

### 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. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

# Daily News

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## ARMY COMMANDER ASSERTS NO LOCKDOWN OR TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS



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 02**

## COVID-19: INSTRUCTIONS ON ALERT LEVELS

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 DRAM 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 DRAM 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.
- 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.
- According to the current epidemiological situation after the New Year, some restrictions need to be imposed to reduce 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 transport 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 ( Garments, 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 to the instructions given. Gatherings and entertainment in the mall premises are not allowed.
  - Financial institutions (banks, finance companies, pawnshop 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 02**

## 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 Koswatta said yesterday.

Denying reports that there is a shortage of LP Gas in the country, Koswatta 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**

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

The Maha Sangha emphasizes that a country should not remain in one place without moving ahead and it should endeavour to progress commercially towards success.

The Maha Sangha shared these views as they were informed about the Colombo Port City project during the 10th discussion with the Buddhist

Advisory Council at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (23).

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

Expanding the landmass of the country and paving the way to new investment **▶ TO 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 five-judge-Bench comprised Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## 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 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**

## 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 02**

## Victims of Katuwapitiya blast file 182 cases

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 claiming compensations from former

President Maithripala Sirisena and five others.

The plaintiffs have named former President Maithripala Sirisena, former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Defence Ministry Secretary Hemasiri Fernando, former IGP Pujith Jayasundara, former Chief of State Intelligence

Service Nilantha Jayawardhane and Attorney General 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 02**

## Committee to look into incidents in Parliament

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

A Committee chaired by Deputy Speaker Ranjith Siyambalapatiya 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 Priyadarshana Yapa, Imthiaz Bakeer Markar, Ranjith Madduma Bandara and M. A. Sumanthiran have been appointed as members of the Committee. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

## Govt. attempting to stifle Opposition - SJB MP

SANDASEN MARASINGHE, CAMELIA NATHANIEL AND AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

The Government is attempting to arrest Opposition Members for 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 victimization 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**

## 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**



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# 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 Presi-

dent'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

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



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-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

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 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-

cal and religious sites, the monks said Pakistan was ready for large-scale 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 Ranatunga will also attend.

## 'Sisusarani' Scholarships for 2,700 students

SUDATH KEERTHI, Delgoda Group Corr.

Two thousand seven hundred students 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. Giraha 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 Maddurachchi, Damsaviya International Foundation Director General N. S. Gunatilake will also participate.

## All Police officers at Koswatta Station under quarantine

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 discoloration 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 discoloration 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 Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake and officials, officials of Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Environment, Department of Land Development, Sri Lanka, National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Central Environmental Authority Sri

Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology, National Building Research Organisation, Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal, and Community Cleanliness, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, University of Moratuwa, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte Municipal Council, Kaduwela Municipal Council, The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency and Sri Lanka Police were present at this meeting.

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

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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## A Black Day for Opposition

Wednesday'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 arm-bands 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.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Crying is cleansing. There's a reason for tears or sadness.  
- Dionne Warwick

## World Malaria Day falls tomorrow

# Tackling Malaria amidst COVID-19

HERVÉ VERHOESEL

Despite 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 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.

