe everything you read in print." But he never made the distinction between what was believable and what was unbelievable.

Around the same time, the *New York Times* weighed in with a front-page story quoting US officials as saying that "American spies had worked undercover on teams of UN arms inspectors ferreting out secret Iraqi weapons programmes." The cover, for all intents and purposes, had been blown.

In an editorial, the *Times* said that "using UN activities in Iraq as a cover for American spy operations would be a sure way to undermine the international organisation, embarrass the United States and strengthen Mr. Hussein."

"Washington did cross a line it should not have if it placed American agents on the UN team with the intention of gathering information that could be used for military strikes against targets in Baghdad," the editorial said. The whole episode not only embarrassed the United Nations but also put its integrity, impartiality and credibility in doubt.

The book is authored by Thalif Deen, a former UN staffer, a one-time Sri Lankan diplomat, and a veteran UN correspondent. It is available on Amazon worldwide, and at the Vijitha Yapa bookshop in Sri Lanka. The link to Amazon USA via the author's website follows: <https://www.rodericgrigson.com/no-comment-by-thalif-deen/> [IDN-InDepthNews]



UN Headquarters in New York

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Complacency is the biggest mistake.
- Bonnie Hammer

IS THERE A SPECIFIC TIME WINDOW TO LEARN A LANGUAGE?



The idea behind Critical Period Hypothesis has been extended to argue for a critical period for second language acquisition (SLA). The idea is that young second language (L2) learners tend to acquire the language better than adult L2 learners. Even though it is more debatable than that assumed for first language acquisition, the critical period for SLA is said to range between 2 and 13 years of age.

LANGUAGE MATTERS

Dr. THARANGA WEERASOORIYA

In our last article, we discussed principles and parameters as part of our innate universal grammar (UG). It was shown that we do not learn principles and parameters (they are something that we are born with.). Rather, when we are exposed to a particular language, we set the specific parameters applicable to that language and acquire that language.

It is also assumed that UG is facilitated by a mental capacity (referred to as Language Acquisition Device (LAD)) that we are born with. It is also assumed that there is a particular period in our lives when we get a chance to set the right parameters for a particular language to be acquired. This is known as the "critical period" for a language to be acquired. Today, we are going to discuss these notions such as LAD and "critical period".

Language Acquisition Device (LAD)

Beginning from the 1960s, Chomsky claimed that there is a certain facility in our brain/mind that serves in the acquisition and production of a language. Thus, LAD refers to an innate mental facility that enables a child to acquire and produce a language that he/she is exposed to. One of the main arguments in favour of LAD is that given the nature of the limited input (i.e. stimuli) for language learning for an infant, if he/she is not born with such a facility in the brain/mind he/she would not be able to acquire a language within such a short period of time as three to four years. Thus, LAD is supposed to be the base for universal grammar (UG) with its principles and parameters.

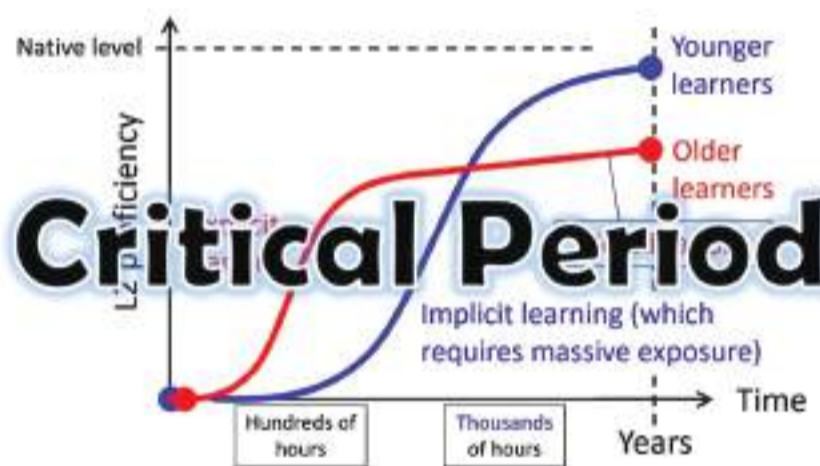
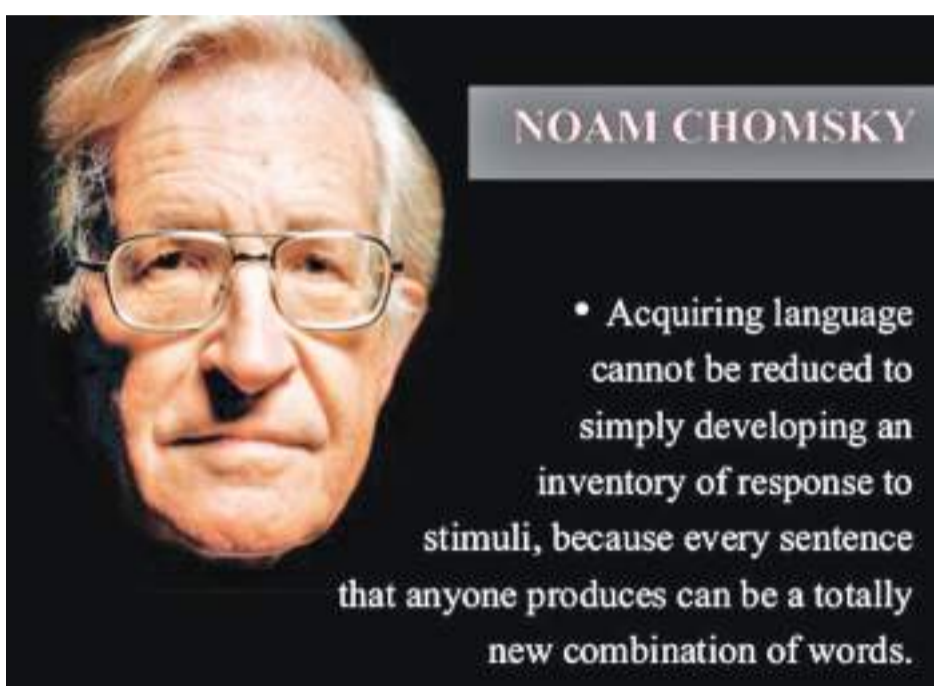
A specific time window to acquire a first language

Beginning from the late 1950s, it has been widely assumed that the first few years in life are crucial for the acquisition of the first language by a person and this is

known as the "Critical Period Hypothesis". Even though there is no unanimous agreement with respect to the exact timeframe for the "critical period" to acquire a language, it is generally assumed that it ranges between early infancy and puberty. It is also claimed that the plasticity of the brain (i.e. neuroplasticity) during this period serves in the process of acquisition of a first language.

It has been found that if the acquisition of a first language does not happen during this critical period, a person is not able to acquire or learn a language. One case study that supports the critical period hypothesis is that of a child called Genie who was kept isolated from society and language as a result of child abuse. She was not exposed to language until discovered at the age of thirteen. Her case study supports the critical period hypothesis in such a way that seven years of language training did not help her learn the language.

Another case in point is that of Anna who is reported to have been kept out of human contact as a result of being an illegitimate child. She was discovered at the age of six and sent to what is called a county home where she was



exposed to language used by the care giver and other inmates in the county home. It is reported that she hardly developed any language production skills.

However, there are cases where children deprived of language up to a significant amount of time have been able to relearn language. A well noted case is that of Isabelle. She is said to have been confined to a room with her

deaf and mute mother and had no exposure to human natural language until she was six and a half years of age. Upon discovery, she was exposed to language used by the children in a ward in a hospital where she was treated. At the same time, she was given training in language. It is reported that with the exposure and training in language she learnt words and began to produce correct inflections and complex sentences. Another such well known case of recovering language is that of Victor, who was a feral child (i.e. a wild child). Victor was a child who lived in the wild among animals until he was found at the age of thirteen. He is said to have walked on all fours and possessed no human language skills. However, after training on language for over five years, Victor is said to have relearned some language.

A critical period to learn a second language

The idea behind Critical Period Hypothesis has been extended to argue for a critical period for second language acquisition (SLA). The idea is that young second language (L2) learners tend to acquire the language better than adult L2 learners. Even though it is more debatable than that assumed for first language acquisition, the critical period for SLA is said to range between 2 and 13 years of age.

It has been especially found out that young L2 learners perform better when it comes to pronunciation (i.e. near native like pronunciation) than adult L2 learners. However, when it comes to grammatical structures, it has been shown that there isn't much of a difference between young and adult L2 learners with respect to what is assumed to be the critical period. The graph by Shiro Ojima illustrates the effects of the critical period for L2 acquisition.

In today's article we discussed that in the tradition of generative grammar (i.e. Noam Chomsky, his colleagues and followers), it is claimed that there is a specific facility in our brain/mind called LAD for language acquisition and learning. It is also claimed that there is a specific time window for us to acquire/learn a first or a second language. However, whether such a device or time exist/s is still a matter of debate among linguists, and it is far from being over.

At the same time, much research into brain and language has proven that certain areas/parts of our brain are responsible for language functions. In our next article, we are discussing this in detail.

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The Demise of Prince Philip - The Duke of Edinburgh

Dr. TILAK S. FERNANDO

Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, died at the age of 99 on April 9, 2021; the funeral took place at Windsor Castle on April 17, 2021. The Dean of Windsor castle at St. Georges Chapel attended his funeral. The Duke was the longest-serving royal consort in British history. The Royal family did not disclose the cause of death, but an official announcement revealed that he "died peacefully".

The Duke did not get a state funeral, which is normally reserved for monarchs. Instead, he had a 'Royal Ceremonial funeral'. Before his demise, the Duke had indicated a wish for minimal "fuss". Though the Duke did "lie at rest" in the private chapel at Windsor Castle, the coffin was moved to the Inner Hall of the castle to perform prayers. The Duke's wishes were said to be for a military funeral conducted at St George's Chapel and burial at Frogmore Gardens. Burials at St George's Chapel is more traditional. The Royal Ceremonial Funeral is the same level of honour as formerly given to Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, and Diana Princess of Wales.

Duke prescribed a comprehensive plan before his demise, including the procedures and the dissemination of information, national mourning and how to conduct his funeral proceedings according to the Corona pandemic restrictions in the UK. In his proposal, Duke indicated his wishes for a smaller crowd for the funeral service in line with COVID-19 regulations. That included quarantine procedures for members of the Duke's family travelling from abroad. The public was requested to keep away from the funeral, and every citizen respected his wishes.

Consequently, the funeral was restricted to only thirty members of the Royal family and close friends. Still, seven hundred and thirty members of the royal guards took part in the funeral procession. TV commenters indicated that the Duke had helped in the designing of the Land Rover. As a mark of respect, Duke's



Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh married in 1947, making their marriage the longest of any British sovereign.

coffin was laid on a specially designed Land Rover converted into a hearse, along with the Duke's favourite driving carriage gloves, his cap, whip, and his brown driving gloves.

Early age

Prince Philip was born on June 10, 1921 on a Greek Island. His parents descended from Denmark's royal family, yet he was not proficient in Greek as he had to abandon Greece as a toddler. At the age of 26, Prince Philip married his third cousin, Princess Elizabeth, aged 21, in 1947; and in doing so, he renounced his Greek title to become a naturalized British subject.

During seventy years of married bliss with H.R.H. Elizabeth II, the international commentators considered him an adviser, behind the scenes, to the Royal family and the Queen herself, rather than acting as a mere husband.

The Duke of Edinburgh had treatment in hospitals, many a time, in the years leading up to his death. In 2012 he was treated for a bladder infection. In 2013 he went through 'exploratory surgery on his abdomen'. In 2013 he underwent hip replacement surgery. In 2021 he was admitted to King Edward VII's hospital after feeling unwell. On March 1, he was transferred to St. Bartholomew's hospi-

tal; and on 3 March 3 moved back to King Edward's hospital, where he underwent successful procedure for his 'existed heart condition.' On March 16 the Duke was discharged, and he returned to Windsor Castle.

Three weeks after returning from the hospital, the Royal family announced his death at noon on April 9, 2021. His last moments were described as if "someone just held him by his hand and he went". The Queen was reportedly at her husband's bedside when he died.

Operation 4th Bridge

The National Plan for publicly handling the Duke's death was called *Operation Forth Bridge*, named after the Forth Bridge near Edinburgh. Following the protocol, Lord Chamberlain consulted the Queen before releasing a press release to the BBC and the Press Association; The Union Jack and the National flags were lowered to half-mast and expected to remain until 8 a.m. on April 18, 2021 on all government buildings. Members of Parliament (MPs) had a briefing to wear black neckties when in the House of Commons and wear black armbands on their left arms. A mourning period of eight days was imposed on Parliamentary activities.

The Duke's four children, three of his

grandchildren, and the Duke's household staff walked behind the coffin. The Queen, who travelled in the Bentley State Limousine, followed them. There were no sermon or eulogies at the service at the Duke's wish.

The ceremony highlighted his links to the Royal Navy and his passion for the sea.

The Duke was buried in the Royal Vault at St George's Chapel. Upon the Queen's death, his remains will be moved to the King George VI Memorial Chapel inside St George's, where they will be buried next to each other.

This whole saga sums up everything in Buddhism that says 'for someone to be born as a human being in this life is a temporary abode to prepare one's future rebirths.'

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Prince Philip was decorated for bravery during his Naval service in the Mediterranean and Indian Oceans.

China's Coronavac 80% effective at preventing COVID deaths - Chilean study

CHILE: China's Coronavac vaccine was 67 percent effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and 80 percent at preventing death, according to real-life results unveiled Friday from Chile's inoculation campaign.

"These figures should convey peace of mind to the country," Health Minister Enrique Paris told journalists as he announced the outcome of two months' of vaccination in Chile, in February and March. The results were obtained from a comparison between people who were fully vaccinated, partly vaccinated with one dose, and non-vaccinated - a sample size of some 10.5 million in total - in the country that has led the pack with its vaccine rollout.

They also showed the vaccine was 85 percent effective at preventing hospitalization with serious coronavirus symptoms, and 89 percent at preventing intensive care admissions.

Chile's Government wants to inoculate 80 percent or 15.2 million of its population. It is far ahead in Latin America, and has one of the most advanced vaccine campaigns in the world. As of Friday, the country had succeeded in giving at least one vaccine dose to 7.6 million people, and both doses to more than five million - about a third of the target population.

Coronavac, produced by Chinese firm Sinovac, made up 86.9 percent of Chile's vaccine arsenal, with the remainder receiving the Pfizer/BioNtech jab.

Coronavac is a traditional type of vaccine, using inactivated coronavirus to trigger immunity.

US hits vaccine milestone

The hard-hit United States has passed a hopeful milestone as half its adults have had at least one COVID vaccine dose and from Monday all its over 18s will be eligible to get their shot.

The coronavirus has killed more than 3 million people and infected at least 140 million, devastating the world economy and upending daily life since emerging in China in December 2019.

Roughly 130 million Americans aged 18 and over have now received a shot, representing 50.4 percent of the adult population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Sunday.

New Zealand-Australia travel bubble opens

Emotions ran high Monday as excited passengers set off on the first flights to take advantage of a quarantine-free travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand, allowing families split by the pandemic to finally reunite.

The arrangement means that for the first time in almost 400 days passengers can fly across the Tasman Sea without undergoing

mandatory COVID-19 quarantine when they arrive.

"It's a very big day and exciting for families and friends," said New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who hailed the success of both countries in containing the virus as a key factor in allowing the travel corridor.

Australia was New Zealand's largest source of international tourists before the pandemic, accounting for about 1.5 million arrivals or 40 percent of total visitors in 2019.

Germany mourns its 80,000 COVID dead

Germany held a national memorial service on Sunday for its nearly 80,000 victims of the coronavirus pandemic, putting aside deep divisions over Covid restrictions to share the pain of grieving families.

Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Frank-Walter Steinmeier joined an ecumenical service in the morning at Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, a memorial against war and destruction. They attended a ceremony at the capital's Konzerthaus concert hall.

Besides suffering the pain of losing a loved one, restrictions in place to curb infections mean that relatives are often unable to even hold their family members' hands as they lay dying. Others have been left grieving on their own, as funerals or memorials are curtailed by pandemic curbs.

Hooray for bubbles!



Tearful reunions filled Auckland airport on Monday as residents from Australia were able to travel freely to New Zealand for the first time in more than a year.

Kyrgyzstan pushes poisonous root as virus cure

Kyrgyzstan is using a poisonous root as a treatment against the coronavirus despite health warnings as the country battles a new wave of infections.

