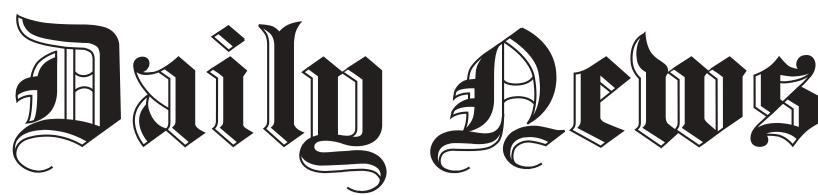
Stampede kills 44 pilgrims in Israel

ISRAEL: A massive stampede at a densely packed Jewish pilgrimage site killed at least 44 people in Israel on Friday, blackening the country's largest COVID-era gathering. The nighttime disaster struck after pilgrims thronged to Meron at the site of the reputed tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a second-century Talmudic sage, TO PAGE 02





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NO COUNTRYWIDE LOCKDOWN

HEALTH AUTHORITIES PREPARED TO HANDLE SITUATION

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCP-CO) General Shavendra Silva said that there was no plan to impose a complete countrywide lockdown at present. However, he said that localised lockdowns would be imposed in various Grama Niladhari Divisions and Police divisions based on the requirements.

Speaking to the *Daily News*, he said that 16 Grama Niladhari Divisions in Kalutara and Polonnaruwa districts have been placed

under isolation orders. Meanwhile, he said that there was no need for the public to panic as the health authorities were prepared to handle the situation at hand.

The Commander said that as of yesterday, the bed capacity had been increased by 1,200 additional beds, adding that the Army has the capacity at hand for an additional 5,000 plus beds. He said that within the next 48 hours, the bed capacity would be increased

COVID PATIENT BED

CAPACITY INCREASED

By yesterday another 922 new COVID-19 patients were detected, the Government Information Department said.

Accordingly, the total confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country stand at 107,406.



All events, including weddings have been banned for a period of two weeks, beginning on May 3, Army Commander and Head of the National Operation Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19 General Shavendra Silva said yesterday (30).

Meanwhile, the Army Commander, responding to media queries regarding the shortage of hospitals to treat the rising number of COVID cases, said that hotels and hospitals will be converted into treatment centres if the need arises.

He said that if the need arises, the National Operations Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19 will convert around 10-15 hotels across the country into hospitals to cater to the patients'

MAY DAY MESSAGES

GOVT. WILL SAFEGUARD RIGHTS OF WORKING CLASS-PRESIDENT

As promised to the people, our Government has safeguarded national security and sovereignty. Similarly, we have ensured that no harm would befall to our national legacy and heritage. Steps are being taken to implement policies for the growth of local industries and agriculture-based economies. A clear, welldefined economic plan has been formulated and implemented to eradicate poverty, which is the biggest burden faced by a substantial segment of the working class, states President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in his May Day message. TO PAGE 02



GREATEST DAY OF THE WORKING PEOPLE – PM

a message to mark May Day appreciated the commitment and efforts of the working people towards achieving socio-economic development even in the face of an unprecedented COVID-19

The Message: "It is with great pleasure that extend my best wishes to all working people on this International Workers' Day.

"The International Workers' Day, which was started to win workers' rights, is the greatest day of the working people. "The commitment made by working masses for the betterment not only of their country in general but of the world as a whole has always been highly commendable. TO PAGE 02

PROTECT WORKERS' RIGHTS - OPPOSITION

AMALI MALLAWAARACHCH

The working class is suffering extreme circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation while the Government is only pursuing its own political agendas, Opposition Leader Saiith Premadasa issuing a May Day

message said yesterday (30). The message: "This time, the May Day comes at a time when the entire human race is in the midst of a catastrophe caused by the Coronavirus. The world has been suffering this pandemic for two years. It is difficult to find a time in the last century when the world economy has been so severely affected. TO PAGE O2

India's Intelligence Bureau to probe Rishad's Kerala connections

Intelligence Bureau and Kerala Police have started to dig into Kerala connections of All Ceylon Makkal Congress leader and Parliamentarian Rishad Bathiudeen after he was arrested by Sri Lankan Police on April 24 in connection with April 2019 Easter Sunday attacks that killed 279 people and injured hundreds, The New Indian Express reported.

While the specifics of the links which Bathiudeen had in Kerala are yet to be revealed, the agencies will be looking into the inputs on his visit to Kasaragod in 2009 and also his acquaintance with a few religious leaders in Kerala, who had met him in Sri Lanka and also when he toured India especially Chennai when he was Sri Lanka's Minister for Industry and Commerce in

As per intelligence officials, Rishad's father hailed from Padna in Kasaragod and he was in touch with a few persons in the region. TO PAGE 02



Today, as the world celebrates the International Workers' Day, we cannot even for a moment forget the great sacrifice made by health workers and essential workers to make our lives better even amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. Together, they have kept the wheels of economy turning as we seek to emerge from the pandemic. Picture by Hirantha Gunathilake

AG assures Court Harin will not be arrested until July 14

The Attorney General yesterday gave an undertaking to the Supreme Court that Parliamentarian Harin Fernando will not be arrested until July 14 this year, in connection with the Easter Sunday Terror

When the matter came up before the Supreme Court three-judge-Bench comprising S.Thurairaja, Justice Kumuduni

Samayawardhena, the Attorney General assured Court that the petitioner Harin Fernando will not be arrested until the matter is taken up for support on July 14.

Harin Fernando had filed a Fundamental Rights petition in the Supreme Court seeking an order preventing Police from arresting and detaining him in connection with the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks. TO PAGE 02

Sumanthiran's car skids on Expressway

RASULA DILHARA, North Special Corr

The car in which TNA Jaffna District MP M.A. Sumanthiran was travelling was involved in an accident on the Colombo-Katunayake Expressway yesterday morning, causing severe damage to the car.

His family members said the MP was not harmed in the accident. The MP's vehicle had skidded off the road and hit a safety fence on the Expressway during

Serjeant-at-Arms informs CID Director

Take steps to allow MP Bathiudeen to attend Parliament sittings



The Serjeant-at-Arms of Parliament Narendra Fernando has informed the Director of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in writing to take necessary steps for Wanni District MP Rishad Bathiudeen to attend the Parliament sittings if he requests.