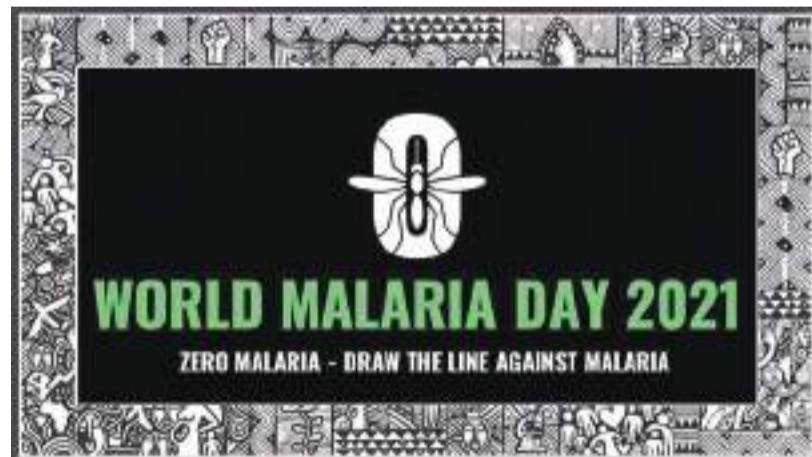
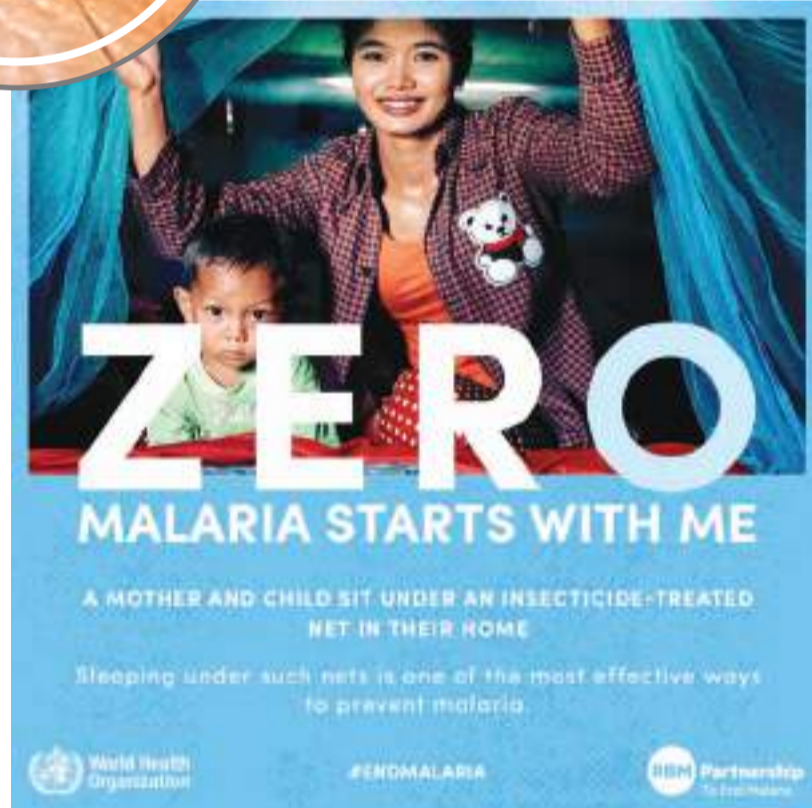
This aims to open a market for these new nets and bring about competition among manufacturers, leading to lower prices and a sustainable tool for countries.

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-



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-

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 malaria-endemic 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 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)



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.

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 Fer-

nando 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 MALLAWARACHCHI

## '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.



### First Death Anniversary of my Dearest BERNARD

Passed away on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.



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.

## 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.

Dr. Gunawardena questioned as to why some persons criticise the budget pack when it does no harm to people. "I wonder why these people are against this budget pack. It is helpful to the people. If these people cannot help the Government, it is alright. However,

why they would criticise it and want to stop it is beyond my understanding. There is no corruption taking place with regard to this budget pack. If someone can prove otherwise, I shall not hold this ministerial portfolio," he said.

"We provided people with a bag of goods with the good intention of providing relief to the people during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year season, even though there is a collapse in the supply chain. Sathosa



includes 12 items such as 1kg of Nadu rice, 1kg of white rice, 1kg of lentils, 1kg of white sugar, 1kg of onion, a face-mask, 200 chillies, and 200 sprats into this budget pack for just Rs.1,000. The pack gives the customers an advantage of Rs.400," the minister added.

"When this relief package was implemented, private sector companies also began to reduce the prices of their goods. That is a good thing.

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 arrested for a different case, which has no relation to his criticism against the budget pack, the minister added.

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

Joining the debate on the Report of the Presidential Commission investigating political victimisation 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

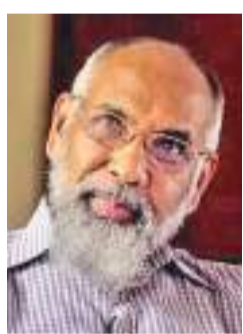
idea of the appointment of a Presidential Commission to inquire into instances of political victimisation of public officers, state corporation employees, Tri-Forces personnel, and the police, was misplaced. The Public Service must be allowed to do its duty objectively and not to please those in power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



Judiciary like how Chief Justice Neville Samarakoon set about doing. He set an example. Though personally selected and appointed by President J.R. Jayewardene, when he found that the President was trying to interfere with the independence of the Judiciary, he crossed swords with the President. He was of the firm belief that judges should be honest, hardworking, fearless, and independent.