Health Minister Alimkadyr Beishenaliyev took sips of the solution that contains extracts of aconite root as he talked up its healing properties.

"You need to drink it hot, and in two or

three days the positive PCR test result disappears and the person immediately becomes better." Beishenaliyev however warned that "spasms and death" could befall anyone drinking the solution cold.

Aconite root is used in traditional medicine even though it is considered highly toxic.

The authorities have said that a third wave of Covid-19 cases is beginning in the Central Asian country of 6.5 million people, which suffered a difficult summer as the virus overwhelmed hospitals last year. - AFP

More oxygen, beds needed as India's virus crisis deepens

INDIA: More Government hospital beds will be freed for COVID-19 patients, India's Health Ministry said Sunday, as the vast nation grappled with a worsening virus crisis and states appealed for additional supplies of oxygen and treatment drugs.

The country of 1.3 billion people added a record-high of 261,500 new cases on Sunday, with one-in-six people who underwent tests returning positive coronavirus results, the ministry said.

India is the world's second most-infected nation with almost 14.8 million cases.

Hospitals usually reserved for employees of ministries or public sector companies should convert some of their wards into COVID-19 facilities equipped with ICU and oxygen-supported beds, ventilators, laboratories and healthcare staff, the government said.

"This will go a long way to address the shortage of beds being reported from some states," the ministry added.

Special trains would transport oxygen tankers to needy states, while the government said oxygen use for industrial purposes would be limited.



A worker refilling oxygen cylinders at India's Kanpur LLR Hospital, amid the rise in COVID-19 cases across the country.

In the capital New Delhi - the worst-hit city in India - 25,500 infections were reported in the past 24 hours. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted late Sunday that there was an "acute shortage of oxygen", adding in capital letters that "oxygen has become an emergency"

in the megapolis. Kejriwal added that millions of pilgrims who attended an ongoing religious festival - the Kumbh Mela - had to quarantine for two weeks if they returned to Delhi.

In West Bengal state, where an election is being held over several phases with rival parties

holding huge rallies - sparking further super-spreader fears - Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed for more oxygen and coronavirus medicines such as remdesivir. India has administered more than 122 million jabs so far.

- AFP

Myanmar's shadow Govt. wants ASEAN talks invite



MYANMAR: Myanmar's shadow government on Sunday urged Southeast Asian leaders to give it a seat at the table during crisis talks next week, and not to recognise the military regime that seized power in a February coup.

Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing is expected to join a special ASEAN summit on Myanmar on Saturday in Jakarta - his first official overseas trip since the putsch that ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The army has moved to quell mass protests against its rule, killing at least 730 people according to a local monitoring group.

Min Aung Hlaing's invitation to the meeting of the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations has drawn scorn from activists who have urged foreign leaders not to formally recognise the junta.



Anti-Government protesters hold placards to show their support and welcome the new National Unity Government (NUG) founded by ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) legislators in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday.

Moe Zaw Oo, deputy minister of foreign affairs for the parallel "National Unity Government" (NUG) - formed Friday by ousted lawmakers mostly from Suu Kyi's party, as well as ethnic-minority politicians - said ASEAN had not reached out to them.

"If ASEAN wants to help solve the Myanmar situation, they are not going to achieve anything without consulting and negotiating with the NUG, which is supported by the people and has full legitimacy," he told Voice of America's Bur-

mese service. "It's important that this military council is not recognised. This needs to be handled carefully."

Meanwhile, the number of reporters arrested so far has totalled more than 65 and at least 34 remain in custody, according to monitoring group Reporting ASEAAN.

Authorities announced Sunday night on state-run television 20 more celebrities and 20 more doctors would be added to their arrest warrant list of 420 prominent people.

- AFP

Eight family members killed in mosque shooting



An Afghan Policeman stands guard outside a mosque where a shooting took place in the city of Jalalabad.

AFGHANISTAN: Eight members of the same family were gunned down in an attack on a mosque in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Sunday.

The shooting happened on Saturday night in the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, and was believed to be over a land dispute, the province's governor Zaiulhaq Amarkhil said.

Five brothers and three of their male cousins were killed.

"The incident is under investigation but initial information shows a land dispute has caused the incident," Amarkhil told AFP. Faeed Khan, a spokesman for Nangarhar police, confirmed the attack.

Afghanistan, like the rest of the Muslim world, is observing the holy month

of Ramadan, when men gather every night to offer special prayers after fasting for the day.

Revenge killings are common in Afghanistan, where families seek justice by carrying out violent acts of vengeance based on an ancient code of honour.

So-called blood feuds can last for decades, passing down through generations in a cycle of violence. - AFP

Surge in online exam cheating at Greek universities

GREECE: Shuttered for over a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Greek universities are now grappling with a surge in online exam cheating giving rise to a new reality: the "corona degree".

Both professors and students candidly admit that examination safeguards are practically impossible to enforce in a remote-learning environment with hundreds of participants simultaneously online.

"In just, we call the degrees to be awarded this season 'corona degrees'," says John Mylopoulos, a professor of environmental engineering and former rector of Thessaloniki's Aristotle University.

"Remote learning is supposed to be a supplementary education tool. When it completely subsumes teaching, problems begin," he told AFP.

Sofia, a 20-year-old psychology student at

Aristotelio, says that "last summer, I took two exams on behalf of two of my friends and nobody realised."

"I logged in using their computers and personal registration codes. There was no requirement for an open camera during the exam. My two friends received a nearly perfect score without opening a book," she told AFP. Many professors have been surprised to see even long-term students who haven't set foot in a university campus for years scoring high results.

"Result averages are up, and people we haven't seen in years are showing up for exams because the system makes it easy to cheat," says Kostas Kosmatos, an assistant professor of criminology at Thrace's Democritus University.

Kosmatos notes that only an open-camera examination can help restore trans-



A student of the Faculty of Law of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece attends a videoconference course.

parency to the procedure. "But it's impossible to do that with up to 500 people taking part in an exam," he says.

"So we break down the participants in groups, assigning different subjects to each team. We also try to limit the time available for answers. But even so, we cannot effectively address the problem," he adds.

Alexandros Hatzigeorgiou, a professor of information technology at Thessaloniki's Macedonia Uni-

versity, warns that even personalised exam passwords are not a complete safeguard.

"We have no way of verifying that the person logging in is the actual student," he says.

"And the camera could be showing someone else taking the exam in their stead."

Some students have already figured out counter-measures to overcome nearly any impediment to cheating. "Groups have

formed on Messenger, Discord and other platforms," says Costas, a 22-year-old Aristotelio University student.

"Using split screens, the correct answers are shared out in real time during an exam without (overseers) realising, regardless of whether the camera is on or not," he says.

Angela Kastriaki, dean of the University of Crete's literature department, says it is easy for students to Google exam answers even under the eye of supervisors on camera.

"We get paraphrased Wikipedia answers," she notes. Some of her students even enlisted a respected specialist in linguistic history to help crack an exam question that was not available online.

"But even he got a verse wrong, so I got 50 papers with the same mistake. It was funny," says Kastriaki. Overall, she found 100 students had employed some form of cheating that day.

Natassa, a 20-year-old student at the University of Ioannina, recalls that one of her friends gave 100 euros (\$120) to a teacher to sit her mathematics exam for her.

"In the end, she did not get a particularly good grade," she laughs.

Panagiotis, a final year law student at Aristotelio University, says "the system at times is so compromised that even star students are tempted to cheat." - AFP

Ministry of Environment
G.S.M.B. Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd

**Calling for Quotations to establish sand selling centres
Kegalle and Colombo Districts
under G.S.M.B. Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd
Tender No - GSMBTS/PUR/NCB/2021-17**

The Director Board of GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd., a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Environment, has decided to establish sand yards in Kegalle and Colombo districts. For this purpose, two land of not less than 60 perches each are required to be selected separately from the relevant districts. The contractor should also deploy tipper trucks to transport sand from the Manampitiya sand project to the selected lands. Sealed bids are invited from eligible suppliers in this regard.

Tender documents which include bidding conditions can be obtained from the procurement Division of GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd at the following address from **20/04/2021 to 10/05/2021 between 09.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.** upon the payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Rs. 2000.00.** (Bidding documents can be inspected from www.gsmbts.gov.lk before purchasing the bidding documents)

Perfected tender documents in duplicate (Mentioning Original and Duplicate) should be sent to the following address via registered post or deposited in the tender box kept at the procurement Division on the 3rd Floor of our Head Office at or before **02.00 p.m. on 11/05/2021.** Tenders will be opened at **2.00 p.m.** at the conference hall of **GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd on 11/05/2021** and the bidder or an authorized agent may attend at the opening of the tenders. Late bids shall be rejected.

More information can be obtained from the Procurement Division on **0112827850.**

Chairman
Procurement Committee,
GSMB Technical Services (Pvt) Ltd,
190/A, Rathnawera Building,
Stanley Thilakarathna Mawatha,
Nugegoda.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

CAR

18-XXXX	MAZDA MR 90 1400.00 CC	1992
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VANS

NNV PF-XXXX	DAIHATSU HIJET 650.00 CC	2008
SB-XXXX	TOYOTA HIACE 2440.00 CC	1991

TRACTOR

CP RF-XXXX	JOHN DEERE 3036E MFWD 1642.00 CC	2017
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LORRIES

CP DAH-XXXX	TATA YODHA B5V 2956.00 CC	2019
UP LG-XXXX	ISUZU KRNR81E ELF 4770.00 CC	2003
NC DAC-XXXX	TATA ACE HT2 702.00 CC	2015

MOTOR COACH

CP HO-XXXX	TATA LPD 1313 5675.00 CC	2003
CP NA-XXXX	TATA SFC 407/31 2956.00 CC	2005
EP NB-XXXX	LANKA ASHOK LEYLAND VIKING (SEATERS 54)	2014

THREE WHEELERS

CP YD-XXXX	BAIAJ AR RE 200.00 CC	2010
CP YC-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
CP YF-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2011
CP YG-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2008
CP YH-XXXX	BAIAJ AR RE 200 200.00 CC	2010
CP YI-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 205 198.75 CC	2010
CP YJ-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2007
CP YK-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR 4 5 173.00 CC	2007
SP AB-XXXX	BAIAJ RE 198.88 CC	2015
CP YL-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.50 CC	2007
CP YM-XXXX	BAIAJ RE205 198.75 CC	2011
CP YN-XXXX	BAIAJ 4S 173.50 CC	2009
CP YO-XXXX	BAIAJ AR45-UG 173.50 CC	2010
CP YP-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR45 173.00 CC	2008
CP YQ-XXXX	BAIAJ AUTO AR 45 173.50 CC	2008

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
**INQUIRY - 0768578119, 0766851575,
0775260124**
Kurunegala Auto fair, No. 156/B, Colombo Road,
Waduragala, Kurunegala.
Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC

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Classifieds

Automotive

Vans For sale

UP GR-1892 Mitsubishi Delica Van, 1996, for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0714-542958. 028703

M/Cycles & T/Wheelers For sale

WP AAS-8434 Bajaj, 2014, three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 028698

WP BIK-9479 Honda Dio, 2019, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 028695

WP YV-3545 Bajaj, 2011, three-wheel for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 028705

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: splankacons truction@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 Assts - Males / Females with experience from Negombo area. Good salary extra allowance. 0717508485. 028323

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

Repeat Your Ad For Better Offers

COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON PLC

Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC (Registration No. PQ 116) under Section 4 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990.

Account No.: 1122014778

ANSAR MOHAMED AROOS

At a meeting held on 30th August 2019 the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC resolved specially and unanimously as follows:-

Whereas **ANSAR MOHAMED AROOS** as the Obligor has made default in the payment due on Bond No: 591 dated 17th October 2017 attested by S.B.P.T.S. Pathirana, Notary Public of Kurunegala in favour of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC and there is now due and owing to the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC as at 20th July 2018 a sum of RUPEES SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND (Rs. 6,500,000/-) on the said Bond and the Board of Directors of Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC under the powers vested by Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No. 4 of 1990 do hereby resolve that the property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto and mortgaged to the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC by the said Bond No. 591 be sold by Public Auction by Mr. I.W. Jayasuriya, Licensed Auctioneer of No. 369/1, Dutugemunu Mawatha, Lewalla Road, Mawalmada, Kandy for the recovery of the said sum of Rupees Six Million Five Hundred Thousand (Rs. 6,500,000/-) with further interest on the said sum of Rs. 6,500,000/- at 28% per annum from 21st July 2018 to date of sale together with Costs of Advertising and any other charges incurred less payments (if any) since received.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:

All that divided and defined allotment of Land marked **Lot 01** depicted in **Plan No. 2735C dated 19/04/1992 made by R.A. Gunasoma Rathnayaka, Licensed Surveyor** of the land called "**Gamawela Jeewangane Andahena Now Watta**" together with buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon situated at Nakalagamuwu Village within the Grama Niladhari Division of Mathawa within the Divisional Secretary's Division of Kurunegala in the Pradeshiya Sabha limit of Kurunegala in Thiragandahaye Korale of Weuda Willi Hatpattuwa in the District of Kurunegala North Western Province and which said **Lot 01** is bounded on the **NORTH** by: land claimed by E.A. Dayarathne on the **EAST** by: land claimed by Haneefa Mohamed Rauf and others on the **SOUTH** by: Lot 02 in Plan No. 2735 C and on the **WEST** by: Highway and containing in extent **One Road (A0-R1-P0)** according to the said **Plan No. 2735C and Registered Under Volume/Folio G 22/133 at Kurunegala Land Registry.**

According to a recent survey the above land is described as follows: All that divided and defined allotment of Land marked **Lot 01** depicted in **Plan No. 178/2013 dated 28/05/2013 made by M.W. Ariyaratne, Licensed Surveyor** of the land called "**Gamawela Jeewangane Andahena Now Watta**" together with the buildings, trees, plantations and everything else standing thereon situated at Nakalagamuwu Village within the Grama Niladhari Division of Mathawa within the Divisional Secretary's Division of Kurunegala in the Pradeshiya Sabha limit of Kurunegala in Thiragandahaye Korale of Weuda Willi Hatpattuwa in the District of Kurunegala North Western Province and which said **Lot 01** is bounded on **NORTH** by: Wire and Live fence dividing the land claimed by E.A. Dayarathne (more correctly land claimed by E.A. Dayarathne) on the **EAST** by: land claimed by Haneefa Mohamed Rauf and others on the **SOUTH** by: Lot 02 in Plan No. 2735 C and on the **WEST** by: Kurunegala - Rambukkana Main Road and containing in extent **Thirty Eight Deecimal Six Two Perches (A0-R0-P38.62)** according to the said **Plan No. 178/2013** aforesaid.

Date: 10th September 2109 **Pramith Rajapaksha**
Company Secretary

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, Department of Government Printing, will receive bids from Foreign Principals/Accredited Agents in Sri Lanka for the supply of following.

01. White Printing Paper : 24" - 80 GSM

Material : White Printing Paper
Quality : Wood Free & Surface Sized
Substance : 80± 2.5% GSM
Width : 24"
Quantity Required : 100 ± 10% Metric Tons
Bid Reference No. : S.I. 2021/35
Bid Fee : Rs. 6,000.00

02. White Printing Paper : 28" - 60 GSM

Material : White Printing Paper
Quality : Wood Free & Surface Sized
Substance : 60 ± 2.5% GSM
Width : 28"
Quantity Required : 50 ± 10% Metric Tons
Bid Reference No. : S.I. 2021/36
Bid Fee : Rs. 3,000.00

Closing of above Bids : 2 p.m. on **11.05.2021** and open the Bid Documents immediately after closing the same.

Bidding documents will be issued on official working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. by the Supplies Division, Department of Government Printing at the below mentioned address on written application together with the above non-refundable fee pertaining to the item on or before 2 p.m. day prior to the closing date of bids given above.

Further particulars could be obtained from my office during working days from 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

Gangani Liyanage,
Chairman, Procurement Committee

Department of Government Printing,
118, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.
Telephone: 011-2694898
Web Sites : www.documents.gov.lk
www.npa.gov.lk

07.04.2021

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.

