### **Three arrested** for attending Zahran's lectures **RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA and** SHAVINI MADHARA

Three persons including the two individuals who had attended lectures on Islamic extremism conducted by suicide bomber Zahran Hashim and his followers were taken into custody on Thursday (April 22), Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said. TOPAGE 02



SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2021 | 16 PAGES VOLUME - 103 - NO 96 🛛 RS. 30.00 🔰 REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN SRI LANKA 🔰 LATE CITY ★





Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head of the National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOPCO) General Shavendra Silva, Principal Advisor to the President and the Chief of the Presidential Task Force on the Procurement of COVID Vaccines Lalith Weeratunga, Prof. Neelika Malavige, Head of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and other stakeholders explaining measures taken to control the COVID 19 virus spread, at the Government Information Department Auditorium yesterday. Picture by Rukmal Gamage

### **NEXT 3-4 WEEKS CRUCIAL** VACCINE SUPPLY ASSURED

### **ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA**

Army Commander General Shavendra Silva yesterday (23) stated that there is no plan to impose a lockdown or travel restrictions over the coming long weekend.

Addressing a special media conference held yesterday at the Government Information Department, the Army Commander urged the public to be cautious about the present COVID 19 situation of the country. He said that the coming three to four weeks will be very crucial. "So we urge the people to cooperate with the authorities by adhering to the guidelines issued by the health authorities to at least prevent the spread of the virus and later to eradicate COVID 19."

He said that before the Sinhala and Tamil New Year the coronavirus situation was kept under control. But the number of infections rose over the past few days.

The Army Commander further said that the local area isolation orders or quarantine curfews will be imposed if the virus is found to be spreading in a specific area.

Refuting the allegations levelled by various groups claiming that the government does not have money to purchase COVID 19 vaccines, Principal Advisor to President Lalith Weeratunga assured that the Government has already allocated money for this purpose. The World Bank and the ADB have also provided funds for this purpose.

'There is no question of lack of funds to get COVID 19 vaccines on time. But the question is one of availability on a timely basis.'

He predicted that if the country would be able to vaccinate around 60 percent of 13 million eligible people then the country would be in a very satisfactory situation. We are at the mercy of the suppliers, because this is a supplier- driven issue. If the suppliers produce enough vaccines, the world would have enough vaccines."

He further said that more than half a million people have already been vaccinated with AstraZeneca vaccine in the Western Province. About 3.6 million are eligible to take the vaccine. TO PAGE O2

# **COVID-19: INSTRUCTIONS ON**

The COVID 19 situation in the country is subject to change from time to time and the level of activity permitted and number of people engaged in these functions will need to change. The Ministry of Health introduced the DReAM set of major precautions to be taken in response to COVID 19 and these are applied in the guidelines mentioned. It is re-emphasized that strong observance of DReAM is required

D- Physical Distancing, no gathering , mainly stay at home

Re- Respiratory Etiquette,

A- Aseptic practices (hand wash,hand sanitizing)

M –proper use of face mask The alert level system is introduced based on an understanding of public and

work settings in Sri Lanka. Four levels of alert are identified in Sri

Lanka based on following: Alert level 1 - Cases reported are only those coming from outside the country (detected in quarantine); no clusters. Alert level 2 - One cluster of cases. Alert level 3 - Several clusters in different

districts. Alert level 4 - Cases are appearing with no connection to any cluster – Community

transmission

the risk of transmission. Functions permitted as per Alert Level III are given below. Number of people allowed outside -Only 2 persons permitted per household unless engaged in essential services/ permitted work. Public transport - Only allowed to trans-

According to the current epidemio-

logical situation after the New Year, some

restrictions need to be imposed to reduce

port seated passengers of the bus/train. Private taxi services - Maximum number of passengers is limited to two for cars and trishaws. For other types of vehicles, it is limited to transport seated passengers only.

Utility services - (electricity, water, telecommunication, Petrol stations, LP gas stations, motor garages / tyre services and postal/courier services) - Provide all essential services with minimum staff. Government Offices - With minimum number of staff required. Others to work from home where feasible

Private sector offices - With minimum number of staff required. Others to work from home where feasible

Conferences/ Seminars/ Meetings/ Brand launches - 50% of the seating capacity of the hall up to a maximum of 50.

**Export Oriented Industries ( Gar**ments, agriculture etc)- Function within a bio secure bubble (i.e. ensure secure accommodation and transport for workers) under close supervision of area MOH. Supermarkets - A maximum of 50% of the total number customers that could be accommodated in the space available can be allowed at a given time. Number allowed to be displayed outside. Shopping Malls - 1.5m2 of available walking space can be considered as adequate for one person inside the individual shops.

For shops: A maximum of 50% of the total number customers that could be accommodated in the space available can be allowed at a given time adhering to the instructions given. Gatherings and entertainment in the mall premises are not allowed.

Financial institutions (banks, finance companies, pawning centres etc) - A maximum of 50% of the total number customers that could be accommodated in the space available can be allowed at a given time adhering to the instructions given. TO PAGE **O2** 

# No LP Gas shortage - Litro Gas

All categories of Litro Gas cylinders are available to consumers without any shortage, Litro Gas Lanka Limited Chairman and CEO Anil Koswatte said yesterday

ig reports that there is a shortage of LP Gas Denvi

# Country should not remain stagnant: We should progress commercially -Maha Sangha

The Maha Sangha emphasizes that a country Advisory Council at the Presidential Secretariat should not remain in one place without moving ahead and it should endeavour to progress com-

mercially towards success. The Maha Sangha shared these views as they both the economy and the country. were informed about the Colombo Port City pro-

yesterday (23).

State Minister Ajith Nivard Cabraal spoke about the project in-depth and highlighted its benefits to

**Entire Port City Bill consistent** with Constitution - AG LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Attorney General yesterday submitted to the Supreme Court that all provisions of the proposed Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill are consistent with the Constitution and thereby it can be passed by Simple Majority in Parliament.

Additional Solicitor General Farzana Jameel appearing for

in the country, Koswatte said "there is absolutely no shortage of gas in the country, with LPG made available to customers via over 14,000 sales channels throughout the island".

He said in addition to the existing gas cylinders, the Litro Gas Premium Hybrid 18 Litre Cylinder was introduced to the market as a product that meets international standards. This product contains 18 litres of LPG, TO PAGE 02

# Around Rs.100,000 spent for each minute of Parliamentary sittings - Speaker

### SANDASEN MARASINGHE. **CAMELIA NATHANIEL and** AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Around Rs.100,000 is spent for each minute of a Parliamentary sitting, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said yesterday while stressing that unnecessary arguments by Parliament Members during sittings will only result in the waste of public money.

Referring to the arguments which broke out regarding SJB MP Harin Fernando, the Speaker lamented that 47 minutes had lapsed after the Adjournment Debate's initiation. He added that SJB MP Ranjith Madduma Bandara was deviating from the topic. TO PAGE O2

### ject during the 10th discussion with the Buddhist ing the way to new investment 10 PAGE 02

# SC concludes hearing into Port City Economic Commission Bill

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court yesterday concluded arguments put forward in support and against the proposed Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill.

Accordingly, all parties relating to the Special Determination petitions were directed to submit their written submissions before next Tuesday. Later on, the Supreme

Court's determination over the

proposed Bill is to be communicated to the President and the Speaker.

The Supreme Court fivejudge-Bench comprised Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, to page 02

# Victims of Katuwapitiya blast file 182 cases

Defence Ministry Secretary

Hemasiri Fernando, former

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA The relatives of those who

have died during the suicide bomb blast that took place at St. Sebastian's Catholic Church in Katuwapitiya, Negombo and individuals who were injured have filed 182 lawsuits before Negombo District Court claim-IGP Pujith Jayasundara, foring compensations from former mer Chief of State Intelligence

President Maithripala Sirisena Service Nilantha Jayawardhane and Attorney General and five others. The plaintiffs have named former President Maithripala Sirisena, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former

as defendants. The victims alleged that the defendants have failed to perform their official duties entrusted to prevent the terrorist attacks that took place on May 21, 2019 which caused irreparable damage to them. TO PAGE **O2** 

### **Committee to look into incidents in Parliament** SANDASEN MARASINGHE

**CAMELIA NATHANIEL and** AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

A Committee chaired by Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapitiya was appointed to look into the incidents that took place in the Parliament Chamber and its premises on April 21, 2021 and to recommend further steps to be taken.

The Committee appointed by Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena is also responsible of recommending measures to be taken in



order to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

The Speaker announced in Parliament yesterday (23) that Ministers Chamal Rajapaksa, Keheliya Rambukwella, State Minister Susil

Premajayantha, Parliamentarians Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Imthiaz Bakeer Markar, Ranjith Madduma Bandara and M. A. Sumanthiran have been appointed as members of the Committee. **TO PAGE 02** 

# **Revive tourism industry before amending Act - UNP**



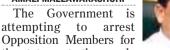
### SHIROMI ABEYASINGHE The United National Party (UNP) has called upon the Government to

focus on reviving the tourism industry

in the country before they attempt to amend the Tourism Act, said UNP Working Committee member Dinouk Colombage. TO PAGE 02

## Govt. attempting to stifle **Opposition - SJB MP**

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, **CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND** AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



the statements they made which is a violation of freedom of speech,

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Ranjith Madduma Bandara said in Parliament yesterday. He said that this amounts to political vic-

timization carried out by the Government. He added that MP Harin Fernando is to be arrested for what he said in Parliament.

He made this observation commencing the Adjournment Debate for a second day on the report prepared by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry appointed to probe incidents of Political Victimization under the former Good Governance Government between January 8, 2015 and November 26, 2019. TO PAGE 02

the Attorney General made these remarks concluding her oral submissions, when the 19 Special Determination petitions filed challenging the constitutionality of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill were taken up before the Supreme Court five-Judge-bench.

"The petitioners have not been able to establish that any part of this Bill is inconsistent with the Constitution. TO PAGE 02



Ti 2698211 Fi 2692554 E: lakpuhana.craft@gmail.com

## **NEWS**

# PM calls for strong State banking system to face challenges

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa stated yesterday that the State banking system should be further strengthened.

DN page 2

The Prime Minister pointed this out during a lengthy discussion with the officials of the Pragathi Bank Employees Union at the Prime Minister's Office in the Parliament Complex.

The meeting was held to discuss ways to further strengthen the State banking sector in the face of current challenges and to find solutions to the problems of the

**RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA** 

and SHAVINI MADHARA

DIG Ajith Rohana said

seven people have been

killed due to road acci-

dents within the last 24

He requests the motor-

hours.

Police Media Spokesman

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for restoring the officer retirement pensions of the People's Bank, Bank of Ceylon and National Savings Bank in 2014 as the then President, which had been suspended since 1996.

The Prime Minister also focused on resolving the continuing problems in pensions of employees As the Minister of

Seven road deaths in 24 hours

ists to follow traffic signs

Colombo during the week-

The number of deaths

due to fatal road accidents

has risen to 16 in the last

few days. Even though the

number of casualties has

when driving out of

end

employees.Members of will be taking steps in the Union thanked the the future too to resolve the existing problems in the State banks. Minister S.M. Chan-

drasena, Minister of State Ajith Nivard Cabraal, Chaminda Kularatne, Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister, Priyantha Rathnayake, Coordinating Secretary to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, the Union President Nishantha Samarasinghe, Gen-

dropped to seven, this is a

the Police Media Spokes-man said. DIG Ajith Roha-

na also urged the public to

adhere to the health guide-

lines by taking the neces-

sary precautions when

travelling outstation.

very alarming situation,

eral Secretary AK Finance, the Prime Min-Bandara, were also preister pointed out that he sent



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa holding discussions with Pragathi Bank Employees Union officials at the Prime Minister's Office in the Parliament Complex.

## Prison visits suspended for two weeks

### **BUDDHIKA IMBULANA and SHAVINI MADHARA**

Visitors will not be permitted at prisons across the country for two weeks from today (24), owing to the prevailing COVID-19 situation, Prisons Spokes-

man Chandana Ekanayake said. The decision was taken as

COVID-19 cases in the country at present. The Prisons Spokesperson

there is a significant spike in

further said providing paid meals and sanitary items to inmates through the prison canteen will be continued as per usual.

# **Arrested for preparing passports** using names of deceased LTTEers

### RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA and SHAVINI MADHARA

An Individual who prepared forged identity and travel documents using the details of deceased LTTE cadres has been arrested.

The suspect had been arrested by the Terrorism Investigations Division (TID) after he was found to have been involved in various criminal activities in addition to the

# Around Rs.100,000 spent for... From page 01

He added the other members too joined to disrupt the debate yesterday speaking of the Easter Sunday attack while the Parliament earlier debated that topic for six days." Hence, Rs.4.7 million of public funds had been wasted on an unnecessary argument," the Speaker said.

# No lockdown or travel ... From page 01



# Entry to Anuradhapura Sacred Area restricted

### HIDOGAMA GROUP CORR.

Authorities have decided to restrict the entry of devotees to the Anuradhapura Sacred Area during the next few days.

During a news briefing yesterday North Central Province (NCP) Governor Mahipala Herath requested devotees not to attend religious observances in the area in large groups.

"A large number of devotees came to Anuradhapura during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year season. There has been a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 infections. People are kindly requested to refrain from visiting the Anuradhapura Sacred Area to prevent the

further spread of COVID-19 until the situation is brought under control," he said.

"There is a risk of the coronavirus spreading around the country if more people come to Anuradhapura with the long vacation. Health officials point out that the disease is spreading rapidly in Anuradhapura," the NCP Governor added.

Herath further said a decision has been taken to conduct random PCR tests on people coming to Anuradhapura.

He said the above decisions had been taken following discussions with Atamasthanadhipati Ven. Pallegama Sirinivasa Thera, health and other authorities.

# Three arrested for attending .... From page 01

The DIG further revealed that the Father-In-Law of Zahran Hashim is also among the arrested persons.

The suspects, aged 40, 52 and 55, were arrested by the Terrorism

Investigation Division (TID) from Kekunagolla in Kuliyapitiya.

Police Spokesperson Ajith Rohana noted that the arrested suspects are being questioned.

function up to 50% of the capacity of the gymna-

Walkways - Open only to walk by self and no

sium or the hall adhering to the instructions

Cinemas, theatres - 25% of the capacity.

Children's parks, Carnivals, musical

shows, beach parties, Swimming pools -

Beach - Open but gatherings not allowed.

Restaurant (dining in) - A maximum of

50% of the total seating capacity can be allowed

Restaurant (take away/delivery) - Normal

at a given time adhering to the instructions

operations with strong adherence to DReAM.

Wine stores - Open with adherence to

total capacity can be allowed at a given time

adhering to the instructions given.

Casino, night club – Closed.

time strictly adhering to DReAM.

Pubs and bars - A maximum of 25% of the

Betting centres - A maximum of 50% of the

Spas, Day rooms and home stays - Closed.

Hotels, rest houses and guest houses - A

maximum of 50% of the total capacity can be

allowed at a given time adhering to the instruc-

total seating capacity can be allowed at a given

# COVID-19: Instructions on... From page 01

aiven

Closed.

DReAM

tions given.

crowding allowed

Agriculture based - Normal operations with strong adherence to DReAM. Construction sites -Allowed. Prison - No visitors allowed.

Health Sector - Can function with minimum possible number to maintain service requirement adhering to the instructions given.

Day care, Preschools, Schools, - 50% of the capacity

Higher education centres including universities - Closed

Tuition classes - Not allowed.

Weddings - Can be held with maximum of 150 guests adhering to the instructions given.

Funerals (Except COVID-19 Deaths) - Taking all possible precautions to minimize the number attending to a maximum of 25 persons at a given time adhering to the instructions given. Parties/events/ (indoor), Parties/events

(outdoor), Public gatherings - Not Allowed. Places of worship - No collective activities or

gatherings (except for weddings with permitted number above) as per the instructions given. Number of devotees at a given time should be restricted to a maximum of 50 people at any given time and strictly adhering to the instructions given.

Boarding houses - Can remain at full capacity adhering to the instructions given. However no new persons should be given accommodation. Gymnasiums, indoor sports halls - Can

# Entire Port City Bill consistent... From page 01

Therefore, the Supreme Court is entitled to make an order that this Bill can be passed by simple majority in Parliament. In view of the provisions of the Bill, no referendum or two thirds majority is required. None of that is needed." said

tors. The concept of a single window facilitator gives the Commission the power not to oust the regulatory authorities," she added.

Meanwhile, giving a reply to the intervenient petitioners and the Attorney General, counsel Erai de Silva informed Court that this Bill would provide provisions to create two parallel regulatory regimes. "The intention of this Bill is to create two parallel regulatory authorities and two parallel economies. There is an unseen hand controlling our economy," De Silva said. Meanwhile, the Attorney General presented a list of clauses which can be amended at the Committee Stage in Parliament. According to the proposed amendments, as per clause 7(1) regarding the composition of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission, the President will appoint members of the Commission ensuring that the majority are Sri Lankans. In addition, amendments are to be brought in respect of clauses 3 (4), 3 (6), 3(6) (n), 30(1), 40(2), 46(9). 53(1), 58(1), 62(5), 63(1) and 68(1) of the Bill at the Committee Stage in Parliament.

Two GN Divisions in Kurunegala District isolated SHAVINI MADHARA vention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) General Shavendra Silva. Two Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Kurunegala District were isolated Accordingly, Niraviya and Nikadalupotha Grama Niladhari Divisions

with effect from 7 a.m. yesterday (April 23), said Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Pre-

were placed under isolation in order to control the further spread of COVID-19 in the area. No LP Gas shortage ... From page 01

sufficient for a family of four for a month. Koswatte said the new product delivers a higher level of efficiency and delivers better energy utilization, assuring easier handling and storage. "Our standard regular cylinders are also available without a shortage in the market. Customers may order their LPG requirements by dialing 1311 or via the Litro Gas Home Delivery App.'

# Country should not remain... From page 01

opportunities is a victory for the country. Instead of propagating falsehoods and opposing everything, we must unite to stand tall as a nation.

The Theros emphasized that the citizenry should be properly educated and clarify the actual position to remove their doubts with regard to the project in order to garner their support and accomplish the aims of the Colombo Port City project.

The President briefed the Maha Sangha on the instructions issued

look into the individuals who misinterpret and spread falsehoods about the Buddha's character, the Tripitaka and Buddhist sacred sites and make recommendations accordingly, informed the Advisory Council about its proposals during the discussion.

It was proposed to submit the opinions and views of the Maha-Sangha to these proposals at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Members of the Maha Sangha who represent the Buddhist Advisorv Council. State Minister Vidu-

# above, including human traf-

ficking. Police Media Spokes-

man DIG Ajith Rohana said the 42-year-old man was arrested in Vavuniya recently. The arrested suspect is also

accused of preparing National Identity Cards (NIC) and passports under the name of deceased LTTE cadres. The suspect was taken to the Terrorism Investigation Division and further investigations are being carried out after obtaining detention orders.

by the health sector with regard to new COVID-19 variants. The Committee appointed to

ra Wickramanayaka and several Government officials were present at the council meeting.

# SC concludes hearing into... From page 01

Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, Justice Murdu Fernando and Justice Janak de Silva.

Nineteen petitions had been filed against the Colombo Port City

**Economic Commission** Bill. They are by; Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) 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 Amarasuriya, Engineer Kapila Renuka Perera, Centre for Policy Alternatives and its Executive Director Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), Ven. Muruththettuwe 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 twothirds majority in Parliament.

Meanwhile, eleven intervention petitioners including 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, Athula de Silva, SLPP Lawyers' Association, Secretary to the Minister of Finance and Secretary to the Cabinet Ministers have sought the Court's permission to present their submissions, in support of the Bill.

President's Counsel K. Kanig-Ishvaran, M. Sumanthiran, PC, Uditha Egalahewa, Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Counsel Eraj de Silva, Darshana Weraduwage and Chrishmal Warnasuriya, appeared for the petitioners.

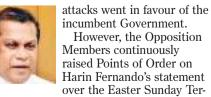
President's Counsel Romesh de Silva with Palitha Kumarasiri, PC, Sanjeewa Jayawardena, PC, Gamini Marapana PC, Navin Marapana, PC and Kushan de Alwis, PC appeared for the intervenient petitioners.

Additional Solicitor General Farzana Jameel with Senior Deputy Solicitor General Nerin Pulle appeared for the Attorney General.

# Govt. attempting to stifle... From page 01

Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando assured that no one would be arrested for what they speak in the House. He added that however those MPs should have a backbone to say the

same thing outside Parliament. Ranjith Madduma Bandara said this Government was elected following the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks and hence the benefit of the



over the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks and queried about the move by the CID to obtain a statement from him (Fernando) to which the Government members were responding.

Those who have been vaccinated will be able to get their second dose from the first week of May.

'There is a misconception that we are unable to get the AstraZeneca vaccine. It is true that the Serum Institute has a problem with supplying vaccines. Due to the prevailing situation all the vaccines used by the Serum Institute are used within India. But earlier they pledged to provide 1.5 million vaccines and only 500,000 of them have been received and currently we are negotiating from the Government of India through the Indian High Commission to get at least 250,000 doses and hopefully we will have these. Discussions are also going on with other entities that manufacture AstraZeneca vaccines to get the required number of vaccines to administer the second dose. Within a maximum of two weeks the World health Organization would also grant approval for the use of the Sinopharm vaccine," he said.