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.

### DEATH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



The funeral of  
**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

### Obituaries

**De FONSEKA - Dr. IVY**, (Retired Professor of Microbiology, Colombo Faculty of Medicine). Wife of late Earle De Fonseka, ever loving mother of Sureshni, mother-in-law of Shanil Fonseka, passed away peacefully on 13.04.2021. A private funeral was held according 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), sister-in-law of Shirani De Almeida and Jagath Gunasekera, 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

# 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 commu-

iqué. 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.

## 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 Wennapuwa 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.

## 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 Nanayakkara regarding statements they made, but we have not asked to arrest or sue them. However, they make different complaints every day in Parliament.

The "Godfather" of political victimisations was J.R. Jayewardene. He suppressed and 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.

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 speaking 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,

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.

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

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



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

**ශ්‍රී ලංකා**  
සමූහ - Shanida  
සාකෂික - සමූහ සමූහ

Thursday  
Date: 22.04.2021  
Draw No.: 3585  
Colour: Red

Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 4,506,280/-**

Winning Numbers  
**43 | 51 | 62 | 65**

English Letter  
**V**

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**ලග්නා**  
Lagna  
Wasthava

Date: 22-04-2021  
Draw Number: 3136  
Colour: Brown

**SUPER JACKPOT**  
**Rs. 3,122,193.20**

Winning Numbers  
**07 | 28 | 38 | 46**

Scorpio

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES  
**Rs. 11,225,000/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

**SUPER BALL**  
සුපර් බෝල්  
සුදාසනා බෝල්

Draw Number: 1429  
Colour: Green  
Date: 22.04.2021  
Date: Thursday

Winning English Letter and Numbers  
**G 44 46 56 59**

Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 3,569,100/-**

The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.

**ADA KOTIPATHI**  
අදා කොටපති

Thursday  
Date: 22.04.2021  
Draw No.: 1255  
Colour: Dark Blue

Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 6,675,760/-**

Winning Numbers  
**10 | 13 | 29 | 51**

English Letter  
**Q**

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

**සංවර්ධන**  
ව්‍යාපාරය  
Development Fortune

Date: 22-04-2021  
Draw Number: 427  
Colour: Blue

**SUPER JACKPOT**  
**Rs. 12,191,308/-**

English Letter: **G**  
Winning Numbers: **07 38 65**  
Fate Number: **9**

Total Value of Prizes  
**Rs. 3,454,260/-**

Next Super Jackpot  
**Rs. 12,340,496/-**

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.



Colombo



Anantara Tangalle



Kandy

## Unlocking the World

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

LILIT MARCUS

About 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 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 one-listed.

Based on that, I went with a two-in-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 pre-booked 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

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.

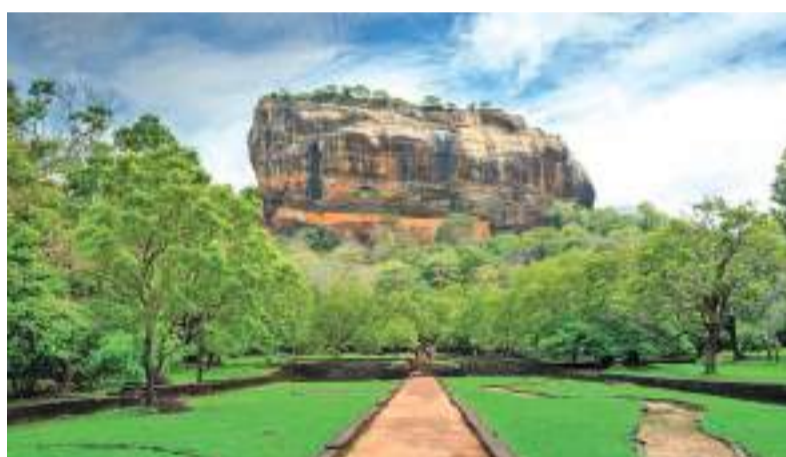
To minimise contact with others while waiting for the test results to come back, I was asked to stay in my room and have breakfast delivered to me. Free breakfast in bed, in case I had contracted coronavirus in the past 72 hours, seemed like a pretty decent offer.