NSB

NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK

Tender No: NSB/PT/2021/06

**CANCELLATION OF TENDER FOR THE
PROCUREMENT OF PLASTIC TILLS**

National Savings Bank herewith notify the Manufacturers / Suppliers / Accredited Local Agents who intended to bid for the said tender published on 06th April 2021, that the tender has been cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

**Chairman - Corporate Procurement Committee - Minor,
National Savings Bank,
No. 255, Galle Road,
Colombo 03.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

STATE MINISTRY OF GEM AND JEWELLERY RELATED INDUSTRIES

RENOVATION OF EXISTING BUILDING AT THE STATE MINISTRY OF GEM AND JEWELLERY RELATED INDUSTRIES, COLOMBO 05 - PHASE 1

CONTRACT NO.: SMG/J/ADM/05/01/02

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), on behalf of the State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the **Renovation of Existing Building at the State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, Colombo 05 -Phase 1** as described below and estimated to cost Rs. 25 Million (excluding VAT).

The Works consist of Complete Renovation of First Floor Lobby, Second Floor Balcony area including extension of Roof, Waterproofing of Roof slabs with provision of necessary M&E services of existing Building. The Works are to be organized accordingly to avoid any interruption or disturbance to regular function of the State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, since normal office works of the State Ministry and other offices located in the building are to be functioned while the renovation works are going on. The site is located at the premises of State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

The construction period is **84 Days.**

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements:
 - Registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) for Building Construction Works - Grade **C4 & C5**
 - The Bidder shall possess a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in accordance with the Section 8 of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987 for every Bid which exceeds the bid price of 5.0 million Rupees [Vide Section 2 of the Act].
- Qualification requirements to qualify for Contract award include:
 - Average of the annual turnover of construction work performed in last five years shall be at least Rs. 50 million.
 - Successful completion as a main contractor/ sub contractor of a building renovation project of similar nature and complexity with a project value at least Rs. 25 million or a higher project value completed within a reasonable time period, completed during last five years.
 - The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract shall be not less than Rs 15 million.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Director Planning, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No.561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 (Telephone: 011-2589087, Fax 011-2369790, E-mail: smjadm@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs from 15.04.2021 until 30.04.2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Administration Officer, Administration Division, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 from 15.04.2021 until 05.05.2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lankan Rupees Eight Thousand (Rs. 8,000.00). The method of payment will be cash.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below at State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 at or before 14:00 hrs on 07.05.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 05.08.2021
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Sri Lankan Rupees Three Hundred Thousand (Rs. 300,000.00) obtained in favour of The Secretary, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05. Bid Security shall be valid upto 02.09.2021
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00 hrs on 28.04.2021 in the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05 and will be followed by a Site Visit.

The address referred to above is:

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC)
State Ministry of Gem and Jewellery Related Industries,
No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo 05.**

QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF 3 Ply BLANKETS IMP/ADV/2021/09

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from foreign principals and local suppliers for the supply of "3 Ply Compressible Blankets" as specified below.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
40 Nos.	3 Ply Compressible Blankets with Alu Bars in Both Sides 889 mm (AC) x 636 mm (AR) Thickness 1.71 mm

Foreign Offers

Offers indicating Cost, Insurance & Freight Charges (All Inclusive) separately with specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Quotations for Compressible 3 Ply Blankets" on the top left hand corner.

Local Offers

Ex - stock price indicating transport charges, VAT and other levies separately with specifications 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 05 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 is subjected to a quality test.

The successful bidder should provide a Performance Bond to the value of 5% with a validity period of 90 days.

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 LTD.,
No. 35, Lake House, D. R. Wijewardene Mawatha,
Colombo 10.**



For details : 2429422, 242951

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Director General, Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (IBSL) at No: 80A, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08 invites quotations for the Application of Silicon Sealant for the Fixed Glass Panels in four wings in the 12 storied IBSL Towers.

- Scope of Work:**
 - Remove the exterior and interior caulking / Silicon, clean the window frame, and re-caulk (Silicon).
 - The interior and specifically the exterior silicone exposed for the sun should be weatherproof and should last long.
 - Remove dirt, debris, and insects from weep holes in the frame at bottom.
 - The contractor can use either rope or scaffolding to carry out the outside silicon works.
 - After the installation it should be pressure tested with a pressure gun.
- The prospective bidders are invited for a pre bid meeting scheduled to be held on 27th April 2021 at 10.30 a.m for the inspections and briefing and all the bidders are requested to attend the meeting.
- Bidders are required to give a warranty for a period of 3 years.
- The bidders should provide details on locations where this type of works carried out, the specifications of the caulking/sealant, the country of origin along with the quotation.
- Should get the insurance coverage for the people working, hired party as well as for any damages for any fixtures and fitting and the building.
- Should sign a letter of indemnity against any claims for any life and property.
- Bids shall be delivered to **The Director- Administration and HR, Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka at No: 80A, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08 on or before 04th May 2021 at 2.30PM.** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing of the tender in the presence of the bidder's representatives, who choose to attend.
- For any clarification, you may contact the Director, Facilities Management on 0773074218/0112425755 or the Asst. Director on 0766536703 /0112425756.

The Director General
INSTITUTE OF BANKERS OF SRI LANKA
(Established under the Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka (Incorporation) Act No. 26 of 1979 and managed by a Governing Board representing the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Licensed Banks, Fellows and Associates of the IBSL)
No: 80A, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.
TP : 011 24 25 777, E mail - info@ibsl.lk, Web - www.ibsl.lk



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS
ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the project described below: -

Contract No.	Contract Name	Engineer's Estimate exclu. Contingencies Rs Mn	Bid Security (Rs)	Duration Days
RDA/DC/ EP/GOSL/ 2021/02	ASPHALT SURFACING ON KOOLAWADY - CENTRALCAMP ROAD (2+300 - 5+250)	59.5	600,000.00	182

- The work consists of surface preparation, construction of pavement, Gabion work and asphalt laying.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall be currently registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in **C4, C3** and **ABOVE** grade in Highway Construction.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following offices and refer the bidding documents via www.rda.lk from **21.04.2021**
 - Additional Provincial Director (East), Road Development Authority, Akkaraipattu. T: 067-2277428, Fax No.-067-2278971
 - Director (Construction), RDA, 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla. T: 011 - 2864388, Fax No. 011 - 2861821
- The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at **10:00 hrs** on **28.04.2021** at the office of the Additional Provincial Director (East), Road Development Authority, Akkaraipattu and a site visit will be arranged immediately thereafter if necessary.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language shall be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the **The Additional Provincial Director (East), Road Development Authority, Akkaraipattu OR Director (Construction), 3rd Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", 216, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** from **21/04/2021** until **10/05/2021** during **09:00 hrs** to **15:00 hrs** upon payment of a non refundable fee.
Non - refundable tender fee of **Rs. 3780.00 (with VAT)** can be paid by depositing cash to the following account.
 - Account Name : Director General - RDA
 - Account Number : 0000001943
 - Bank Name : Bank of Ceylon - Corporate Branch
- As per the Public Contract Act No. 3 of 1987, only the Agents and Successful winners of tenders shall be registered in Department of Registrar of Companies.
- Bids shall be accompanied by Bid-Security being valid up to **07.09.2021**
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the **Chairman, Road Development Authority Procurement Committee, C/o Director General, Road Development Authority, 1st Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** on or before **14:00 hrs** on **11.05.2021** Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to **10.08.2021**

**The Chairman,
Road Development Authority Procurement Committee
Road Development Authority,
First Floor, "Maganeguma Mahamedura",
Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla.**



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கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Construction of Storage Facilities for Small Scale Farmers

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit under Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) to support Agricultural Crop production to ensure food security during COVID -19. Ministry of Agriculture intends to proceed of this credit to eligible payments under the contract of construction of storage facilities for small scale farmers in islandwide.
- The Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified contractors for "Construction of storage facilities for small scale farmers" in islandwide.
 - Detailed information on constructions has uploaded to the web site of the Ministry of Agriculture as given below.

www.agrimin.gov.lk
under the main menu go to download, select forms
- Bidders are allowed to quote for the above works with the Bid security given by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka as above with the valid date until **3rd August 2021** for above procurements. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered in the field of Construction (works) for the grade mentioned in the above website with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA).
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB) approved by the World Bank.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the responsible officials mentioned in the above website and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on **20th April 2021 to 10th May 2021** from **0900 hrs to 1500 hrs**.
- A complete set of Bidding documents in English language may be purchased by eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the responsible officials mentioned in the above website from **20th April 2021** until **10th May 2021** from **0900 hrs, to 1500 hrs** upon payment of a non - refundable fee as mentioned in the above website. The method of payment should be in cash.
- Bids must be delivered to the address given in the Bidding Data Sheet / Schedule in the Bidding Document on or before **1430 hrs, on 11th May 2021**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or bidders' representative who choose to attend in person at the mentioned address at **1430 hrs on 11th May 2021**.
- Bids should be **valid up to 6th July 2021**.
- Completed bids should be forwarded in two copies as the Original and the Duplicate. The original and the duplicate should be enclosed separately and marked as the 'Original' and 'Duplicate' respectively in sealed envelopes. Both envelopes enclosed in a sealed single envelope and marked as the "Construction of Storage Facilities for Small Scale Farmers and the contract number" on top left - hand corner of the envelope.
- Bids should be delivered through registered post or to be handed over to the place where mentioned in the Bidding document. Bids which will be received to the "Secretary - Ministry of Agriculture" will be rejected and hence you are strictly advised to handover the documents to the right place.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on **30th April 2021 at 1030 hrs** at the responsible office mentioned in the Bidding Data Sheet / Schedule in the Bidding Document.

Secretary
**Ministry of Agriculture
80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya",
Rajamalwatte Lane, Battaramulla.**

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Colombo FC striker Chamod Dilshan in action after scoring two goals for his team to notch up 4-0 win over New Youngs FC

Colombo FC start Super League campaign in style

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Striker Chamod Dilshan booted two spectacular goals as Colombo FC defeated New Youngs FC 4-0 in the inaugural Super League Football Tournament opening match played at the Sugathadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

After scoring a goal early in the first half, the Colombo lads dominated their rivals in all departments to score three more goals in the second half.

In the 11th minute of the first half, a handball decision was turned down by referee Lakmal Weerakkody, and television replays indicated that it was a poor decision. Two minutes later,

Dilshan broke the shackles for the winners making a well measured header off a free-kick 25 metres out from the right flank by Zarwan Johar and the scoreboard read 1-0 in favour of the winners at the breather.

In the 51st minute of the match, New Youngs FC goal-keeper Dhanushka Rajapaksa was penalised for dangerous play in their box area, resulting in a penalty to their rivals.

Mid-fielder Zarwan made no mistake with the kick to make the score 2-0. The third goal came in the 80th minute off the boot of Skipper Mommas Yapo while Dilshan sealed the game with another solo effort in the 86th minute.



Today's matches- Renown vs Defenders at 4.30 Blue Eagles vs Sea Hawks at 7.30

National Lotteries Board

Ministry of Finance

Procurement Notice

CALLING APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES / COMPANIES (ABOVE THE LINE (ATL), BELOW THE LINE (BTL), DIGITAL MEDIA & MEDIA BUYING)

IFB No: NLB/SUP/PSAA/2020

The Chairman of Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) on behalf of the National Lotteries Board (NLB) invites applications from interested advertising agencies / companies (applicants) to be prequalified to develop advertising concepts, communication strategic plans, branding strategy, media buying scheduling and monitoring including digital media, PR publicity, conducting lottery draw programs, event management, indoor and outdoor branding, promotional material development and other related marketing activities for NLB for a period of one year from the date of signing agreements. All agencies / companies shall make the highest contribution to the achievement of objectives and to safeguard the best interest of National Lotteries Board (NLB).

Eligibility Criteria

All applicants should have minimum of two (02) years of continuous work experience relating to the Service Provider Category they apply.

Submission of Proposal

- Interested and eligible advertising agencies should require to submit a proposal for one product out of the following products along with the application.

Supiri Vasana, Jathika Sampatha, Vasana Sampatha, Mega Power, Sampatha Lagna Warama, Instant (Scratch off) Lotteries. Advertising Agencies shall submit their initial innovative / creative proposals to assess their ability for the purpose of short listing. (The proposal must be submitted in both paper and CD formats)

- Following documents / information should be submitted in the formats as specified in the Pre-Qualification document.

Categories of Advertising Agencies				
Category 01 Advertising Agencies/ Companies for Above The Line (ATL) activities	Category 02 Advertising Agencies / Companies for Below The Line (BTL) activities		Category 03 Digital Media Agencies / Companies	Category 04 Media Buying, Scheduling and Monitoring Agencies / Companies
	Type A	Type B		
Company profile and certified copy of business registration.				
Audited Financial Statements of last two years.				
The Proposed Human Resource Designated for Work				
List of top Clients for Last 02 Years and Creative Work Done.	Activities Done with Brands / Clients for Last 02 Years.	Activities Done with Brands / Clients for Last 02 Years.	List of top Clients for Last 02 Years and Creative Work Done & Details of Technical Capabilities	List of top Clients for Last 02 Years and Media Buying, Scheduling, Monitoring, Public Relations and Publicity Work Done. Proposed Media Scheduling Rates for National Lotteries Board.

- If any agency wishes to submit their pre-qualification application for ATL Advertising Agency / Company, BTL Advertising Agency / Company, Digital Media Advertising Agency / Company & Media Buying Advertising Agency / Company individual proposals should be submitted separately.
- Applicant (Agency / Company) shall be allowed to apply one or more categories (ATL Advertising Agency / Company, BTL Advertising Agency / Company, Digital Media Advertising Agency / Company & Media Buying Advertising Agency / Company) and categories comparison evaluation of proposals and award of contract shall be made on the basis of single category.

Application Procedure

- Further information should be obtained from Assistant General Manager (Procurement) National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01. - Tel 011- 4607020
- The application for pre-qualification document can be collected from the National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01. from 20.04.2021 to 10.05.2021 between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. from Monday to Friday other than public holidays by submitting a written request on a business letterhead, addressed to the General Manager, National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01.
- Sealed pre-qualification document should be deposited in the tender box kept at 05th Floor, Administration Division, National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01 or Also be sent by registered post to reach The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, C/O National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01 before 2.30 pm on 11.05.2021.
- Pre-Qualification Document should be properly sealed and submitted in duplicate in separate covers marked "Original" and "Duplicate" on the top left hand corner of the envelope. Above two said envelopes should be contained in another envelope and properly sealed.
- The words "Applications for pre-qualification of advertising agencies / companies -(name of category apply)", as outlined in the table above, should be written on the top center of the envelope.
- Late Applications shall be rejected. The Application will be opened soon after the closing at Administration Division, 05th Floor, National Lotteries Board, No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01.

Conditions

- Any advertising Agency / Company provides its services presently to any other organization dealing with lotteries in Sri Lanka in their own name or in the name of their subsidiaries will not be eligible to submit proposals.
- Bidding Documents will be issued only to the applicants shortlisted by the Ministry Procurement Committee.
- The Ministry Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any prequalification application or any part thereof or reject all the prequalification applications without assigning any reason.
- Any type of canvassing will be regarded as a disqualification.

Chairman
Ministry Procurement Committee
National Lotteries Board
No.32, Deshamanya N.W.J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo 01.

Former SL all-rounder Lokuhettige handed eight-year ban



Dilhara Lokuhettige

Former Sri Lanka player Dilhara Lokuhettige has been banned from all cricket for eight years after an ICC Anti-Corruption Tribunal found him guilty of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

The ban for Lokuhettige is backdated to 3 April 2019, when he was provisionally suspended.

As previously announced, following full hearings and presentations of written and oral argument, the Tribunal found Lokuhettige guilty of Article 2.1.1 - for being party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive or otherwise influence improperly the

result, progress, conduct or other aspect(s) of a match.

Article 2.1.4 - directly or indirectly soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any participant to breach code article 2.1.

Article 2.4.4 - failing to disclose to the ACU full details of any approaches or invitations received to engage in corrupt conduct under the code.

Lokuhettige has also been charged by the ICC on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) with breaching three counts of the ECB Anti-Corruption Code for

participants for the T10 League and these proceedings are ongoing.

Alex Marshall, ICC General Manager - Integrity Unit, said: "Having represented Sri Lanka in international cricket, Dilhara had attended a number of anti-corruption education sessions and would have known his actions were a breach of the Code."

"The severity of the sanction reflects the seriousness of his offences and his continued refusal to cooperate and should serve as a deterrent for anyone considering getting involved in corruption of any kind." (ICC)

Muralitharan undergoes angioplasty



Muttiah Muralitharan

Former Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan underwent a successful coronary angioplasty with stents at Chennai's Apollo Hospital on Sunday. The SRH bowling coach will be discharged from the hospital today.

Sri Lankan spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan has undergone an angioplasty procedure after being admitted in Chennai's Apollo Hospital for cardiac evaluation on Sunday.