He further said that the country is expected to receive a stock of the Russian manufactured 'Sputnik V' coronavirus vaccine. This vaccine consignment will also help with the process of inoculating the remaining citizens of the country. The Government expects at least 2 or 3 million 'Sputnik V' vaccines to arrive by July or August. The country is yet to receive the Russian manufactured 'Sputnik V' vaccine, while the Government has placed an order for over seven million doses

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi urged the people to act responsibly during the coming long weekend. She said that the virus strain currently found in Sri Lanka was a different strain from the previous strain and that tests were being carried out to determine whether it is similar to the strain spreading in India.

The Minister pointed out that the

# Victims of Katuwapitiya... From page 01

Meanwhile, a woman, a resident of Mahahunupitiya in Negombo who was disabled by the suicide attack has filed a separate case seeking compensation of Rs. 50,000 as damages in lieu of medical expenses.

symptoms of this variety are shown after about 14 days. The Minister said that the country had made some progress in the first and second COVID Waves and urged the people to fulfill responsibilities properly at this time when the country is emerging from those outbreaks.

"We respect the people as our country was able to overcome the pandemic due to the support given by the people."

The Minister said that the Government is ready to hold regular discussions and provide all the necessary hospital facilities, intensive care units, health staff and oxygen.

Prof. Neelika Malavige, Head of the Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura stressed the importance of wearing masks properly to prevent the spread of the new virus strain.

She said that there is an increase in the number of corona patients in Sri Lanka after the New Year season and a new variant has arrived in the country.

The new variety is spreading rapidly than the previous first and second wave variants.

The Professor said that this strain also causes severe symptoms in the young community, although most of the previous strains did not manifest any symptoms.

There is a belief in society that this new strain is spread through the air, where the particles of an infected person remain in the air for about an hour and a half after exposure. That is possible.

The Professor emphasized that it is important to maintain social distance and to wear masks correctly. She said that it is very important to wear face masks not only in the outdoor environment such as on the road but also in the indoor environment such as offices and when talking to someone.

The lawsuits had been filed through President's Counsel Shamil Perera PC, Senior Counsel Waruna Senadheera and Counsels Pradeep Rodrigo and Indika Bandara Abeykoon.

Jameel

Expressing her views regarding the offshore banking businesses in the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the Additional Solicitor General stated that it cannot grant a license without the permission of the Monetary Board.

"It goes through the existing regulatory process under Banking Act and Company Act. The concept of Single Window Facilitator is a commercial one. It is not to push out the regulations. There is a uniformity of regulatory authorities. The commission is aimed at the investor who has to feel that he does not have to go before a multitude of institutions," she added.

She said the existing regulatory authorities are not capable of coping with the requirements in the Special Economic Zone. "There should be a regulation made without impeding the process of collecting the inves-



On April 21, the Parliamentary proceedings were adjourned for 10 minutes following the commotion over the issue of the initiation of the debate on the Report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry to investigate and inquire into as well as obtaining information pertaining to alleged political victimization

against public officers, public servants, members of the Armed Forces and the Police during the period of January 08, 2015 to November 16, 2019. Although the media has been prevented from entering the press gallery, some Opposition MPs had released video footage of the tense situation to social media.

## Revive tourism industry... From page 01

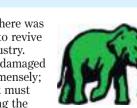
He said that there was an urgent need to revive the tourism industry. "COVID-19 has damaged the industry immensely; the Government must focus on assisting the stakeholders both small and big. At this point adjusting any legislation in regard to the tourism industry must not be a priority."

He questioned the Government over the moratoriums that were offered to the tourism sector. "While



how will they be looked after?"

Colombage called upon the Government to ensure full support is extended to all areas of the tourism industry, "if the tourism sector's immediate needs are not addressed, they will be no industry left."



### **NEWS**

# **Chemical fertiliser imports will** be halted completely – President

# 'Lives are more valuable to me than a high yield'

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa stressed that the importation of chemical fertilizers will be completely stopped in the near future.

The usage of chemical fertilisers leads to a better harvest. However, the negative consequences caused on human lives through pollution of lakes, canals and groundwater due to the chemical fertilisers outweigh the profit. The health sector has pointed out that the effects of chemical fertilisers have led to a number of non-communicable diseases, including kidney diseases. The expenses to treat these patients and the impact on human lives caused by these chemical fertilisers remain high. In order to produce a healthy and productive citizenry, the government must ensure the right of the people to access a non-toxic and balanced diet. President Rajapaksa said that measures will be taken to ensure that only organic fertiliser would be used in the agriculture sector in the country in the future.

The President shared these views at a meeting held with the Heads of State Corporations and Statutory Boards at the President's House Thursday afternoon (22). All the respective parties should intervene to increase the production of organic fertiliser in the country. The President said that organic fertiliser will be provided in lieu of the concessionary fertiliser package for farmers. The President highlighted that the annual sum of USD 400 million spent on fertiliser imports could be used to uplift the lives of the people.

The President said that the people expected a change in policy by electing him into the Office. President Rajapaksa said that the support of everyone is needed to fulfil those aspirations for the country.

Lanka Sugar Company (Pvt) Limited which incurred continuous losses has made a profit of Rs. 1,100 million following the ban on ethanol imports. The Chairman of Lanka Sugar Company said that about 2,500 employees who were on contract basis for about some 20 years have been made permanent and given promotions and bonuses from the profit.

The chairpersons pointed out that the



President's programme has helped in transforming many loss-making institutions into profitable ones.

The "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" National Policy Framework clearly sets out



page 3 DN

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa addressing a meeting with the Heads of State Corporations and Statutory Boards at President's House on Thursday afternoon (22). Pictures courtesy President's Media Division

the chairpersons to work with collective responsibility and commit to achieving the policy change that the people aspired. Secretary to the President P. B. Jayasundera, Senior Adviser to the President Lalith Weeratunga and Finance Ministry Secretary S. R. Attygalle were also present on the occasion.

# Pakistan to create 'Holy Buddhist Trail'



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan briefing a 11-member delegation of prominent Buddhist monks from Sri Lanka on creating a 'Holy Buddhist Trail', which would include the most revered Buddhist heritage sites in Pakistan.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan Thursday told an 11-member delegation of prominent Buddhist monks from Sri Lanka that his Government was currently working on creating a 'Holy Buddhist Trail', which would include the most revered Buddhist heritage sites in Pakistan.

"Our plan is to build state-of-the-

and strengthening interfaith harmony. The prime minister welcomed the delegation.

Highlighting the glorious Gandhara heritage of Pakistan, the prime minister said Pakistan was a proud custodian of some of the most sacred Buddhist sites in the world and offered a great religious tourism opportunity for tourists from across

cal and religious sites, the monks said Pakistan was ready for largescale tourism and religious pilgrimage from across the world.

The delegation recalled and appreciated Pakistan's long-standing friendly relationship, cooperation and solidarity with Sri Lanka. They thanked the government of Pakistan for organising the trip. Prime Minister Khan wished the delegation a pleasant stay in Pakistan and encouraged them to share their experiences about Pakistan's unique hospitality, natural beauty and its Buddhist heritage, motivating others to undertake tours to Pakistan. (News International)

### Local food exhibition at Attanagalla PS today

An international activist against civil rights and animal cruelty for nearly 25 years and the Founder and Chairman of the "Danna for animals' Organisation Bob Issason will take part in the local food (vegetarian) exhibition held at the Attanagalla Pradeshiya Sabha Hall at 8 a.m. today (24). Minister Prasanna Ranatun-

ga will also attend.

the goals that the institutions must achieve. The progress that the institutions under the purview of Cabinet and State Ministries have also been clearly enumerated in the National Policy Framework. President Rajapaksa told

# 'Sisusarani' Scholarships for 2,700 students

### SUDATH KEERTHI, Delgoda Group Corr. Two thousand seven hundred stu-

dents from the Ampara Education Division will receive educational scholarships under the 'Sisusarani' Scholarship Programme which is an initiative of 'Damsaviya International Foundation'.

Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yahampath will preside over the event starting from 9.00 a.m. at D. S. Senanayake Central College, Ampara on Tuesday. The event has been organised to mark the eighth anniversary of the "Bodu Udana" National Programme of the Damsaviya International Foundation. Under the programme, school equipment will be presented to 2,700 students in the Ampara, Lahugala, Uhana and Damana Education Divi-

sions of the Ampara Educational Zone. In addition, the scholarship recipients will receive educational assistance and financial assistance up to the G.C.E. Ordinary Level classes.

The scholarship ceremony will be held under the guidance of the Chief Incumbent of the Sri Lanka Amarapura Samagri Dharma Maha Sangha Sabha, Ven. Girahe Mangala Thera. Ampara District Secretary D.M.L. Bandaranayake, Eastern Province Education Director M.T.M. Nizam, Provincial Secretary of Education Christy Lal Fernando, Ampara Zonal Director of Education Wimalasena Madduarachchi, Damisaviya International Foundation Director General N. S. Gunatilake will also participate.



International Standard, High efficiency, Maximum Safety

art logistical facilities along the trail to facilitate Buddhist pilgrims from across the world," added the PM.

Talking to the delegation, which is visiting Pakistan currently on the Government invitation, Imran Khan underscored the importance of enhancing people-to-people contacts

the world, especially Sri Lanka. He said that Pakistan is a land of unparalleled natural beauty and historical and cultural sites.

Appreciating the Government's initiative to develop 'Holy Buddhist Trail' as well as the renovation work being done on various archaeologi-

### All Police officers at Koswatta Station under guarantine

### PRASAD POORNAMAL,

Puttalam District Group Corr

Steps have been taken to quarantine all Police officers at the Koswatta Police Station which belongs to the Chilaw Police Division.

The main reason for this is that an Inspector who worked at the Koswatta Police station had contracted COVID-19.

The officer is currently receiving treatment at the Police Hospital. Steps have been taken to set up a temporary Police station at the Koswatta Sri Wijayasundarama Temple premises to prevent inconvenience to the people in the area due to the temporary closure of the Koswatta Police Station.

### Irresponsible behaviour led to COVID surge - Upul Rohana S. M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Around 1,890 COVID-19 positive cases have been detected during the past four days countrywide. This can be attributed to the careless and irresponsible behaviour of people which has led to the present rise in the number of cases, said Chairman of the Sri Lanka PHIs' Association Upul Rohana yesterday.

Speaking to the media in Kurunegala, he said several areas in the Kurunegala District have been isolated after a number of COVID-19 positive cases were detected. Rohana said all Sri Lankans including politicians irrespective of their various differences have to assist the Government in controlling the fast spreading COVID-19 pandemic in our country.

## Task Force to take further action on Diyawanna Oya water pollution

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena instructed the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment Dr. Anil Jasinghe to appoint a Task Force for the purpose of taking further measures regarding the contamination and discolouration of the water in the Diyawanna Oya and to take immediate action in submitting the members of the Task Force to him in writing.

The Speaker pointed out that there is an urgent need to identify and implement swift solutions to overcome the current situation whilst emphasizing on the difficulties encountered having to

reinstate the waters of Diyawanna Oya given the contamination and discolouration of the water bed. Thus, the Speaker pointed out that further steps should also be taken to ensure that such situation would not re-occur, the Parliament media division in a communiqué said. Secretary General of

Lanka, National Water

Board, Central Environ-

Supply and Drainage

mental Authority Sri

versity of Moratuwa, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte Municipal Council, Kaduwela Municipal Council, Parliament Dhammika The National Aquatic Dasanayake and officials, Resources Research and officials of Ministry of Development Agency and Defence, Ministry of Envi-Sri Lanka Police were present at this meeting. ronment, Department of Land Development, Sri

Explaining the objectives of the meeting, the Secretary General of Parliament pointed out the problematic background of

Lanka Institute of Nano-

ing Research Organisa-

technology, National Build-

tion, Urban Development,

Disposal, and Community

Cleanliness, University of

Sri Jayewardenepura, Uni-

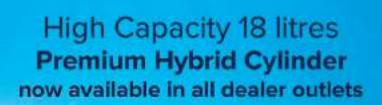
Coast Conservation, Waste

the current situation regarding the Diyawanna Oya and the need and urgency to rectify the situation expeditiously.

The Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake also pointed out the need for constant monitoring whether only treated water that conforms to the respective standard is being disposed of from public and private institutions, housing complexes, industries, housing schemes, etc.

Secretary of the Ministry of Environment Dr. Anil Jasinghe spoke about the need to implement a programme to prevent the impact caused by the sewage dumped by unauthorised occupants and the need to establish a formal programme with relevant powers to protect the quality of the Diyawanna Oya.

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# **EDITORIAL**

# Daily Acws

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SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

A Black Day for Opposition

We denesday's abomination in Parliament where the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) came to the House dressed in black on the second anniversary of the Easter Sunday carnage would have been funny if not for the tragedy this brings to mind. The Opposition in a clear cover-up of its culpability in permitting the tragedy through its criminal negligence, by enacting this drama obviously sought to find a scapegoat in the Government. Taking cover under Parliamentary Privilege fantastic theories were woven by Opposition MPs implying foreknowledge by functionaries of the present Government, who were then in the Opposition, about the multiple suicide attacks on Churches and hotels.

This was despite the Presidential Commission of Inquiry on the Easter Sunday attacks singling out 32 persons including former leaders and police officers who were culpable permitting the immense tragedy. No mention is being made of even a single personage of the present regime and this, in a situation where the Commission was appointed by the Yahapalanaya Government itself.

While the Opposition came to the House dressed in black the Government members wore black armbands and for good measure a free for all ensued with name calling and violent bouts of pushing and shoving turning a solemn day of grief and sorrow for the Catholic community into a display of mockery and insult. How His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith would have viewed this whole farce where both sides were pointing accusing fingers at each other with liberal doses of invective thrown for good measure over who is to blame of the monumental tragedy is anyone's guess.

Among the most vociferous in the Opposition who wore black on Wednesday was a Member, Harin Fernando, who, by his own admission, had prior knowledge of the attack. The Member who is a Catholic revealed that information of a possible attack on churches during the Easter Sunday services was conveyed to him by his father. But as a Cabinet Minister it should have been his duty to share this knowledge in his possession with the Police and the Catholic Church, which no doubt would have taken immediate steps to draw up contingency plans.

Certainly, the Church and His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith would have acted even on this morsel of information since it involved the lives of his flock. In fact, following this revelation in the wake of the Easter Sunday attacks, His Eminence questioned the Member why he chose to remain silent about the matter. The Cardinal asked Fernando as to why he kept this information from the Church, in a clear indication that the Church would have indeed acted on it, whether or not there was authenticity in the information. But instead Harin took exception to the Cardinal bringing up this matter during the Presidential Election seeing this as a bid to scuttle the Catholic vote that would have invariably gone to Sajith Premadasa thus giving a political colouring to his Eminence's outpouring, not realizing that the remark was made in the backdrop of a grave tragedy that beset the Catholic community which could have been prevented if Fernando had shared the information with the Church authorities, which would have definitely led to all Easter Sunday services being called off. On the contrary, it was His Eminence who earned the respect of not just the Catholic community but the entire nation for calming tempers and emotions at a time of grave provocation and preventing a retaliatory bloodbath which would have ignited religious strife in this country. For this signal role His Eminence also earned the esteem and admiration of all other faiths, particularly the Buddhist clergy who rallied en masse behind him showering their assistance and commiserating with the Cardinal at the tragedy. This at a time when the country was rudderless and its leadership woefully found wanting, with the then President and the Prime minister at each other's jugular leaving the country's security in a shambles and the people bracing for further attacks. Hence, the Opposition which donned black in Parliament on the second anniversary of the Easter Sunday carnage ought to cast the searchlight inwards and dwell on the monumental failings of the Government in which they were members that allowed the Easter Sunday bombings to occur with such ease, instead of conjuring imaginary perpetrators of the crime. Viewed in this context, Wednesday, indeed, was a Black Day for the Opposition and will continue to be so at every anniversary of the Easter Sunday carnage with this landmark day nudging the conscience of its Members as to their collective culpability of allowing the multiple bombings. The Cardinal in the Church services to commemorate the day once again reiterated his intention to fight for justice on behalf of the bereaved until the authorities get to the bottom of the whole affair. His Eminence also held out the prospects of forgiveness but insisted on knowing the identities of those responsible before such a course could be contemplated. It now behoves on the Government to unravel the entire plot and bring to book those responsible for this dastardly act expeditiously.

# World Malaria Day falls tomorrowTackling MalariaTackling Malariaanidst COVID-19

### HERVÉ VERHOOSEL

espite its 229 million cases and 409,000 deaths in 2019, malaria is an overlooked epidemic. The emergence of COVID-19 has thrown health systems into disarray and forced countries to shift their focus from malaria to the pandemic response, threatening to reverse 20 years of malaria gains.

Now, as we enter the second year of the pandemic, the global response to COVID-19 must not come at the expense of progress against malaria, a preventable and treatable disease. Not only is eliminating malaria possible, but it is also crucial to fighting current and future diseases.

It is vital that the international community remembers that eliminating malaria remains an achievable goal for all countries. Indeed, more countries than ever are either achieving or approaching elimination.

In 2017, as part of the "E-2020 initiative", the World Health Organisation (WHO) identified 21 countries that could defeat malaria by 2020. Spread across five regions of the world, these countries share the ambitious goal of achieving zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2020.

And last year, Algeria, Belize, Cabo Verde, China, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Malaysia all reported zero indigenous malaria cases, achieving their goal, while others made impressive

strides forward. Ridding the world of malaria is a central component of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), linking closely to targets on poverty, inequality, and health and well-being. But as long as it persists, malaria will continue to have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable communities.

Innovation plays a vital role in the elimination of this disease. New tools, such as those being developed by Unitaid and partners, are needed in the face of emerging insecticide and drug resistance. These can only be developed with sustained and significant investment in malaria research. Global investments to end malaria



ported 21 countries in their efforts to get to zero malaria cases within the 2020 timeline. A new WHO report summarizes progress and lessons learned in these countries over the last three years.

According to the report, eight of the E-2020 member countries reported zero indigenous cases of human malaria by the end of 2020: Algeria, Belize, Cabo Verde, China, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia and Paraguay. In Malaysia, the *P. knowlesi* parasite, normally found in monkeys, infected approximately 2,600 people in 2020.

A number of other countries made excellent progress: Timor-Leste reported only 1 indigenous case, while three other countries – Bhutan, Costa Rica and Nepal – reported fewer than 100 cases.

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

In 2020, COVID-19 emerged as a serious challenge to malaria responses worldwide. Since the early days of the pandemic, WHO has urged countries to maintain essential health services, including for malaria, while ensuring that communities and health workers are protected from COVID-19 transmission.

Heeding the call, many malariaendemic countries mounted impressive responses to the pandemic, adapting the way they deliver malaria services to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by governments. As a result of these efforts, the worst-case scenario of a WHO modelling analysis was likely averted.

However, more than one year into the pandemic, substantial disruptions to health services persist across the globe. According to the results of a new WHO survey, approximately one third of countries around the world reported disruptions in malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment services during the first quarter of 2021.

In many countries, lockdowns and restrictions on the movement of people and goods have led to delays in the delivery of insecticide-treated mosquito nets or indoor insecticide spraying campaigns. Malaria diagnosis and treatment services were interrupted as many people were unable – or unwilling – to seek care in health facilities.

WHO is calling on all people living in malaria affected countries to "beat the fear": people with a fever should

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Crying is cleansing. There's a reason for tears or sadness. - Dionne Warwick have an enormous return on investment. In 2018, they saved 600,000 lives and prevented close to 100 million malaria cases compared to 2000 levels.

In the Asia-Pacific region, weighing against the epidemiological and economic costs of inaction, Wellcome Trust researchers estimated that eliminating malaria by 2030 could save over 400,000 lives, prevent 123 million malaria cases, and lead to a 6:1 return on investment.

### MALARIA-ENDEMIC COUNTRIES

These investments also strengthen health systems that are vital to responding to threats such as COVID-19, and help address other vector-borne diseases.

Together with partners, global health agency Unitaid has been supporting the evaluation of the performance of new bed nets under real conditions in malaria-endemic countries to guide policy on their use.

This aims to open a market for these new nets and bring about competition among manufacturers, leading to lower prices and a sustainable tool for countries.

Unitaid also invests to accelerate access to next-generation insecticides to reestablish indoor spraying as a malaria-control measure, and to vary new spray formulas to prevent mosquito populations from growing resistant to them.

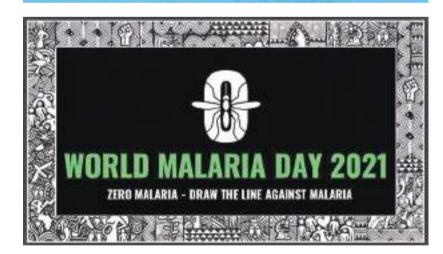
Unitaid's work has also resulted in the delivery of seasonal malaria chemoprevention to over six million children across seven countries in the Sahel, fulfilling more than 25% of the region's need, while monitoring the safety, efficacy, cost, and public health impact of such programmes at scale.

This World Malaria Day, the global health community must reaffirm its commitment to combat malaria by increasing global investments to prevent, control, and ultimately eliminate this disease. COVID-19 has exposed the weaknesses in health systems around the world. Now is the moment to step up efforts against this preventable disease.