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.

### 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 safari-style 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.



Sigiriya



Anantara Kalutara



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage



Galle Fort



A tuk tuk ride through the rural outback

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.

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 closest "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 double-edged 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 photo-shoots or fit hikers whizzing past me on the trails.

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

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.

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.

### 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 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)





# 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

Education 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 Responsibility (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**

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

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 half-completed classroom building and the library building of the school are scheduled to be completed by the Navy.



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

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 Navy 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.

<b>DATE</b> 2021.04.22	<b>THURSDAY</b> OFFICIAL RESULTS	www.nlb.lk	NLB
<b>MAHAJANA SAMPATHA</b>		DRAW NUMBER : 4499	Value of prizes won in this draw
		<b>Rs. 11,617,310.00</b>	
		The super prize of next draw	
		<b>Rs. 24,539,164.00</b>	
<b>Govisetha</b>			
		DRAW NUMBER : 2754	NLB
		TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 6,693,940.00</b>	
		THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 66,780,817.20</b>	
<b>Mega Power 10</b>			
		DRAW NUMBER : 818	NLB
		TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 3,115,040.00</b>	
		NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE	
		<b>Rs. 129,993,685.20</b>	
		NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE	
		<b>Rs. 10,000,000.00</b>	
		NEXT GRAND SUPER	
		<b>Rs. 10,000,000.00</b>	
<b>Dhana Nidhanaya</b>			
		DRAW NUMBER : 496	NLB
		TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 4,882,880.00</b>	
		THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 93,851,465.20</b>	
<b>SEVANA</b>			
		DRAW NUMBER : 331	NLB
		TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 2,347,200.00</b>	
		THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW	
		<b>Rs. 14,000,000.00</b>	
22.04.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 714,014			
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs. 28,656,330.00			
Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 01   Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES 01			
Rs. 100,000 PRIZES 32			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes</li> <li>Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes</li> <li>All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date</li> </ul>			
ජාතික ලොටරිය පිණිස ദേശീയ ബැංක් ජනරජය National Lotteries Board Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324 Fax: 011-4660416			
32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Muddalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.			

DAYA DISSANAYAKE

It 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 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 re-think 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 Agri-business, 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 farm-

land. 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 daugh-

ters 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

**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/-

**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 include an overseas training. Course fee does not include the expenses related to the overseas training programme.

### 3. Postgraduate Diploma in Yoga Science

**Entry Qualifications** Applicants who seek admission to the above programme should possess the following qualifications.  
A bachelor degree awarded by a recognized university/ higher educational institution/ institute  
or  
Any other equivalent qualification accepted by the Senate of the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine.

**Duration** - 01 Year

**Medium of Instructions** - English

**Course Fee** - Rs. 250,000/-

**Application Fee** - Rs. 2,000/-

### 4. Diploma in Yoga

**Entry Qualifications** - Completion of a Certificate Course in Yoga and Relaxation Techniques

**Duration** - 01 Year

**Medium of Instructions** - Sinhala

**Course Fee** - Rs. 100,000/-

**Application Fee** - Rs. 2,000/-

### 5. Certificate Course in Yoga and Relaxation Techniques

**Entry Qualifications** - No specific qualification is required

**Duration** - 03 months

**Medium of Instructions** - Sinhala

**Course Fee** - Rs. 30,000/-

**Application Fee** - Rs. 2,000/-

### 6. Certificate Course in Astrology

**Entry Qualifications** - No specific qualification is required

**Duration** - 06 months

**Medium of Instructions** - Sinhala

**Course Fee** - Rs. 50,000/-

**Application Fee** - Rs. 2,000/-

### 7. Certificate in Ayurveda 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** - 06 Months

**Medium of Instructions** - Sinhala

**Course Fee** - Rs. 75,000/-

**Application Fee** - Rs. 2,000/-

### 8. Diploma in Ayurveda 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

**Duration** - 2 years (Full time) (Includes 01-year Industrial Training)

**Medium of Instructions** - Sinhala

**Course Fee** - Rs. 140,000/-

**Application Fee** - Rs. 2000/-

#### How to apply

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

**Registrar**  
**Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine**  
**Kandy 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-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

34.70 lakh doses every day. However, 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 centre 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 city-

state's cases in the self-contained complexes.