The 49-year-old is the bowling coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), who are currently playing their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 matches in Chennai.

In a press release from the hospital on Monday, it has been revealed that Muralitharan underwent a successful coronary angioplasty with stents on Sunday. The release added that Muralitharan will be discharged on Monday and can resume his normal activities.

Muralitharan celebrated his 49th birthday on April 17.

Muralitharan is the highest wicket-taker in international cricket with 1347 wickets that includes a record 800 scalps in Tests, 534 in ODIs and 13 in T20 internationals for Sri Lanka.

After winning their first match against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 10 runs, SRH have lost their next two matches against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Mumbai Indians (MI). The 2016 champions are currently at the bottom of the 8-team points table.

David Warner's team will next face Punjab Kings on Wednesday.

Agencies

Royal, Trinity through to U-19 semis



Umair Raizan



Abhishek Ananda Kumar

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Skipper Ahan Wickramasinghe and opener Sineth Jayawardena struck fine half-centuries as Royal College recorded an easy six-wicket victory over Nalanda College in their Under-19 Division One Tier 'A' quarter-final cricket fixture played at Mount Lavinia yesterday.

The Nalandians made 189 for seven in their 50 overs and Royal reached their target in 39 overs with six wickets in hand.

Nalanda Skipper Raveen de Silva top scored with 59 in 85 balls with two fours and a six but the Royal bowlers were in control of the game with leg-spinner Dasis Manchanayake claiming three for 17.

Royal in reply reached their target with 11 overs to spare as Jayawardena struck a fine 60 in 75 balls with six fours and a six while Wickramasinghe scored 71 not out in 79 balls inclusive of six fours.

Meanwhile a fine bowling performance by leg-spinner Dinuka Tennakoon and Skipper Abhishek Anandakumar helped Trinity College beat St. Sebastian's College, Morarupura by seven wickets in their Division One Tier 'A' quarter-final game played at Reid Avenue yesterday.

The Sebastianites were bowled out for 131 in 43.2 overs and Trinity reached their target in 30.1 overs.

Chief scores

● **At Mount Lavinia** (Royal won by six wickets)



Sineth Jayawardena



Ahan Wickramasinghe

● **Nalanda:** 189/7 in 50 overs (Rashan Dissanayaka 30, Nadil Jayakody 32, Vinuja Ranpul 22, Raveen de Silva 59 n.o., Dasis Manchanayake 3/17)

● **Royal:** 191/4 in 39 overs (Sineth Jayawardena 60, Isiwara Dissanayake 21, Ahan Wickramasinghe 71 n.o., Dineth Samaraweera 2/32).

● **At Reid Avenue** (Trinity won by seven wickets)

● **St. Sebastian's:** 131 in 43.2 overs (Yashan Avishka 51, Savindu Rodrigo 30, Dinuka Tennakoon 4/23, Abhishek Anandakumar 3/37)

● **Trinity:** 133/3 in 30.1 overs (Thewin Amarasinghe 39, Umair Raizan 60, Pawan Pathiraja 21, Sandeesh Fernando 3/39).

● **At Campbell Park** (Sri Jayawardeneperura MV won by 119 runs)

● **Sri Jayawardeneperura MV:** 222 in 49.4 overs (Ronan Dahanayake 25, Chamod Supun 79, Hasitha Hishan 20, Chamod Ashan 3/31, Yuneth Vindiya 2/41, Malindu Nuwin 3/21)

● **President's College:** 103 in 32.1 overs (Yuneth Vindiya 35, Chamod Supun 5/26, Biyanaka Thameera 3/18, Denuwan Jayawardene 2/9).



Sri Lanka's first ever Professional Football League Competition named "Super League" was officially launched during a press conference and trophy launching ceremony at the Football Federation Of Sri Lanka (FFSL) auditorium on Sunday. Here Anura De Silva, President, FFSL (right extreme) receiving the Electronic Media Sponsorship from Dilshan Pathirana, Head Of the Channel TV 1 (third from left). Others in the picture are from left: Jaswar Umar - the General Secretary of FFSL and P. G. P. Pieris - Chairman Media FFSL. Picture by Herbert Perera

Achala Perera the utility player

ALTHAF NAWAZ

One should possess some special talent and maintain a good physique to occupy multiple positions in the game of rugby football. Achala Anurudda Perera was a player who was blessed with a stocky build which enabled him to play a key role as a utility player which saw him reach the pinnacle handling the oval shaped ball. Achala Perera was born in 1985 to a humble family in the vicinity of Kandy. His father Tissa Perera worked overseas from his younger days and mother Sriyani Tennakoon was a house wife who was instrumental in taking care of him during his school career. He has one sister Nadeeka Anuradhi who also has a rugby background. She represented Kandy and Havelocks women's rugby teams.

He started his school career with Kingswood College, Kandy in 1995 and completed in 2004. He had never thought of representing National level as a sportsman when he was a child. Hardships and challenges

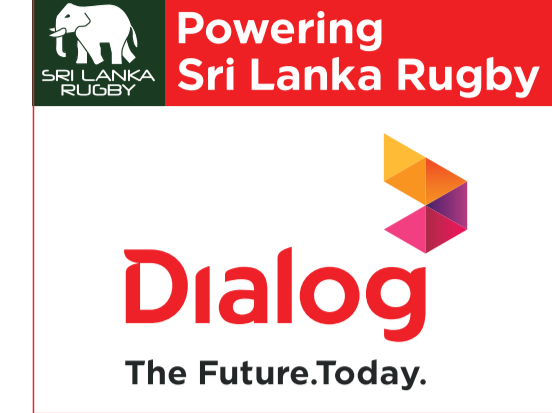
were encountered during his childhood and one day when he was in Grade six, one of his school mates Anuradha Gunasekara dragged him to play the sport called rugby. There, he saw the oval shaped ball for the first time in his life and things began to change since then. He began his rugby career in Grade six merely out of curiosity. The journey began there as he never expected becoming the captain of the under-13 team within a few months. He continued to captain the under-15 team as well. He learnt the basics of this amazing game from his coach Asela Muthumala. They became the under-17 All Island Champions (captained the team) in 2003/04 seasons.

Gradually while maturing as a great player, he was included in the college first XV team from 2001 to 2004 and played under the captaincies of Dinesh Siri-wimala and Fazil Marija. They became the champions in 2004 at the All Island Tournament. He occupied several positions starting as a hooker, Prop, Cen-

tre three quarter and number eight. He represented the under-16 school National team in 2001 which won the Plate Championship. He donned the under-19 National jersey in the 2002/03 seasons.

After his illustrious school career, he opted to continue playing rugby and joined CH and FC in 2005 and surged ahead till 2009 where he went on to lead them in 2009, which ultimately became his last season there. He then crossed over to his hometown team Kandy Sports Club to scrub down from 2010

to 2012, where in 2010/11 season they became champions. He once again swapped clubs for his own betterment to join the Navy team from 2013 to 2015. During his tenure there they became champions in 2013. His club rugby concluded after he locked horns for Police in the 2015/16 season. While he was competing at CH in 2007, he was called for National duty and played in the 2007 Rugby Asiad when Sri Lanka emerged



Dialog

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learnt respect, playing as a team never having selfish motives. They were part of a golden era of Sri

Lankan school rugby, and without halting there it went on the same way up-to the National level. It was this sport which taught him perseverance, patience, flexibility and to respect the fellow players, where they were

always willing to learn. He assumes that humility is the fundamental truth in reaching out greater heights in life. Unfortunately, which is not witnessed today with the current sports personalities.

Above all, he says if not for his mother Sriyani, he wouldn't have never achieved all that he achieved today. She single-handedly brought him up facing all the tough times in life. He is there because of his mother's contribution. His wife is Chiranthi Wijeratanne who stood as a pillar of strength in his good and bad days and they have two children Shaviv and Ethan.

runners up to Kazakhstan losing 17-24 and continued to represent the Sri Lanka team until 2015 while participating in the Rugby Asiad from 2010 to 2015.

After hanging up his boots, he began his coaching career in the year 2016 with Thurstan College as head coach. Under his guidance they won the Plate Championship in the 2016/17 season. In 2018, he assumed duty as forwards coach with S.

Thomas, Mount Lavinia under Bilal Yusuf as head coach. Next year, he joined Zahira, Colombo once again as a forward coach under Collin Dinesh as head coach. He would like to extend his sincere gratitude to the few individuals who contributed immensely to transform him as a top rugby player from the time he handled the oval shaped ball. This

includes Ananda Kasthuriarachchi, A. C. Tennakoon, G B Gunadasa and Muthilal Jayathilaka. He would also like to mention the fact that he was absolutely blessed to be a part of a wonderful school team, where they

Niluka fine women's cricketer and coach

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA
Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Niluka Amarasena, an old girl of Swarnamali Balika Vidyalaya, Kandy is a women's cricketer and a level one coach as well as an official scorer since the year 2011 appointed by Sri Lanka Cricket. She started club cricket after leaving School and straight away joined the Kandy Ladies Cricket team under the coaching of Bernard Perera, Harold Ranasinghe and Strath Kasturiratne. After this continuous training, Niluka was selected to the Central Province Women's Cricket Team and they became champions at the National Games in 2009 and 2010. She has represented Chilaw Marians and Matala District Womens Cricket team at the Inter District Cricket tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket under the captaincy of Sweeni de Alwis and some of her other team members were Dedunu de Silva, Praba Udawatte and Inoka Galagedara to name a few.



Niluka Amarasena, the talented cricketer, coach and official scorer.

Niluka is a right hand middle order Batswoman and right arm off spinner who can keep wickets too. Her Best bowling figures are claiming Six wickets for 12 Runs against Kegalle District team and her highest score is 42 runs also against the Kegalle District team. She is attached to the New League Cricket Academy as an Assistant Coach and she is a visiting Cricket Coach for Ladies Cricket teams in and around Kandy District.

Niluka has dedicated her duties as an official cricket coach for the last ten years. Being a spinster her main ambition is to promote cricket among the cricket playing women by coaching cricket and functioning as an official scorer as long as she is fit to do so. She is thankful to her three coaches for the strenuous training she got to come to this standard in cricket and to her family for the encouragement given to her.

Vihanga Thusaraka karateka par excellence

DILWIN MENDIS
Moratuwa Sports
Special Correspondent

Sixteen year old Karate Black Belt holder Vithana Appuhamilage Vihanga Thusaraka brought honour and fame for his Alma Mater Vekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa. He was born on 3rd May 2014 and he was initially admitted to his village school Sangabodhi Vidyalaya, Katukenda, Dankotuwa in 2010 and his first Principal was Dharmapriya Pathirana and he was there up to Grade Five and he participated in the Inter House Ath-

letic Meet and he could not come up to expectations.

When he was five years old he was encouraged by his father Asela Sumith Lasantha who is the Karate Coach and Master in Charge of Karate at Wekada Vidyalaya to take up to karate and with the blessings of his mother Shyamali Ranasinghe and at the age of six he was the School Karate Champion in 2015 and in the same year he took part in the All Island Inter Schools Karate Federation Tournament held at Sugathadasa Stadium and in his first attempt he got a Bronze for Kata and in the following year

at the Puttalam District Meet he won Gold Medals for Kata and Kumite At the Provincial tournament he won a Gold and at the National Schools Meet he won a Silver for Kata.

When he was in Grade Eight he temporarily stopped sports and in 2018 he won Golds for Kata and Kumite at the Puttalam District meet and at the North Western Provincial Meet he won a Gold for Kata and Silver for Kumite and at the All Island Schools Meet he grabbed a Silver Medal and in the following year too he won Golds for Kata and Kumite in the District

and Provincial Meets This year due to Ordinary level Examination he gave up sports temporarily and his Principal, Vithana and Prefect of Games Saman Bandara are always supportive of him at school.



Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa under 17 Karate Team posed for a photograph after the All Island Karate Championship 2019 held at Sugathadasa Stadium, Colombo. Standing L/R - Dinidu Sasunpriya, Nadun Nimesh, Vihanga Thusaraka, Asela Sumith (Coach), Akarsha Hiruni, Dumindu Lakshan, Kanishka Lakshan (Picture by - Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)



Record breaker Roshan Abeysundera promoted

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

The Leading Aircraftsman Roshan Abeysundera was promoted to the rank of Corporal on April 15, 2021 by the Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana during the ceremony held at Air Force Headquarters. The ceremony was organized in recognition of his performance of swimming from Thalaimannar to Dhanushkodi in India through Palk Strait and back covering a distance of 59.3 Kms with a time of 28 hours, 19 minutes and 43 seconds on April 11, 2021, thereby breaking the Asian Long Distance Swimming Record in the process.

The Commander congratulated him on his dedication that led him to success from humble beginnings. The event was attended by Director Ground Operations, Director Sports and the Secretary of the Air Force Sports Council as well.

Corporal Abeysundera completed the first leg in 10 Hours and 31 minutes there



The Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana (left) presenting the documents of promotion to Corporal Roshan Abeysundera at the ceremony held at Air Force Headquarters.

by creating a new Sri Lankan Record. Anandan's 50-year-old record which was set in 1971 by swimming the Palk Strait in 51 hours.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

Long-distance runner Samarasinghe brought laurels to the country

Vijitha Kanda Lekamlage Samarasinghe, who represented Sri Lanka in the marathon at the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988, was born in Kuruwita on January 16, 1962 and was educated at Parakudawa Narada MV.

He had participated in several athletic events under the guidance of his Games Teacher Nihal Fernando.

In 1983, he made his appearance for the first time in the National Marathon and was placed fourth. In 1985, he was placed second and in 1986, he won this event.

Thereafter, he came under the wing of Coach Lakshman de Alwis and went on to participate in several international marathons between 1986 and 1991. His best achievement was 2:16.00s at the SAF Games in 1987, held in Kolkata, India.

Earlier, Samarasinghe won the Gold Medal at the 1986 SAF Games in Kathmandu, Nepal where he returned a time of 2:22.00s. He then clocked 2:24.38s at the Biwako Marathon in Japan in 1987 followed by the World Cup Marathon in Seoul, Korea where he secured the 42nd place with a time of 2:23.36s.

In the same year, Samarasinghe participated in the World Championship in Rome to claim

the 34th place with a time of 2:28.35s.

In 1988, he had the opportunity of competing in two top marathons in the United States. He was placed 38th at the Los Angeles Marathon with a time of 2:23.46s and was placed 18th at the Grandma's Marathon in Minnesota with a time of 2:28.35s.

At the 24th Olympics in Seoul, Korea Samarasinghe had to be content with the 65th place while clocking 2:31.00s. But in the following year he produced a fine performance to clinch the 9th place at the Biwako Marathon in Japan with a time of 2:19.41s.

Samarasinghe also participated in the World Cup Marathon in 1989 and secured the 33rd place with a time of 2:17.35s. He won the Gold Medal at the IV SAF Games held in Islamabad, Pakistan with a time of 2:19.41s and also participated in the Asian Championships in 1990. He made his appearance in the World Cup



V. K. L. Samarasinghe

Marathon in London in 1991, clocking 2:25.09s and went on to win the Silver Medal at the EKIDAN Road Relay in Japan in 1991. Samarasinghe was a force to be reckoned with in the Asian circuit and he stamped his class by winning the Gold Medal at the Pune International in

1991 with a time of 2:23.36s. In the same year, he also won the Silver Medal at the Hong Kong International with a time of 2:20.57s.

After an absence from local competitions for a few years, in 1992, Samarasinghe came into his own and won the National Marathon with a time

of 2:18.41.

He served as a Sergeant in the Sri Lanka Army Signal Corps and underwent military training in the USA. Samarasinghe gained the distinction of being the fourth marathon runner to represent Sri Lanka in the Olympic Games. (C.D)

Sri Lanka Army Engineering Corps cricket champions

SHERIFDEEN AMATH

The 'A' Division final in the Inter Regiment Cricket Tournament (50 overs), organized by the Army Cricket Committee

got underway on 08 April 2021 at the "Muthukumar" Stadium, Panagoda.

The Sappers cricket team was formed in the year 2013 with a majority of soft ball

players and played for the Inter Regiment 'B' division where they could not register a single win. In the later years they developed rapidly and became the champions of 'B'

division in year 2018. From year 2019 Sappers qualified to play Inter Regiment 'A' division tournament.

Ten Regimental teams where some of them consisted of national players vied for supremacy, beginning 23 August 2020 by meeting their rivals at "Muthukumar" Army cricket ground at Panagoda, Sappers Cricket Stadium at Mattegoda and Sri Lanka Ordnance Corps International Cricket Stadium at Dombagoda.