Ahead of World Malaria Day, marked annually on April 25, WHO congratulates the growing number of countries that are approaching, and achieving, zero cases of malaria. A new initiative aims to halt transmis-

# MALARIA STARTS WITH ME

A MOTHER AND CHILD SIT UNDER AN INSECTICIDE-TREATED NET IN THEIR NOME Bleeping under such nets is one of the most effective ways to prevent materia



On World Malaria Day, the global health community must reaffirm its commitment to combat malaria by increasing global investments to prevent, control, and ultimately eliminate this disease. In 2020, COVID-19 emerged as a serious challenge to malaria responses worldwide. Since the early days of the pandemic, WHO has urged countries to maintain essential health services, including for malaria, while ensuring that communities and health workers are protected from COVID-19 transmission.

sion of the disease in 25 more countries by 2025.

Of the 87 countries with malaria, 46 reported fewer than 10, 000 cases of the disease in 2019 compared to 26 countries in 2000. By the end of 2020, 24 countries had reported interrupting malaria transmission for three years or more. Of these, 11 were certified malaria-free by WHO.

"Many of the countries we are recognizing today carried, at one time, a very high burden of malaria. Their successes were hard-won and came only after decades of concerted action," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "Together, they have shown the world that malaria elimination is a viable goal for all countries."

Though each country's elimination journey is unique, common drivers of success have been seen across all regions.

### **HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**

Most countries that reach zero malaria have strong primary health care systems that ensure access to malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment services, without financial hardship, for everyone living within their borders – regardless of nationality or legal status.

Through the E-2020 initiative, launched in 2017, WHO has sup-

go to the nearest health facility to be tested for malaria and receive the care they need, within the context of national COVID-19 protocols.

In 2019, there were an estimated 229 million cases of malaria and 409, 000 malaria-related deaths in 87 countries. Children under the age of five years in sub-Saharan Africa continued to account for approximately two thirds of global deaths from malaria.

The WHO African Region shouldered 94% of all malaria cases and deaths worldwide in 2019. About 3% per cent of malaria cases in 2019 were reported in the WHO South-East Asia Region and 2% in the WHO Region for the Eastern Mediterranean. The WHO Western Pacific Region and the WHO Region of the Americas each accounted for fewer than 1% of all cases.

Although progress in the global response to malaria has stalled in recent years, a growing number of countries with a low burden of malaria are approaching, and achieving, the target of zero malaria transmission. Between 2000 and 2020, 24 countries reported zero indigenous cases of malaria for three or more years. These countries include: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cabo Verde, China, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Certification of malaria elimination is the official recognition by WHO of a country's malaria-free status. WHO grants the certification when a country has proven that the chain of indigenous malaria transmission has been interrupted nationwide for at least the past three consecutive years.

A country must also demonstrate the capacity to prevent the re-establishment of transmission. Globally, 39 countries and territories have achieved this milestone. Eleven countries have been certified malaria over the last two decades: United Arab Emirates (2007), Morocco (2010), Turkmenistan (2010), Armenia (2011), **Sri Lanka (2016)**, Kyrgyzstan (2016), Paraguay (2018), Uzbekistan (2018), Algeria (2019), Argentina (2019) and El Salvador (2021).

(IPS/WHO)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

### **OPINION**

# LANDMARK MOMENT FOR JUSTICE IN U.S.

olicemen Derek Chauvin has been convicted of murder for killing George Floyd by kneeling on his neck for more than nine minutes, a crime that prompted waves of protests in support of racial justice in the US and across the world. It is a landmark moment of justice on policing and criminal justice in the US, and in many other countries having histories of slavery and equality calls by Black and Minority communities.

The jury swiftly and unanimously convicted Chauvin of all the charges he faced - second- and third-degree murder, and manslaughter - after concluding that the white former Minneapolis police officer killed the 46-year-old Black man in May through a criminal assault, by pinning him to the ground so he could not breathe.

Huge cheers immediately went up among a crowd of several hundred people outside the heavily fortified courthouse with people chanting "All three counts" and "Whose victory? Our victory!"

President Joe Biden called members of the Floyd family moments after the verdict, and told the family: "Nothing is going to make it all better, but at least now there is some justice." He added: "We're all so relieved.'

It is a major achievement for the Black Lives Matter movement in the US, taking the campaign for justice in the George Floyd killing throughout the US. There were also similar calls for justice for the black people in other countries too, especially in the UK and the European Union.

The conviction does not put an end to the highly charged case, which reinvigorated the Black Lives Matter movement, as three other officers face trial later this year accused of aiding and abetting murder and manslaughter.

However, a fatal police shooting in Ohio of a 15-year-old girl, which took place just moments before the verdict was read, unleashed a sense of fury and frustration among protesters

who gathered at the scene. President Joe Biden, in an



Former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin is taken into custody as his attorney, Eric Nelson, looks on after the verdicts were read on Tuesday at Chauvin's trial for the 2020 death of George Floyd.



US President Joe Biden

Alexei Navalny. Mr. Putin said Western powers were constantly trying to "pick on" Russia.

For some countries, harassing Russia has become a "new kind of sport," Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a speech on Wednesday.

Addressing Russian lawmakers and the nation at large, Putin said Moscow's response has been "reserved" and "without any irony, modest.



Chad's President Idriss Deby Itno series of executive actions to reduce

gun violence. The executive orders issued

include: **D** Directing the Justice Department (DOJ) to propose a rule within 30 days to help stop ghost guns' proliferation – firearms assembled from kits that often lack serial numbers and are difficult to trace.

**D** Directing the DOJ to craft a rule within 60 days, which clarifies the point at which a stabilizing arm brace effectively turns a pistol into a short-barreled rifle, subjecting that firearm to additional regulations.



ON MY WATCH

A man places flowers at a mural of George Floyd after the guilty verdict.



### Alexei Navalny

ger strike and his allies say his life is in danger.

### CHAD PRESIDENT KILLED

Chad's President Idriss Deby Itno has died on the battlefield after three decades in power, the army announced.

The stunning announcement came just hours after electoral officials had declared Deby, 68, the winner of the April 11 presidential election, paving

tro said in a speech opening the congress on Friday, his military fatigues contrasting with his protege's civil garb.

page **5** 

DN

Hundreds of party delegates gathered for the party's most important meeting, that takes place every five years to review policy and elect new leadership, in Havana.

Castro said at the last party con-gress in 2016 it would be the last presided over by the so-called historic generation of those who fought in the Sierra Maestra to overthrow the U.S.-backed government of dictator Fulgencio Batista.

### INDIA - COVID CRISIS

India is facing the worst situation in the COVID-19 pandemic with a huge rise in daily infections, and the numbers dying, as well as a major shortage of hospital facilities, including the supply of oxygen to ICU patients.

It has now surpassed the US on the one-day rise in infections, and also surpassed Brazil.

The current main figures for infections and deceased are: World -143,824,360 infected and 3,059,018 deceased. US - 31,862,401 (569,402), India - 15,930,774 (184,657), Brazil - 14, 122,795 (383,475)

At least 24 COVID-19 patients in western India died on Wednesday when the oxygen supply to their ventilators ran out, amid a nationwide shortage of the gas and a surge in infections.

Hospitals in Delhi, the capital, and elsewhere have warned that their supplies of medical oxygen given to severely ill COVID-19 patients are running low. Max Healthcare, the largest private sector healthcare provider in Delhi and its suburbs, said some of its hospitals had barely two hours' supply of oxygen.

Television showed images of people with empty oxygen cylinders crowding refilling facilities in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, as they scrambled to save stricken relatives in hospital.

The situation was so severe that some people tried to loot an oxygen tanker, forcing authorities to beef up security, according to the health minister of the northern state of Harva-



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel

unveil an updated carbon emission reduction target and urge cooperation with other nations to combat the climate crisis. He hopes to reach deals with some of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, in the virtual summit.

The summit is an opportunity for the U.S. to rejoin global efforts to address climate change after the Trump administration pulled the country from the Paris climate accord and dismantled environmental regulations. The U.S. is the world's second-biggest carbon emitter, behind China.

to the nation, praised the verdict but noted how difficult it is to ensure justice is served.

"This can be a giant step forward in the march towards justice in America. But let's also be clear: such a verdict is also much too rare." he said. "It seems like it took a unique and extraordinary convergence of factors. A brave young woman with a smartphone camera. A crowd that was traumatised. Traumatised witnesses. A murder that lasts almost ten minutes in broad daylight. Officers standing up and testifying against a fellow officer instead of just closing ranks.'

Here are some of the immediate reactions following the announcement of the guilty verdicts on all three counts.

White House: "Systematic racism is a stain on our nation's soul ... No one should be above the law. Today's verdict sends that message. But it's not enough. We can't stop here, said Biden during an evening address to the nation from the White House.

"Today, a jury did the right thing. But true justice requires much more. Michelle and I send our prayers to the Floyd family, and we stand with all those who are committed to guaranteeing every American the full measure of justice that George and so many others have been denied," said former US President Barack Obama.

The jury made the right decision in convicting Derek Chauvin for murdering George Floyd. His tragic death, and the evidence at the trial, made painfully clear that we must do much better in recruiting, training, and holding law enforcement accountable to the communities they serve. The failure to do so continues to plague America, as we have seen in recent days," said former US President Bill Clinton.

"I was appalled by the death of George Floyd and welcome this verdict. My thoughts tonight are with George Floyd's family and friends, said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

### RUSSIA - PUTIN'S WARNING,

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned the West not to cross a "red line" with Russia, saying such a move would trigger an "asymmetrical, rapid and harsh" response.

The warning came in his annual state of the nation address, amid heightened tension with the West over Ukraine and jailed Putin critic "We really don't want to burn any

bridges, but if someone takes our good intentions for indifference or weakness, and if they intend to burn or destroy those bridges themselves, they should know that Russia's response would be asymmetrical, quick and tough," said the Kremlin chief.

Russia has enough "patience, responsibility, and common sense" Putin said, but warned against crossing "the red line."

"And where this line is, we will decide in any concrete case on our own," he added.

"The organisers of any provocations that threaten basic interests of our security will regret it like they haven't regretted anything in a long time."

President Putin said some Western countries were like jackals trying to please the US, just as a jackal behaves with the tiger Shere Khan in Kipling's tale The Jungle Book.

Tensions have been building over Ukraine, as reports say Russia has moved more than 100,000 troops close to disputed areas.

A large part of that force is in Crimea, the peninsula which Russia annexed from Ukraine in March 2014. A senior Ukrainian officer. Gen Serhiy Nayev, estimated the total force to be 103,200 last week.

Russia backs the separatists holding a swathe of eastern Ukraine, and its manoeuvres have fuelled fears of a new Russian military intervention.

Mr. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov later described the "red lines' as "our external security interests, our internal security interests in preventing any outside interference, whether in our elections or other domestic political processes".

Last week the US government accused the Kremlin of "malign activity" and expelled 10 Russian diplomats. Russia responded tit-fortat. Similar hostile exchanges of diplomats took place between Russia and both the Czech Republic and Poland.

Putin has said that the development of Russia's Arctic region is a priority as ice cover melts. Moscow has invested heavily in developing what it calls the Northern Sea Route.

### US - GUN VIOLENCE

The continued increase in gun violence, with several attacks killing many in recent weeks, has made President Joe Biden announce a

- □ Directing the DOJ to publish within 60 days, model red-flag legislation, which lets law enforcement officers or family members ask a court to bar someone from accessing guns under certain circumstances temporarily. The White House says the model legislation will make it easier for states to pass their own versions of that law.
- Directing the DOJ to issue a comprehensive report on gun trafficking.

The actions arrive after several recent mass shootings in the United States, including South Carolina, on April 7.

"This gun violence in our neighbourhood is having a profound impact on our children, even if they're never involved in pulling the trigger or being the victim of — on the other side of a trigger," President Biden said.

"For a fraction of the cost of gun violence, we can save lives, create safe and healthy communities, and build economies that work for all of us, and save billions of American dollars.

Federal calls for action after recent mass shootings are causing Texas lawmakers to strongly oppose it. They are laying the groundwork to block federal gun regulations through legislation that would make Texas a "Second Amendment sanctuary state," prohibiting state agencies and local governments from enforcing new federal gun rules.

### CLIMATE SUMMIT

President Biden has invited 40 world leaders to participate in this week's climate summit, and is hoping to reach deals with some of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters.

The U.S. and China, the world's two biggest carbon polluters, have agreed to cooperate on climate change ahead of the two-day summit, though it's unclear if Chinese President Xi Jinping will participate.

Biden is expected to unveil a new emissions reduction target for the Paris climate accord before or during the summit and pledge money to help less wealthy countries combat climate change.

President Biden is expected to

One of the expected actions from the White House is a new emissions reduction target for the Paris climate accord, the landmark agreement among 200 nations to reduce their emissions.

Biden's climate agenda includes a major infrastructure package that invests in a clean energy transition, one of the country's largest federal efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions that would be paid for largely by raising corporate tax rates.

The president has also vowed new regulations on fossil fuel producers and executive orders to reverse Trump's climate policy rollbacks on issues like clean water, air, chemicals and protection of land and wildlife.

### NAVALNY - LIFE IN DANGER

There are mass protests in several Russian cities, including Moscow and St. Petersburg, calling for the release of the Putin critic and opposition activist Alexei Navalny, who is imprisoned and is reportedly seriously ill.

There have been warnings that Navalny's life "hangs by a thread" since blood test results appeared to show that his potassium levels were dangerously high.

Vladimir Putin's foremost critic was detained the moment he returned to Russia in January after treatment for nerve agent poisoning in Siberia last summer. He was then jailed for violating the terms of a court conviction widely condemned as politically motivated.

As he's pledged to continue his prison protest, the Kremlin has dismissed international statements of concern as "unacceptable".

It's now refusing even to comment on "this situation, this convict", setting the stage for a perilous battle of wills.

Police have detained nearly 100 Navalny supporters rallying in several cities.

Hundreds staged pro-Navalny protests on Wednesday in eastern cities including Vladivostok, Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk. The authorities have declared them illegal.

The anti-corruption campaigner is being treated at a prison hospital in Vladimir, about 180km (112 miles) east of Moscow. He is on hunthe way for him to stay in power for six more years.

Deby "has just breathed his last defending the sovereign nation on the battlefield" over the weekend, army spokesman General Azem Bermandoa Agouna said in a statement read out on state television.

Rebels based across the northern frontier in Libya attacked a border post on election day and then advanced hundreds of kilometres south across the desert.

Deby came to power in a rebellion in 1990 and is one of Africa's longestserving leaders. Although ruling Chad with an iron fist, he was a key ally in the West's anti-jihadist campaign in the troubled Sahel region.

The army said a military council led by the late president's 37-year-old son Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno, a four-star general, would replace him.

President Deby was a herder's son from the Zaghawa ethnic group who took the classic path to power through the army, and relished the military culture. His latest election victory - with almost 80 percent of the vote - had never been in doubt, with a divided opposition, boycott calls, and a campaign in which demonstrations were banned or dispersed.

Deby had campaigned on a promise of bringing peace and security to the region, but his pledges were undermined by the rebel incursion.

### CUBA - NEW LEADERSHIP

Cuba's ruling Communist Party elected President Miguel Diaz-Canel to succeed Raul Castro as party first secretary, the most powerful position in the country, on the final day of its congress this week. The succession marks the end of six decades of rule by brothers Fidel and Raul Castro, who led Cuba's leftist 1959 revolution, in a transition to a younger generation that worked its way up the party ranks, rather than forging itself through guerilla warfare.

Diaz-Canel, 60, who already succeeded Castro as president in 2018, had been widely expected to be nominated first party secretary too. He has emphasized continuity since becoming president and is not expected to move Cuba away from a one-party socialist system.

"Diaz-Canel is not the fruit of improvisation but of the thoughtful selection of a young revolutionary who has all that is required to be promoted to higher positions," Cas-

India now faces a coronavirus "storm" overwhelming its health system, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a national address on Tuesday, adding that authorities were working with states and private firms to deliver oxygen with speed.

Authorities in Maharashtra, which is already under partial lockdown, have ordered additional restrictions on the movement of people within the city and state until May 1 to curb the coronavirus' spread. This is being followed by other states, and in Tamil Nadu too, where infections are increasing.

The order said all offices, except those providing essential services, must operate with 15% staff. Travel by private vehicles is permitted only for medical emergencies, and only medical workers and government employees may ride the normally popular train system. India, the world's second-most populous nation reported 295,041 new coronavirus infections on Wednesday - the biggest daily rise reported in any country - stretching its hospitals to breaking point, officials said.

Only the United States had a slightly higher one-day rise of 297,430 cases in January, though its tally has since fallen sharply. India's 2,023 deaths were also its highest in the pandemic.

Adding to the sense of alarm, the Serum Institute of India, which manufactures the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, said it will not be able to raise its monthly output to 100 million doses from the current 60 million-70 million until July, compared to its previous forecast of late May.

The delay could slow India's immunisation drive, which the government has opened for all adults from next month to try to stem the deadly second wave.

Health experts said India had let its guard down when the virus seemed to be under control during the winter, allowing big gatherings such as weddings and festivals.

Modi himself is facing criticism for addressing packed political rallies for local elections and allowing a religious festival to go ahead where millions gathered.

India has so far administered nearly 130 million doses of vaccine, the most in the world after the United States and China but still small relative to its population of 1.35 billion people.

## PARLIAMENT

# **Easter Sunday Attacks** Government, Opposition should work together to bring justice to victims: Johnston

Both the Government and the Opposition should discard political differences and work together to bring justice to the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks, Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando stated in Parliament yesterday.

DN page 6

Minister Fernando made this observation when a number of the Opposition MPs raised concerns regarding a complaint lodged against Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Harin Fernando by several Government MPs regarding a statement made by the former on the Easter Sunday attacks.

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa requested Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to ensure the Opposition of its right to freedom of speech, which is guaranteed by the Constitution.

"MP Harin Fernando made a series of revelations about the investigations conducted into the Easter Sunday terror carnage, last Tuesday. We got to know that the Government is planning to put MP Fernando in remand custody based on the Prevention of Terrorism Act. I would like to ask whether these people have not read the Parliament Privileges Act," Premadasa said.

"Under this Act, there is no

way of taking legal action over anything said by an MP within this Chamber. What MP Harin Fernando did was fulfilling the responsibility of a public representative. Therefore, do not try to shut the mouths of Opposition MPs and violate our freedom of speech that is ensured by the Constitution," Premadasa added.

Opposition Chief Organiser Lakshman Kiriella questioned as to why such a complaint had been lodged when Parliamentarians are privileged to speak without any restrictions within the Chamber. "MP Harin Fernando was

repeating what the Cardinal was saying regarding the ongoing investigations into the Easter Sunday attacks. If you are unsure, check the recent speech made by the Cardinal. The Government should answer the questions raised by MP Harin Fernando instead of

trying to arrest him." In reply, Minister Johnston Fernando said that the Government denied all the allegations levelled by the Opposition concerning a possible arrest made on MP Harin Fernando.

"The government will never allow such an arrest of an MP when he has spoken within his privileges. We stand with the



Opposition's opinion regarding this matter. When MP Harin Fernando and MP Manusha Nanayakkara made certain controversial statements regarding the Easter Sunday attacks, I asked them whether they could do the same without hiding behind the Parliament privileges. We invited all the MPs to work together and support the investigations conducted into the Easter Sunday attacks," he said. "Everyone is in agreement that we need to bring the culprits to justice. Therefore,

please don't use this tragedy to sling mud at each other. If the previous government was a responsible one, a tragedy like this would not have taken place. If the previous regime properly applied law after the attacks, it would not have lost

the election. I do not agree with arresting MP Harin Fernando based on any speech he made in this Chamber. The report of the Commission was recently sent by the President to the Attorney-General, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and the Terrorism Investigation Department (TID) for further investigations," he added.

"As far as I know, several Government MPs have made complaints regarding MP Harin Fernando's statement with the police. However, they have not asked for him to be arrested. I can clearly remember MP Harin Fernando saying that his father warned him about an imminent terrorist attack, a few days before Easter Sunday. Such conflicts of interest should be cleared off in investigations. Therefore, I would like to request the Opposition Leader to be responsible and not to drag politics into the matter. Do not use individual MPs for your political agendas; Ranjan Ramanayake was used like that. Let us not politically divide ourselves when it comes to this matter," the minister said.

Several MPs of the Opposition then raised concerns regarding the same matter, including MP Manusha Nanayakkara, MP Ranjith Madduma

Bandara, and MP Nalin Bandara. At this juncture, Leader of the House Dinesh Gunawardena requested the Speaker to adjourn the House and commence the adjournment debate as the Opposition was "wasting valuable time by repetitively raising the same set of questions".

Minister Gunawardena said, "A clear repetition is taking place. If you want a discussion on this matter, it can be called. I propose that we adjourn Parliament and go for the Adjournment Debate. There is nothing new in this argument, and as per the Standing Orders, there should not be any repeats on what has already been discussed. If there is a question, we will answer." "This Adjournment Debate

is important as well. Now, for half an hour, the Opposition keeps going on and on about this one matter. Do not use the valuable time we have for Opposition's advertising plans. We pay hundred thousand rupees per a minute of airtime. Please cooperate with the Government," he added.

Speaker Abeywardena pointed out to the Opposition that if they desire, they should request a separate debate on the said matter.



SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

# **'Report of Presidential Commission investigating** political victimisation neither impartial nor transparent'

National People's Power (NPP) Leader MP Anura Kumara Dissanayake alleged that the report of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry investigating incidents of political victimisation was neither impartial nor transparent. He said that the Commission was appointed for political purposes only.



Dissanayake said so opening the second day of the debate on the

report submitted by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry. He added that none of the responsible authorities that investigated the Easter Sunday attacks has summoned him to give evidence, and that he is willing to give evidence on the matter if summoned.