MP Rishad Bathiudeen is

being detained and questioned by the CID.

This request has been made on the instructions of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena. As the sittings are scheduled to be held on May 4 and 5 from 10.00 am, the director CID has been informed to bring the MP to Parliament premises by 9.30 am. 10 PAGE **02**

UNP concerned over man's arrest for allegedly obstructing VVIP motorcade



The House will take the

Colombo Port City Economic

Commission Bill up for debate on next Wednesday (05). The deci-

sion has been taken by the Com-

The United National Party (UNP) said yesterday that it was deeply concerned by the reports of the arrest of an individual allegedly involved in provoking people to honk car horns when the Police temporarily stopped vehicular movement in one of the Colombo roads in order for a vehicular convoy carrying a VVIP to pass by. TOPAGE 02

Parliament to take up Port City Bill debate on May 5

mittee on Parliamentary Busi-

ness chaired by Speaker Mahinda

Yapa Abeywardena which met

yesterday (30) to discuss the

agenda for Parliament sittings

next week.

Suspect in custody allegedly linked to 2018 experimental bomb blast **RAKSHANA SRIYANTHA and** raw materials for the experi-

SHAVINI MADHARA

Razik Raza who is cur-

rently in remand custody is

imental bomb blast in 2018 prior to the suicide attacks, Police have uncovered. Raza is said to have pro-

mental blast to Mohamed Rilwan, the brother of Zaharan Hashim.Raza has been vided the explosives and taken into the custody of

the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) for question-

Rilvan was injured during the test in 2018. TO PAGE **02**

Subah 04 - 38

Sun Rise 05-57 Luhar 12-09 Asar 03-26 Mahgrib 06-19

ALLIED TRADING www.allied.lk

allegedly linked to the exper-

Secretary General of Parlia-

ment Dhammika Dasanayake

said that the debate will com-

mence at 10.00 a.m. and continue

until 8.00 in the evening, Dissan-

ayake also stated. TO PAGE 02

Gold Biscuits, jewellery

worth over Rs.317 m seized

AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI Twenty six kilos of Gold Biscuits and Jewellery valued at over Rs.317 million was seized by the Customs Narcotic Control Unit of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) yesterday (30), Sri Lanka Customs sources said.

A passenger and an airport maintenance worker who were involved in the racket were

arrested as well. One of the suspects is a returnee from Doha. Qatar and the other suspect is a janitor who was attached to

airport maintenance.

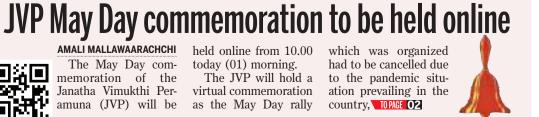
Customs Deputy tor (Legal Affairs) and Media Spokesman Sudattha Silva pointed out that the said suspect who arrived at the airport had delivered the gold biscuits to the janitor TO PAGE 02

可可以用用的数据 The Gold Biscuits and Jewellery seized by the BIA Customs Narcotic Control Unit.

AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI memoration of the

held online from 10.00 today (01) morning. The JVP will hold a amuna (JVP) will be as the May Day rally

which was organized had to be cancelled due to the pandemic situ-Janatha Vimukthi Per- virtual commemoration ation prevailing in the



Public can now access services of Presidential Secretariat via telephone, post & e-mail

As the number of Staff personnel at the Presidential Secretariat have been minimized based on guidelines and recommendations given by the Health Authorities

to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the public are requested to avoid visiting the Presidential Secretariat for their needs to avert any inconvenience.

However, the available staff at the Presidential Secretariat is prepared to respond and facilitate the public requirements via telephone, post and e-mail.

Therefore, within the next two weeks the public are facilitated to reach the Public Relations Division, Ombudsman Office and the President's Fund of the Presidential Secretariat via telephone and fax numbers as well as email address mentioned

Public Relations Division -0114354550/0112354550, Fax -0112348855, email publicaffairs@presidentsoffice.lk

Ombudsman Office -

0112338073, email ombudsman@presidentsoffice.lk President's Fund- 0112354354. Fax – 0112331243, email fundsecretary@presidentsoffice.lk

Death of former Lake House staffer

Lake House staffer B. Lalantha Adrian Mendis. He was attached to the Lake House Production Department. He leaves his beloved wife Priyanka, daughter Priyeshni, son Primeshka. Mendis was the proprietor of BLA Caterers, Moratuwa.

He is the son of late B.L.A. Mendis of the Observer Editorial. Funeral takes place at 3 p.m. today (May 1) at St. Sebastian's Church, Moratuwa. Remains lie at No 26/1, Holy Emmanuel Church Road, Idama, Moratuwa.



Man arrested for causing obstruction during Chinese Minister's visit granted bail

The individual who was arrested for obstruction of duties and unlawful assembly during the Chinese Defence Minister's visit to Sri Lanka, was released on bail by Colombo Additional Magistrate Rajindra Jayasuriya yes-

He was released on a surety of Rs.50,000 after being given a warning by the Magistrate.

The suspect had been arrested after an investigation had been launched into a video on the incident that had been circulated on social media. The suspect was identified as a 31-year-old resident of Battaramulla. It has been revealed that the suspect had previously resided in Australia for nearly

The Magistrate fixed further hearings for May 12.

Greatest day of the working... From page 01

"I take this opportunity to appreciate your contribution and your efforts to ensure the well-being of all.

As we all know, International Workers' Day is a day to show the world the strength and unity of the working masses.

"However, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, International Workers' Day has to be celebrated without demonstrations

and rallies, as it was done last year. In such a situation, I hope that the Sri Lankan working people will celebrate May Day in a new way, in line with health guidelines.

"I remind you that no matter how difficult the situation, our Governments have given due respect to the working people. As always we are also committed to protecting work ers' rights.

"It is a great achievement for us to be able to pay the promised daily wage of Rs.1,000 for plantation

workers which I promised in the budget 2021.

"I would also like to remind you that it is an honour for our Government to be able to protect workers' rights by updating a number of Labour Acts such as the **Employees Provident Fund** Act, the Industrial Disputes Act and the Compensation

Ordinance for the benefit of the working class.