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 "crossing 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.

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



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

# 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 of the others get infected with corona high up in the mountains. It is impossible to evacuate people with a helicopter when they're



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

above 8,000 metres," Ness told NRK.

Breathing is already difficult at high altitudes so any outbreak of disease among climbers presents major health risks. But Mira Acharya, a spokesperson for Nepal's tourism department, said it had

so far not received any reports of COVID-19 among climbers.

"A person was evacuated on April 15 but we were informed that he is suffering from pneumonia and is being treated in isolation. That is all the information we have received," she said.

Dawa Steven Sherpa of Asian Trekking said everyone at base camp was concerned.

Nepal has issued 377 permits this year to climb the mountain, and the final number is expected to exceed the 381 handed out in 2019. - HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Migrant boat with 130 aboard capsizes off Libya

**ITALY:** Ten bodies were spotted near a capsized rubber boat off the coast of Libya 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 found any survivors while we could see at

least ten bodies in the vicinity of the wreck. We are heartbroken," said

Luisa Albera, search and rescue coordinator 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 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 as they withdraw.

**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 asked about the size of the withdrawal reinforcement at later a press conference, saying that the plans are currently being worked on.

McKenzie said the Taliban were more numerous than in 2011, estimating they have 50,000 fighters, and that they control more Afghan territory than 10 years ago.

Some 2,500 US troops, plus 16,000 civilian contractors and their equipment, must be evacuated from the country, along with

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 jails as political prisoners, according to a local monitoring group.

"Horribly 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



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**NOTICE**

In terms of Section 9(1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, it is hereby notified that undernoted company has been incorporated.

Name of Company: **EXPERTLABS (PVT) LTD**  
 Number of the Company: **PV 00237915**  
 Date of Registration: **05th April 2021.**  
 Registered Address: **No. 724/4, Medawala Road, Erewwala, Pannipitiya.**  
 Company Secretary

**NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE**

Notice is given in terms of Section 9 (2) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

Former Name of Company: **DYNAMIC MOTORS (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
 Company Registration No: **PB 4803 PV**  
 Registered address of the Company: **No. 273/5, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.**  
 New Name of the Company: **PREMIER PHYSICIANS MEDICAL GROUP (PRIVATE) LIMITED**  
 By order of the Board, **McLarens Holdings Limited, Secretaries**

**CONSTRUCTION GUARANTEE FUND****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**

**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 / Attorney-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 Nagappan Murugupillai Kandasamy of No.18, Areans Lane, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka and that I shall not henceforth be held responsible 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**

- 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.

- 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**.
- 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.
  - 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

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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 at Yala National Park and Pre-bid meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 their Bids. (<http://www.drc.gov.lk/>)
- 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**

**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.					
	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.**



**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 Laboratory Item - (LANCET)**

- 25 Gauge Needles
- 100 / 200 pcs Pack Size
- 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 ).

Quotations 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

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**

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA**

**Registration for General/Honours 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

**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	SF/01/2021	5,000 metres	3,000.00
2.	72" width Blue colour unbleached cloth		10,000 metres	
3.	72" White colour unbleached cloth		10,000 metres	
4.	58" Green colour sheeting material		5,000 metres	

- 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.
- 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)
- 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, Butthgamuwa 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.



**MULTI FINANCE**  
The Manager (Pawning)  
Multi Finance PLC, Pawning Division  
The Fairways,  
No. 100, Butthgamuwa Rd, Rajagiriya  
Tel: 011 4645 555

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**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.