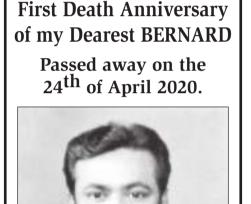
The NPP Leader was also critical of the Government's attempt to strip off the civil rights of several Parliamentarians, including himself, who were members of the Anti-Corruption Committee appointed during the previous regime.

The MP said, "In our country, there is an evident circle of fraudsters and thieves. There are groups of politicians who are in this circle. The same happens in many sectors, such as

public administration, the police, and the legal system. This circle has robbed billions of public money. However, no action has been taken against any of them."

"There are a number of rural schools that do not have basic sanitary facilities. The poor cannot afford health services, farmers cannot save their crops due to the human-elephant conflict, women are committing suicide due to micro-finance debt traps, youth are suffering from unemployment. Should we not fight against these thieves and fraudsters who rob people of their public money? We shall never give up our fight against this circle and Special Presidential Commissions; jails or murders will not stop our fight. Some people claim that I had power during the previous government. If I did, most of those who are sitting in the front lines of this Chamber would now be in jail," Dissanayake added.

"The chairman of this Commission has a history of corruption. Some of the other members of this Commission have political affiliations to the present government, and some were involved in politics. There is one other person who has harassment allegations levelled against them. The Government could have done this in a better way, without appointing such corrupted persons as commission members," he added. "Now, let us look at what this Commission did. It was supposed to look into incidents of political victimisation suffered by public servants. However, most of the persons summoned before this Commission were not public servants, but businessmen with corruption allegations. The Commission has taken up several complaints after the deadlines. It is evident that the conduct of the Commission was partial. Where is the Interim Report of this Commission? The Commission Report was prepared completely for political purposes. This is the first time in Sri Lanka where a Commission has taken up cases which are still being heard in courts," Dissanayake said.



# No one arrested over Lanka Sathosa **Budget Pack criticism: Dr. Gunawardena**

Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena said in Parliament yesterday that no one has been arrested for criticising the Rs.1,000 Lanka Sathosa budget pack provided to people affected by the pandemic. Dr. Gunawardena said that MP Buddhika Pathirana had mentioned it while he was not in the Chamber.

not hold this minis-Dr. Gunawardena questioned terial portfolio," he as to why some persons criticise the budget pack when it "We provided people with a does no harm to people. "I bag of goods with the good wonder why these people are intention of providing relief to the people during the Sinhala against this budget pack. It is helpful to the people. If these people cannot help the Government, it is alright. However,

Rs.1,000. The pack gives the customers an advantage of

includes 12 items such as 1kg of Nadu rice, 1kg of red rice, 1kg of white rice, 1kg of lentils, 1kg of white sugar, 1kg of onion, a facemask, 200 chilies, and 200 sprats into this budget pack for just

Rs.400," the minister added. "When this relief package was implemented, private

I table all the statistics on that. This relief bag was launched to give customers an advantage of at least Rs.300. I do not know why this budget pack has become the talk of the town. If the people of this country benefit from it, that is our only expectation. I do not understand why someone protests against it. All these allegations are levelled against a Government project," Dr.

Gunawardena said. The said person has been rrested for a different case



Never a day begins or ends Without a thought of you, Today, tomorrow and forever, I will love and remember you, Memories are beautiful things When the person that you loved is gone.

May you Rest in Peace Your ever sorrowing wife - Indra.

### DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Mr. I W D LEELARATNE **Retired Additional Commissioner of** Examinations,

who passed away on the 13th of April 2021, was held on 15th April 2021, at Borella Kanatte.

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the staff of Wethara Base Hospital and Kalubowila Teaching Hospital, OIC and Officers of Mattegoda Police Station, colleagues at Commercial Bank of Ceylon Plc., Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, The Hidramani Group and Design Group Five, Mr. Wickrama Gunaratne of House of Care, Past Teachers Association of Anula Vidyalaya, Welfare Society of Dikhenawatte & Anawatte, and Jayaratne Funeral Directors.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the members of the clergy, as well as all our dear colleagues, friends and relatives who honored Mr. Leelaratne by their presence at the funeral, sent floral tributes, messages of condolence and assisted us in countless ways during this sorrowful time. We sincerely regret our inability to convey our thanks individually.

Mrs. Prema Leelaratne (wife), Nalinie (daughter) & Chandana Chandrima (daughter) & Thilantha Pradeep (son) & Erandi

28, Dikhenawatte, Mattegoda. 0112780091

and Tamil New Year season, even though there is a collapse in the supply chain. Sathosa

why they would

criticise it and want

to stop it is beyond

my understanding.

There is no corrup-

with regard to this

someone can prove

otherwise, I shall

tion taking place

budget pack. If

sector companies also began to reduce the prices of their goods. That is a good thing.

which has no relation to his criticism against the budget pack, the minister added.

# Political victimisation, a result of public service politicisation: Vigneswaran

Presidential Commission investigating political victimization in Parliament yesterday, MP C.V. Vigneswaran said that political victimisation was a result of the politicisation of the public service.

"Neither the Parliament nor politicians should interfere with the public service. That would violate the principle of separation of powers enshrined in Article 4 of the Constitution. The public service is part of the Executive. However, even the President and the Cabinet have only limited power in respect of the Public Service. The Constitution contains three chapters dealing with the Executive –viz. VII, VIII, and IX. Chapter IX deals with the Public Service. The only power that the Cabinet has over the Public Service is at a policy level."

He noted that the Constitution, in its wisdom, does not permit even the President nor the Cabinet of Ministers to interfere with the workings of the public service. The Cabinet can only give policy guidance. In other words, the Cabinet cannot interfere with the decision of whom to prosecute. That decision is for the Attorney-General, and the Attorney-General alone.

"It is probably for this reason that the President has not sought to include the Attorney-General within the ambit of this Commission of Inquiry, despite naming several other institutions. However, it is shocking to note that the Commission has decided to embark upon its own voyage and decided to persecute even the prosecutors, " Vigneswaran said.

He pointed out that the Cabinet is responsible to Parliament in the discharge of its functions. "If Cabinet itself can only give policy direction to the Public Service, then what can Parliament do in its supervisory capacity? It can only question Cabinet on its policy directives. Parliament can also pass a legislation ensuring that specific safeguards are built into the system to prevent political victimisation. However, it certainly cannot be involved in giving any directions to the Public Service at the individual level. That would be a grave transgression of the Constitution, and in violation of Articles 4 and 55." The MP said in his view that the entire

Joining the debate on the Report of the idea of the appointment of a Presidential Commission to inquire into instances of political victimisation of public officers, state corporation employees, Tri-Forces personnel, and the police, was misplaced. The Public Service must be allowed to do its duty objectively and not to please those in power politically, he added.

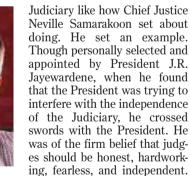
"If the appointment of the said Commission was a folly,

the Commission, itself, has proceeded with visible glee into territories that angels fear to tread. It is clear that there are several cases that are presently pending in relation to the matters inquired into by the Commission. The Commission is not a body recognised by Article 105 of the Constitution as an institution for the administration of justice. It simply has no business having anything to do with matters pending before the Judiciary," the MP said.

"All the actions by the Commission in respect of pending cases would constitute a clear interference with the Judiciary, and as such, would be in violation of Article 111C, which states that any interference with the Judiciary would be an offence recognised in the Constitution, itself. If this debate seeks in any manner to implement the so-called recommendations of the Commission, this House, too, would be violating Article 111C. That is probably why, despite the ill-advised wording of the motion, no directions are being sought from the House," he added.

It is probably for this reason that the penultimate preambular paragraph of Gazette 2157/44 of January 9, 2020, which established the Commission, states that the Commission's mandate is without prejudice to any measures that have been taken or which may be taken. To do something "without prejudice" in relation to another thing is to ensure that whatever that has already been done cannot be affected. If so, how does the Commission recommend the "undoing" of several matters? It is simply inconceivable that the Commission does not understand its basic mandate.

There is an urgent necessity to revamp the



Many of us recruited by him are proud of him

Vigneswaran also said that although recent events point to a death knell to democracy, rule of law and the independence of the Public Service and Judiciary, from the viewpoint of Tamils who have suffered at the hands of the successive Sri Lankan governments by being denied justice so far, this action of appointing a Commission and accepting a report of this nature by the Government was welcome to Tamils in a perverse way.

"It is welcome because it highlights exactly what was recently said in Geneva. It gives an example of how Sri Lankan Governments pervert the course of justice. It proves what is being said by Tamils: the Government of Sri Lanka cannot be trusted to allow justice to take its own course. This is why Tamils, Human Rights' Organisations, and the UN are clamouring for the appointment of international tribunals," he said.

"If those accused of corruption will not be allowed to face trial, what hope is there of getting war criminals tried? Those of you in the Government that blame the Diaspora and NGOs and the West for allegedly persecuting Sri Lanka should look hard at what you are doing right now. It is you who are letting the country down by such dubious methods to save your vassals and bondsmen," he added.

"None of us have the right to say that we alone love this country. If the majority in this country acted humanely, prudently, and with far sight, this country would not be in the dire straits it is in today. Our youth would not have taken up arms. I hope we will change our ways and tread towards unity and prosperity," MP Vigneswaran said.

### **Obituaries**

De FONSEKA - Dr. IVY, (Retired Professor of Microbiology, Colombo Faculty of Medicine). Wife of late Earle De Fonseka, ever loving mother of Sureshni, motherin-law of Shanil Fonseka, passed away peacefully on 13.04.2021. A private funeral was held accoridng to her wishes. 031012

ESTHER MUNASINGHE (Retired Assistant Director of Education), beloved wife of Upali De Silva, beloved mother of Prof. Dakshina De Silva (UK), sisterin-law of Shirani De Almeida and Jagath Gunasekara, expired peacefully on 22.04.2021. Remains will be at the residence 56/40, Mahawatte, Borella Road, Pannipitiya on 24.04.2021 from 7.30 a.m. -11.00 a.m. and thereafter at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour from 12.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. Cremation at Borella Cemetery at 3.00 p.m. 031020

WANIGASEKERA **OSCAR** MONTAGUE LEE. Beloved husband of Shehara, loving father of Shermonne Sean & Shanella, son of the late Edwin and Gladys Wanigasekera, brother of Meena Bolling and the late Gladwyn / Aelian / Oriel, father-in-law of Irshard / Shane / Hemanthi, loving grandfather of Sean Junior / Roshna & Imran / Ashard & Tarini / Naomi / Ayaan / Shaylon & Shayden, great grandfather of Aaidh passed away peacefully. Remains lie at A.F. Raymond's Funeral Parlour. Cortege leaves Parlour on Saturday 24th April at 9 a.m. for Service at Mahaiyawa General Cemetery, Kandy at 2.30 p.m. and thereafter burial (Catholic Section). 031016

## **NEWS**

# **Election Commission not to** accept nominations from political parties with internal disputes

The Election Commission has decided not to accept nominations from political parties at future elections that have internal disputes related to party ownership.

Political parties that cannot solve internal issues related to ownership will be considered inactive until the problems are solved, the Commission said in a communiqué.In an instance where several groups are claiming ownership of a political party, such groups shall be summoned before the commission and a probe will be done.

In such an instance, if a group can prove that they are the legitimate owners, they will be considered the owners of the political party, the Commission said.

# Thundershowers to continue: Met Dept

Showers or thundershowers may occur at several places elsewhere during the afternoon or night. Heavy rainfalls about 100mm could be expected at some places in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, Uva, and Southern provinces, the Meteorology Department stated yesterday.

Showers or thundershowers could occur at times in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, and Southern provinces. The public is requested to take adequate precautions

to minimise damage caused by temporary localised strong winds and lightning during thundershowers.

Meanwhile, the sea area extending from Galle to Potuvil via Hambantota and in the sea area extending from Puttalam to Kankesanthurai via Mannar, could be rough at times. The other sea areas would be fairly rough at times. Temporarily strong, gusty winds and rough seas could be expected during thundershowers.

## 917 bribery complaints between January and April

### SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

A spokesperson for the Commission Investigating Allegations of Bribery or Corruption said yesterday that 917 complaints had been received regarding bribery cases between January and April, this year.

He said that of the complaints received by the Commission within four months, steps have been taken to investigate 337. A spokesperson for the Commission said 276 of the complaints were about bribery and corruption, while 61 were about assets.

A spokesperson for the Bribery Commission further stated that 18 suspects have been arrested while investigating the complaints.

# Special bus service during festive season SLTB earns Rs.660 million in 10 days

### SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

The Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) has earned Rs.660 million in 10 days during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year season. Its Chairperson, Attorney-at-Law Kingsley

Ranawaka, said the revenue was generated by a special bus service facilitated for people visiting their villages for the festive season.

Ranawaka said that the special bus ser-

vice, which operated on the instructions of Transport Minister Gamini Lokuge and State Minister Dilum Amunugama, had earned this revenue between April 10 and 20.

# 'Ranil continued JR's political victimisation in a different manner'

The political victimisation carried out by the late President J.R. Jayewardene was continued by his nephew Ranil Wickremesinghe during the rule of the Good Governance Government, SLPP Parliamentarian Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon said in Parliament, yesterday.

He said so joining the Adjournment Debate for a second day on the report prepared by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry probing incidents of political victimisation carried out under the Good Governance Government's rule between January 8, 2015 and November 26, 2019.He said that the Opposition is speaking only of MP Harin Fernando, which is irrelevant to the debate. Forty back-benchers, in writing, have made a complaint

against MPs Harin Fernando and Manusha Nanavakkara regarding statements they made, but we have not asked to arrest or sue them. However, they make different complaints everyday in Parliament. The "Godfather" of political

victimisations was J.R. Jayewardene. He suppressed and

The Good Governance Government imprisoned Janaka Bandara Tennakoon for 58 days unnecessarily, although they spoke of democracy. He was remanded for 44 days without a remand order. The Commission

report comprises the stories of the political victims. Parliamentarians are

11 months before the Easter Sunday attacks took place. Bandara had said that an open warrant was taken to arrest him, he added.

Tennakoon said that even in 2016, the same information had been given, but the Good Governance Government had failed to prevent the attacks.

### Customs seize nearly 14 metric tonnes of turmeric smuggled from India

### SUBASHINI SENANAYAKE

Customs seized nearly 14 metric tonnes of turmeric worth over Rs.50 million that had been smuggled from India, yesterday.

Customs Media Spokesperson, Deputy Director (Legal Affairs) Sudaththa Silva, stated that the consignment was imported after submitting documents to the Customs stating that raisins were being imported.

The spokesperson said that the con-

signment of turmeric was found in a container stored at the Sri Lanka Customs RCT container terminal, and that the consignment of 765 boxes turmeric was concealed among 1,965 boxes. The other boxes contained 10kg of raisins, each, he said.

The spokesperson further stated that 7.11 metric tonnes of dry turmeric was found hidden in the same manner on Wednesday, and that two more containers are being inspected.

Wanted criminal's close associate arrested with 1.638kg of heroin

### **RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA**

A close associate of a criminal named Saneera, who had fled to a foreign country after committing several crimes in Sri Lanka, was arrested with 1.638kg of heroin worth nearly Rs.20 million in Wennapuwa, yesterday.

The suspect is 28 years old. The stock of heroin was found during a raid at his house, police said. The Wennappuwa Special Investigations Unit is investigating the manner in which the suspect received the drugs, and how much of it has been sold.

### 'SJB MPs seeking advice from Ranil regarding Port City, Easter Attacks debates'

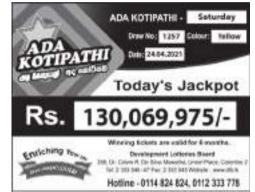
### SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE

A Sirikotha Spokesperson said that Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) Parliamentarians were seeking advice from former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on how to speak in Parliament about the Port City Project and the Easter Sunday attacks.

The spokesperson said that several SJB MPs had telephoned Wickremesinghe last week to seek his advice on how to proceed in Parliament when speaking on the two issues.

He also said that the SJB MPs had informed the UNP Leader about the heated situation that had arisen during a recent

debate, and that Wickremesinghe had instructed them about the legal steps that would have to be taken.







imprisoned all his political opponents. He deprived Sirimavo Bandaranaike of her civic rights and also attempted to destroy the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). His nephew, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, did the same in a different way. He did it using the Anti-Corruption Committee. He used the FCID, CID, the police, and the Attorney General's

Department, instead of the underworld and thugs.

of Standing Orders and the Constitution, but I would like to recall that the President's Secretary removed Mohan Peiris, who was appointed by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa through a letter. MP Tennakoon said that when

Ranjith Madduma Bandara was the former Law and Order Minister, Intelligence Director Nilantha Jayawardena had informed him that Zaharan should be arrested by a special police unit,

He added that the Parliament is comprised of a Government and an Opposition, but under the Good Governance Government, the Government and Opposition acted together. The genuine objections of the public were not voiced in the Parliament.

Their common opponent was the political stream led by the Rajapaksas. That is the reason why they were defeated by the public, he said.

# **COVID-19: A world-class panel to inform** you about what you need to know

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL WEBINAN

Are you worried about Covid-19? Is the vaccine the answer, or will it ever go back to normal? This webinar with its virtual panel of medical experts is a unique place for you to learn the answers to these questions.

It all seems like a nightmare from which we cannot wake up. For most of 2020, we watched COVID-19 leap from country to country, hemisphere to hemisphere, spreading to almost every country and every continent around the world. It has infected our family, friends, and neighbours, as well as consumed our daily conversations. We watch mesmerised when flattened curves climb back into spikes. We eye positivity rates with disquiet and vaccine timelines with desperate hope.

This webinar hosted by Sri Lanka Foundation International, founded by Dr. Walter Jayasinghe, and based in Los Angeles, California, is designed to give you hope. The COVID-19 pandemic is certainly not our first experience with disastrous pandemics

Many have come and gone over the centuries. The worst happened in 1918, which killed an estimated 50 million people when the global population was only 1.8 billion.

So, what happened to the Spanish flu? Although the virus never completely disappeared, people had developed a collective immunity to it by 1920. Many of us wonder whether we are on course for a similar situation. The current pandemic is different from the pandemic of 1918 because the medical community treating patients at that time knew extraordinarily little about the disease they were battling.

A century later, not only do we know that

HELANKAPOUNDATION R SCIENTIFIC SESSION ON COVID-19 WHAT WEKNOW NOW US, UK, SHI LANKA & HONO KONG



a coronavirus causes COVID-19, but scientists have already sequenced the genome of the virus, providing information crucial to developing effective vaccines and treatment. Vaccinations are already being produced and given to millions of people worldwide, giving hope that we will achieve herd immunity sooner rather than later.

A multitude of myths about the new coronavirus makes people fearful and others fearless.

The medical professionals assembled for this webinar will offer scientific evidence to dispel many of those myths. With its world-class panel of experts moderated by Dr. Deepthi Jayasekere, a leading Sri Lankan Infectious Diseases expert in the United States, this webinar aims to help the public better understand the Coronavirus

and guide them to protect themselves more effectively.

The panel of doctors led by one of the foremost authorities on COVID-19 in the world, Dr. Paul Holtom, will tell you all you need to know about the virus. Who is susceptible to it, how can it be transmitted? They will talk about the clinical symptoms when people are infected. Whether there are any vaccines available where you live, and which of the available vaccines are more effective.

They will discuss what preventive treatment measures you can take to deal with an epidemic of infectious diseases. What precautions you should take to prevent catching a virus. They will discuss appropriate mask management and how to boost your immunity.

The Sri Lanka Foundation International has assembled an outstanding panel of medical professionals to provide us the answers and inform us what today's scientists have learned, what they have developed for testing and treatment, how the vaccines work and what therapeutics are available. They will share their expert knowledge on how to view the epidemic both scientifically and rationally.

How individuals should adjust psychologically during the epidemic.

For a safer, healthier tomorrow, join the webinar on Sunday, April 25, at 7:30 a.m. Go to the link on the poster to register, and you are sure to be well informed on the most pressing issue that humanity faces today.

NANDASIRI JASENTULIYANA,

Former Deputy Director-General, United Nations

## **FEATURE**







Colombo

Anantara Tangalle

# Unlocking the World TRAVEL TO SRI LANKA: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO VISIT DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

### LILIT MARCUS

bout two hours after Sri Lanka announced they would reopen their borders to travellers in January 2021, I bought tickets to go there.

I live in Hong Kong, which has done a good job containing the pandemic. But the tradeoff is that it has been extremely difficult to travel anywhere.

Due to Hong Kong's tough quarantine mandates, most residents have been limited to our city and cannot even cross the border into mainland China.

Normally I am a hyper planner, but nearly two years of not going more than 30 kilometres from my apartment had gone to my head. The idea of a country in Asia being open to tourists was so thrilling to me that I did not even do much research, figuring I could sort it out later and make sure regulations did not change before my trip.

Here is how it went. In order to get into Sri Lanka, I needed more than a spontaneously purchased airplane ticket. Most visitors to the island nation must spend up to 14 days at a "level one" hotel or resort, which means it has received a half hours before my flight just in case there were any last-minute snafus. I am glad I did -- it seemed like every single member of the gate staff at HKG had to read all my paperwork in triplicate. But I was eventually awarded a boarding pass and sailed through security in about 10 minutes.

I had brought some snacks and an empty water bottle with me, assuming that everything in the airport would be closed. Happily, there were a few businesses operating – I was able to use the ATM, buy a sandwich and exchange my Hong Kong dollars for Sri Lankan rupees.