During this May Day, celebrated under the theme "a people-friendly workplace, a safe country" I firmly believe that the working masses will work together to uplift the local economy"I appreciate your commitment to work day and night for socio-economic development even in the face of the unprecedented COVID 19 epidemic and extend my gratitude for your contribution to controlling the epidemic.

May the working people of the world be victorious!'

Gold Biscuits, jewellery... From page 01

working at the airport washrooms who was able to move it out of the airport without being detected by the customs officers. The janitor had the gold biscuits strapped around his body when the arrest was made.



UNP concerned over man's... From page 01

"According to media reports this individual was identified by Police as the person responsible for organising this public demonstration.

The UNP requests that the Government clearly explains what was the reason behind the arrest of this individual," the UNP said in its statement.

The Police have reportedly reacted to a video that has gone viral on social media portraying motorists honking their horns at a passing VVIP convoy.

While recognising that the security of visiting foreign dignitaries cannot be compromised, there appeared to have been no threat to the VVIP or any fellow citizens. The Police must confirm under what charges this individual has been arrested and whether or not any threat was

posed to the VVIP by these actions. The UNP also reminds the Prime Minister of his comment in May 2019

stating that "the displeasure shown by the public against the closure of roads for VIP vehicular move-

ments by unceasingly sounding the horn were a reaction to the Government's policies.'

On that occasion the then UNP led Government did not resort to any form of legal action to quell public anger.

This arrest has demonstrated this Government's insecurity and inability to tolerate any form of public opposition. We urge the authorities to ensure that the freedom of speech and freedom of expression is upheld,

JVP May Day commemoration... From page 01

JVP MP Vijitha Herath stated yesterday (28).

MP Vijitha Herath made this observation at a media briefing held at the JVP Headquarters yesterday (28) in Battaramulla

MP Herath observed, "The working class people are suffering from both the pandemic situation and the economic difficulties. Thus, it is our right to bring these people together to fight for their rights. The first of May is the day that working class across the globe fight for their rights. Our people

have been robbed off of their health rights, education rights and rights to have a proper living condition. We had planned to hold two May Day rallies, one in

Colombo and one in Jaffna. However due to poor decision making of the leaders of this country, the pandemic situation in our country had worsened. So we had to

cancel the rallies. Accordingly, we are holding a virtual May Day and we invite the public and all global citizens to participate in this event."

ayake said. The Secretary-General pointed bers of Parliament or for questions

The party leaders also agreed to table an order under the Sri Lanka Export Development Act, four announcements under the Excise Ordinance, the VAT Bill and the Inland Revenue Bill on Tuesday (04). Thereafter, the adjournment debate on the pandemic situation in the country will be moved from 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. without any break for lunch," the Secretary Gen-

GMOA submits 10 proposals to contain COVID-19 virus spread

SANDYA KARUNARATNE

Given the current status of the COVID-19 virus spread, the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) has submitted 10 proposals to the Director General of Health Services to contain it.

The proposals are strengthening the patient identifying process by increas-

ing test capacity and maintaining a random sample testing process and thereby imposing local travel restrictions on patients, clusters and contacts without delay.

In addition, the GMOA proposes to control the spread of the disease by establishing an efficient mechanism for communicating with health officials when imposing local travel restrictions, updating guidelines for discharging cured patients from the hospital, identify short and long term remedies to increase the number of beds in treatment centres and beds in intensive care units and ensuring personal protective equipment and adequate oxygen storage required by

mechanism. Also, the GMOA has highlighted the dangers of importing new strains of viruses into the country by quarantining foreigners and the importance of giving priority to the opinion of health experts in decision making regarding disease control in such a public health emergency.

No UNP May Day rally

SHIROMI ABAYASINGHE

UNP General Secretary Palitha Range Bandara stated that the UNP has decided not to hold the May Day celebrations due to the escalation of

the COVID-19 epidemic in the country. Range Bandara also said that the May Day celebrations were scheduled to be held at the Jathika Sevaka Sangamaya headquarters in Pita Kotte this year with the participation of a very limited number of people under the guidance of the party leader.

"However, due to the seriousness of the situation, UNP Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has decided to cancel the event," MP Range Bandara

Protect workers' rights... From page 01

As a result, the working class has become increasingly vulnerable. Billions of people have lost their jobs and their daily lives are in complete disarray. In the midst of this catastrophe, we pay our respects to all the working class people who are working tirelessly for the survival of our motherland."

"In this catastrophic moment, a critical situation has arisen in which people must help people by developing mutual friendship without abandoning each other. Even if the virus is defeated, the tragic conditions left by the virus will not be healed for a long time. The vast majority of the working people in our country are already facing serious employment problems. The entire working class community, including teachers,



health, farmers, fisheries, estates, transportation, is facing severe hardship. It has lost the attention of the rulers also. Due to shortsighted economic management, a situation has arisen where local resources are being looted.'

Premadasa pointed out, "State repression has been unleashed against the opposition. All forces, including entrepreneurs, youth and businessmen, are frustrated before a Government that pursues personal agendas. We have the task of mobilizing the entire nation against this.

We will come forward unconditionally against the betrayal of the sovereignty, pride and prosperity of the motherland under the guise of the Corona catastrophe."

Take steps to allow MP... From page 01

Fernando further stated that Bathiudeen should be brought to Parliament as per the instructions and recommendations given by the health authorities due to the COVID-19 situation, the Parliament communications divi-



AG assures Court Harin... From page 01

President's Counsel Romesh de Silva under the instructions of Counsel Sanath Wijewardane appeared on behalf of Harin Fernan-

Additional Solicitor General Priyantha Nawana appeared for the Attorney General

In his petition, Harin Fernando further sought an order preventing police from taking any steps to detain him in custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in connection with the Easter Sun-

day Terror Attacks. Fernando has named CID Director Rohana Senaratne, Inspector General of Police Chandana Wickremaratne, Minister of Public Security Sarath Weerasekara and the Attorney General as respondents.

Fernando stated he has been questioned in respect of a comment he made at a press conference on April 21, 2019.

He said the motive behind the statement he made was to alert the public to the fact that though the authorities appeared to be totally unaware of the attack, his father who was of advanced age and who was seriously ill and hospitalized in the ICU had information of the attack.