Sri Lanka Engineering Corps (SLE) and Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) teams entered the final defeating Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment and Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment teams respectively.

In the final the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment won the toss and elected to bat first. Tight bowling and good fielding of Sappers restricted SLSR to 190 runs in 49.1 overs. Left arm leg spinner Sapper Hashan Sandeepana took 5 wickets for 38 runs, Lieutenant Omesh Vidyaratne took 2 wickets for

33 runs were the key bowlers to restrict SLSR batsmen

In replying the SLSR total the Sri Lanka Engineering Corps scored 191 runs in 44.4 overs losing only four wickets to notch up a grand victory in the SLE Cricket history.

Sapper Sithumina Ekanayake score 64 runs in 119 balls with one six and four fours. Sapper Heshan Hettiarachchi scored quick 35 runs off 25 balls with a six and three fours. :

Chief scores:

SLSR - 190 (49.1 overs): Lance Corporal Hemal Korathota 70, Rifleman Mayura Wijesinghe 29, Sapper Hashan Sandeepana 5/38, Lieutenant Mesh Vidyaratne 2/33.

SLE - 191/4 (44.4 overs): Sapper Sithumina Ekanayake 64*, Sapper Heshan Hettiarachchi 35*, Lieutenant Omesh Vidyaratne 29, Rifleman Mayura Wijesinghe 3/21,



Sri Lanka Engineering Corps (SLE) team which won the Inter Regiment Cricket Tournament, organized by the Army Cricket Committee

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(April 20)

LOCAL EVENTS

CRICKET

(U-19 Division One Tier 'A' quarter-finals): Mahanama vs St. Anthony's, Katugastota at Kurunegala
Richmond vs St. Joseph's at Wijerama Mawatha

(U-19 Division Two Tier 'B' quarter-finals): Bandaranayake MV vs Royal, Panadura at Asgiriya Stadium

BADMINTON

All-Island Summer Season Championship in Nuwara Eliya

FOOTBALL

Super League Tournament at Sugathadasa Stadium

FOREIGN EVENTS

CRICKET

(Indian Premier League): Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians at Chennai (Nepal Tri Series): Nepal vs Netherlands at Kirtipur

FOOTBALL

(Premier League): Chelsea vs Brighton and Hove Albion

Premier League's 'big six' agree to join new league

Liverpool and Manchester United are the two most successful sides in English football history.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham are among 12 clubs who have agreed to join a new European Super League (ESL).

In a seismic move for European football, the Premier League clubs will join AC Milan, Atletico Madrid, Barcelona, Inter Milan, Juventus and Real Madrid.

BBC

All roads lead to BMICH for Mega show today

DINESH WEERAWANSA

All roads will lead to Colombo's picturesque BMICH as it hosts the 42nd Observer SLT Mobitel Schools Cricketers of the Year 2020 award ceremony starting at 5.30 pm today.

Sri Lanka's leading English Newspaper with the largest circulation the Sunday Observer will host the Mega Show for the 43rd consecutive year since 1979. Sri Lanka's national mobile service provider SLT Mobitel will sponsor the show for the 15th consecutive year.

When the Covid-19 pandemic hit all over the world early last year, all global activities came to a complete standstill. Hence, there was no exception in Sri Lanka as sports events too came to a complete stop after Royal-Thomian Battle of the Blues encounter in mid-March last year. Ever since, there were no school cricket activities for a complete one year until last March.

But the Observer Sri Lanka Telecom Mobitel Schools Cricketers of the Year went uninterrupted. We saw a few other newspapers and sponsors teaming up to organize similar school cricket award shows but abandoned when the Covid-19 came. As the first and the pioneer in the business, we were more than happy to welcome those as the ultimate beneficiary of all these have been school cricketers.

When the Covid-19 caused havoc and all sponsors of those cricket award shows departed their partners, only SLT Mobitel stood strong with the Sunday Observer to exercise their corporate social responsibility. Hence, the SLT Mobitel and Sunday Observer became the only partners to honour school cricketers even during Covid-19 hit



last year as the Mother of all Cricket Awards Shows.

Thus, the Observer SLT Mobitel Schools Cricketers of the Year will march forward with more power and energy as the schools cricket award show which was with them when it mattered the most.

At the same time after Tuesday's awards ceremony for the achievements during the 2019-2020 seasons, the 43rd Observer SLT Mobitel Schools Cricketers of the Year would continue to reward the

2020-2021 top performers towards end of this year.

Gracing the show will be former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasiriya, fresh after his leading role for Sri Lanka at the Legends World Cup in India. Loads of music, dance and entertainment acts with the experience-sharing only speech by the chief guest.

Jayasuriya, who was adjudged the Player of the Tournament at Sri Lanka's 1996 World



Former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasiriya will be the chief guest

Cup triumph. He has once again proved his grit when he played for Sri Lanka Legends after undergoing four operations including two knee surgeries and a heart stent. That's really a classic example only legends such as Jayasuriya could perform.

Today's colourful entertainment will be performed by the cream of artists who are really the top of the pops now. Derana Dream Star 2020 winner Falan Andrea will lead the team along with ever-popular Randhir Witana. Two other popular artists Tehani Imara and Madhuvy Vaithalingam are among others

lined top for the evening with Gayan Dance Troupe in attendance.

The lively 150-minute show, coordinated by the leading event organizer Funtime under the direction of evergreen Imran Saibo, will be presented by evergreen Clifford Richards and Sonali Perera.

Sri Lanka Telecom Group Chairman Rohan Fernando, from his early background at S Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia

as a rower to his elevation to former Sri Lanka Rowing chief and Vice President of the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka made us extremely proud.

Chairman of ANCL, President's Counsel W. Dayaratne has given his fullest backing to make this event a success.

The ANCL director board - Director Editorial Dharma Sri Kariyawasam, Director Legal and Administration, Rakhitha Abeygunawardhana, Director Finance, Janaka Ranatunga and Director Operations, Canishka Witharana have always supported this huge task.

ICC Chief Match Referee and former Sri Lanka captain Ranjan Madugale, the first ever winner of the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year in 1979, said he was delighted to see the smooth progress of the event. "Winning an award here is a lasting memory and I will treasure that moment forever," he said.

Sri Lanka's World Cup winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga, who won the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year twice in 1980 and 1982, said it's a tremendous boost for a schoolboy when he receives an award here. You may go places and win many other awards at higher levels, but an award won at the Observer Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year event remains the most memorable in any cricketer's life," he said.



Ever-popular Randhir Witana

popular artist Tehani Imara

Derana Dream Star 2020 winner Falan Andrea

Dhawan hammers 92 as Delhi beat Punjab in IPL

Shikhar Dhawan hit a superb 92 to lead Delhi Capitals to victory over Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League match in

Mumbai on Sunday. With Prithvi Shaw making 32 and Marcus Stoinis 27 not out from 13 balls, Delhi won by six wickets with 10

balls to spare. Punjab had been taken to 195 for four by 69 from Mayank Agarwal and Captain K. L. Rahul's 61. In the battle of the previous season's two leading run-scorers - Rahul with 670 and Dhawan with 618 - it was the left-hander who outshone his India teammate.

That did not seem likely when Punjab were making a blistering start on a flat pitch in Mumbai. Agarwal in particular dished out some brutal treatment to some wayward Delhi bowling - clubbing four sixes and seven fours in his 36-ball stay. However, in the context of the match, for Rahul to take 51 deliveries over his knock was arguably too ponderous.

And, as Delhi gradually dragged it back with the ball, they were left with a target within their range. Opening the response, Dhawan targeted the leg side and was supported by Shaw, who needed only 17 balls for his 32.

Though Australian Steve Smith, in his first game for Delhi since joining from Rajasthan Royals, struggled for fluency, Dhawan ploughed on, taking over as the tournament's leading run-scorer from Glenn Maxwell, who held the Orange Cap for only a matter of hours.

Dhawan missed out on a century, bowled attempting a sweep at a Jhye Richardson slower ball. His 92 had come from 49 balls with 13 fours and two sixes.

Chief scores
Punjab Kings: 195/4 in 20 overs (K. L. Rahul 61, Mayank Agarwal 69)

Delhi Capitals: 198/4 in 18.2 overs (Prithvi Shaw 32, Shikhar Dhawan 92, Marcus Stoinis 27 n.o., Jhye Richardson 2/41).

(BBC)



Shikhar Dhawan plays a shot

HNB clinch Super League Netball Tournery

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Hatton National Bank (HNB) put up a superb display of skills to beat Air Force SC 54-37 to clinch the Super League Netball Championship worked off at the Ratnapura Public Indoor Stadium recently.

This tournament was organised by the Sri Lanka Netball Federation (SLNF) to mark the centenary year of Sri Lanka Netball.

HNB took the lead 15-7 in the first quarter and kept extending their lead in each of the following three quarters and led 28-17 at the half time. Air Force SC played better early in the second half to score 11 points to

10 by HNB but in the final quarter HNB put up a fine display to score 15 points as against just eight points.

Sri Lanka player Dharshika Abeywickrama scored 50 goals for HNB while Sri Lanka Skipper

Chathurangi Jayasinghe scored 20 points and Madumali Sinhabahu 17 points

for the losers. In the play-off match, Police SC overcame a tough challenge

from Army SC to score a 28-26 win to finish in third place.



The champion HNB squad comprising Dharshika Abeywickrama (Captain), Umanya de Zoysa, Dulangi Wannithilake, Gayanjali Amarawansa, Anjalee Ekanayake, Malmi Hettiarachchi, Gayani Dissanayake, Kumarine Silva, Pabasara Gunasekera, Hazeena Abdul, Imashi Subasinghe, Hansi Bandara, Coach Sashika Samarasinghe, Manager Jayanthi de Silva and Physiotherapist Mahesh Wanigasooriya with SLNF President Victoria Lakshmi

42nd OBSERVER - SLT-MOBITELE SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

"Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness"

BMICH APRIL 20, 2021, 5.30 PM



Daily News Business

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

Several local companies have already invested in it

Port City to bring economic benefits for entire country'

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Colombo Port City project will bring in far reaching economic benefits to entire Sri Lanka and especially to the Colombo business community.

Chairman Colombo Business Association Ariyaseela Wickramanayake said that it was wrong to say that Sri Lankans have been left out of the development of the Port City. Several local companies have already invested in it. "Browns Investments PLC, the strategic investment arm of the LOLC Group, has entered into a landmark agreement to partner China Harbour Engineering Company Limited to commence the Colombo International Finance Centre Mixed Development Project in the Port City (CPC) Colombo. My company, Master Divers too would invest in the Mar-



CBA Chairman Ariyaseela Wickramanayake and Secretary Chaminda Vidanagama

itime sector operations of the CPC," he disclosed.

He also said that the commission bill that was gazetted too is a 'must' towards the progress of the CPC. This proposed Commission, aimed at making Port City Sri Lanka's first service-oriented specialised economic

zone would also help to create a one stop shop granting approval in a matter of hours. Wickramanayake also recalled that the BOI zones too are created similar to Port City commission regulations and they have a separate set of laws but have never posed issues to Sri

Lankans. Their investors too are offered huge tax benefits to woo them to invest in Sri Lanka since its creation in 1977. He said that his other company, Palwatte Dairies, was negotiating for three years to lease a 45 acre government land in Kurunegala to build Sri Lanka first

export oriented dairy but have still failed.

"Investors come with the money and they want to sign up and start work the next day. They can't waste time for approvals and if this happens they would be snatched up by other countries." Wickramanayake said that Master Divers was one of the first companies to do a feasibility study over a decade ago and out of the 178 hectares of marketable land in the Port City, the Sri Lanka government will own and manage and make profits from 62 hectares of land. It's not right to say that Sri Lanka doesn't have a foot hold in it." CPC would be a catalyst for economic revival as it would provide over 83,000 high paying employment opportunities and will completely change the economic fabric of the nation."

Meanwhile, CBA Secretary Chaminda Vidanagama said that it would be their association and 25 of their associate associations that would protest the creation of CPC if it was detrimental to them. "We see demand for our wholesale products improving, land value moving up, house rentals increasing and in short, high volume of additional business due to the CPA." He said that the CPA will also bring in more Forex to Sri Lanka resulting in rupee stabilisation.

"Port City Project development is the single biggest investment in the history of Sri Lanka attracting not only Chinese but other investors from all over the world and will certainly benefit the Colombo business community in a big way."



NDB SIGNS MOU | PAGE 19

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

Rate of Interest

FROM 20/04/2021
TO 26/04/2021

4% p.a.

For further details visit the nearest branch

COMMERCIAL BANK

Inequalities in digital access unveils new economic and spatial divides - WB

Unequal opportunities to work from home have introduced new economic and spatial divides as working remotely is nearly exclusively an option for high-income earners, and small and medium-sized enterprises were unlikely to adopt digital technologies.

In the medium to long-term, digital technologies could become an important engine for job growth says a comment in the "Sri Lanka Poverty Assessment Accelerating Economic Transformation" report compiled by the World Bank.

However, despite wide scale

ownership of cellphones in Sri Lanka, the digital revolution will fall short of expectations without expansion of high-speed networks and accessible data on the whole island. Sri Lanka could provide new opportunities for economic mobility through policies that expand or universalize access to digital infrastructure.

Investments in digital literacy are a prerequisite for widely shared benefits from these new opportunities. Digital technology and the internet can act as driving forces of income convergence, both across individuals and across districts. However, if

access is higher among richer households or in richer districts, digital technologies can compound existing inequalities. Digital access is higher for richer households (Figure 31a), so that it aggravates economic inequality and lowers economic mobility. In addition, the digital divide also has a geographic dimension as richer and more urban districts have higher access to technology.

Internet use is twice as prevalent in urban areas as in rural areas. In the former, four out of ten people used the internet at least once in 2018, relative to only two out of ten in rural areas.

The high correlation between the different dimensions of inequality – economic, digital and spatial – makes it unlikely that digital opportunities will have an equalizing impact without large policy intervention. One example is the impact of opportunities to work remotely.

Deteriorations in labor market outcomes are the main channels through which the COVID-19 pandemic has increased poverty.

Just as improvements in the labor market drove poverty reduction pre-COVID, widespread job and earning losses are the main drivers behind rising

poverty since the onset of the pandemic. Sectors such as construction, transport, manufacturing, food, and accommodation created the majority of new jobs in recent years but have been particularly hard hit.

On the other hand, jobs that can be done remotely from home have likely been largely insulated from the unemployment shock.

Since opportunities to work from home tend to benefit mostly high-earning workers, inequalities in digital access have introduced new economic and spatial divides.

Rupee appreciates further

The Sri Lankan Rupee appreciated further against the US Dollar yesterday with the buying rate of the dollar dropping to Rs. 187.93 according to Central Bank's daily exchange rates.

The selling rate of the US dollar had reached Rs. 191.97. This is the first time the selling rate had dropped below the 200-mark since March 15, 2021.

The selling rate of the US

dollar had reached the highest figure in the country's history on April 15 climbing to 204.62. Central Bank statistics indicated that the rupee has depreciated by 6.8% by April 16 against the US Dollar.



State Minister Cabraal briefs Chief Incumbents on Port City Project Commission Bill



On the instructions of the President and the Prime Minister, State Minister of Finance Ajith Nivard Cabraal yesterday visited the Asgiriya Chapter, the Malwathu Chapter and the Chief Prelates of the Amarapura and Ramanna Maha Nikayas and briefed them on the relevant draft commission bill on the Port City Project.

Cabinet Minister Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of State Lohan Ratwatte, Minister of State Kanaka Herath, MP Wasantha Yapa Bandara and MP Kokila Gunawardena were also present at the occasion.

To boost renewable energy in line with national policy

WindForce, Vidullanka and HiEnergy to add 10MW solar energy to National Grid

WindForce Limited, the latest company to list on the Colombo Stock Exchange, acquired Solar Universe (Pvt) Ltd, which has won a tender to develop a 10MW solar power plant in Vavunathivu. Solar Universe is owned in conjunction with Vidullanka PLC and HiEnergy Services (Pvt) Ltd, where each of the three shareholders own an equal stake of 33.33%.

This latest project will add 10MW Solar PV to the national grid, contributing to 19.70 GWh of power annually, equiva-



Rizmin Razik (CFO, WindForce), Shafik Kassim (MD, HiEnergy) Manjula Perera (MD, WindForce), Sattar Kassim (Director, HiEnergy), Riyaz Sangani (CEO, Vidullanka), (Director, WindForce)

lently to 4.9 million liters of oil saved.