My flight was pretty empty – I had already guessed as much based on how wide open the seat selection options were when I checked in online the day before. Despite that, the cabin crew still insisted that the dozen or so passengers board by sections just to keep everyone socially distanced.

I had an entire row to myself and absolutely zero stress about whether there would be space to stow my luggage in the overhead bin.

Instead of printed out menus, there were lists of available items on the seat-back screens, plus handy wipes for everyone to sanitise the TVs with before touching them. Upon arriving in Sri Lanka, we deplaned as normal. Security lines were short, but everyone -- local and foreign alike -- waited in two short lines. I had the full sheaf of paperwork in my hand along with my passport, but the agent only asked to see my PCR test. He gave me a nod, stamped my passport and sent me on my way. In the arrivals hall, a representative from my hotel was waiting. One condition of quarantine is not taking any public transit, so the Anantara had contacted me ahead of time to confirm my flight details and ensure a private car would be waiting to pick me up. The driver wore a mask and full PPE. Once I arrived at the resort, a staff member took my luggage to be sanitised before it was dropped off in my room. Before I could check in, I went to a kiosk near the parking lot that had been set up to conduct PCR tests. My nose and mouth were swabbed and then I was sent off to my room without interacting with any other guests. To minimise contact with others while waiting for the test results to come back, I was asked to stay in my room and have breakfast delivered to me. Free breakfast in bed, in case I had contracted coronavirus in the past 72 hours, seemed like a pretty decent offer. No one was allowed to clean my room until the test came back negative -- and, once it did, I had a full run of the resort, which included a pool, spa, gym, three restaurants and access to the beach.



Sigiriya



Eddie, the hotel's nature guide, accompanied me in the Jeep, both to give more information about the animals and to make sure everything was kosher with regulations.

Kandy

A glass partition separated us from the driver, so we knocked on the glass if we wanted him to stop. There were bathroom facilities at the park entrance, with separate, clearly labelled sections for foreigners and locals.

Upon checking in at the visitor's centre, Eddie and I had to show my negative COVID test and an endorsed letter from the hotel confirming I had permission to visit the site. (A rep had called the day before to double-confirm that it was still fine for quarantiners to visit.)

It was fairly painless, and the trade-off -- real, live elephants, some just a few yards away from me -- was more than worth it.

On day seven, I checked out of the Anantara Tangalle and headed by private car to the Anantara Kalutara. Because I booked the package deal, the hotels organised everything.

Switching hotels gave me the opportunity to see another region of the country. This time, the closA woman walked up to me at a cafe to say how happy she was that tourists were coming back to her country, and some friendly locals wanted to hear about the coronavirus situation in Hong Kong and asked how people were coping.

roadside booths deserted and many small businesses boarded up.

After eight months of being closed off from the rest of the world, people in the hospitality industry were understandably concerned about their livelihoods, and when I was the only traveller I got the brunt of it. While it is common for a tuk tuk driver to offer you a ride or a vendor to ask if you want to buy a carving, there was an air of insistence and nearly every ask came with a sob story.

No matter how many bottles of water I bought or cab rides I took, it never felt like enough to really help.

Being the lone unfamiliar face in a crowd came with other perks and risks.

A man on the street in Kandy shouted "Coronavirus! Coronavirus! Go back to the hotel!" at me. At one hotel, it felt like the other guests -- all locals, as it was a "level two" property -- unconsciously edged their seats away from me at breakfast.

At the same place, a staff member told me that he was not allowed to clean my room during my stay because of COVID regulations, even though he had just cleaned every other occupied room on my floor. Yet there were also moments of beauty. A woman walked up to me at a cafe to say how happy she was that tourists were coming back to her country, and some friendly locals wanted to hear about the coronavirus situation in Hong Kong and asked how people were coping. Colombo and Galle both have expat populations, so I stood out way less once I moved to those cities.

an official Government designation as a safe, approved place to quarantine.

I am glad that quarantine went smoothly, because a few days into my stay Sri Lanka loosened its rules, permitting vaccinated travellers to spend only one single night in quarantine provided they test negative on arrival. I am immune compromised and have been bummed out about not getting vaccinated yet – at least this removed one layer of fear of missing out (FOMO).

And this was no ordinary quarantine. While some places – such as Australia and China – require all quarantiners to stay inside their hotel rooms except for when they are given PCR tests, Sri Lanka has come up with an innovative third path.

Guests are allowed to go anywhere on hotel or resort premises and can visit certain pre-approved "bubble attractions" provided they follow strict criteria. They are also allowed to stay at more than one property during those two weeks as long as all the hotels are level onelisted.

Based on that, I went with a twoin-one deal from the Anantara hotel group – I would spend one week at its resort in Tangalle, at Sri Lanka's southernmost tip, and then one week at a sister property in Kalutara, on the western coast.

In addition to the rooms, I was able to pay for my three mandated PCR tests up front and buy the mandatory health insurance (just US\$12 to cover up to US\$50,000 in hospital costs) through the hotel's booking service, thus fulfilling all my travel requirements in one go.

Once I had everything confirmed in writing, I submitted the forms to Sri Lanka's Tourism Board website and, after a few tense days of constant refreshing, got my tourist visa.

I scheduled a PCR test for 48 hours before my flight and prebooked a hotel to quarantine in upon my return to Hong Kong (a must for being allowed out of the city in the first place). With everything in hand – literally, as I printed it all out in case of phone malfunctions – I was ready to go.

### THE DAY OF TRAVEL

The Hong Kong Airport was deserted, but I still arrived two and

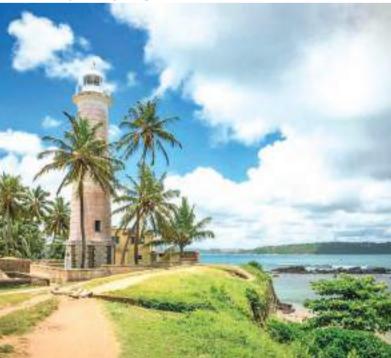
### WEEK 1

During the seven days I spent at my first quarantine hotel, I was tested for COVID twice -- on arrival, and then again on day five. Day four was a Saturday, and the hotel concierge had organised an outing for me. That is right -- an outing.

I was taken to Udawalawe National Park, about 90 minutes away from the resort. A safaristyle experience where everyone stays in their own Jeep, keeping interaction limited, it was the closest of Sri Lanka's 18 "bubble attractions" open to quarantiners. Anantara Kalutara



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage



**Galle Fort** 



A tuk tuk ride through the rural outback

est "bubble" activities were the Royal Botanical Gardens and the Open Zoo in Pinnawala, just outside of Kandy.

I took my third and final PCR test on day 13. Once the test came back negative the following day, the Anantara Kalutara sent all of my information to the National Tourism Board, which issued an official letter confirming that I had completed all the quarantine requirements and was now able to travel freely around the country.

It was time for phase two -- the *vacation* vacation -- to begin.

### WEEKS 3 AND 4

Free to explore the country, I was on what actually felt like a pretty normal holiday. I visited three major cities -- Kandy, the cultural capital in the island's very centre; Galle, a southern coastal gem best known for its Dutch-era colonial fort; and Colombo, the most populous city.

As per the rules, I kept paper copies of my most recent PCR test and the Government letter with me. That said, I was only asked to show my papers twice during the rest of the trip – once when I checked into my first "level two" hotel and again when I was the lone straggler walking through the "foreigners" gate at the Temple of the Tooth Relic in Kandy.

Multiple employees came over to read and re-read my paperwork - I suspected it was a mix of excitement at finally having something to do, nerves about messing up the process since there had been so few travellers to test it on, and heightened awareness as we were closing in on Sinhala and Tamil New Year, a massively important holiday celebrated by many of the country's Buddhists, which meant that the temple complex was packed.

Being one of the only foreigners visiting Sri Lanka was a doubleedged sword.

On the plus side, I often had places to myself. Being able to visit Sigiriya, Sri Lanka's most iconic attraction, with no one else around was a breathtaking experience – there were no people setting up elaborate Instagram photoshoots or fit hikers whizzing past me on the trails.

But the isolation was also challenging. It was sad to see all the

### THE LONG WAY HOME

Three days before I was due to leave the country, my phone pinged. Hong Kong had updated some of its quarantine regulations, stating that travellers from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore could shave one week off of their quarantine times.

The downside? Hong Kongers could not transit in one of those countries lest they be confused for someone who now fell under the new regulations.That meant that my return flight home – via Singapore again – was cancelled.

I managed to find another way home, but it required me to transit via Doha, which is in completely the opposite direction, and involved a 13-hour layover.

This also meant I had to update my Hong Kong hotel information and that I would be getting sprung on a Monday instead of a Saturday, thus wrecking yet another weekend.

You know the opening scene in "Reality Bites," in which Winona Ryder's character opens her graduation speech by reciting her social security number, saying it was the thing she needed to know the most? Well, I now can recite my passport number and expiration date with my eyes closed.

In order to leave Sri Lanka, I needed one more PCR test. This was easy to book online and was a drive-through process, so I got a cab and had the driver take me through. My results were emailed to me in about 23 hours.

Paperwork completed, printed out in the Hilton Colombo business centre and in my hands, I was ready to head home. But I was not ready to leave. *(CNN)*  FEATURE

# Navy ushers hope for rural children



A new classroom building and laboratory building will be constructed at Eluwankulama Sinhala Vidyalaya in Puttalam by the Navy.

### **DISHAN JOSEPH**

ducation is a right of every child. Students everywhere must have the right atmosphere conducive for learning. Unfortunately some rural schools face various challenges. Coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy, a Naval Social Responsi bility (NSR) project, under the guidance and direction of Navy Commander Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne, was launched within the Western, Eastern, North Central, North Western, South Eastern, Southern and Northern Naval Commands on April 19, 2021. This project was launched with the aim of developing several selected schools with fewer facilities across the island during this year, and creating a more favourable environment for the children, as well as teachers. One of the turning points in the success of this timely project is the voluntary contributions made by all officers and sailors from their monthly salaries, covering the entire cost of this NSR project. Meanwhile, the Navy will also make its skilled manpower available for the construction work. The future of a country is not optimistic where literacy absent. Education has a decisive impact on personal development and the well-being of society. Education opens the door to equal opportunities, minimises social inequality and lays the foundation for sustainable development in any society. Education can empower these rural students. The Sri Lanka Navy has supported various development projects of the Government, to help achieve its National Policy

This project was launched with the aim of developing several selected schools with fewer facilities across the island during this year, and creating a more favourable environment for the children, as well as teachers. One of the turning points in the success of this timely project is the voluntary contributions made by all officers and sailors from their monthly salaries, covering the entire cost of this NSR project. Meanwhile, the Navy will also make its skilled manpower available for the construction work

Under this project, the North Central Naval Command selected Mohan Jayamaha Vidyalaya, Dambulla, named after the late Rear Admiral Mohan Jayamaha, who sacrificed his life in the defence of Sri Lanka. Incidentally, delivery of new books to the school library, renovation of classrooms, improvement of toilet facilities, building of a safety fence around the school and construction of a basketball court would also come under this development project. Eluwankulama Sinhala Vidyalaya in the Puttalam District is a school located in the North Western Naval Command. Although there are 245 students studying up to the Ordinary Level class in this school, it is unfortunate that the children face some difficulties. The new classroom building and laboratory building to be constructed by the Navy for this school will create a conducive environment for students to study. The dilapidated buildings of Hulannuge Vidyalaya in Ampara of the South East Naval Command have an impact on the education of the children studying in this school. The children are well aware of how difficult it is to learn when rainwater is pouring through the dilapidated roof and there are not enough desks and chairs to keep their books. The Navy undertaking the repairs of dilapidated buildings of the school and the small auditorium, laboratory and computer laboratory of the same is a great support. The Southern Naval Command is to develop Weeriyagama Maha Vidyalaya in Sooriyawewa and Ethbatuwa Junior School in Hungama in the Hambantota District. Ethbatuwa Junior School in Hungama is a place where children could study up to the Ordinary Level in the area, amidst difficulties. Weeriyagama Maha Vidyalaya is a school where the children of the area can study up to the Advanced Level. However, due to the lack of adequate classroom facilities, children are having a hard time getting a good education. The Navv is to construct two classroom buildings in these schools with enough space. Further, the Navy Commander, on April 3, made a visit to inspect Roman Catholic College on remote Mandaitivu Island, Jaffna, which has been selected for development in the Northern Naval Command. During this visit, Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ulugetenne was welcomed by the Parish Priest of Catholic Church located on Mandaitivu Island, Principal of the college, teachers and students. The project aims at constructing a two-storied building for the library and computer laboratory, which are two dire needs of the school. All these naval projects will uplift these rural students and offer them a better future.



Roman Catholic College on Mandaitivu Island, Jaffna has been selected for development by the Northern Naval Command.



The half-completed classroom building of Pansalgodella Primary School being inspected by the Navy.



Framework 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour', by contributing the Navy's skilled manpower and other resources. The number of students studying in certain underprivileged schools and the teachers' cadre for them were not at a satisfactory level. It is also unfortunate that some teachers do not receive appointments for such schools due to lack of facilities. Some schools have a minimum level of basic necessities for children, such as tables, chairs, buildings, and some students were observed learning in makeshift classrooms shaded by tin and cadjan roofs. In such an environment, electricity, telephone, library and water



The Navy will support Ethbatuwa Junior School in Hungama as well.

are luxury facilities for interior village schools.

Against such a backdrop, on a concept by the Navy Commander, the Sri Lanka Navy embarked on an NSR mission to find underprivileged schools where essential facilities should be urgently developed.

The role played by the Sri Lanka Navy, as the first line of defence of the island nation, is praiseworthy. It must be acknowledged that the Navy is a pioneer in social service, whenever the citizens are in distress. Further, it is a noble social mission to support the education of children living in underprivileged villages who are striving to climb up the social ladder. Accordingly, a financial allocation of Rs. 4.5 million was made available to each Naval Command to develop eight underprivileged schools, selected by seven Naval Commands.

When selecting schools for this project, after a systematic study covering seven naval commands, eight schools with minimal facilities were chosen. Kelinkanda Primary School of Agalawatta in the Kalutara District in the Western Naval Command is an underprivileged school. The dilapidated buildings, roofs and defunct plumbing system are evidence to the lack of facilities of the school. It is planned to renovate four new classroom buildings, plumbing and toilet facilities and construct a children's playground for this primary school. Pansalgodella Primary School in the Kantale area in the Trincomalee District has been identified by the Eastern Naval Command of the Navy. Accordingly, the halfcompleted classroom building and the library building of the school are scheduled to be completed by the Navy.



# DN page 10

# FEATURE

### SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

### DAYA DISSANAYAKE

t is a very tragic confession, if Earth Day organisers have to admit they too have failed. Judging by the statement released by Dr. Tracey Ann Ritchie and the EARTHDAY.ORG Education Department, "We can't expect to solve the climate crisis if we don't learn about it....Since the first Earth Day in 1970, three billion students have graduated from high school or equivalent worldwide without the fundamental skills and critical thinking necessary to effectively steward the Earth. We have stranded them

the Earth. We have stranded them by failing to educate them on the interplay between the environment and their own lives. We have not prepared them to participate in their communities. We have not equipped them with the skills necessary to build a green economy."

Half a century after we began Earth Day events, if society has failed to provide Climate Literacy among young people, we need to rethink our strategies. It is difficult to accept that three billion young people never learned climate literacy. Children from primary school to university need to learn, discuss, participate in events, knowing the importance of reducing global warming, contamination and destruction of natural resources.

Earth Day has become one more International Day, in the World Calendar, celebrated, commemorated and just forgotten for the next 364 days. According to Wikipedia, there are 128 International Days related to the environment, climate or the fate of the Earth. This includes 66 days for fauna, and only 14 days for flora. Yet, all the events, discussions, debates on all print and electronic media reaching most of the literate human beings around the world have been ignored or not understood.

Insatiable human greed is perhaps the major threat to Mother Earth. Our disregard for energy conservation and renewable energy, has driven us towards nuclear power. Nuclear plants around the world routinely discharge water containing "small amounts" of Tritium, a radioactive isotope of Hydrogen, into the ocean, while 1.2 million tonnes are to be





# **IMPORTANCE OF CLIMATE LITERACY**



released from the Fukushima plant in the near future.

Human greed and disregard of the fate of the Earth leads to inevitable ecocide. We replace one evil, coal power, with a bigger evil, nuclear power, while talking about renewable energy.

The people who lived in our country 4,000 years ago would have been living with nature, because they were not culturally "advanced" enough to live off nature. Because I believe that every step we take forward in our culture is a step towards the destruction of nature. Man did not evolve from barbarians. But barbarians evolved from the early humans.

Mahinda Kumara Dalupotha, in his novel '*Diya Holmana*', shows us how Agri-Culture turned into Agribusiness, by agri-vultures, declaring war against Mother Earth. '*Diya Holmana*' is the story of three generations. It begins with the grandfather after he had made his round of the paddy fields stepping into the tiny stream beside the field, to rinse his mouth with the flowing water. Dalupotha doesn't have to tell us the water flowing over the paddy field was crystal clear. In the last chapter, he mentions a child diagnosed with



cancer, a cancer the traditional village physician says, no one has heard of for the past seven generations. The novel ends when the *Vel Vidane* goes to a newly-opened pharmacy to buy a drug for his grandchild and finds the logo on the bottle, is the same as the one on the pesticide bottles.

It is tragic even after reading Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring', and writers like Dalupotha, we continue to add poison to increase food production, justifying the poisons, saying by increasing the harvest from the farmlands, we stop destroying more forests to develop more farmland. We have to ask ourselves do we really have to increase food production or if we should work on minimising the 30 percent post-harvest losses. In 2018, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN reported that 1.3 billion tonnes of food goes waste, valued at US\$ 2.6 trillion, enough to feed 825 million starving people four times over. The World Food Programme would not have to seek donations from people if they can get this US\$ 2.6 trillion. In addition to wastage and losses, we also need to control over consumption, which grows day by day promoted by the new daughters of *Mara*, in the guise of marketing, via the mass media.

Though we do not realise it, the changing climate can cause the ground to shake, volcanoes to rumble, and tsunamis to crash on to unsuspecting coastlines. We ignore that this solid Earth we stand on, is just a thin crust, consisting of the tectonic plates that move and shift and grind. This might mean Mother Earth is writhing in pain, or growling in anger.

On the other hand, if we accept Mother Earth as a living entity, then all we have to do is give her our loving kindness, practice *Ahimsa*, try to treat her as we treat our own mother. Then we will think twice, before doing anything that would hurt our mother, or her children, because her children are our brothers and sisters. We are all one family, all the human beings, all the animals from elephants to ants, and all the plant life from Vanaspathi trees to algae.

Every day is an Earth Day, because this is our home. Our only home. We have nowhere else to go, if we destroy this home. Earth Day is really our Mother's Day. The earth is our Mother, our Mother Goddess as worshiped by early man.

Our great writer, journalist and nature lover, Karunadasa Sooriyarachchi, left us an important message.

When Sandawathi's sister asks her if she could cut down a jakfruit tree in their land, Sandawathi replies, she has to ask Mother Earth, because she can feel the pain of a tree as it is cut down. But her sister thinks Sandawathi is pretending to be mad, fooling herself as well as others. The sister's sentiment applies to all of us living on Earth today. By believing trees are not sentient beings, that they do not have feelings, we are fooling ourselves.

A ray of hope appeared when the *Daily News* of April 17 reported of the webinar, 'Voices of the Young, to Save the Planet', by children living in the US, UK, Canada and Sri Lanka, ranging from age 6 to 17, who presented their views on saving our planet, confirming they are climate literate, and eco-literate. It is time we learn from our children how to save Mother Earth.

(daya@saadhu.com)



# Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine Yakkala

Applications are invited from eligible applicants for the following programmes. Closing date for submission of application is 21.05.2021

1. Master of Science/ Postgraduate Diploma in Kayacikitsa / Pañcakarma/ Shalyatantra

4. Diploma in Yoga

Entry Qualifications

- Completion of a Certificate Course in Yoga and Relaxation Techniques

Entry Qualifications	Applicants who seek admission to the above programmes should have following qualifications.
	BAMS/BUMS/BSMS degree awarded by a recognized university/ higher educational institution/ institute
	or
	DSAC/DSAMS/DIMS/DAMS qualification awarded by recognized university/ higher educational institution / institute and at least 5 years of work experience after being registered in the Ayurveda Medical Council
	or
	Any other equivalent qualification accepted by the Senate of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine.
Duration	- Post Graduate Diploma - 01 Year
	Master of Science - 02 Years
Medium of Instructions	- English
Course Fee	- Post Graduate Diploma - Rs. 300,000/-
	Master of Science - Rs. 350,000/-
Application Fee	- Rs. 2,000/-
<b>NB</b> : These programmes	nclude an overseas training. Course fee does not include the expenses related to the

**NB**: These programmes include an overseas training. Course fee does not include the expenses related to the overseas training programme.

### 2. Master of Science/ Postgraduate Diploma in Management and Administration of Ayurveda Institutions

Entry Qualifications	Applicants who seek admission to the above programme should possess the following qualifications.
	BAMS/BUMS/BSMS degree awarded by a recognized university/ higher educational institution/ institute
	or
	DSAC/DSAMS/DIMS/DAMS qualification awarded by recognized university/ higher educational institution/ institute and at least 5 years of work experience after being registered in the Ayurveda Medical Council
	or
	Any other equivalent qualification accepted by the Senate of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine.
Duration	- Post Graduate Diploma - 01 Year
	Master of Science - 02 Years
Medium of Instruction	- English
Course Fee	- Post Graduate Diploma - Rs. 230,000/-
	Master of Science - Rs. 280,000/-
Application Fee	- Rs. 2,000/-
NB: These programmes overseas training pr	include an overseas training. Course fee does not include the expenses related to the ogramme.