The petitioner further stated that he has given evidence to the Commission of Inquiry on the East-

er Sunday attacks. He stated that neither the CID nor the Commission of Inquiry had any reason whatsoever to suspect the petitioner of any involvement in the Easter Sunday attacks.

The petitioner stated that there is no allegation whatever that the petitioner was in any way or manner responsible for the Easter Sunday

The petitioner said that he has in the recent past severely castigated the government in particular over the Easter Sunday Attacks. He said on April 20, 2021, he made another sharp speech in Parliament criticizing the government and its leaders for the Easter Sunday attack and there was a commotion in Parliament subsequently.

Fernando said subsequent to his speech, a number of Government Parliamentarians and organizations linked to the Government have requested the CID to investigate the petitioner and take criminal action against him.

The petitioner further said that he was reliably informed by several persons that he would be arrested and detained in terms of PTA. He stated that on hearing that he would be arrested and detained under PTA, he developed severe chest pains and was admitted to the Nawaloka Hospital on April 22.

Parliament to take up... From page 01

"No lunch break will be taken during the debate," he added.

It has also been decided at yesterday's (30) meeting that next week's Parliament sittings will be held only on May 4 and May 5.

"An Adjournment Debate on the current situation in the country in the face of the COVID-19 challenge would be held on May 4 from 11.00 am to 5.30 in the evening," Dissan-

out that there would be no time allocations for oral questions of Mem-

under Standing Order 27 (2) on both days.

eral also said.

Sri Lankans at Riyadh camp repatriated

The first group of Sri Lankans held at the 'Tarheel' deportation camp in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia returned to Sri Lanka yesterday (30). This will be followed by a second and third group also returning to Sri Lanka on May 3 and May 5,

This repatriation process of deportation camp inmates is a result of an ongoing collaboration between the Saudi authorities and the Sri Lankan Embassy in Riyadh. Since July 2020, the Embassy has facilitated 154 Sri Lankans from the deportation camps to return to Sri Lanka.

Govt. will safeguard rights... From page 01

The message:"The working community is one of the most adversely affected groups in the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has clearly understood the reality faced by our working masses. Hence, the Government

is working with commitment to ensure better living standards for its citizens without imposing limitations that obstruct economic activities of the working people.

"The maximum benefit received by the working masses and their families was the programme implemented to provide employment for unskilled individuals without any formal or professional education selected from underprivileged families. The Government has supported the life struggle of the working people by providing the provision of an allowance of Rs.5,000 to low-income

'The Government committed itself to distribute the Rs.5,000 allowance to the people even during the New Year festive season. The rights of the working people were safeguarded by ensuring that all public sector employees were given their full salaries without any deductions and continuing to maintain all public welfare programmes amidst the COVID-19

pandemic. Similarly, the Government raised the daily wage of plantation workers to Rs.1,000 each in order to raise the living standards of those people. "The working people,

especially the farmers in our country, will reap the benefits of the local economy that is being strengthened by the

import restrictions imposed on 19 goods. We are aware that you have been strengthened and empowered by the move to remove barriers to sell farmers' produce during the festive season. Projects such as the Gama Samaga Pilisandara (Discussion with the Village) and Weda Samaga Yali Gamata (Back to the Village with Work) are directly embedded in the lives of working people in the country today. "The working people have to refrain from celebrating May Day and holding rallies for the second consecutive year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, we are aware of the strength of your struggle and its determination and commitment. "While extending my gratitude for joining hands with the cause to establish a people-centric economy, I Wish you a happy International Labour Day with the joy of securing

international labour rights. "May the working people of our country be victorious!"

Stampede kills 44 pilgrims... From page 01

where mainly ultra-Orthodox Jews mark the Lag BaOmer holiday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was helicoptered in to the scene in Israel's far north, said the "Mount Meron disaster" was "one of the worst to befall" the country since its foundation seven decades ago.

Ten thousand people had been authorised to attend the tomb compound, but Israeli media outlets said 90,000 massed at the site, a figure that could not be immediately confirmed from official sources.

"There were 38 dead at the scene but there were more at the hospital,' Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said, adding 150 were injured, including six in serious condition. Another six deaths were recorded at the north's Ziv hospital. Around 5,000 Police had been deployed to secure the event. After the stampede, police closed access to the area to prevent a crowd from building further, while rescue workers and security forces worked to clear the area and identify victims.- BBC

India's Intelligence Bureau to... From page 01

Already, Intelligence Bureau and National Investigation Agency (NIA) are coordinating with the Sri Lankan Government in the probe and the NIA even busted an IS module in Tamil Nadu by arresting a person in June 2019 for being touch with Sri Lankan ISIS leader Zahran Hashim and his accomplices over social media.

Hashmi is one of the suicide bombers who executed the Easter Day bombings in the island nation."Kerala police will be looking into the links of arrested the Sri Lankan political leader in Kerala to confirm the reports," said Kerala State Police Chief Loknath Behera.

Bathiudeen was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). His brother Riyaj Bathiudeen, who was arrested in April 2020 but released later due to lack of evidence, was also arrested again. According to intelligence officers, the Kasaragod connection of Bathiudeen will be explored in detail as an earlier probe into the missing of five young Muslim families from Padna, who left for Syria in 2016 to join IS, had revealed that a few in the group had been to National Thowheed Jamaath in Sri Lanka where they underwent religious training before proceeding to Syria. - The New Indian Express

Suspect in custody allegedly... From page 01

Police were unable to reveal more details about the first explosion as Rilvan died in the Sainthamaruthu incident.

Razik Raza from Kattankudy, was arrested in connection with the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks by the Kalmunai Police a few months ago, and has been in remand custody at the Angunakolapelessa prison.

However, the Terrorism Investigation Division requested the court to hand over the suspect to their custody for further interrogation. Accordingly, the court granted permission and the suspect has been taken into the TID custody under a detention

The TID is conducting further investigations in this regard.

CBSL's 71st Annual Report presented to Prime Minister

The 71st Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) was presented

to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa by the Governor of the Central Bank,



Central Bank Governor Deshamanya Prof. W. D. Lakshman presenting the 71st Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at Temple Trees yesterday. Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division

Deshamanya Prof. W. D. Lakshman at Temple Trees yesterday (30).