The estimated cost for the project is Rs 1.4 billion and will be funded

equally between the 3 shareholders.

WindForce recently debuted their IPO in March and was over-

subscribed almost immediately, receiving applications worth 26.7 billion Rs, 7.9 times the offering. **TO PAGE 13**

'Sri Lankan industrialists should be groomed to meet global standards'

CHANNA BANDARA WIJEKOON

In an era of modern technology Sri Lankan industrialists should be groomed to be par to global standards opined Minister of Industries Wimal Weerawansa at 'Kinirayaya Pipunu Mala' felicitation program organized by the Sri Lanka Metal Foundry Industrialists Association to pay gratitude to the minister for his initiatives.

"We live in an era shedding light on cutting-edge technology thus we must groom Sri Lankan industrialists to rub shoulders with global standards. We have implemented policies to retain raw material within the country for the benefit of local industrialists. We offer solutions to exporters of essential raw material without keeping the local producers

at bay. Saubhagayee Dekma' is the brainchild of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and under this initiative we adopted a policy to safeguard Sri Lankan industrialists via 'Made in Sri Lanka' concept," he said.

Sri Lankan products with global standards carrying the 'Made in Sri Lanka' tag would enter the international market to develop the market for those products and enhance revenue.

"Thus we invite industrialists and SMEs to invest more in local ventures without any doubt. Yet their responsibility is to produce commodities for the benefit of consumers to create win-win situations. Do not take the upper hand for enjoying monopolies in the marketplace. Local producers must invest on NPD

to add value to their products and cross the threshold of entering the international arena".

Clay, Cane, Brass, Furniture and Rural Industry Promotion State Minister Prasanna Ranawera and State Minister of Batik, Handloom and Local Apparel Products Dayasiri Jayasekera also attended the event held at Waters Edge.

Minister Ranawera said, President Rajapaksa's vision is to empower local producers while maintaining sustainable economic development in Sri Lanka and he invited the public to be a partner in this national initiative to ensure the sustainability and stability of SMEs.

Local industries at present contribute around 26.4 percent to the

national GDP, and around 10 percent to exports.

"Scrap metal, an essential raw material for the manufacture of metal, was sold to other countries. Minister Weerawansa took steps to halt export of this much needed raw material and made it available for the local metal manufacturers. As a result, the capacity of our local metal industry has increased tremendously. New avenues of metal-related exports are now being explored. Job opportunities have opened up for the youth," said Sri Lanka Metal Foundry Industrialists Association Director/Secretary K L D C Sanjeeva.

He also suggested Gampaha and Kandy to be made as areas dedicated for producing brass related products.



Sri Lanka Metal Foundry Industrialists Association Director, Secretary K. L. D. C. Sanjeeva presenting a token of appreciation to Minister of Industries, Weerawansa

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SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Market Statistics on 19.04.2021. Table with columns: Security, Volume, V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Includes Main Board and Second Board sections.

Market Statistics on 19.04.2021. Table with columns: Security, Volume, V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Includes various financial entities and indices.

COCONUTS

Coconut Products - Prices on 19.04.2021. Table listing various coconut products like Fresh Coconut, Desiccated Coconut, Coconut Oil, etc., with prices and quantities.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Australian Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, etc., as of 19.04.2021.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Table showing interest rates for US Dollars, Sterling, Euro, and Swiss Francs, categorized by 1 Month, 3 Month, 6 Month, and 12 Month periods.

Emirates launches special fares

Emirates is launching seasonal fares that enable aspiring globetrotters to plan exciting adventures around the world as well as for students preparing to travel overseas. With Emirates' generous booking policies, customers have the option to lock in these special fares and extend ticket validity for up to three years, enjoying greater flexibility and confidence when planning travel during unprecedented times.



WindForce, Vidullanka and HiEnergy...

The largest IPO on the Colombo Stock Exchange since 2011, WindForce has reserved part of the proceeds for new projects and will use a portion for this project. WindForce is the only energy company in Sri Lanka to have received an AA- (stable) issuer rating by ICRA, which is the highest rating given to a corporate in Sri Lanka at the time of the issuance.

NDB signs MoU with Department for Registration of Persons

NDB recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department for Registration of Persons (DRP) in order to avail the services of DRP's online platform for verification of customer national identification card (NIC) numbers, as a part of the bold strides the Bank has made in Sri Lanka's fast evolving digital landscape.

This system will enable the bank to validate that the NIC details submitted by a customer are true and accurate, reducing the risk of frauds. This initiative is an industry-wide solution devised according to CBSL requirements via a web-based system developed by DRP for authentication and verification of the NICs.

"With this engagement NDB is taking steps to align with the National Roadmap for Digitalization of Payment Services issued by the National Payment Council,



Dilhani Piyasena NDB Chief Manager Digital Financial Services, Damitha Silva NDB Assistant Vice President Digital Financial Services, Sanjaya Perera NDB Senior Vice President Personal Banking, Marketing and Customer Experience, Deepal Akuretiyagama NDB Chief Operating Officer, P.V. Gunathilaka Commissioner General, R.I.S.P. Swarnalatha Additional Commissioner General, G.I.G. Perera Commissioner, Admin, K.D.D. Rathnayake Chief Accountant, H.M.I.K. Herath Commissioner, Research, Development and IT, R.T. Bulathsinghala Commissioner Operations

by enabling eKYC and video KYC based customer onboarding," stated Assistant Vice President, Digital Financial Services, Damitha Silva adding "As part of the Bank's digital transformation roadmap, we have dedicated ourselves into embracing a digital

future. NDB was also recently named the "Best Digital Bank 2021" at the Asiamoney Best Bank Awards for Sri Lanka as we are frequently at the forefront of technological changes and is involved in exploring, investing in and developing the digital

arena in banking, while on the fast track to becoming Sri Lanka's best Digital Banking provider."

NDB's NEOS is regularly updated to reflect customer demand for personalisation and ease of use. The launch of NEOS

was the fore runner which enabled the Bank to launch the NDB NEOS Online Banking platform in April 2020, during the peak of Sri Lanka's Covid-19 crisis. The NDB NEOS Online Banking has garnered popularity nation-wide as a state-of-the-art digital banking platform, with absolute connectivity to all of NDB's banking services especially during the lockdown period.

Meanwhile, during such a time where minimum contact with others is in the best interests of every individual, NDB introduced NEOS Pay, a QR payment method in which customers can make payments to merchants, pay bills and make a host of other transactions via the same platform. The NEOS Phygital Branches, Cash Recycle Machines and Bank2U propositions together with the NEOS App and Online Banking make the totality of the NDB digital offering.

Sole judge appoints Rohith Hettiaratchi for 'Young Ones Competition'

Rohith Hettiaratchi, Director Business Strategy and Planning at Media Factory was recently appointed as the sole judge representing Sri Lanka, along with 90 other jurors across the world.

Dating back to 1986, 'The Young Ones Competition' offers students across the globe the opportunity to compete for a coveted One Show Pencil, ADC Cube, or Portfolio Award. The competition is open to all national and international college students enrolled in an accredited program, preferably focusing on advertising, communications, graphic design, or a related program of study.

"THE ONE CLUB FOR CREATIVITY" a non-profit, US based award company that pours everything they make back into nurturing a more vibrant and inspired global creative community is built on four core strengths: - Education, Inclusion & Diversity, Gender Equality, Professional Development.

Their education division supports the next generation of industry creatives through this competition. "Young Ones Competition" awards the most promising up and coming international creative talent. It is one of the most acclaimed international advertising, interactive and design student competitions out there. For more than thirty years, "The One Club for Creativity" has been and continues to be passionate about encouraging students and young professionals to showcase their creativity.



Hettiaratchi stated in his interview said.

"I was recommended and stated as a nominee by a friend from Nepal", Hettiaratchi specified. Hettiaratchi has been in the advertising field since 1991, over 30 years. He believes that his experience and knowledge gathered across the south Asian markets and various verticals of advertising, would have been the reason why he was elected for a significant role in this competition.

When asked "What would you like to convey to the youngsters of the world?" Hettiaratchi stated, "Nothing comes easily, everything comes with hard work, most importantly, you should know how to work with others, understand their mind sets. When you're working as a team, people come from different backgrounds, but when you're working in an organization, everybody has one goal. So, you need to get everybody to sync with that goal. Working with people to ensure common goals are achieved."

Union Assurance partners Nations Trust Bank to continue Bancassurance leadership

Union Assurance (UA) extended their long-term partnership with Nations Trust Bank (NTB) for five more years, in a strategic move to enhance portfolio value and pave the way for sustainable business growth.

The signing took place on April 9 between Union Assurance Chief Executive Officer Jude Gomes and Nations Trust Bank Chief Executive Officer Director Priyantha Talwatte.

"We are honored to extend this partnership with Nations Trust Bank. In our

journey to provide services of exceptional quality and value, strategic partnerships have proved to be an absolute necessity, and it takes a collaborative effort to deliver exceptional services to customers and increase market penetration. We believe that Union Assurance's partnership with Nations Trust Bank has been an example of how two towering organizations can come together and collaborate to satisfy the multiple needs of clients. To this end, we will also continue to intensify our use of

artificial intelligence, and analytics to transform our customer experience and optimize engagement," stated Union Assurance Chief Executive Officer Jude Gomes. Despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Union Assurance and Nations Trust Bank partnership was able to deliver robust performance to maintain undisputed market leadership, and was recognized as Bancassurance Partnership of the Year at the Business Leadership Awards.

"The signing of this partnership signifies the largest Bancassurance strategic alliance in the financial industry and is indeed a true milestone for both Nations Trust Bank and Union Assurance. As the leader in the Bancassurance offering, this is a natural next step for us at Nations Trust Bank in offering our valued customers holistic financial solutions with industry-leading customer service standards, and we look forward to working with Union Assurance in continuing to provide the

same quality services," said Priyantha Talwatte, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Nations Trust Bank.

With a drive to leverage digital technology to reimagine processes and deliver exceptional value for consumers, Union Assurance and Nations Trust Bank have continued to adapt and reshape their business strategies resulting in the implementation of a best-in-class digitalization process to enhance client accessibility to services and solutions, through an internationally

recognized sales force. Union Assurance is a part of the John Keells Group, Sri Lanka's largest listed conglomerate, and completes over three decades of success with a market capitalization of Rs. 18 billion, a Life Fund of Rs. 42 billion and a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 325% as of February 2021. Set to empower the Sri Lankan Dream, Union Assurance offers Life Insurance solutions that cover education, health, investment, protection, and retirement needs of Sri Lankans.



Jude Gomes, Chief Executive Officer, Union Assurance and Priyantha Talwatte, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Nations Trust Bank symbolizing the partnership with respective top management teams

ComBank supports CBSL campaign in Matara to promote LANKAQR

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon demonstrated its continuing support to the Central Bank initiative to promote cashless digital payments via the LANKAQR platform when it joined the 'LANKAQR' programme held at the Sanath Jayasuriya Ground in Matara on April 3.

The event was graced by the Chief Guest the Minister of Power Dullas Alahapperuma, other officials including Central Bank Director Payments and Settlements Mr D. Kumara-tunge and representatives from banks, financial institutions, and telecommunication companies who are members of LANKAQR.

Commercial Bank, whose 'ComBank Q+' Payment App was the first QR-based App to be



Central Bank officials and customers at the Commercial Bank stall at the event

launched under LANKAQR, the national Quick Response (QR) Code platform, offered customers who shopped in the Matara area and paid for their purchases via ComBank Q+ Payment App a 35% cash back, subject to

a daily limit till April 18. The Bank also deployed a sales team to visit retailers in the locality to educate and register more merchants for the ComBank Q+ Merchant App, as part of its continuing support to popularising the

LANKAQR acceptance facility in the country.

ComBank Q+ offers options for both retail customers and merchants. All recently launched Android Point-of-Sale (POS) machines deployed by the Bank facilitate cashless payments at merchant outlets countrywide.

This device is positioned as the most advanced Android POS device in the country.

The Android Smart Terminal combines the functionality and portability of an Android terminal with tailored security-certified payments software, enabling it to accept transactions via VISA, Mastercard, UnionPay, LankaPay and JCB, as well as QR based wallet payments under LANKAQR.

SAT launches F5 portfolio to deliver secure digital experiences

South Asian Technologies (SAT), is pleased to announce its appointment to be a distributor for F5 within Sri Lanka and Maldives to deliver secure digital experience to enterprises.

The cutting-edge technology is a portal for delivering applications and data with greater agility, security, availability, performance, and scalability.

F5's portfolio of automation, security, performance, and insight capabilities empowers customers to create, secure, and operate adaptive applications that reduce costs, improve operations, and better protect users.

"With the increasing necessity for digitalisation in the workspace, now more than ever, organisations need proven solutions to help secure their businesses. Adding F5 to our existing portfolio gives South Asian Technologies, a more omniscient opportunity to equip our partners and



Edgar Dias and Sanjaya Padmaperuma

customers with best-in-class application security and delivery solutions. As F5 enables adaptive applications, the SAT team is ecstatic at the prospect of securing our clientele with robust security offerings that have a proven history with Fortune 500 companies across the globe," said Sanjaya Padmaperuma, CEO of SAT. Every company today is in the digital experience business. In the wake of COVID-19, customer expectations are higher than ever, as the experiences garnered are the primary way that people interact and transact with just about every organisation at

present. F5 helps organisations deliver and secure the premium digital facilities that customers demand by enabling adaptive applications which, like living organisms, will naturally adapt based on their environment - growing, shrinking, defending, and healing themselves.

Edgar Dias, Regional Vice President of Channels and Partnerships, Asia Pacific, F5 said, "We are delighted to have a strong partner like SAT to represent F5 in Sri Lanka and the Maldives, providing optimised products and services to our global clientele. As two leading technological organisations obsessed with our customers and ready to help solve their business challenges, I look forward to a successful partnership with SAT."

In the rapidly burgeoning digital age, the strong partnership between the two organisations will enable organisations to bring extraordinary digital experiences to life.

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

ශ්‍රී ලංකා අපනයන සංවර්ධන මණ්ඩලය

இலங்கை ஏற்றுமதி அபிவிருத்திச் சபை

MINISTRY OF TRADE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL EXPORT BRAND AND PROMOTIONAL PLAN TO POSITION SRI LANKA AS A RECOGNIZED SOURCING DESTINATION TO INCREASE EXPORTS

Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB) proposes to develop a National Export Brand and a brand Promotional Plan to position Sri Lanka as a recognized sourcing destination with a view to create a national brand identity to build "Brand Sri Lanka" in the international market.

The EDB invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from suitable Marketing Agencies to develop a National Export Brand and a brand Promotional Plan to position Sri Lanka as a recognized sourcing destination to increase exports.

Scope of Work

1. Justify and develop the brand identity (the logo), the core values, brand personality and holistic brand equity for Sri Lanka as a sourcing destination based on the agreed overarching brand proposition.
2. To recommend how the brand identity and the design system will consistently travel across different applications and media to provide a consistent and common look and feel system.
3. To develop the design system with the brand identity for the applications specified in the TOR.
4. Brand promotional plan from 2022-2026

Required Qualification and Experience

1. Global experience in brand identity creation and development.
2. The company must have 15 years of developing brands, brand promotions and branding experience.
3. Worked in brand identity projects across many categories of products.
4. Successful case studies of translating brand ideas to a design strategy.
5. Local or international company based in Sri Lanka

Application Procedure

Marketing agencies are invited to submit EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) by registered post to **Chairman & Chief Executive, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, NDB-EDB Tower, No 42, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2** or deposit in the tender box Procurement Unit (6th Floor) EDB on or before **11th of May 2021 at 2.00 p.m.** "EOI - Development of a National Export Brand and Promotional Plan" should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) could be downloaded from www.srilankabusiness.com under the "Announcement".

Interested Marketing agencies may obtain further information from Ms. Yashika Malwatta, Assistant Director/ Market Development Division on 0112300721 or 0112300705-9, 0112300711 Ext. 268.

CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE (CPCD)
SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
 NDB-EDB Tower, No 42, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2.
 Tel: 0112300700 Fax: 0112300715
 Web: www.srilankabusiness.com



WE WARMLY CONGRATULATE OUR FUTURE LEADERS GRANDIOSE NSBM CONVOCATION WEEK 2020!