### 3. Postgraduate Diploma in Yoga Science

Entry Qualifications		Applicants who seek admission to the above programme should possess the following qualifications.	Ap car
		A bachelor degree awarded by a recognized university/ higher educational institution/ institute or	(A/ con Stu
			l Ple
		Any other equivalent qualification accepted by the Senate of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine.	Du be
Duration	-	01 Year	Re
Medium of Instructions	-	English	Ga
Course Fee	-	Rs. 250,000/-	¦ Ka
Application Fee	-	Rs. 2,000/-	Tel Fax

	Course Fee	Sinhala Rs. 100,000/- Rs. 2,000/-
5.	Entry Qualifications-Duration-Medium of Instructions-Course Fee-	<i>in Yoga and Relaxation Techniques</i> No specific qualification is required 03 months Sinhala Rs. 30,000/- Rs. 2,000/-
6.	Certificate Course	in Astrology
	Entry Qualifications-Duration-Medium of Instructions-Course Fee-Application Fee-	No specific qualification is required 06 months Sinhala Rs. 50,000/- Rs. 2,000/-
7.	Certificate in Ayu	rveda Therapy
	Entry Qualifications	Applicants who seek admission to the above programme should have following qualifications. Age between 18 – 45 years at the last date of applying and Possesses six (06) passes including two (02) credits for the subjects obtained at the G.C.E O/L examination in the same sitting
	Duration-Medium of Instructions-Course Fee-Application Fee-	06 Months Sinhala Rs. 75,000/- Rs. 2,000/-
8.	Diploma in Ayurv	eda Pharmacy
	Entry Qualifications	Applicants who seek admission to the above programme should have following qualifications. The candidate should have passed the G.C.E. O/L examination in six (6) subjects
		at one sitting with four (4) credits in Sinhala/Tamil, English, Mathematics and Science
       		and Should have passed in all subjects at G.C.E. A/L examination in any stream (except the common general paper) at one sitting
1	Duration -	2 years (Full time) (Includes 01-year Industrial Training)

### <u>How to apply</u>

Course Fee Application Fee

Medium of Instructions

Application form can be downloaded from the university website (URL : http://gwu.ac.lk/)

- Sinhala - Rs. 140,000/-

- Rs. 2000/-

Application fee can be paid to the Shroff of the University **from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days** or applicants can credit the application fee to the current Account of Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine **(A/C No. 333-1002-00000059 of People's Bank, Yakkala)** at any branch of the People's Bank. Please send the completed application form with a copy of the bank payment slip to the Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, Kandy Road, Yakkala.

**Please mention the name of the course applied on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.** Duly completed applications should reach the University on or before 21.05.2021. Incomplete application forms will

be rejected.

RegistrarGampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous MedicineKandy Road, Yakkala.Telephone : 033-2222748 (Ext. 307)Fax : 033-2215772

# India accounts for 1 in 3 COVID-19 cases globally - The Hindu

INDIA: With 332,348 new COVID- 34.70 lakh doses every day. Howev-19 cases on Thursday, India reported more than 300,000 new infections for the second consecutive day. As many as 2,247 new deaths were also recorded. The country has so far reported a total of 1,62,57,337 cases and 186,919 deaths.

The figures do not include cases and deaths from Ladakh. The data are sourced from covid19india.org, an independent aggregator of daily figures.

India continues to lead the world in terms of average daily cases and now accounts for one in three cases reported every day.

Over 16.51 lakh tests were conducted on April 21 (results of which were made available on April 22), the highest-ever number of tests conducted in a single day. For two consecutive days, the daily tests have crossed the 16 lakh mark.

Maharashtra reported 67,013 infections — 20% of all new cases. Uttar Pradesh followed with

34,379 cases and Kerala with 26,995. Maharashtra also recorded 568 casualties, followed by Delhi (306) and Chhattisgarh (197). India administered an average of er, as on April 21, the average daily vaccine doses given fell to 25.48 lakh. A daily rate of over 68 lakh doses a day is required to vaccinate all adults in India by the end of 2021.

As of April 21, India recorded over four times the average daily cases detected in Brazil, which has the second most number of average daily cases — about 64,000.

As of April 21, India recorded the second most number of average daily deaths in the world next to Brazil with about 2,800 average daily fatalities.

### Mumbai hospital fire kills **13 COVID patients**

A fire broke out in the intensive care unit of a hospital in western India early Friday, killing 13 COVID-19 patients, a hospital official said.

The fire on the second floor of the hospital has been extinguished and some patients requiring oxygen have been moved to nearby hospitals, said Dilip Shah, CEO of Vijay Vallabh hospital in the Virar area on the outskirts of Mumbai

### Egypt to produce 40 m Sputnik V jab doses

Egyptian firm Minapharm announced Thursday it will produce 40 million doses of the Russian vaccine Sputnik V to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was the first partnership for the production of Sputnik V in the Middle East and North Africa, Minapharm said in a joint statement with the Russian Direct Investment Fund.

Egypt said this month it was preparing to produce 80 million doses of the Chinese Sinovac vaccine through state-firm Vacsera.

Egypt, with a population of over 100 million, has recorded nearly 219,000 positive cases including more than 12,000 deaths.

### Fake Pfizer vaccines on sale in Mexico, Poland

Fake doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine were being sold in Mexico and Poland for as much as \$2,500 a shot, the US drugmaker and an official confirmed. The false drugs were offered on

social networks for up to \$2,500

per unit and were detected by cyber police.

Confiscated vials of bogus COVID vaccines in Poland contained a cosmetic substance, thought to be anti-wrinkle cream, the company said.

### US hits 200 m vaccine shots

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday hailed his Government's "stunning" achievement in administering 200 million COVID-19 vaccine shots across the United States ahead of schedule

Biden said the landmark had been reached a week before he hits his administration's 100-day mark -- the deadline he'd announced for meeting the 200 million doses challenge.

"Today we did it, today we hit 200 million shots," he said in a televised speech from the White House. This is "an incredible achievement for the nation."

Biden came into office on January 20 initially vowing to get 100 million shots administered in his first 100 days. On March 25, with vaccination deliveries far ahead of their targets, he doubled the goal.



Health workers take a nasal swab sample from a child at a COVID-19 testing centrr in Hyderabad, India on Thursday.

### Singapore quarantines migrant workers

Singapore has quarantined about 1,200 migrant workers from a dormitory after coronavirus cases were discovered among men thought to have already recovered from infections, officials said.

Vast dormitories housing mostly South Asian workers were at the centre of Singapore's initial outbreak last year, with the majority of the citystate's cases in the self-contained complexes.

page 11 DN

Tens of thousands of the migrants were placed in quarantine in their dorms last year during the initial outbreak. While the curbs have been eased, they are mostly only allowed out of their accommodation for work. The country of 5.7 million has

escaped relatively lightly from the pandemic, reporting more than 60,000 cases and 30 deaths. - THE HINDU, AGENCIES

# Putin warns West: "Don't cross the red line" with Russia

**RUSSIA:** Russian President Vladimir Putin warned foreign rivals against "cross ing the red line" with Russia, as he gave a key speech amid deep tensions with the West and arrests of opposition protesters.

Addressing lawmakers and senior officials in his annual State of the Nation address, Putin said Russia would respond swiftly and harshly to moves against its interests and condemned what he said had been a coup attempt in ally Belarus.

"The organisers of any provocations threatening the fundamental interests of our security will regret their deeds, more than they have regretted anything in a long time," Putin said.

He hailed Russia's battle against the coronavirus and development of vaccines and, with parliamentary elections due later this year, announced a raft of populist social spending measures.

As Putin spoke, protesters gathered for a series of nationwide demonstrations called in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, who is on hunger strike in a Russian penal colony.



### **Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures** as he gives his annual state of the nation address in Moscow on Wednesday.

with everyone, but warned of an "asymmetrical, swift and harsh" response if that was seen as a weakness.

"I hope that no one will think of crossing the red line in relation to Russia. And where it will be -- we will determine that ourselves," Putin said.

Putin also backed claims by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko that his security services had thwarted an alleged

# **Everest climber tests positive for COVID-19**

**NEPAL:** A Norwegian climber hoping to summit Everest confirmed Thursday that he has tested positive for COVID-19, in a blow to Nepal's hopes for a bumper mountaineering season on the world's highest peak.

The pandemic wiped out last year's season but Nepal has eased quarantine rules in an effort to attract more climbers despite the difficulties of treating them if they contract the virus.

"My diagnosis is COVID-19," Erlend Ness told AFP in a Facebook message. "I'm doing ok now... The hospital is taking care (of me).'

Ness was evacuated from the slopes by helicopter and taken to a hospital in the Nepali capital Kathmandu after spending time at Everest base camp. Norwegian broadcaster NRK,

which interviewed him, reported that a sherpa in his party had also tested positive.

"I really hope that none



Even the mighty Mount Everest hasn't been spared the COVID-19 pandemic.

above 8,000 metres," Ness told so far not received any reports of NRK.

Breathing is already difficult at high altitudes so any outbreak of April 15 but we were informed others get infected with corona disease among climbers presents that he is suffering from pneumohigh up in the mountains. It is major health risks. But Mira Achaimpossible to evacuate people rya, a spokesperson for Nepal's tion. That is all the information with a helicopter when they're tourism department, said it had we have received," she said.

COVID-19 among climbers. "A person was evacuated on camp was concerned.

Dawa Steven Sherpa of Asian Trekking said everyone at base Nepal has issued 377 this year to climb the mountain, and the final number is expected to exceed the 381 handed out in 2019. - HINDUSTAN TIMES

Putin said it had become "a new kind of sport" in some foreign capitals to blame Russia "for anything".

He said Russia wanted good relations

US plot to assassinate him, suggesting there had been a "coup attempt" and accusing the West of pretending "that nothing is happening". - AGENCIES

nia and is being treated in isola-

# Migrant boat with 130 aboard capsizes off Libya

**ITALY:** Ten bodies were spotted near a capsized rubber boat off the coast of Libva on Thursday, which had around 130 people aboard, a rescue charity said.

European humanitarian group SOS Mediterranee said it was alerted on Tuesday, by the volunteer-run Mediterranean rescue hotline Alarm Phone, to the presence of three boats in distress in international waters off Libya.

The NGO's Ocean Viking ship, as well as merchant vessels, headed to the area in difficult conditions, with up to six-metre waves.

"Since we arrived on

scene today, we have not least ten bodies in the Luisa Albera, search and found any survivors vicinity of the wreck. We while we could see at are heartbroken," said

rescue aboard Ocean Viking.



A rubber dingy used by the migrants was found near the wreck of the sunken boat but with no survivors.

### On Wednesday, the coordinator Ocean Viking spent all day searching for a wooden boat in distress, with no success. The fate of the 40 people onboard remains unknown.

More than 350 people have already lost their lives in this stretch of sea this year, not including Thursday's victims, according to SOS Mediterranee.

Last week the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, and the International Organization for Migration said that at least 41 people, including a child, died after a boat carrying African migrants to Europe sank off Tunisia.- AFP

# US to send reinforcements to protect Afghan withdrawal



The United States will temporarily deploy extra troops to Afghanistan to protect forces

**US:** The United States will temporarily deploy extra troops to Afghanistan to protect international forces as they withdraw, commander of the US military in the Middle East General Kenneth McKenzie said Thursday.

McKenzie repeated US military concerns that the withdrawal could allow the Taliban to advance, after President Joe Biden last week announced all US forces would pull out before this year's 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

'We will bring additional resources in, in order to protect the force as it comes out," McKenzie told a US Senate hearing, giving no further details.

"That's normal in any kind of disengagement. I'm confident that... we will be able to extract ourselves.' McKenzie did not talk

about numbers when

the withdrawal rein-

asked about the size of

forcement at later at a

press conference, say-

ing that the plans are

on.

currently being worked

McKenzie said the

Taliban were more numerous than in 2011.

estimating they have

50,000 fighters, and

that they control more

Afghan territory than

Some 2,500 US

troops, plus 16,000

civilian contractors and

their equipment, must

be evacuated from the

country, along with

10 years ago.

some 7,000 NATO soldiers who depend on the US for transport. The logistical operation will take at least three months to be completed safely, according to the US military.

Despite billions of dollars of investment, equipment and training, "my concern is the ability of the Afghan military to hold the ground that they're on now, without the support that they've been used to for many years," McKenzie told the senators.

"It's intelligence, it's fire support, it's the enabling things that actually give them an edge over the Taliban. And all that will be gone." - AGENCIES

# Junta crackdown displaces 250,000 people in Myanmar - UN



A demonstrator gestures near a barricade during a protest against the military coup in Mandalay, Myanmar. - AFP

**MYANMAR:** The Myanmar military's crackdown on anti-coup protesters has displaced a quarter of a million people, a United Nations rights envoy said Wednesday.

The junta has stepped up its use of lethal force to quash mass demonstrations against a February 1 coup which ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. At least 738 people have been

killed and 3,300 are languishing in iails as political prisoners, according to a local monitoring group.

"Horrified to learn that... the junta's attacks have already left nearly a quarter (of a) million Myanmar people displaced, according to sources," UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Tom Andrews tweeted on Wednesday

"The world must act immediately to address this humanitarian catastrophe. More than 2,000 Karen people

have now crossed Myanmar's border into Thailand and thousands more have been internally displaced, said Padoh Mann Mann, a spokesperson for brigade five of the Karen National Union, a rebel group active in Myanmar's mountainous eastern border regions. "They all hide in the jungle nearby their villages," he said. Free Burma Rangers, a Christian aid group, estimated at least 24,000 people were displaced in Karen state amid mortar ground attacks and airstrikes earlier in the month. At least 70 reporters have been arrested since the coup and 38 are in detention, according to Reporting ASEAN. - BBC

# as they withdraw.

DN page 12				ADVERTI	SEMENTS			S A T U R D A	Y, APRIL 24, 2021
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## **REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAFFNA INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

### **PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT & ELECTRONIC ITEMS**

- A. The Regional Procurement Committee invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Supplies, goods as specified in the following Tables
  - 01) Office Equipment
  - 02) Electronic Items
  - Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure
- B. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall fulfill the following requirements
  - 01. Bidders shall have valid business registration and
  - 02. Business registration for supply of respective Supplies and Services.
  - 03. Regional preference and CIDA grade preference will be applicable as stipulated in Public Finance circular No 4/2016(11)
- C. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Regional Director of Health Services, Jaffna Contact No. (021 2222278/4557 Ext: 20), during office hours and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day for 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. except 12.30 to 13.30 hours
- D. A complete set of Bid documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of "Application for Bid Documents" available in this office and upon payment of a non refundable fee as specified in the table by cash on working days from 27.04.2021 to 11.05.2021 from 09.00 Hours to 15.00 Hours.
- E. Bids shall be delivered to Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee , Regional Directorate of Health Services, No.572/3, Hospital Road , Jaffna at or before 10.00 Hours on 12.05.2021. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
- F. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days from the last date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period and Bid Security should be valid

Tender No. CFC/SD/Galle/2021-03 Bids are invited from the interested local bidders in this regard by the Chairman of the Procurement Committee of the Ceylon Fisheries Corporation. A written request should be made to the Chairman of Ceylon Fisheries Corporation to

Invitation for Bids for Leasing of Fish Processing Unit, Ice Plants and

Cold Storage at Galle Refrigeration Complex for 10 years

Ministry of Fisheries

**Ceylon Fisheries Corporation** 

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(ANTER)

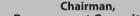
obtain bidding documents and they can be obtained from the Manager Supplies from 27-04-2021 to 10-05-2021 during 9.00 am to 3.00 pm upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Rs.5,000/- Bidding documents shall only be issued in English Language.

A bid security for the value of Rs. Three Million (30 lakhs) or the receipt obtained by paying the said amount to the Shroff of the Head Office should be submitted along with the bids.

This is an open bid and the permission for a site visit and further information can be obtained from the Manager -Supplies via T.P 011-2540092 or 071-2045355

Perfected bid documents should be sent to reach Chairman, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation, No. 15, Rock House Lane, Modara, Colombo 15 via registered post or should be deposited to the tender box kept at the Administration Office. Bids received late will be rejected.

Bids will be opened before the bidders immediately after the closing of bids and the pre bid meeting will be held on 11-05-2021 at 10.00 am at Ceylon Fisheries Corporation premises in Galle (Magalle, Galle) at **10.00 a.m.** 



for 118 days from the bid opening date.

- G. Pre-bid Conference will be held at Conference Hall, Office of the Regional Director of Health Services, Jaffna commencing at 10.00am on 05.05.2021.
  - 01. Table I 10.00 a.m.
  - 02. Table 11 -10.30 a.m
- I. Procurement committee will have the right to make the final decision in regard to this procurement.

Reference No	Item	Qty	Non refundable fees	Bid Security	Reference No	Item	Qty	Non refundable fees	Bid Security		
	Office Table	20				Bed	03				
	Computer Table	05	]			Bed side Locker	05	]			
	Executive Table	05				Benches with Backrest	10				
	Plastic Table	05	]			Wooden Bed	02	]			
	Office Chair (Revolving)	60	]			Mattress	23				
NP/RDHS/ PSDG/	Executive Chair	04	1,000.00	30,000.00	NP/RDHS/ PSDG/	Glass Pad	03	1,000.00	11,000.00		
OE/2021/01	Visitors Chair	04	1,000.00	50,000.00	OE/2021/02	Almirah Wooden	02	1,000.00			
01/2021/01	Filing Cabinet	10					02				
	Drawer Steel Four	04				Stool	05	-			
	Revolving Adjustable Stool	02				Stool ( Small)	04				
	Almirah Steel	12				Ctaal Waadan	05				
	Dispenser Table	01			Stool Wooden	05					
	Front Glass Almirah	09						Waste Bin With Colour Coading	01		
	Conference Table (Capacity 20 Persons)	01		16,000.00		Waste Collection and Transport Trolley (3 Big Bucket)	02	1,000.00	1,000.00		
NP/RDHS/	Conference Table (Capacity 09 Persons)	01			NP/RDHS/	Plastic Bucket	03				
CBG/ OE/2021/03	Reception Table (Office Table Large)	05	1000.00		PSDG/ OE/2020/04	Plastic Bucket 25 Lit	05				
	Conference Chair	70	]			Plastic Bucket 30 Lit	05				
	Plastic Chair with Arm	250	]			Plastic Bucket 50 Lit	05				
	Plastic Chair Without	20				Plastic Bucket 09 Lit	05				
	Arm	20				Plastic Bucket 05 Lit	10				

### Table -11

Reference No	Item	Qty	Non refundable fees	Bid Security	
	Laptop Computer	23			
	Desktop Computer	07			
	Photocopy Machine	02		65,000.00	
NP/RDHS/PSSP/PSDG/EI/2020/01	Printer	02	1,000.00		
	Scanner	02			
	Dot Matrix Printer	01	-		
	Laminating Machine	02			
	Air Conditioner 9000BTU	02			
	Television	02	1 000 00	7 000 00	
NP/RDHS/PSSP/PSDG/EI/2020/02	Pedestal Fan	05	1,000.00	7,000.00	
	Ceiling Fan	14	]		

Chairperson,

**Regional Procurement Committee**,

**RDHS** Office, Jaffna.

**Procurement Committee, Ceylon Fisheries Corporation** No 15, Rock House Lane, Modara, Colombo 15.

# **National Enterprise Development** Authority **Invitation for Bids**

## **Establishment of E-Commerce Trade Portal**

### NEDA/1/AD/1-4(6)

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the National Enterprise Development Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for establishing of E-commerce Trade Portal in order to provide online market space for the all Micro, Small and Medium entrepreneurs to promote their products and develop market linkages within and outside the country. In this circumstances, NEDA planned to procure a suitable website developer to develop a website and maintenance for agreed time period. Intend service period is, for the construction of the site is two months.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Mr. Raveen Abeysundara, Enterprise Promotion Officer, raveen.neda@yahoo.com, 0115922980 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application/letter to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000/= on or before 11th May 2021. The payment should be made by cash to the Accounts Division between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. (during the working hours). Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2.30 p.m. on 12th May 2021.

Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or online at the address below at 2.30 p.m. on 12th May 2021.

All bids must be submitted with a Bid Security of 1% of total value.

Pre bid meeting will be held on 10th May 2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the below address.

Chairman / Director General, National Enterprise Development Authority, No. 561/3, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

0115922990 Fax: 011-2368393

### SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

NOTICE

In terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act

of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, it is hereby notified that

undernoted company

has been incorporated.

EXPERTLABS (PVT) LTD

Number of the Company:

Date of Registration:

Registered Address: No.

724/4, Medawala Road,

Erewwala, Pannipitiya.

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

Notice is given in terms of Section 9 (2) of

**Company Secretary** 

the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

ormer Name of Company

DYNAMIC MOTORS

(PRIVATE) LIMITED

Colombo 02.

LIMITED

Secretaries

By order of the Board.

Company Registration No: PB 4803 PV

gistered address of the Company:

MEDICAL GROUP (PRIVATE)

McLarens Holdings Limited

No. 273/5, Vauxhall Street,

lew Name of the Company PREMIER PHYSICIANS

05th April 2021.

PV 00237915

Name of Company:





DOWNLOAD TODAY!