According to the Monetary Law Act, the Annual Report of the Central Bank must be submitted to the Minister of Finance on or before April 30 of each year

Accordingly, the report of the Central Bank was presented to the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The report highlights the economic progress achieved by Sri Lanka in the face of various challenges in the year 2020 and also includes a forecast of the path of the Sri Lankan economy within the framework of the State Policy for the Future.

Minister Johnston Fernando, Secretary to the Prime Minister Gamini Senarath, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister Yoshitha Rajapaksa, Deputy Governor of Central Bank Mahinda Siriwardena and Director of Economic Research Chandranath Amarasekera were also present.

KDU to provide Intensive Care services for COVID patients

- Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said that the John Kotelawala Defense University Hospital (KDU) has taken steps to provide intensive care services to patients suffering due to the third wave of COVID-19 which is spreading across the country.

Accordingly, three Intensive Care Units at the John Kotelawala Defense University Hospital (KDU) will be set aside for the Intensive Care of COVID patients with 24 ICU beds and 12 High Dependency Beds (HDU beds) will be set up in these units for all including Hiflow oxygen.

The Minister of Health points out that steps have been taken to provide facilities. Minister Wanniarachchi

paid a special visit to the John Kotelawala Defense University Hospital on Thursday to inquire into the matter. During the special discussion held after the visit, the Minister instructed the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and the Director General of Health Services to expedite the deployment of 30 doctors, 80 nurses and 25 junior staff members required to maintain this Intensive

Care Unit.

The Secretary to the Ministry of Health and the Director General of Health Services were instructed to expedite the provision of medical equipment and medicines to strengthen COVID care services and to provide safe accommodation and transport facili-

ties for the medical staff coming to work in these Intensive Care Units.

The Ministry of Health also said that the Ministry of Health has taken steps to expand Intensive Care services and increase the capacity of beds in hospitals and COVID treatment centres islandwide under the special programme to strengthen COVID treatment services.

Maj. Gen. Dr. Sanjeewa Munasinghe, Secretary Ministry of Health, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Jayan Mendis, Executive Director of John Kotelawala Defense University Hospital, Dr. Brigadier Saman Tilak, Director General of Medical Services and others were present during the visit.

Speaker thanks Japan for Rs.1,360 m grant for COVID-19 prevention work



Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane extended his gratitude to the Government of Japan for providing Rs.1,360 million grant for the provisioning of necessary medical equipment such as MRI Scanner, CT scanner, Bed Side X-Ray Systems and Central Monitors to strengthen the COVID-19 preventing activities in Sri Lanka.

He also thanked the Government of Japan for providing US dollars 3 million through UNICEF to support the cold chain system in Sri Lanka and strengthen delivery of Immunization services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said this while making the welcome speech at the revival meeting of the Japan-Sri Lankan Parliamentary Friendship Association for the ninth Parliament held recently in Parliament.

The meeting was held under the patronage of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, the Ambassador of Japan Akira Sugiyama and Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake and was attended by Ministers, State Ministers and Members of Parliament.

The Speaker further said that "the bilateral relations between the two countries in the early days have mainly been in the religious and cultural spheres. These traditional bonds were developed into more valued political and economic ties in the latter half of the last century."

"Sri Lanka was one of the nine Asian countries that participated in the San Francisco Peace Conference in Japan which was held in September 1951. Then Finance Minister, J. R. Jayewardene's speech on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka at the conference urging the participating countries to accept Japan into the comity of nations without any reparation in the spirit of the Buddha's teaching continues to be deeply appreciated by Japan."

"As we well are well over that Sri

"As we all are well aware that, Sri Lanka and Japan established Diplomatic Relations shortly after the signing of the Peace Treaty in April 1952. A Japanese Mission was set up in Colombo in February 1952 and in May 1953 Sri Lanka established a Legation in Tokyo. This month (April, 2021) marks the 69th anniversary of celebration diplomatic relations between the two countries", the Speaker said.

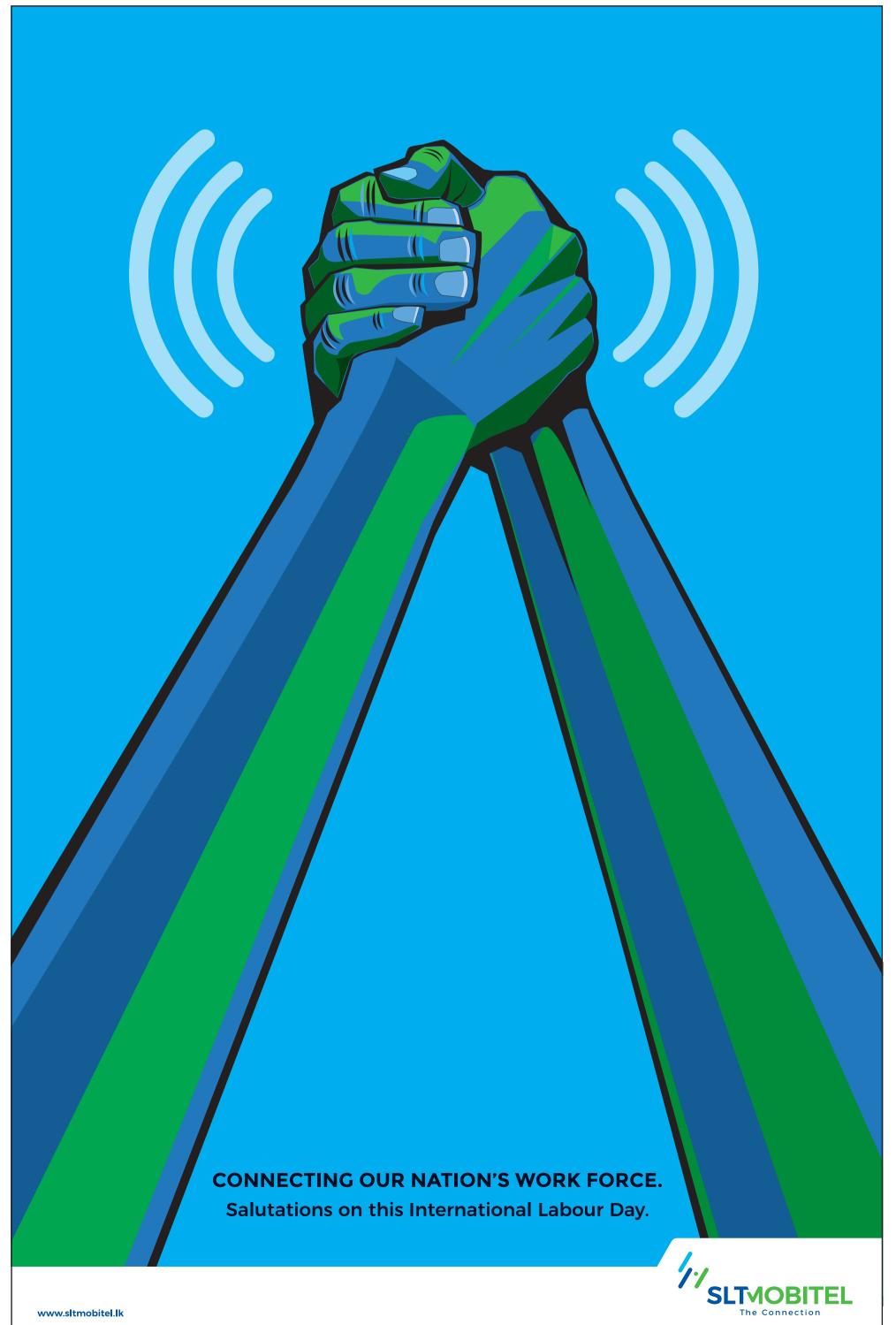
"Since 1993, delegations from both the Parliamentary Friendship Associations paid reciprocal visits. Apart from the visits of the Members of the Parliamentary Friendship Associations there were many high-profile bilateral visits that were undertaken by the Leaders of both the countries and Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister's visit in September 2014 to Sri Lanka is a significant milestone in this context."