NSBM, the premier higher education institute in Sri Lanka which is dedicated to gift multi-faceted performers and true leaders to the world, is starting its annual convocation week from today (20th April 2021) onwards. It will continue with glamour for four (4) days ending on 23rd April 2021. This ceremonial celebration of NSBM students' accomplishments will be held at the NSBM Auditorium under the distinguished patronage of renowned guests, scholars, parents, and students. A total of 2113 students representing the Faculty of Business, Faculty of



www.nsbm.ac.lk

Computing, Faculty of Engineering, and the Postgraduate Unit will be conferred ceremonially during the Convocation Week.

NSBM is proudly looking forward to appreciating the accomplishments of the class of 2020!!



CONVOCATION WEEK FOR YEAR 2020

Date	Affiliated University
20th - 21st April 2021	National School of Business Management, Sri Lanka
21st - 22nd April 2021	University of Plymouth, UK
23rd April 2021	University College Dublin, Ireland
23rd April 2021	Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia
23rd April 2021	Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia



Lecture room facilities on par with international standards



State of the art computer labs



Dynamic youth enriched with sports talents



Co-curricular activities to improve leadership skills



Opportunity to connect with experts in the field during the university life



A qualified panel of lecturers

T/C

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

FEATURES EDITOR: 011 242 1211 Fax: (011) 45 55 97 E mail: features.dailynews@lankadeepa.lk

TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY

'EMBRACE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM'

NALANDA COLLEGE, COLOMBO 10



Head Boy Anuda Jithwara



At the Big Match

ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Suspicious of destiny they call it. We all have them. For some young student leaders' the position of Head Prefect is when they begin to realize with surety that something special is in store for them. Perfect Prefects features Head Boy of Nalanda College, Colombo 10, Anuda Jithwara, who says the greatest lessons are learnt when you are at the helm. Robert Kennedy, an American politician and lawyer once said - 'The sharpest criticism often goes hand in hand with the deepest idealism and love of country.' These are the impassioned activists any country needs. Those who see the direction their country is taking and stand up for what is right when they see injustices committed in the world around them. This kind of criticism is essential if you love your country and your fellow human beings. "What I want to see is criticism aimed at making a person a better person. Criticism that is constructive and availing someone's best interests at heart, not criticism aimed at destroying someone's reputation. That is not ethical. When you criticize someone, that person and society should benefit from it. That should be your aim" pointed out Jithwara.

As of Jan 2019, the world's 26 richest people own the same wealth as the poorest half of humanity, according to Oxfam International. Billionaires around the world, who have almost doubled in number since the 2008 global financial crisis, saw their combined fortunes grow by \$2.5bn a day, while the 3.8 billion people at the bottom of the scale saw their wealth decline by 11 percent in 2018. "There are so many people in the world that are helpless. This is very upsetting to me. In Sri Lanka and in other parts of the world there is a disparity between the rich and the poor. There are so many obstacles in this world for self-advancement, simply because there is a lack of equal opportunity. So we need to narrow the gap and even close the gap. This is something that I feel very strongly about," explained Jithwara.

Education is only a partial cure for poverty. Education is one way that the gap can be narrowed. If every child receives a good education which will give him/her the knowledge, skills and ink on paper, he/she can be independent. He/she will not need to depend on anyone in life. He will be able to live life on his/her own terms.

People have so many dreams. And making those dreams a reality is something most of us desperately want. But there really is only one way to achieve your dreams and that is putting in the hard work. Without hard work a dream is just a dream - something that is within reach but you never quite reach it because you haven't put in the hard work. And most often the reason is that you have given up. This is something Jithwara realized when he started his journey as a student. He had the support of his family, but it was not family connections that paved the way. And it certainly wasn't easy. He had to balance his duties, projects, his sports activities and his studies. The job of being a Head Prefect is never easy for anyone says



Jithwara. There is that satisfaction and pride but you have to keep on putting in the hard work. When you are at the helm, people expect so much from you. For a young leader it is a baptism of fire.

"I have with me four Deputy Head Prefects and I also have the support of the Master in Charge. He is always there to assist and support us. He is there to teach us but he is also there to help us. When it comes to solving problems my Deputy Heads are there to make sure that I do not have to face challenges alone. For this I am grateful," said Jithwara.

For Jithwara it was a process of achieving his dreams one by one. He gradually rose through the ranks taking part in the Battle of the Maroons. His biggest dream is becoming a lawyer like his father. His father is certainly his role model and he



With his fellow prefects



With Nalandian cricketers

aspires to be just like his father. His father is someone who enjoys life and though he faces problems like any other man, he never lets those problems disturb the peace at home. Their home is a sanctuary. The life of a lawyer is one where he/she cannot prevent problems encroaching. But Jithwara's father does not let those problems interfere with his family life.

As mentioned before Jithwara is a cricketer who has played in the big match against Ananda College and that is the highest honor any Nalandian can receive. Through cricket he has learnt the importance of unity, working as a team and also how to solve a problem that arises. By playing cricket you invariably learn how to handle pressure. You also learn interpersonal skills. You also learn to accept defeat gracefully. No school likes losing and when your team loses you need to be tactful.

"I am indebted to my school. It has given me everything. Nalanda has a long and proud history of serving Sri Lanka

and educating young men. It was love at first sight when I came to Nalanda. Somehow I knew that this was the school for me. From then onwards I have been living the dream. My message to a young student is aspire to be a Head Prefect because you learn so much. And to learn so much at such a young age will definitely help you reach for greater heights when you leave the portals of your school as a student for the last time. You can develop insights and meet and deal with all kinds of individuals. I said before that as a cricketer you learn interpersonal skills. This is one aspect of life that you also learn as a Head Prefect. And once you become a Head Prefect you will continue to lead the student population until the end of your term," explained Jithwara.

He has learnt core values at Nalanda such as respecting your elders and showing the proper respect for all human beings. Lastly he wished to thank his Principal, teachers, fellow prefects, family and friends for supporting him.



Celebrating with his team mates. Pictures by Dushmantha Mayadunne



A must HEAR

Spiritual succession!

The chief of a remote Pacific village which worshipped Prince Philip with religious fervour said recently it was too early to know whether the British royal's descendants will receive similar deification.

Yakel village on the Vanuatu island of Tanna for decades venerated Philip, who died at Windsor Castle last week at the age of 99.

Village chief Albi said it was unclear how the religious movement would change following Philip's death, as his spirit was believed to be adrift and seeking a new home.

While many outsiders assumed Philip's eldest son Charles or grandsons William and Harry would succeed him in having a

special place in the villagers' hearts, Albi said nothing was certain.

"The spirit of Prince Philip has left his body, but it lives on - it is too soon to say where it will reside," he told AFP.

Beneath a British flag flying at half mast, Albi joined elders on Monday at Yaohnanen, another village that worships Philip, for dis-

cussions on how to mark the momentous death.

Chiefs spoke in turn during painstaking discussions on what the death means for their customary belief system, with a resolution likely to be days away.

Albi had words of comfort for Queen Elizabeth II, wishing her joy because even though Philip's body was lost, his spirit lived on.

The Yakel chiefs said they were sending a confidential message to the royal family following Philip's passing.

The Prince Philip Movement is believed to have started in the late 1970s following a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh to Vanuatu earlier that decade.

British officials investigating the phenomenon concluded it stemmed from an age-old legend of a returning son who had pale skin.

Upon learning that Greek-born Philip was not born in England, France or the United States, they may have decided that Philip must, therefore, be from Tanna.

Anthropologists say the movement is a way for villagers on the lush volcanic island to find a spiritual connection to the outside world.

In other villages on Tanna, locals are part of the so-called John Frum Movement, a similar cult which stems from the appearance of a pale-skinned stranger in the 1930s.

Adherents to the movement, which encourages the return to traditional customs of dancing and kava-drinking, believe that a hero, "John Frum" will one day return, bringing with him the riches seen in the hands of American GIs during World War II - including radios and cars.

AFP



Canadian singer Joy Chapman

For as long as she can remember, Joy Chapman has always been able to sing in a very wide vocal range, from the alto, to tenor and base, but it wasn't until her niece started encouraging her to go for a world record that she actually considered it.

The girl had learned that the former record for the world's lowest vocal note (female), was held by a singer who hit a D2 (the second lowest D note on a piano), and she was convinced that Joy could go significantly lower than that. She turned out to be right!

"I start my singing scales at C2, so she said, 'you sing much lower, you should try for the record,'" Chapman recalled about how the idea of a Guinness record attempt came about.

That was a year ago, and the Canadian singer had to overcome a series of challenges in order to get her name into the world's most famous record book. First her mother past away, then the Covid-19 pandemic shut down her studio, during one of her attempts the videographer turned on the low-end limiter on the microphone, so it couldn't pick up Joy's lowest notes... But in the end she got it done.

On February 21, in a music studio in Surrey Canada, Joy Chapman recorded a C1 (33.57hz), the lowest C note on a piano and the lowest note ever sung by a woman.

"I wanted to leave something behind ... because I could do it," the singer said.

Oddity Central



Engaging in daily activities



The Vanuatu tribes in mourning

MARMADUKE



"There's such a thing as being too rich."

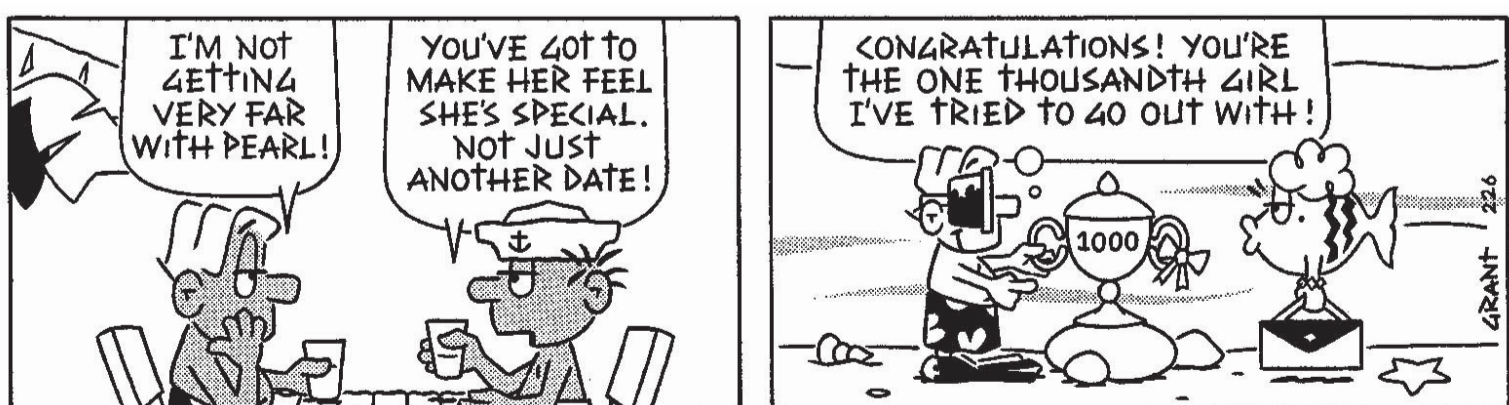
MUTT AND JEFF



ARCHIE



FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING



All rise for Sacrament

SURESHNI PILAPITIYA

The Sri Lankan Rock and Metal Scene is full of talent and potential at the moment, ranging from iconic bands in the Sri Lankan metal scene to upcoming young talent. It is a pleasure to see more young blood showing up at metal concerts, and their talents are incomparable.

On today's T&C, we meet a progressive metal band which has its own unique style when it comes to music. Enter 'Sacrament' which hails from Colombo, one of the most popular Sri Lankan metal bands which established its name within a decade. The idea of putting the band together came sometime around 2010, but it was only in 2011 that it finally came out.

They have officially released two singles, the first single titled 'The Perfect Apocalypse' released in 2013 and the second single titled 'Ephialtes' which was released in 2019. 'Ephialtes' was a song which focused on spreading awareness on depression and other mental health issues, which is one of the most important subjects on today's society. They were quite taken by surprise when it was announced that their tunes had been streamed from 14 countries with 35 listeners, and two of their published tracks were made available in 2020, on Spotify and other streaming platforms. The band also performed live at the Wacken metal battle, adding another feather to their cap of talents.

They are currently in the process of recording two new singles for release this year and hope to release their debut album along with a follow up album, as they have, according to Dan M.J van Dort, Frontman, Sacrament, a "plethora of tune's left. The current line up consists of Gimantha Upasena (Guitars), Yohan Siriwardena (Bass), Allan Barthelot (Guitars and keys), Kanishka Mendis (Keyboards, synthesizer, samples, backing vocals and producer), Hafzel Preena (Drums and percussion), and Dan M.J van Dort (Vocals, lyrics and guitars). The band had their past members as well such as Sesath Dias Bandaranayake- Keyboard and piano

(2011 - 2012), Farhan Booso - Keyboard and piano (2014 - 2015) and Zayaan Fiasal - Guitars (2015 - 2017).

Excerpts:

Q: How are you guys progressing these days, especially with the present pandemic situation?

Yohan: The pandemic has been and always is a learning curve for us all. It had its own pros and cons for us to progress with our music. Currently, we are in the process of getting our tracks recorded whilst concentrating on studio practice sessions every week. We are hoping to release 2 new singles soon before we start working on the album. It's always a treat to jam in the studio while adhering to safety protocols.

We played our first gig at 'Rockdown' after coming out of lockdowns and we look forward to playing more shows in time to come. We were thrilled and satisfied with playing a live show after a long time. This was the first time in 7 years I played bass for a heavy set and my first gig with the band.

Q: Tell us how Sacrament began.

Dan: The idea of putting this band together came sometime around 2010 by Gimantha. Some of us were already playing in other metal bands which was also fairly new but Allan & I wanted to venture into new territory musically. Hazel had just started drumming and desired to play in a metal band during that time and eventually joined us. However, it was only in 2011 that our inception came to light while we were still in school. We were eventually joined by Sesath on keyboards and Kanishka on bass a few months before we played our first show.

The band was heavily influenced by a lot of thrash metal, death metal and groove metal when we started out. Our trajectory since our Genesis was always fixated on creating original music when we were not jamming to Stigmata or Lamb of God tunes. But whenever we were in the studio jamming out covers we would always find ourselves gravi-

tating towards tunes from Lamb of God albums "Ashes of the Wake" and "Sacrament". The band

was eventually named after Lamb of God's album "Sacrament" for 2 reasons. The first reason being for the lack of coming up with a better name that resonated with us and the second reason because that album represented the genre of music we wanted to flesh out ourselves. However, over time as we learned and worked on our craft we ended up composing songs that transformed into something entirely its own that would best be described as progressive metal although we like to mess around with different styles - this includes metal core, deathcore, heavy metal, thrash, neo-classical and djent. It's a long and tedious process but like every band before us we keep coming close to a sound that is sincere, authentic and that works for us.

Q: When you do a new song release or a tune, what are the themes you mostly focus on?

Dan: Hmm... We have been able to use music to shapeshift sound into messaging that effectively addresses important themes such as awareness on mental health, spirituality, misanthropy, philosophy, social issues and matters of the heart which do stem from personal experiences. Most of the lyrical themes do have a tendency to be holistic. But being the lyricist of the band I do find myself inking out my own viewpoints and experiences.

Q: Have you performed in any overseas concerts?

Dan: We had hoped that 2021 would be the year we would get the opportunity to tour and perform overseas given that we had also planned to perform for many local shows in 2020 which did include local music festivals, our underground gigs and our first local tour. Regrettably that did not see the light due to the implications of Covid-19. Nonetheless we are still undeterred and when we strongly feel that when the time is right we will proceed in due time.

Q: Who would you follow as your Rock and Metal idols?

Gimantha: If you consider the band as a whole there are many artists and bands which have inspired and influenced each of us. But bands like Lamb Of God, Nevermore, Tesseract, Dream Theater, Opeth, Pantera, Whitechapel, As I Lay Dying and Gojira have heavily influenced the way we write music. Regarding following someone, we focus on just being as unique as possible and prefer to go on our own path.

Dan: I think that from day 1 we definitely knew we would want to follow our own path in the likes of Lamb of God, Stigmata or any other band that stylistically influenced us but in a short time it became something more than that to us. We want to carve out our own identity and create music that we enjoy playing rather than being in the shadow of our influences. One fact worth mentioning is that we are not only inspired by rock and metal. We are vastly inspired by other genres of music, film, art and literature. One common and fair misconception about us metal head musicians is this that we absolutely cannot stand to appreciate and respect any other genres but in fact some of us do consume other styles of music as long as it's of substance and value.

Q: Looking back at Sacrament's music journey, how do you feel?