**AUCTION NO 440**

[Surplus Articles, Equipment]

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Marine Spares               | Used Boat Survey                      |
| Lath Machines & Spare Parts | Used Photocopier Machines             |
| Fans (Ceiling & Table)      | Used Office Chairs, Tables & Cabinets |
| Spare Parts                 | Equipment & Other                     |
| Machinery Spare Parts       | Used Type Writers (English & Sinhala) |
| Electrical Items            | Used Electric Kettles                 |
|                             | Miscellaneous Items Etc.              |

**AUCTION NO 440A**

[Used Vehicles]

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Used Cars      | Used Motor Bicycles |
| Used Lorries   | Used Three Wheeler  |
| Used Ambulance | 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](http://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**

**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**

- 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.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- 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](mailto:lakshmanp@boi.lk)
- Bidding Document may be inspected during working days at the Stores & Supplies Unit, Administration Department, Level 09, West Tower, World Trade Centre, Colombo 01 from 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours up to 17.05.2021.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**Chairman**  
**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)

**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 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 components.
- Ability to claim for the concessionary rates for monthly electricity bill.
- 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](http://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) Industry Registration Division Ministry of Industries. 73/1, Galle Road, Colombo 03.	Telephone- 0112448467/ 0112431670 Fax - 0112542708 E-Mail - <a href="mailto:industry.regist@gmail.com">industry.regist@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ad_ir@industry.gov.lk">ad_ir@industry.gov.lk</a>
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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.



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WORLD OF SPORTS

(April 24) LOCAL EVENTS CRICKET

(Under-19 Division Two Tier 'B' semi-finals):  
St. Thomas', Matale vs Royal, Panadura at De Soya 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  
Isipathana 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.

The openers Dimuth 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-

duced into the attack there was some pressure employed by Bangladesh.

Tajjul 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 straightforward.

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 scalp.

In contrast, Skipper Karunaratne batted through the day and was unbeaten on 85 from 211 deliveries inclusive of eight boundaries.

Earlier, Bangladesh added a few

quick runs in the opening session before declaring at 541 for seven.

The day started with a 12-run over as Liton Das made his intentions clear from the word go.

At the other end, Mushfiqur Rahim also didn't break too much of a sweat and brought up his fifty. Liton also brought his half-century but the happiness was short-lived as he fell for exactly 50 off the bowling of Vishwa Fernando.

Liton and Rahim scored 87 for the fifth wicket to ensure Bangladesh continued to dominate. Mehidy Hasan walked in and didn't trouble the scorers much before Tajjul Islam became Fernando's fourth victim.

**THIRIMANNE, KARUNARATNE lead Sri Lanka's STEADY REPLY**



Lahiru Thirimanne plays a shot. (Pix courtesy SLC)

SCORECARD

BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS		SRI LANKA 1ST INNINGS	
T. Iqbal	c Thirimanne b V. Fernando..90	D. Karunaratne	not out .....
S. Hassan	lbw b V. Fernando..... 00	L. Thirimanne	lbw b M. Hasan..... 58
N. Shanto	c and b Kumara .....	O. Fernando	c Das b T. Ahmed..... 20
c and b Kumara .....	163	A. Mathews	b T. Islam .....
M. Haque	c Thirimanne b D. de Silva 127	b T. Islam .....	25
M. Rahim	not out .....	D. de Silva	not out .....
L. Das	c O. Fernando .....	not out .....	26
c O. Fernando .....	50	Extras: (b4, lb5, nb3, w3) 15	
M. Hasan	c Dickwella b Lakmal .....	Total: (3 wickets, 73 overs) 229	
c Dickwella b Lakmal .....	03	Fall: 1-114, 2-157, 3-190	
T. Islam	c Dickwella b V. Fernando . 02	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, T. Islam 20-5-56-1	
T. Ahmed	not out .....		
not out .....	06		
Extras: (b9, lb6, nb6, w11) 32			
TOTAL: (7 wickets decl, 173 overs) .....	541		
Fall: 1-8, 2-152, 3-394, 4-424, 5-511, 6-515, 7-524			

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 Isipathana 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 Soya Stadium in Moratuwa while Sri Jayewardenepura MV will take on P. de S. Kularatne MV, Ambalangoda at Surrey Grounds in Maggona.

Drawn game at Lake View

HAFIZ MARIKAR  
The Under-19 two-day traditional Inter-School cricket match between St. Sylvester's College

and Dharmaraja College ended in a draw at Lake View yesterday. St. Sylvester's: 273 (Kavishka Dilshan 55 n.o., Sadeepa

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

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 - MOBITELE SCHOOL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR 2020**

"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!