"Excellency and dear Members, I strongly believe that we Parliamentarians, representatives of the people have the ability to promote our interests through the interaction of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups. Thus hope this meeting will also contribute to further strengthen the relations between the two countries and the Legislatures."

At this meeting, Minister of Plantation Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, was elected as the new President of the Sri Lanka-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association

Member of Parliament Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, was elected as the new Secretary and MPs Selvarajah Gajendren, J. C. Alawathuwala, and Premnath C. Dolawatte, were elected as the vice presidents.

In addition, MP Ajith Rajapakse was elected as the Treasurer and MPs Sivagnanam Shritharan and Major Sudarshana Denipitiya, as the Assistant Secretaries.



Daily Actus

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SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

May Day blues

or once in over three decades Colombo would be free from the revelry that passes off for May Day, the so-called day dedicated to the working class, where those who grind out an existence the hard way by their sweat and toil during the rest of the year get an opportunity to let their hair down and give vent to their frustrations and grievances and rant and rave against their exploitation by the capitalist class.

The raging Coronavirus pandemic had thrown a damper on this year's May Day celebrations in the City and the outstations with the Government imposing a ban on public gatherings. The last occasion a May Day was banned was in 1987 when President J. R. Jayewardene clamped down on all Workers' Day rallies in the teeth of JVP inspired violence. This time though May Day cancellation was occasioned not by terrorist ouns but the wrath of nature in the form of a deadly pandemic that is exacting heavy death toll round the world.

Still the die-hard old left which had always been in the vanguard of May Day rallies in the past will commemorate Workers Day Online and so will both camps of the Rathu Sahodharayas, while the May Day celebration of the UNP will be confined to Party Headquarters Sirikotha with a 100-member attend-

Of course, May Day in Sri Lanka would always bring to memory the tragic death of former President Premadasa by a LTTE suicide bomber - the 28th anniversary of which falls today. At the time of the tragedy, the late President was facing an acute political crisis with a section of his Cabinet rebelling against him threatening his Presidency. May Day provided him with a giant platform to neutralize his opponents within his Government and wrest the initiative. It was purely a political show, as all May Days before and after were indeed political shows. The workers' interests and their grievances were furthest from the agenda on that fateful May Day in 1993.

Needless to say, May Day which is essentially dedicated to the workers and is an event to celebrate the dignity of labour has today turned into an abomination with anything but the workers' rights and the grievances articulated on this day. Today's May Days are exercises in demonstrating the political strengths of the Government in power and the Opposition, their successes depending on the sizes of the crowds each group could muster. May Days have become the complete antithesis of its raison d'être, that of protecting the workers' rights and asserting their demands.

Instead it has become a day for abuse of State property which rightfully belongs to the workers themselves and a day for bacchanal orgies. Very little is spoken about the workers, their struggles or sacrifices on May Day stages with only gung ho claims of politicians and attacks on their rivals dominating the agenda. True, a few resolutions are glibly read out on May Day stages as token concessions to the working class, only for these to be consigned to the forgotten things of limbo in no time.

Workers themselves are responsible for this state of affairs having allowed politicians to hijack the party that is solely theirs and reduce themselves to the level of palanquin bearers of politicians. Of course this is to be expected with the Trade Unions being highly politicized and the workers interests and rights blurred by party politics. In other words, political loyalty has taken precedence over workers' interests and rights, reducing May Day to a forum for political grandstanding with the workers mere pawns in the hands of politicians to further their interests. It is time that workers started asserting themselves by depoliticizing the labour movement as a whole. In no other country is May Day celebrated by workers with politicians on stage. Nor have the workers' interests being allowed to be bartered for political considerations. Hopefully this-non event May Day would make Trade Unions representing the working class reflect on where they have gone wrong and begin asserting their rights on their own without leaning on political crutches for survival.

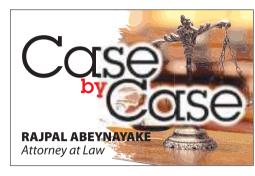
They should strive to make May Day a more meaningful event that would reflect the power of the working class and a powerful forum to articulate the grievances of the toiling masses. The workers too should provide their unstinted contribution towards the country's development and progress through sheer hard work. It is only then that they could assert their rights without guilt or misgivings. Today workers in Government controlled Trade Unions hardly pull their weight, with protection guaranteed as to their job security. Workers perform as little as they could and get away secure in the thought that they have the protection of politicians. It is time that the firm hold of political parties over Trade Unions is broken and workers made free to exercise their power and assert themselves on their own volition. If not May Day would be bereft of its true meaning, making it a platform for dog fights between political parties, with the workers left in the lurch.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It was not by gold or by silver, but by labour, that all wealth of the world was originally purchased. - Adam Smith



THE CASE LAW WHICH STILL KEEPS OUR DIVORCE LAWS ARCHAIC



ennakoon v. Tennakoon (SLR - 217, Vol 2 of 1984 [1984] LKCA 13; (1984) 2 Sri LR 217 (September 5, 1984) is a somewhat celebrated case in the annals of divorce law in Sri Lanka for several reasons.