LAKE HOUSE



Calling for Expression of Interest to provide an IT Solution for Management Information System (MIS)

Construction Guarantee Fund is an organization that provides financial facilities to construction contractors, seeks a party who could provide an IT solution as a part of automation of its system.

Reputed organizations and consultants having required experience are invited to send their Expression of Interest to undertake the exercise indicating relevant experience and expertise available.

Please forward your interest through registered post/courier by 13th May for us to shortlist and to arrange a meeting for a detail briefing.

### Manager Administration,

**Construction Guarantee Fund**, 'Savsiripaya', No. 123, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07. Tel: 0112673087/84/85

Email: ceocgf@gmail.com

### **PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**Department of Animal Production and Health** 

### Southern Provincial Council Purchase of Animal Feed for the Animal Farm, Kekanadura.

Bids are hereby invited by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Southern Provincial Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Production and Development....., for the transport, supply and delivery of animal feed required for the Kekanadura Animal Farm Belonging to the Southern Provincial Department of Animal Production and Health for the period from June 2021 to December 2021.

Accordingly, following categories of animal feed should be transported, supplied and delivered to the Kekanadura Animal Farm in two term periods.

Month	Quantity to be supplied per month (in Kg) as per the animal feed categories.							
WOITH	Cattle feed	Chick starter	Calf starter	Grower feed	Layer feed	Calcite		
June	3000	50	50	2100	8800	-		
July	3150	50	50	-	12250	-		
August	3150	550	50	-	12000	-		
September	3000	900	50	250	12050	1500		
October	3150	50	50	1450	12500	-		
November	3000	50	50	1500	12100	-		
December	3150	50	50	900	13900	-		

Interested bidders who wish to supply above mentioned categories of animal feed, should have to submit their bids, on bidding document forms, obtainable from the office of Southern Provincial Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Production and Development, up to 3.00 p.m. on working day of the week, up to 07th May 2021 upon payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 1000/=

Duly completed sealed bids should either be sent by registered post or hand delivered to the address of Chairman, Procurement Committee, Southern Provincial Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Production and Development..., 2nd Floor, "Dakshinapaya", Labuduwa, at or before 4.30 p.m. on 10th May, 2021 and bids will be opened immediately thereafter.

Procurement Committee of the Southern Provincial Ministry of Animal Production and Development,... reserves the right to accept or reject any bid offered.

### Chairman.

**Procurement Committee.** Southern Provincial Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Production and Development,....., 2nd Floor," Dakshinapaya", Labuduwa, Galle. Telephone :- 091-2246621.

**Revocation of Power of Attorney** NOTICE is hereby given to the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that I, Nagarajah Vivekanandarajah of No.12/7-B, St. Mary's Road, Nayakakanda, Hendala, Wattala presently at 6415, 23rd Avenue Montreal (Quebec), HIT 3N2, Canada have cancelled and revoked the Special Power of Attorney dated 27.03.2017 signed before MARYSE PAQUIN NOTARY Notary Public / Attomey-at-law of 3250 east Jean-Taloni, Montreal Quebec Canada H2A 1W1 registered under serial No. 300 in Folio 18 in Volume 25 registered on 05.05.2017 at the Registrar General Department, Eastern Zone, Batticaloa granted to Nagappar Murugupilla Kandasamy of No.18, Areans Lane, Batticaloa Sri Lanka and that I shall not henceforth be held esponsible for any act done by him.

Nagarajah Vivekanandarajah

State Ministry of Rural and **Divisional Water Supply Projects DEPARTMENT OF** NATIONAL COMMUNITY WATER **SUPPLY** 

### **Extension of Closing Date of Receiving Procurement Documents**

The closing date of receiving procurement documents in the Procurement Notice that appeared on 29.03.2021 has been extended up to 10.00 a.m. on 05.05.2021.

Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chairman,

**Department Procurement Committee,** Department of National Community Water Supply, No. 1114, Pannipitiya Road, Thalawathugoda.

### **MINISTRY OF** WILDLIFE AND FOREST CONSERVATION

### **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

### **ECO SYSTEM CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT PROJECT** (ESCAMP)

### **DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

### SUPPLYING AND LAYING PVC PIPE LINE (4") IN "YALA" FOR SUPPLYING WATER TO MINOR TANKS AND USE FOR STAFF AND PARK VISITORS - Phase I & II (20 km.)

Contract Nos: LK-ESCAMP-DWC-117577-CW-RFB LK-ESCAMP-DWC-124033-CW-RFB

1. The Chairman, Project Procurement Committee, Project Management Unit -ESCAMP, Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, No. 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following works under National Competitive Bidding Procedure.

The work consists of trenches excavation, laying PVC pipe line, making man holes, fill back trenches as per BOQ.

- 2. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered with the CIDA (former ICTAD) grade C4 or above in the field of Water Supply & Drainage.
- 3. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award include:
  - Average annual volume of water supply & drainage work performed in last five years shall be at least **Rs. 130 Million**
  - Experience in the construction of at least two contracts of this nature and complexity equivalent to the Water Supply & Drainage works over the last 05 years (to comply with this requirement works cited should be at least 70 % completed)
  - Assigned technical and management staff including: Resident Engineer qualified with B.Sc. Eng. in Civil Engineering or NDT or equivalent with 5 years of experience with at least 3 years of experience in similar works.



### National Transport Medical Institute (State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation,



Bus Transport Services, Carriages and Automotive Industries)

# **PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

The Chairman, Procurement Committee, National Transport Medical Institute will receive sealed bids for supply of following item for year 2021.

### Supply of Medical Laboratary Item - (LANCET)

- 1) 25 Guage Needles 2) 100 / 200 pcs Pack Size
- 3) A safty cap to cover the needle

Quotations should be submitted for a agreeable period of one year for 1,350,000 units ( one million three hundred and fifty thousand ).

Quations should be given for 100 and 200 units separately. Unit price, cost of vat, cost with vat per unit and cost with vat for total equipments should be produced.

Bids should be prepared as per the particulars given in the bidding documents available to prospective Bidders on working days between 09 30 hours and 15 00 hours from Accountant, National Transport Medical Institute, No. 170, High Level Road, Nugegoda. These could be purchased on cash payment of Rs. 3000/- non-refundable Bid fee. A refundable deposit (valid for 90 days) should be submitted with the tender documents. Offers received without enclosing original payment receipt are liable to be rejected.

All bids should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding documents.

Sealed bids may be sent by post under Registered Cover or may be personally dropped in the Box available for this purpose at Account division, 2nd Floor, National Transport Medical Institute, No. 170, High Level Road, Nugegoda. Please mention "Supply of Medical Laboratory Items (Item No)" on the upper left hand corner of the envelop.

Bids will be closed at 2.00 p.m. on 10th May 2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorized Representatives will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of Bids.

Chairman, Department Procurement Committee National Transport Medical Institute, 170, High Level Road, Nugegoda. Tel : 0112 814862

- The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities, net of other contractual commitments and exclusive of any advance payments which may be made under the Contract, shall be not less than Rs. 50 Million.
- Proposals for possession or/and the timely acquisition (own, lease, hire, etc.) of the essential equipment listed in the bidding data clause 4.3
- 4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Project Director, ESCAMP, Project Management Unit, No. 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla. Tel. 011 2888428, Fax. 011 2888577 and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below up to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 on weekdays.
- 5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased from the Procurement Division, ESCAMP, Project Management Unit, No. 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla, up to 15.00 hrs. on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021 on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 35,000.00 in cash.
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the address below at or before 21<sup>st</sup> May 6. 2021 at 10.00 a.m. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- 7. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid-Security" of Rs. 1,600,000.00
- Site inspection will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the Wildlife Office 8. at Yala National Park and Pre-bid meeting will be held on 11th May 2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the same location.
- Bidders must provide the PCA 3 form (Public Contract Act of 1987) along with 9. their Bids. (<u>http://www.drc.gov.lk/</u>)
- 10. The Project Procurement Committee reserves full right in either accepting or rejecting any bid fully or partly received and the decision of the Project Procurement Committee in this regard shall be final.

The address referred to above is:

The Chairman, **Project Procurement Committee – ESCAMP,** Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation, **Project Management Unit,** No. 82, Rajamalwatta Road, Battaramulla.

Tel. 011 2888426 / 011 2888427 Fax. 011 2888577

Date 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### DN page 14

Notice under Section 9(1) of the **Companies Act** No. 07 of 2007.

### S.L.R. Traders (Pvt) Ltd 279/1, Galle Road, Wellawatta, Colombo 06. Reg. No. PV 00212284 dated 03.06.2019

### **Reggee Media** (Pvt) Ltd

145, Katuwana Industrial Estate, Katuwana Road, Homagama. Reg.No. PV 00214014 dated 27.07.2019

### **Chaos Theory**

(Pvt) Ltd 444/C/1, Niwandama Road, Ja-Ela. Reg.No. PV 00216044 dated 02.10.2019

### **S** N Marketing Services (Pvt) Ltd 9, School Lane, Piliyandala. Reg. No. PV 00216718 dated 18.10.2019

**Imet Holdings** 

(Pvt) Ltd No. 18, Walagamba Mawatha, Borupana Road, Rathmalana. Reg.No. PV 00223795 dated 05.07.2020

Company **Secretaries Key Management Consultants** (Pvt) Ltd

> Repeat Your Ad For **Better** Offers



### FACULTY OF SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA

Registration for General/Konours Degree Examinations in Science (Second Semester) - 2019

The above End of Course Examinations are scheduled to be held in May & June 2021. The Examination Timetable is available in the faculty website http://www.sci.jfn.ac.lk/.

All the students of the Faculty of Science are requested to register for the above examination on or before 04/05/2021 by filling the online form which is available in the faculty website.

22/04/2021

Registrar

**ADVERTISEMENTS** 

### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

## NATIONAL HOSPITAL OF SRI LANKA

**INVITATION FOR BIDS** 

### PURCHASING OF TEXTILES

Sealed bids are invited up to 10.00 a.m. on 17.05.2021 by the Regional Procurement Committee of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka from eligible institutions and individuals for the supply of Textiles mentioned below.

Item No.	Item	Reference No.	Item Quantity	Non- refundable Fee for Item Nos. 1 - 4 (Rs.)
1.	36" width White unbleached cloth		5,000 metres	
2.	72" width Blue colour unbleached cloth	SF/01/2021	10,000 metres	2 000 00
3.	72" White colour unbleached cloth	SF/01/2021	10,000 metres	3,000.00
4.	58" Green colour sheeting material		5,000 metres	

- 02. Only manufacturers of textiles in Sri Lanka and authorized agents supplying textiles to the Sri Lankan market will qualify to participate in this bid invitation.
- 03. Bid documents could be obtained during working days of the week from 27.04.2021 up to 13.05.2021 between 9.30 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. by submitting the receipt obtained after paying a non-refundable fee as mentioned above to the Deputy Director General of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (Telephone No. 011-2691111 - Extension 2722)
- 04. Sealed bids should be sent by registered post to be received before 10.00 a.m. on 17.05.2021 or could be deposited in the Tender Box kept in the Chief Accountant's Office at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting bids.

Dr. W.K. Wickramasingha Chairman, **Regional Procurement Committee,** National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo 10.

### MULTI FINANCE PLC **AUCTION SALE OF ARTICLES OF** UNSETTLED GOLD LOAN FACILITIES

Notice is hereby given in respect of all gold articles pawned and unredeemed as at 30-04-2020, of the following branches will be sold by public auction from 10.00a.m to 1.00 p.m at No:100, Buthgamuwa Rd, Rajagiriya.

All Gold Articles Pledge & Unsettled as at 30-04-2020 Name of Branch:- Anuradhapura, Gampaha, Kandy, Kurunegala, Maradana, Ratnapura, Matara Date of Auction :- 07-05-2021

Multi Finance PLC reserves the right to cancel, postpone and / or amalgamate the auctions or change the venue for these auctions without any further notice.



FINANCE The Manager (Pawning) Multi Finance PLC, Pawning Division The Fairways, No. 100, Buthgamuwa Rd, Rajaginya Tel: 011 4645 555

OBSERVER JOBS BREAKING BOUNDARIES THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RECRUITMENT DATABASE FOR **JOBSEEKERS** www.observerjobs.lk

### SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021



### SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

### **TENDER NOTICE**

### **SALE OF USED/SURPLUS ARTICLES, EQUIPMENT & USED VEHICLES**

### DATE OF AUCTION AND TENDER: 06.05.2021 **AUCTION AND TENDER NOS.: 440 & 440A**

We invite for the purchase and removal of the following used surplus items & used vehicles lying in Port of Colombo, Trincomalee & Galle.



Used Boat Survey Used Photocopier Machines Used Office Chairs, Tables & Cabinets Equipment & Other Used Type Writers (English & Sinhala) Used Electric Kettles Miscellaneous Items Etc.

Used Cars Used Lorries Used Ambulance

Used Motor Bicycles Used Three Wheeler Used Double Cabs Used Trailer

Auction & Tender Lists can be obtained from the Office of Sale Section, Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority at One Stop Documentation Center, Canal Yard No. 15, Lotus Road, Colombo - 01 from 10.00 hrs. on 27.04.2021 to 14.30 hrs. on **04.05.2021** on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/- (plus VAT).

Visit www.slpa.lk for more details.

Chief Manager (Logistics) Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Logistics Division, No. 15, Lotus Road, Colombo 01. 24.04.2021

# **BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

## **Government Notification on Registration of Manufacturing** Industrial Undertakings

Registering all manufacturing Industrial Undertakings under the Ministry of Industries is a mandatory process as per section 2 of Industrial Promotion Act No 46 of 1990. Accordingly, every manufacturing Industrial Undertaking should register their location within three months of the commencement under the Ministry of Industries. (This is not applicable to BOI license holders)

**AUCTION NO 440A** [Used Vehicles]

### **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

### SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF **30 NOS. LAPTOPS TO THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

### CONTRACT NUMBER: BOI / ADMN / S&S / Q / 59 / 2021

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC), on behalf of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of 30 Nos. Laptops to the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. The quantity of 30 numbers are required as follows.

### Category 1 - Required Quantity - 23 Nos

Specifications: Intel Core i5- 10th Gen, 8 GB RAM, 1 TB SATA, 15.6" LED, MS Office 2019 Standard Edition under Government Open Licensing Program.

### Category 2 - Required Quantity 05 Nos

Specifications: Intel Core i7 - 10th Gen, 8 GB RAM, 1 TB SATA, 15.6" LED.

### Category 3 - Required Quantity - 01 No.

Specifications: Intel Core i7 - 10th Gen, 16 GB RAM, 512GB M.2 PCIe NVMe SSD + 1TB SATA, 15.6" LED, Full HD IPS, MS Office 2019 Standard Edition, under Government Open Licensing Program.

### Category 4 - Required Quantity 01 No

Specifications: Intel Core i7 - 10th Gen, 16 GB RAM, 512GB M.2 PCIe NVMe SSD, 13.3 or 14" LED Full HD(1920x1080P) IPS, Weight less than 1.5Kg, MS Office 2019 Standard Edition, under Government Open Licensing Program.

- 2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- 3. To be eligible for the Contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been Blacklisted and shall have previous experience in supply, installation and maintenance of similar types of work successfully during the last five (05) years.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Senior Deputy Director (Administration) of BOI on Tel: Nos: 011 2543041, 011 2427365, Fax No: 011 2385736 and E-mail: lakshmanp@boi.lk
- Bidding Document may be inspected during working days at the Stores & Supplies Unit, Administration 5. Department, Level 09, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Colombo 01 from 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours up to 17.05.2021.
- 6. A Complete set of Bidding Documents could be purchased by the interested Bidders from the Stores & Supplies Unit of the above address on submission of a written request in a business letterhead upon making a non-refundable cash payment of Rs. 5,000.00 plus VAT to the Shroff of BOI at Level 08, during working days between 09:00 hours and 15:00 hours from 27.04.2021 to 17.05.2021.
- 7. Sealed Bids addressed to the Chairman, Procurement Committee II, C/o Director (Administration), Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Level 09, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Echelon Square, **Colombo - 01** may be sent either by Registered Post or may be deposited in the Tender Box placed at the Stores & Supplies Unit of the above address to be reached on or before **14:30 hours on 18.05.2021**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time of Bids at the above address in the presence of the Bidders' Representatives who choose to attend.
- 8. Bids shall be valid up to 03.08.2021.
- Sealed Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs 120,000.00 and shall be valid up to 31.08.2021. 9.

### Chairman **BOARD OF INVESTMENT OF SRI LANKA**

### This registration enables the Industrialists to reap benefits from a vast range of facilities/ concessions available which are given below.

- Identification as a government recognized entrepreneur.
- > Eligible to be received lands with all infrastructure facilities from the Industrial Estates under the long -term lease base.
- Obtaining recommendation for VAT Facilities for Exports and Imports under the duty 2 concession scheme (TIEP) for value added products.
- Obtaining recommendation for Entry and Residence Visas for foreign specialists who provide consultancy and technical assistance for the development of the industrial sector.
- Obtaining Duty Free Concessions for local value-added assembling vehicle and electrical ۶ components.
- Ability to claim for the concessionary rates for monthly electricity bill. 2
- Facilitation to obtain International Standardization Certificates.
- Loans for Small and Medium Scale Industrialists.
  - SMILE III -RF (up to Rs. 25 Mn, 8% interest per annum)
  - E- Friends II- RF (up to Rs. 30 Mn, 6.5% interest per annum)
- > Obtaining necessary aids to carry out the industry in a disaster situation with the assistance of relevant government entities.
- Assistance to find solutions for the problems of industrialists. >
- Participating in the training programs conducted by the Ministry to provide modern technical × know-how and skill.

Relevant applications can be obtained through the website of the Ministry of Industries www.industry.gov.lk (IRA) or by visiting the Ministry or the Regional Industry Service Centers coming under the purview of the Ministry.

Completed applications should be forwarded to the following address on or before 2021/05/30

Miss B.Kunalini (Assistant Director)	Telephone- 0112448467/ 0112431670
Industry Registration Division	Fax - 0112542708
Ministry of Industries.	E-Mail - industry.regist@gmail.com
73/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03.	ad_ir@idustry.gov.lk

For Further information

You are kindly requested to contact the relevant Regional Industrial Service Centers. Details of these centers can be obtained through the web site of the Ministry.

Secretary

Ministry of Industries.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021

## **SPORT**

# Sri Lanka ruggerite Jehan never played school rugby

### **ALTHAF NAWAZ**

Certain sportsmen who reached the climax in their sporting career had to pass through tough passage. Some of them started their career in less privileged schools but after associating with players from top clubs in town matured as top sportsmen, which enabled them to represent the country in that particular sport. Tuan Kishore Jehan was one of the players who never held a rugby ball in school, later took up rugby after his school career and turned out to be one of the finest rugby players donning the National

jersey. T.K. Jehan had a nickname called Chilaa and was born in 1983 in Chilaw. His father was late Tuan Mohamed Faleel an ex-serviceman who was in the Sri Lanka Army and was a recognized football player during his career there. His mother is Gnai Nihar Sher-

iff who is a housewife. He has two brothers T.M. Safras and Inshaf Faleel. He represented St. Mary s College, Chilaw from 1988 to 2001 where he completed his academic studies. With his build and body weight was an active member of the college Athletics team participating in the field events especially in Shot Putt and Discus Throw. Since his Alma Mater did not have rugby as a sporting event, was unable to gain an opportunity to play rugby for school. Nevertheless, he was appointed as the games Captain by his school

and played cricket for the under-13 age group till the first XI. Later he represented Chilaw Marians Cricket Club in the 2000/01 seasons. Eventually, he changed gears in his



with school. Since he did not have the opportunity to play rugby in school, he started handling the oval shaped ball through Rugby Development Squad " in 2001 under the guidance of rugby legend Hisham Abdeen. With that exposure, he started playing sporting career soon after his tenure rugby for Old Zahirians Sports Club,

Maradana from 2002 to 2005 seasons engaging in competitive rugby. While he was playing for Old Zahirians he was selected for the Sri Lanka Rugby squad and represented the Sri Lanka National team in mid-2005 where he subsequently made his debut against Singapore. Later he migrated to the hill capital to don the Kandy jersey and locked horns for them from 2006 to 2017 in his favourite position in the front row as a Prop forward. He established a regular place there and competed in sever-

al tournaments for them. During his career with Kandy they won ten League Championships along with an equal number of Clifford Cup knock out tournaments. As a National Player, he was in the Sri Lanka winning team of the Asian Five Nation Championship in 2009 in Singapore under



the captaincy of Pradeep Liyanage, in 2012 in Sri Lanka team under the captaincy of Yoshitha Rajapaksa and in 2014 in Philippines under Fazil Marija s captaincy before he finally hung up his boots in 2016. After his retirement from competi-

tive rugby as a player he opted to take up coaching and got qualified in the World Rugby Coaching certificate level 2. In 2017 represented the under-16 Kandy Rugby Academy as the Head coach and had a successful tour of Paris at the World Games. Later went on to complete the coaching course at Rugby Academy of Ireland in 2018 based in Ireland. He was entrusted as the forward coach of CR and FC in the 2019/20 season. He likes to extend his sincere gratitude to his former coaches who were instrumental in guiding him to reach success which consisted of Hisham Abdeen, late Goerge Simpkin and Johan Taylor. At present he is employed as Associate Manager at LOLC Finance PLC in the Al-Falaah unit in Kandy.

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His wife is Benazir Begum and the three children are Maasha, Hanik and Mansha.