Gimantha: We have definitely come a long way for the past 10 years. It is quite fulfilling to know that we have many great originals which we have performed and that crowds had moshed or grooved to our tunes. We are very excited to be working on the album right now and we would like to thank everyone who had supported us throughout but, if we were to thank people specifically it would be our beloved family, friends and fans.

Dan: It's been one hell of a journey so far but it's far from over when in fact it feels like it's still the beginning. We are thrilled and stoked to be working on music and look forward to releasing them soon. We would like to thank you for this interview, our friends, families, our fans and everyone who has helped along the way and believed in what we do.



ALL THAT JAZZ

MAHES PERERA,

One of the foremost pianists in jazz and an architect of jazz-rock fusion, Chick Corea touched and inspired the lives of millions and broadened the scope of jazz, for more than five decades.

He was nominated for the best improvised jazz solo for "All Blues" and the Best Jazz Instrumental Album for "Trilogy 2" for the awards that was to be held this year in March 21. But sadly, as we all know, the 23 time Grammy Winner died of a rare form of cancer on February 9th at the age of 79. Prior to his death we are informed that he left a message for all his fans thus:-

"I want to thank all of those along my journey who have helped keep the music fires burning bright. It is my hope that those who have an inkling to play, write, perform or otherwise, do so. If not for yourself then for the rest of us. It is not only that the world needs more artists, it also just a lot of fun".

In a spool-back on his life Chick Corea was a June born baby who was named Armando Anthony Corea by his father Armando a trumpeter and band leader in Boston. As the young age of four years, Chick Corea began studying the piano. You might wonder how the name "Chick" came about. His aunt was responsible for that. She often pinched his cheeks and called him "Cheeky" which ultimately morphed in to "Chick".

The keenness to learn more about music and piano artistry saw himself at the Columbia University and Juillard. But that was not for long. Chick was lured out of the classrooms into the clubs. Some of his earliest gigs were with the Latin jazz percussionists Mongo Santamaria, Willie Bobo and the swing-era vocalist and band leader Cab Calloway. This was Chick Corea's

launching pad to stardom. From 1968 the spotlight was turned on him. Miles Davis engaged him and featured him on the electric piano to record the final tracks on the "Filles de Kilimanjaro" and soon after on the landmark albums "In A Silent Way" and "Bitches Brew". After leaving Miles Davis, Chick Corea formed his own group "Circle" and "Return Forever" with bassist Stanley Clarke, drummer Lenny White, and guitarist Bill Connors. Although he spearheaded the jazz-rock movement at the time along with John McLaughlin's Mahavishnu Orchestra and Weather Report, Chick Corea never abandoned his love of the acoustic piano. Music lovers of jazz in Sri Lanka who are fans of this fabulous and trend setting pianist are well aware of the manner in which Chick Corea pushed the boundaries of the genre when he played alongside the jazz legends Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Gary Burton, Al Di Meola, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Mongo Santamaria, Sarah Vaughn, the list is long. - Nor will jazz and Latin fans ever forget his memorable compositions "Spain", "500 Miles High", "La Fiesta", "Armandos Rhumba", "Windows" - again the list is long.

Sri Lanka's jazz pianist Kuma de Silva is of the view that "Chick Corea" is a single greatest improvisational musician I have ever known. No other more open, more finely tuned to the moment, changing his approach with every setting by the musicians who played with him. Though he established himself, early in his career as a technically vibrant player, Chick Corea was also constantly inventive composer, band leader, who also came with new ideas. He inspired me right through my musical career. What an immeasurably loss in so many ways?" Pianist composer Harsha Makalande

who was nurtured in both streams of music - classical and jazz expressed his thoughts: - "As a musician from Asia I am exposed to many modes and motifs. But Chick Corea was able to surprise me with his colorful compositions which included a lot of Spanish element. "Spain" for instance was inspired by Rodrigo's Concerto-the 2nd movement. I had the good fortune of seeing a live performance by guitarist Paco de Lucia and I enjoyed myself equally. Chick Corea had his own style, different from Herbie Hancock, but when they both played together the syncopation came alive. I appreciated 'Return to Forever' inspired by him. His creativity knew no bounds. In his artistry you think of Debussy's artistry. The music world has lost a great musician".

Jerome Speldewinde a versatile singer immersed in the jazz idiom was of the view that "Chick Corea was one of the great piano player and composers of our time. You become a great player when you define a style and his style was more a Latin influence. His composition "Spain" in my opinion is a classic. In the late 70's he toured Australia and was impressed by the drummer of a rock band Virgil Donati, so much so he invited Donati to the States. On a lighter note, at a Melbourne Jazz Festival at the Melbourne Concert Hall, in between songs he went to the synthesizer to play it and a horrible sound came out of the synthesizer. His immediate comment was "Herbie Hancock has been here!"

Chick Corea toured extensively and when he was asked how he kept up with his exhausting schedule he replied "I don't know how to answer other than to say it's a joy. If I could avoid commercial airlines, I'd stay on



the road the whole year. Most of the guys who played with me are friends I've played with before, either a little or a lot.

The way lot of us played together the tune doesn't matter. We'll have a short rehearsal at soundcheck and not worry about how perfect the music sounds. What matters is that we know what we are doing and then just get off into never-never-land".

Bassist John Patitucci of Chick Corea's Electric Band said "he had so many different types of compositions and styles of music that he could freely cross between, which was one of the reasons he was such a hero of mine. I wanted to be a part of all that. I wanted to be able to play both my instruments and then to experiment with everything, all the difference kind of grooves and even classical music which he did so seamlessly through his career. Luckily I was able to express my gratitude and my love for all he's done many times over the last 36 years. We had continued playing and we were supposed to go out again this summer with the Electric Band with saxophonist Eric Marienthal, guitarist Frank Gambale and drummer Dave Weckl."

But fate decreed otherwise.

Sonic Phone Directory 2021

The Sonic Phone Directory which was initiated by seasoned musician Keethi Pasquel from 1997 will be launching its 2021 edition soon. All those who are connected to the music industry as singers, lyricists, music directors, music band members, music studios, stores which sell music equipment, music academies etc are requested to send their phone numbers so that they can be featured in the latest version of the directory. Send in your name and number stating which sector in the music scene you are connected with. Those who have already been featured in the past directories too can contact the team and notify them if there are any changes in their contact details.

You can WhatsApp or SMS your details to 0770212043/0718954214 or e mail the details to antonjoc@gmail.com or send a letter addressed to Sonic Film Directory, No 52/8/D, Madapatha Road, Kolamunna, Piliyandala before April 30.





DIVULAPITIYA PRADESHIYA SABHA



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sale of Felled Teak Logs at Weekly Fair Ground, Kotadeniyawa

Log No.	Category	Length (M)	Perimeter (M)	Dm ³	B Price	Amount
1	Teak	2.4	2.46	1056	101.14	116,917.84
2	Teak	3.1	2.00	1019	101.14	103,061.66
3	Teak	2.4	1.60	489	75.99	37,159.11
4	Teak	2.0	1.56	387	75.99	29,408.13
5	Teak	1.9	1.35	294	71.80	21,109.20
6	Teak	1.3	1.24	171	56.99	9,745.29
7	Teak	2.5	0.84	146	29.73	4,340.58
8	Teak	4.6	0.90	297	30.38	9,022.86
9	Teak	1.8	0.90	116	30.38	3,524.08
10	Teak	3.0	0.85	177	29.73	5,262.21
11	Teak	1.8	1.40	281	66.08	18,568.48
12	Teak	3.0	2.00	955	101.14	96,588.70
13	Teak	3.2	1.60	652	75.99	49,545.48
Total						504,253.62

- Since all the logs have to be issued to one buyer, it is compulsory to submit a single bid for all logs.
- A non-refundable sum of Rs. 500.00 should be paid with relevant applications to submit bids.
- Relevant application forms could be obtained from the Head Office. Perfected forms should either be sent to the Head Office by registered post or deposited in the tender box before 2.30 p.m. on 06.05.2021.
- Bids will be opened at 2.45 p.m. on 06.05.2021 and relevant tenderers or their representatives could participate at the time.
- Selected tenderer should pay the total bid value to the Head Office within one week and the teak logs purchased should be removed within 14 days.

Commencement of receiving Bids - 22.04.2021
 Last date of issuing quotation forms - up to 2.30 p.m. on 06.05.2021
 Opening of Bids - At 2.45 p.m. on 06.05.2021

T.T. Indika Jayasinghe - Chairman, Divulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, Divulapitiya.
 Address: Head Office, Pradeshiya Sabha, Divulapitiya.

For further details:- TP 0312246275



INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, EASTERN PROVINCE PROVINCIAL SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT (PSDG) 2021 OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IRRIGATION, BATTICALOA



- The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of Office of the Deputy Director of Irrigation, Batticaloa invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction works described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Since the estimated value of work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs. 50Mn, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii).
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered in the Grade and Field mentioned in the table below with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA).
- If the bid value is 30% or higher percentage less than the engineer's estimate, the bid will be rejected as per Public Finance Circular No 03/2020(i) of 11.01.2021.
- The qualification requirements are indicated in section 4 of the bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule (Section 5) of the bidding documents.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Deputy Director of Irrigation, Batticaloa (TP No. 065-2224318, Fax No. 065-2224368) and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 09.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to Deputy Director of Irrigation, Eastern Province, Batticaloa from 21.04.2021 until 04.05.2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs. upon payment of Non-refundable fee of Rs 3,000.00. The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids must be delivered to Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Office of the Deputy Director of Irrigation, Yard Road, Batticaloa at or before 10.00 hrs on 05.05.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bid validity periods are given in the table below.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Bid Security included in Section 9. The amount and validity of bid security shall be as per the information given in the table below.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at Office of the Deputy Director of Irrigation, Batticaloa on 30.04.2021 at 10.00 hrs. Interested bidders may participate in this meeting on their own expense.

Description of Works/ (Contract No.)	Estimated Value of work (Excluding VAT & other Taxes)	Contract Period calendar days	Required CIDA Grade & Field	Bid Validity Period up to	Required Bid Security	
					Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Validity Period
Construction of 3 bay regulator at Chainage 1+300m including retaining wall in Naatpathuvaddai Main Channel at Pulugunawi scheme in Manmunai South West DS Division (BT/DD/PSDG/P/2021/05)	4.59 Mn	90 days	C8 and C7 Irrigation	07.07.2021	46,000.00	04.08.2021
Construction of concrete surfacing to access road from Thantha junction to Pulugunawi tank (Chainage from 0+000m to 0+500m) at Pulugunawi scheme in Manmunai South West DS Division. (BT/DD/PSDG/P/2021/08)	5.49 Mn	90 days	C7 and C6 Highway	21.07.2021	60,000.00	18.08.2021
Construction of concrete surfacing to Kampipalam road (Manalpitty junction to Kadukkamunai inlet channel) chainage from 0+000m to 1+800m at Pulugunawi scheme in Manmunai South West DS Division. (BT/DD/PSDG/P/2021/09)	5.53 Mn	90 days	C7 and C6 Highway	21.07.2021	56,000.00	18.08.2021
Construction of New LB Tower Sluice at 0+215 m and strengthening of tank bund at Kirimichaidai Tank in Korlai Pattu North DS Division. (BT/DD/PSDG/C/2021/01)	7.95 Mn	90 days	C7 and C6 Irrigation	21.07.2021	82,000.00	18.08.2021
Construction of Retaining wall, Concrete lining and Down stream secondary cushion and plank bund of Aliyaodai anicut at Meiyankal Scheme in Korlai Pattu South DS Division. (BT/DD/PSDG/C/2021/02)	5.53 Mn	90 days	C7 and C6 Irrigation	21.07.2021	56,000.00	18.08.2021
Construction of concrete and earthen channel of RB main channel from 0+500m to 1+200m at Meiyankal Scheme in Korlai Pattu South DS Division. (BT/DD/PSDG/C/2021/03)	4.62 Mn	90 days	C8 and C7 Irrigation	07.07.2021	47,000.00	04.08.2021
Strengthening of Tank Bund (D/S) and widening of Co spill from 0+000m to 1+000m of Tharavai Tank in Korlai Pattu South DS Division. (BT/DD/PSDG/C/2021/05)	7.57 Mn	90 days	C7 and C6 Irrigation	21.07.2021	76,000.00	18.08.2021

TABLE

Eng. V. Rajagopalasingam
 Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee,
 Office of the Deputy Director of Irrigation,
 Batticaloa.

20.04.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of the Department of Sports Development now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following work as scheduled and approximate estimated to cost Rs. 12 million (without VAT).

Item No.	Contract No.	Name of the Project	Construction Period (days)	Minimum ICTAD Registration	Non-Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bids Security (Rs.)
1.	DSD/DEV/04/14/2020	Supplying & Pulling of Electrical Cable to The Existing Hostel, Federation Building & Pavilion in Torrington - Colombo 07.	60 days	EM3 (EI-LV) and C6 or above	5,000.00	Bank Guarantee 180,000.00 or cash deposit 90,000.00

- The time for completion of the whole works shall be 60 days from the starting date.
- The site is located at Torrington Sports Complex at Colombo 07.
- The work is mainly comprised of Preliminary works, Excavation works, Supplying & Laying of cables, Electrical Panel Boards Installation, Construction of Generator room, testing & commissioning.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.
- To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and have relevant ICTAD registration EM3 (EI-LV) and C6 or above.
Experience in the similar nature works at least three project during last 2 years.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Director (Engineering Services), Department of Sports Development and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on working days.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Director General, Department of Sports Development at the above address from 20th April 2021 until 11th May 2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 payable to the Shroff of the Department of Sports Development. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bid security according to the table (Rs. 180,000.00) from a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by Central Bank, Construction Guarantee Fund or cash deposit (Rs. 90,000.00) in our Department Shroff in favour of Director General, Department of Sports Development, No. 09, Philip Gunawardena Mawatha, Colombo 07. Bid security validity is up to 119 days from the date of bid opening.
- Bid validity should be for 91 days from the date of bid opening.
- Sealed bids shall be delivered in duplicate marking as original & copy to the address given below at or before 14.00 hrs on 13th May 2021. Bids should be submitted to tender box at Department of Sports Development Procurement Branch - (Second Floor). Late bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled to be held on 04th May 2021 at 10.00 hrs in Department of Sports Development, Development Branch - Ground Floor.

The address referred to above is:

The Chairman,
 Department Procurement Committee,
 Department of Sports Development,
 No. 09, Philip Gunawardena Mawatha,
 Colombo 07.
 Tel : 0112669884
 Fax : 0112669884



INVITATION FOR BIDS -2021/I

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT NORTHERN PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



- The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Provincial Department of Rural Development, Northern Province, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Civil work as described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure and Public Finance Circular No: 03/2020 and 03/2020(i) dated 09.10.2020 and 11.01.2021 respectively will be adopted.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) registration and qualification requirements listed below. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule / Bidding Data & Contract Data (Section 5).
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Provincial Director, Department of Rural Development, Northern Province, No. 280, Palaly Road, Kantharmadam, Jaffna, TP. No : 021-205 7108 & Fax No: 021-205 7109 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the Finance Branch, Department of Rural Development, Northern Province, No. 280, Palaly Road, Kantharmadam, Jaffna, from 21.04.2021 till 12.05.2021 on working days from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon cash payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Three Thousand and Five Hundred only (Rs. 3,500/=)
- Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee, Department of Rural Development, Northern Province, No. 280, Palaly Road, Kantharmadam, Jaffna at or before 10.00 hrs on 12.05.2021. Bid number must be written on the left - hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid as indicated in the form of bid. (Section -4).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bid Security included in Section-9. The amount and validity of the bid security shall be as per details given in Section -5. 1
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at Department of Rural Development, Northern Province, No. 280, Palaly Road, Kantharmadam, Jaffna commencing at 10.00 hrs on 03.05.2021.

The Table referred to above is:

Bid. No.	Title of Contract	PC	Proposed contract Price (Rs.Mn)	Bid Security Amount (Rs) & Validity	Construction Period	Required CIDA Grade
PSDG/RDD/MUL/2021/01	Construction of Office Building for Department of Rural Development District Office in Mullaitivu District	DPC	9.17	150,000.00 & 25.08.2021	180 Days	C7 and C6 (Building Construction)

PC: Procurement Committee,

DPC: Departmental Procurement Committee

Chairman,
 Departmental Procurement Committee,
 Department of Rural Development,
 Northern Province.

Phone: + 94-21-205 7108

Fax : + 94-21-205 7109

Date: 19.04.2021