A plaintiff in the District Court (DC) had obtained a divorce, but that decree was challenged by the then defendant in the DC, in a petition in the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal observed in Judgement: "The main question that arises for our determi-

nation in the instant appeal is whether s. 608 (2) warrants the grant of a decree for divorce upon proof of a 7 year period of separation between the parties to the marriage.

Section 608 (2) of the Civil Procedure Code gave some hope to litigants that there could be something equal to a no fault divorce in Sri Lanka. because it essentially seemed to indicate that a 7 year period of separation was grounds for divorce. Or at least that was a meaning that was derived from this section by certain parties.

If the married parties lived separately for seven years, either spouse is permitted to request the decree for dissolution of marriage from Court. That was the net result from the new section 608, and it was thought, as per the Civil Procedure Code, it is not necessary to prove the grounds relating to matrimonial fault. "It can be argued that through these provisions policymakers attempted to introduce the doctrine of breakdown of marriage rather than seek the guilt or innocence of the parties," argued a legal scholar, E.M.Y.G. Ekanayaka of the University of Colombo.

The case law also came around to recognizing this position.

In Muthurani v. Thureisingham, Thambaiah J. held that petitioner's adultery was not a bar for obtaining the divorce.

However, in the case under review, Tennakoon vs. Tennakoon, the Appeal Court observed in judgement:

'Thus it was only the innocent spouse who Could in law have obtained a decree for divorce and that too (in so far as is applicable to the instant case) upon one or more of the three grounds specified in s. 19 of the Marriage Registration Ordinance. The question that arises for our determination is whether s. 608 (2) enacted on 15.12.1977 by Law No. 20 of 1977 has altered

Section 608 (2) of the Civil **Procedure Code gave** some hope to litigants that there could be something equal to a no fault divorce in Sri Lanka, because it essentially seemed to indicate that a seven year period of separation was grounds for divorce. Or at least that was a meaning that was derived from this section by certain parties.

this legal position. The relevant portion of this subsection reads as follows:

"(2) Either spouse may

(a) after the expiry of a period of two years from the entering of a decree of separation under subsection (1) or

(b) notwithstanding that no application has been made under subsection (1) but where there has been a separation a mensa et thoro for a period of seven years, apply...... by way of summary procedure for a decree of dissolution of marriage, and the court may, upon being satisfied that the spouses have not resumed cohabitation in any case referred to in paragraph (a), or upon the proof of the matters stated in an application made under the circumstances referred to in paragraph (b), enter judgement accordingly.

The Appeal Court — in the Judgement written by Athukorale J in the case under review, decided that Section 608 only allowed for a party to have recourse to summary procedure as opposed to regular procedure.

Court held:

"This subsection enabled, for the first time, either spouse to apply to the appropriate District Court by way of summary procedure. For a decree of dissolution of the marriage without proceeding by way of plaint in the course of regular procedure. It also prescribed in paragraphs (a) and (b) aforesaid the circumstances under which such an application by way of summary procedure may be made by either spouse. The circumstances specified in paragraph (a) or (b) must be shown to pre exist before a spouse can have recourse to summary procedure for the dissolution of his or her marriage. In the instant case the circumstances set out in the paragraph (b) have been established to exist prior to the respondent's application for a decree for divorce. The crucial and decisive words in so for as the instant case is concerned are therefore the following: "the court mayupon the proof of the matters stated in the application made under the circumstances referred to in paragraph (b), enter judgement accordingly.

Basically the judgement in this case under review, considering the words in the legislation "enter judgement accordingly", reversed the position in the earlier case in which Justice Thambiah had held that irrespective of the fact that the plaintiff had Committee adultery — i.e. the fault was his - he could still obtain a divorce after establishing 7 years separation.

In this case under review, the Appeal Court held that the 7 year separation only allowed the party to obtain summary as opposed to regular procedure. However, to obtain a divorce, it was held that the party has also to establish in addition one of the three grounds for divorce in Section 19 of the Marriage Registration Ordinance, which is adultery, malicious desertion or incurable

impotence. Court held:

"It is my view that the primary intent of s. 608 (2) of the Code is to make provision for a quicker and cheaper procedure for obtaining relief in matrimonial case and not to alter the substantive law upon which marriages can be dissolved. I do not think that English decisions or the Divorce Reform Act of England are of any assistance in construing s. 608 (2) of our to note that the Divorce Reform Act of 1969 is a substantive piece of legislation

riages which had broken down irretrievably." So it is that in this country, there is no such thing as a dissolution of marriage that has broken down irretrievably i.e. irreconcilable differences — or no fault divorce.

which made provision for the dissolution of mar-



ONMY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

ne world has resoundingly answered the need to help India on its massive COVID-19 surge-the worst of the pandemic. India has reported a world record for daily cases for the fifth day in a row, with 352,991 new illnesses reported, along with 2,812 deaths.

India had asked the European Union for oxygen and remdesivir, and the European Commission said it has started the steps to send oxygen and medicine. Germany said it will send oxygen and medical aid, and the United Kingdom said it would send oxygen concentrators and ventilators. The UK has already dispatched several factories that produce oxygen.

Saudi Arabia is sending liquid oxygen, tanks, and oxygen cylinders, and help is also coming from Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Australia, and several other countries.

In the US, the Biden administration said besides the vaccine raw materials, it can also provide personal protective equipment (PPE), therapeutics, rapid tests, and ventilators and is looking at options for providing more oxygen. Also, the United States is deploying an expert team of public health advisors from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The White House is also diverted pending orders of vaccine filters to help India ramp up vaccine production.

Global health officials had pinned hopes for millions of doses produced by India's Serum Institute to power the COVAX programme, a World Health Organisation (WHO)-led effort to equitably distribute vaccine supplies. However, when India's outbreak intensified over the past weeks, in a desperate attempt to immunize more of its own population, it delayed global shipments so that the country could manage its own crisis.