In the year 2020 he did not get

an opportunity to perform much

due to the Covid – 19 epidemic,

but in 2021, he started the crick-

et season in the Under 19 tourna-

ment match against St.Peter's

College,Colombo with a steady

# Shakira Lakshani a fine athlete and volleyball player

### **DILWIN MENDIS** Moratuwa Sports Special

Correspondent

Sri Lanka Youth Volleyball Player, All Island Best womens schools player 2016 and 2017, All Island DSI under 19 Best Attacker, in 2017 and Rupavahini Best Attacker 2017, member of the Pubudu Sports Club Tangalle and athlete Hewagamage Shakira Lakshani brought honour and glory to her Alma Mater Vijayaba Vidyalaya Hungama, Tangalle Pubudu Sports Club Tangalle Sri Lanka Navy and her motherland.

Shakira commenced her schooling from Melpeththawa Maha Vidyalaya Ambalantota, Tangalle in 2009 when Rathnayake was at the helm of the school and her first class teacher was Mrs. Premakanthi and she was in Grade Four she took park in the Inter House Athletic Sports Meet of her school and came first in 50, 100 metres and in Long Jump and she was selected for the Divisional Meet and in the following year too she repeated the same performances.

She was admitted to the Grade Six of Vijayaba Vidyalaya of Hungama and as she and in 2016 their under 17 showed an interest in vollev- school team were the run-Ramya Niroshani encouraged their daughter to take up to volleyball and she and prefect of games Tharaka Ratnaweera. In the mean time she participated in the Inter House Sports Meet in 2015 and she won 100 and 200 metres and took part in the Divisional and Zonal Meets and she swept the board.



Vijayaba Vidyalaya Hungama, Tangalle Runner Up of All Island DSI Super League Tournament 2018. The team posed for a photograph just after the finals. Standing L/R – fifth is the Minister Ranjith Siyambalapitiya and Shakira Lakshani is standing 7th from left. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)



### Shakira Lakshani

won the Divisional, Zonal, Sports Club became third in District and Provincial levels the Open Tournament and in the same year at the under 20 All Island Tournament ball her parents Hewagama- ners up in All Island Girls they were the champions. ga Jagath Kumara and Tournament and in the DSI With all these performances

# Pulidu a promising cricketer of Dharmaraja

### **UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-**

Kandy Sports Special Correspondent 15 year old Pulidu Perera, a G.C.E (O/L).student of Dharmaraja College,Kandy is the baby of the first XI cricket team of the college and he started his cricket career in the Cricket Academy of Dharmaraja College headed by Ananda Wijesekera.in the year 2014, at the age of Eight years

Pulidu started training continuously for two years. In the same year he was selected to the Under 13-B team without success but the following year in 2015 in the Cricket season, he came out with a fine performance in batting to score a total of 224 runs under the Cap-



Pulidu Perera

taincy of Vibavith Ehelepola as a member of the Under 13-A team highest score was against Trinity College a superb knock of and his highest score being 85 runs scored against Maris Stella 105 runs.

College,Negombo. His performance was outstanding in the Division one cricket tournament conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association.

In the year 2018 he led the School Under 13 A Cricket team as a Third year Player and scored more than 175 runs in the season at the Under 13 Division One Cricket tournament, his highest being a half century scored against Kegalu Vidyalaya. In 2019 he scored a total of 228 runs at the Under

performance when he struck 61 with eight fours and one huge six. Pulidu's ambition is to do well in studies and continue cricket to come upto Test level in Sri Lanka Cricket and he is thankful to his Coaches, Prefect of Games, Mas-17 Cricket tournament and his

ter-in-charge and the Principal of the school for the encouragement given to him from his junior cricket playing days.

# Lakshan steers John Keells to thrilling win

### **DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Dhananjaya Lakshan finished with four for 51 as John Keells Group record-

ed a thrilling nine-run victory over Hatton National Bank (HNB) with five balls to spare in their Singer - MCA Premier League Cricket Tournament fixture played at the P. Sara Oval on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Hayleys Group recorded 96-run win over CDB

Warnapura 2/28, Naveen Gunawardena 2/52)

HNB: 261 in 49.1 overs (Sadun Weerakkody 38, Sawan Kankanange 22, Deshan Dias 38, Madawa Warnapura 27, Dilshan Munaweera 47, Chamindu Wijesinghe 45, Dhananjaya Lakshan 4/51, Sachintha Peiris 3/55).

•At SSC Grounds (Hayleys Group won by 96 runs) Hayleys Group: 245

day two honours **PRIYAN DE SILVA** An unbeaten 109 by Hirantha Lakshan helped St. Thomas' College, Matara take full honours on day two of the 121st Battle of the

Hirantha helps

St. Thomas' take



Super League Tournament they came third and with these performances Shakira came under the school coach was selected for the Sri Lanka Youth under 17 Girls Tour of Thailand in 2016 and 16 countries participated and the Sri Lanka Youth Team was placed eighth but any how it was a fine exposure for Shakira.

When she returned home she was felicitated by the Her school volleyball team Southern Province Sports

under her belt she was selected for a pool of 28 players for the Asian Tour.

Association and awarded

colours. In 2017 they won all

the lower level tournaments

and in the under 19 All

Island Tournament they won

the Trophy and she became

the Best Player in the coun-

try and in the DSI Under 19

Tournament they were the

runners up and she was

adjudged the Best Attacker

and in the Rupavahini Open

Tournament she represented

the Pubudu Sports Club and

became the Best Attacker In

the following year in the

under 20 age group Pubudu

In 2019 playing for Sri Lanka Navy in the Munchee Tournament they beat the Army but lost to the Air Force in the Rupavahini All Island Tournament. She was the Best Girls Volleyball Player in 2016 and 2017 and won colours and the Awards

Ceremony was held at BMICH Colombo.

Finance in their game played at the SSC Grounds in Maitland Dhananjaya Lakshan

(John Keells Group) **Chief scores** 

•At P. Sara Oval

Place.

(John Keells Group won by nine runs) John Keells Group: 270/8 in 50 overs (Lahiru Milantha 59, Kavin Bandara 56, Dhananjaya Lakshan 21, Sachitha Jayathilaka 28, Ishan Jayaratne 47, Madawa



in 50 overs (Dilruwan Perera 27, Nuwanindu Fernando 74, Kithuruwan Vithanage 26, Vishad Randika 44, Lahiru Madhshanka 2/35,

Tharindu Ratnayake 5/50) CDB Finance: 149 in 36 overs (Damitha Silva 42, Tharindu Ratnayake 27, Kavishka Anjula 3/27, Kalana Perera 3/23, Prabath Jayasuriya 2/36).

Stadium in Hambantota yesterday. Hirantha was unbeaten on 109 scored off

138 balls (11 bounda-

ries and a six) and

with Nipun Samaras-

together

Blues Inter-Schools Big

Match against St.

Servatius' College, Mat-

ara, which continued at

the Mahinda Rajapaksa

Hirantha Lakshan

Wijerama 70, Hirusha Jeewadith 3/25, Sineth Dissanayake 3/82)

inghe (39 not out) St. Thomas': 202/3 shared an unbroken 128-run partnership for in 56 overs (Woshitha the fourth wicket. Amarasinghe 35, Hirantha Lakshan 109 not **Chief scores** 

**St. Servatius':** 253 out, Nipun Samarasingin 94.5 overs (Kushan he 39 not out).

# Wariyapola Sri Sumangala and Sri Rahula clash in Kandy's Battle of the Golds



The first big match over here in Kandy this year Kandy's Battle of the Golds between Wariyapola Sri Sumangala (St. Paul's) College and Sri Rahula College, will take place for the 22nd time on April 24 and 25,at St. Anthony's College grounds Katugastota.

Sri Rahula College is one of Kandy's oldest cricket playing schools, started the game of cricket in 1890's but gave it up a few years. However, in the 1970's they came back into cricket. This year Dilshan Arambegedara is the captain He is a fine all-rounder. The side is coached by experienced . Madushanka Damakage, a person with 20 years experience in cricket coaching, He was their one time junior coach and helped many players to do well, He learnt his cricket at this school, played for the senior side from 1998 to 2001 as a right arm paceman and middle order batsman. Damakage is going all-out to make the side a match winning team. Wariyapola Sri Sumangala earlier known as (St.Paul's) College, has a long history which is over 140 years. In Kandy today this school gives big support for cricket without a playing field./ According to history they are one of the first schools in Kandy to play the

game of cricket, that was 1894 and after a few years gave up the game. Then after 87 years in 1981 they restarted cricket due to the efforts of former Sri Lanka cricketer and Kandy Municipal Commissioner late D.H. de Silva who coached them. This year their cricket captain is a fourth year coloursmen Thineera Akalanka a fine

all-rounder and the side is coached by Bandula Ranasinghe an experienced coach who has given his best.

The Sri Rahula Squad Dilshan Arambegedara. (Captain), Kushan Senarath the stumper, Vichintha Heshan, Sayuru Prabash, Janith Maitipe, Tharindu Fonseka, Thilanka Dasunm, Akash Gardiwasam, Dananjaya Madushanka, Malitha Nethmal, Kalana Thaveesha , Dulanjana Bandara , KalanaWedika, Yasitha Wijerathne, DismikaRathnayaka, Athikshaya Ratnayake Bashitha , Bashitha Theekshana Ámarawansha , Dineth, Vishal Gardiwasam, Maleesha Dilshan , Sumeda Prasad, Kavishka Madumal (Coach Madushanka Damakage

The Wariyapola Sri Sumangala Squad from ThineeraAkalanka (Capt), Priyantha Nellige (Vice Captain), Thenuka Ekanayake, Pasindu Malaka, Supun Gedergoda, Madushak Bimsara, Jatiya Weerasinghe, Madawa Rathnayake, Banuka Dissanayake, Dinewrada Dissanayake, Amila Ranatunga, Kaushika Bandara, Sami-

and M.I.C - M.J.S. Ariyasinghe).

otha Avisheka, Pasan Hemange, Randika Dilshan, K.A. Sanadeepa, Ruwan Pradeep, Sahan Bandara, Danushka Madushan. (Coach Bandulla Ranasinghe, MIC J.M.S.B.Jayasundara, POG Srinath de Silva).

### Malawana to continue as coach of Antonians

Sumedha Malawana former Vidyartha College, Navy SC and Sri Lanka player, has been given the duties of grooming St. Anthony's College rugby team for another year. A product of Vidyartha College, who is an experienced coach and a knowledgeable man in the rugby field. He learnt his rugger at Vidyartha College, he first played in 1986 and in 1998 was his best school year. Later went on to represent the Sailors from 2000 for nearly fifteen years. He also coached his old school Vidyartha College and coaching Antonians from 2019 to date and sure to give his best to come out with a talented side.

### **Rugby Referees** development pathway

The newly elected president of the Central Province Rugby Referees Association, a former Kingswood College and Police ruggerrite Asela Muthumala. together with his committee have planned for a development pathway structure for rugby referees over here in the Central Province, which will be finalized

at the first committee meeting next Saturday. This is a good idea, which identifies the referee development pathway as a high priority area for improvement. In rugby referees help in a big way, and Kandy has produced some of the top referees.

### Kotmale Speed Hill Climb

Senkadagala Motor Sports Club in association with the Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Club will be conducting a speed hill climb on May 1 and 2 called the Kotmale Hill Climb.. up to now there are 150 participants, for both cars and motor bikes. President of the Senkadagala Motor Sports Club Thusith de Silva is keen on making this event a success with the backing coming from the rest of the committee members, Secretary Poorna Dahanayake, Treasurer Dammika Bambaradeniva and committee members John Baskaran, PHN Solomon, Errol Kemps, Lakshman Issac, Oshada Wijesekara, Sarath Tennekoon, Charminda Weerasinghe, EM Dissanayake, Akila Senanayake, Darshana Abeysinghe, Gihan

Deerasekara, Eranga Ranasinghe, MAlawala, Thilanka Abeysinghe and Anuradha Navaratne.

Among the events to be held are Nissan March, Mini 7, Modified Cars, Ford Lasers, SLGT up to 3500cc, Subaru Legacy, Formula cars, truck and Jeeps, motor bikes from

250cc to 1000cc, Volkswagen Beetles, Classic Cars and Minis will be on show. At this event, there will be two special awards for the fastest racing driver and rider in memory of the late Ananda Krishnaratne who was a motor racing livewire and Nimal Chandrasoma. A tree planting program will coincide with the Kotmale Hill Climb.

### **Trinity cricketers excel**

Trinity College have progressed to the semi-finals with a win over St. Sebastian's College in the Quarter final and now will meet St. Joseph's College in the semi final on 28th at Surrey Village grounds Maggona. In this year's one day school tournament Trinity College cricketers have been doing well.

They have a good set of batsmen and bowlers. They are sure to do well in the semi final. A big hand should go to the team led by Abhishek Anandakumar, Shane Gunatillake,Umari Raizan is also a coloursman, The others in the squad are Matheesha Pathirana, Deemantha Bandara. Akram Muthalib. Ranuda Somaratne, Thevin Amarasinghe, Pasan Kularatne, Pasan Ganegoda, Pawan Pathiraja, Theeraka Ranathunga, Kalendra Abeysinghe, Shenuka Ilukkumbura, Lasith Dias, Dineka Ahalepola, Kaveesha Silva, Manula

Kularatne, Vibhavith Ahelepo- Steel Trophy golf event was held la, Rahal Amarasinghe, Vihan Mudunkotuwa, Kavinda Jayasuirya (Head Coach), Naveen has become an annual fixture Ekanayake and Lahiru (Assistant Sandakelum Coaches),Tharaka Kalpa (Trainer), Lasantha Bandara (Physio)

### Anil and Dilum selected

Two Kandy products have been selected to the Asia Rugby Match Officials Panels 2021-2022, Anil Jayasinghe to Asia Rugby Selections and Appointments Panel and Dilum Deeshana to the Asia Rugby Emerging Talent Panel 2021-2022. Both of them are products of Vidyartha College. Anil Jayasinghe is a well-known person in the rugby field as player, coach and referee. Dilum Deeshana played for Vidyartha College and he is A division panel referee. He is in the Asia Rugby Emerging Talent Referee Panel. He is 22 years old and the youngest A division referee in Sri Lanka

### **Donald Steel golf**

Much will be expected from the defending champion Harron Aslam, who is a sixteen year student of Trinity College, in the Donald Steel Golf tournament, which will take place today at the Victoria Golf and Country Resort, pitting over 90 amateur golfers against each other. It was In January 1999, the inaugural Donald

on the occasion of the opening of the Victoria Golf Club. This and is held every year. The tournament is organized in honour of Donald Steel, the architect of the challenging and picturesque Victoria golf course.

### 14 teams in qualifying round

Kandy District Cricket Association" KDCA" on Thursday finalized the participating teams for the cricket tournament from which the winners of this competition will get the opportunity to play in the division III inter club tournament of Sri Lanka Cricket. The matches will commence from 6th of May. The teams which will take part are. (Group A) Honest Star C,Kingswood C.C, Titans S.C, Tuskers C.C,Sports Plus S..C, Thunder C.C. Lion Heart C.C. (Group "B") Ekamuthu C.C, Upcountry S.M. S.C., Central Youth C.C, Old Jinaraja C.C, Akurana C.C, Essex C.C.

### Boxing coaching camp.

A two day boxing coaching camp will take place over here in Kandy today and tomorrow at the National Development Association in Kundasale, they are hoping to discuss amendment to the rules and regulations of the international boxing association. This event is organised by the Sri Lanka Boxing Coaches association.



# aily Acws Fax : +941122343694

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Sports Editor : 011 242 9223

e mail : sports.dailynews@lakehouse.lk www.dailynews.lk

### W RLD OF SPORTS

(April 24) LOCAL EVENTS CRICKET (Under-19 **Division Two Tier 'B'** semi-finals): St. Thomas', Matale vs Royal, Panadura at De Soyza Stadium, Moratuwa Sri Jayewardenepura MV vs P. de S. Kularatne MV, Ambalangoda at Maggona (Under-19 traditional): St. Benedict's vs Wesley at Kotahena St. Peter's vs St. Anthony's at Bambalapitiya St. Joseph's vs Trinity at **Darley Road** St. Servatius', Matara vs St. Thomas', Matara at Hambantota lsipathana vs Nalanda at Campbell Place

### Groundsman tests positive for COVID-19

A groundsman at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy, where the first Test between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh is being played, was tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday.

He, along with nine other individuals who have come in direct contact with him have been sent in isolation.

The second Test of the series is also set to be played at the same venue.



### **Dimuth Karunaratne in action**

Sri Lanka were placed at 229 for three after Bangladesh had piled up a massive 541 for seven (decl) on the third day of the opening Test match, which continued at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy yesterday.

Dimuth The openers Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne added 114 for the first wicket in the post-lunch session with both playing with a sense of purpose.

The session started off with a maiden, but Ebadot Hossain bowled a poor third over which went for 14 runs. Couple of extras and a few boundaries allowed the opening duo to settle down. Only when the spinners were intro-



before declaring at 541 for seven.

over as Liton Das made his inten-

tions clear from the word go.

The day started with a 12-run

At the other end, Mushfigur

Rahim also didn't break too much

of a sweat and brought up his fifty.

century but the happiness was

short-lived as he fell for exactly

50 off the bowling of Vishwa Fer-

Liton and Rahim scored 87 for

the fifth wicket to ensure Bangla-

desh continued to dominate.

Mehidy Hasan walked in and

didn't trouble the scorers much

before Taijul Islam became Fer-

nando's fourth victim.

Liton also brought his half-



**BOWLING:** S. Lakmal 36-14-81-1, V. Fernando 35-9-96-4, L. Kumara 28-4-88-1, A. Mathews BANGLADESH **1ST INNINGS** T. Iqbal c Thirimanne b V. Fernando..90 **S. Hassan** 7-1-14-0, D. de Silva 30-1-130-1, W. Hasaranga 36-2-111-0, D. Karunaratne 1-0-6-0 lbw b V. Fernando. . . . . . . 00 N. Shanto **SRI LANKA** c and b Kumara ..... 163 **1ST INNINGS** M. Haque c Thirimanne b D. de Silva 127 D. Karunaratne M. Rahim not out ..... 68 L. Das c O. Fernando lbw b M. Hasan. . O. Fernando Das b T. Ahmed . . . . . . b V. Fernando . . . . . . . . . . . 50 M. Hasan A.Mathews c Dickwella b Lakmal ..... 03 b T. Islam T. Islam D. de Silva Dickwella b V. Fernando . 02 T. Ahmed . 06 not out ... **Ball:** 1-114, 2-157, 3-190 **Bowling:** A. Jayed 7-1-25-0, T. Ahmed 12-3-35-1, E. Hossain 10-1-44-0, M. Hasan 24-6-60-1, 5-511, 6-515, 7-524 Islam 20-5-56-1

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# **Rain spoils Under-19 Cricket**

Heavy rain washed out all Inter-Schools Under-19 Cricket Tournament matches, which were scheduled to commence in Colombo yesterday.

The inaugural Big Match between Wesley College and St. Benedict's College was called off at Kotahena without a ball being bowled.

In addition, the traditional two-day match between Isipatana College and Nalanda College was also called off at Campbell Place. (D.R)

## **Division Two** semi-finals today

### DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

The two semi-finals of the Under-19 Division Two Tier 'B' Cricket Tournament will be

worked off today. St. Thomas', Matale will meet Royal College, Panadura at the De Soyza Stadium in Moratuwa while Sri Jayewardenepura MV will take on P. de S. Kularatne MV, Ambalangoda at Surrey Grounds in Maggona.

Dissanayaka 100, Sahan Siriwardane 46, Pulidu Perera 23, Akila Nimsara 3/39, Shashika Gihan 3/80, Sathsara Gamage 2/13).

# 42<sup>nd</sup> Observer - SLT - Mobitel **SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020**

Drawn game at Lake View

**HAFIZ MARIKAR** The Under-19 two-day traditional Inter-School cricket match between St. Sylvester's College

ladesh.

scalp.

straightforward.

duced into the attack there was

some pressure employed by Bang-

Taijul Islam did create a chance

and trapped Thirimanne in front

of the stumps but after being

given not out, Bangladesh opted

not to review a call which looked

Thirimanne, though, didn't

exactly make the reprieve count as

he departed for a well made 58 on

the last ball of the session with

Mehidy Hasan picking up the

In contrast, Skipper Karunaratne

batted through the day and was

unbeaten on 85 from 211 deliver-

Earlier, Bangladesh added a few

ies inclusive of eight boundaries.

and Dharmaraja College ended in a draw at Lake View yesterday. St. Sylvester's: 273 (Kavishka Dilshan 55 n.o, Sadeepa

nando.

Halangoda 45, Sathsara Gamage 37, Charith Samuditha 36, Maleesha Silva 30, Nimsha Deshan 29, Sahan Siriwardane

4/71, Upendra Warnakulasooriya 3/88) and 89/4 (Maleesha Silva 44, Thisaru Wanninayaka 2/38) Dharmaraja: 225 (Sachintha

"Recognizing talent, inspiring greatness"







The Observer - SLT - Mobitel School Cricketer Award Ceremony held at BMICH on April 20, 2021 will be Telecast on ITN on Sunday April 25, 2021 at 10.15 pm



Collect the Observer Schools Cricketer of the Year Special Souvenir - a 16-page glossy paper collector's item with records of all past winners from 1979 plus the glorious moments of 42<sup>nd</sup> Mega Show! – with this weekend's Sunday Observer!









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