The developments triggered calls for the United States to share its unused supplies of AstraZeneca vaccine, which has not been cleared yet for emergency use. Vaccine demand in the United States is declining now that high numbers of at-risk people and those eager to be vaccinated have received their doses

Today, the White House said it will begin sharing its entire stock of AstraZeneca vaccines —as many as 60 million doses—as soon as it passes federal safety review.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House's chief medical adviser, has said countries have failed to unite to provide an adequate global response to prevent the "tragic" coronavirus outbreak from overwhelming India, and singled out wealthier nations for failing to provide equitable access to healthcare around the world.

Speaking to Guardian Australia from the US, Fauci said the situation in India had highlighted global inequality. "The only way that you're going to adequately respond to a global pandemic is by having a global response, and a global response means equity throughout the world," Fauci said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the country, urging people to get vaccinated and practice caution. The country has ordered its military to help at health facilities and release its oxygen reserves.

Amid a focus on COVID-19 vaccines, the WHO and its partners today drew attention to pandemic-related disruptions in vaccination against other diseases, with a WHO survey finding that more than one-third of countries are still experiencing disruptions in routine immunization against diseases such as measles and yellow fever. To boost immunization, the WHO, UNICEF, and Gavi launched a new global immunization strategy that sets targets for 2030, with a goal of averting 50 million deaths.

At the time of writing the world infections of COVID-19 was 149,674,719 and deaths were 3,151,397. The US remains having the highest infections 32,230,019 (574,329). India has reached second place very soon in recent days with 18,376,421 (204,832), and Brazil at third 14, 521,289 (398,185),

BRAZIL PROBE

In another important COVID-19 related political issue, Brazil's congress has launched a parliamentary inquiry into what critics call Jair Bolsonaro's disastrous and potentially criminal response to a COVID pandemic that has killed nearly 400,000 Brazilians. The politically charged investigation, which

rivals of Brazil's far-right president hope will torpedo his chances of re-election, will be conducted by 11 of the country's 81 senators, including several of Bolsonaro's fiercest opponents.

Officially, their task will be to scrutinise the government's overall handling of one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks on Earth. Brazil has suffered the world's third-highest number of infections after the US and India and second-highest death toll, with at least 392,204 fatalities.

The inquiry, which Bolsonaro's detractors call the "CPI da Morte" or "death committee", will pursue multiple lines of inquiry. They include why the government promoted ineffective treatments such as hydroxychloroquine, why three health ministers were removed during the pandemic, and what caused January's devastating healthcare collapse in the Amazon, when hospitals ran out of oxygen and patients died of asphyxiation. Investigators will also examine the government's failure to impose lockdowns or promote social distancing and the conduct of Bolsonaro's former Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello, an army general who was appointed despite having no background in public health.

The most potentially damaging areas of investigation are likely to revolve around Brazil's failure to



GLOBAL RESPONSE TO INDIA ON COVID CRISIS



US President Joe Biden



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

acquire sufficient vaccines to protect its 212 million citizens and Bolsonaro's allegedly calculated pursuit of herd immunity by letting COVID run wild. Critics claim that strategy cost many thousands of Brazilians their lives.

"The CPI (Corruption Perception Index) is going to want to show that there was a deliberate push for herd immunity - and the ultimate manifestation of this herd immunity is the 400,000 deaths we have, which could well reach 600,000," Fernandes said.

The inquiry catches Bolsonaro, a 66-yearold Trump-admiring populist, at arguably his lowest ebb since he took office in January 2019. Polls suggest rising anger at his pandemic response, although he retains the backing of perhaps a third of voters. Bolsonaro appears rattled by the political revival of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the charismatic former union leader who was president until 2011 and looks likely to challenge him for the presidency next year.

BIDEN ON U.S. TAXES

President Joe Biden declared Wednesday night in his first address to a joint session of Congress that "America is rising anew," and pointed optimistically to the nation's emergence from the pandemic as a vital moment to rebuild the U.S. economy and fundamentally transform government roles in American life. Biden marked his first 100 days in office speaking in highly personal terms, demanding massive structural changes, urging a \$1.8 trillion investment in children, families and education to help rebuild an economy devastated by the virus and compete with rising global competitors.

"America is ready for takeoff. We are working again. Dreaming again. Discovering again. Leading the world again. We have



shown each other and the world: There is no quit in America," Biden said.

"I can report to the nation: America is on the move again," he said. "Turning peril into possibility. Crisis into opportunity. Setback into strength.'

Biden said: "I have never been more confident or more optimistic about America". "We have stared into an abyss of insurrection and autocracy — of pandemic and pain — and 'We the People' did not flinch."

He repeatedly hammered home how his plans would put Americans back to work, restoring millions of jobs lost to the virus. He laid out a sweeping proposal for universal preschool, two years of free community college, \$225 billion for child care and monthly payments of at least \$250 to parents.

He championed his \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan, a staggering figure to be financed by higher taxes on corporations.

He spoke against a backdrop of the weakening but still lethal pandemic, staggering unemployment and a roiling debate about police violence against Blacks.

Biden also used his address to touch on the broader national reckoning over race in America, and to call on Congress to act on prescription drug pricing, gun control and modernizing the nation's immigration sys-

In his first three months in office, Biden has signed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill passed without a single GOP vote — and has shepherded direct payments of \$1,400 per person to more than 160 million house-

Hundreds of billions of dollars in aid will soon arrive for state and local governments, enough money that overall U.S. growth this year could eclipse 6% — a level not seen since 1984.

A significant amount proposed Wednesday would ensure that eligible families receive at least \$250 monthly per child through 2025, extending the enhanced tax credit that was part of Biden's COVID-19 aid. Another combined

billion

would



First Minister of Northern Ireland Arlene Foster

go to permanently reduce health insurance premiums for people who receive coverage through the Affordable Care Act, as well a national paid family and medical leave programme.

Further spending would be directed toward Pell Grants, historically Black and tribal institutions and allow people to attend community college tuition-free for two years.

Funding all of this would be a series of tax increases on the wealthy that would raise about \$1.5 trillion over a decade.

Biden wants to raise the top tax rate on the most affluent families from 37% to 39.6%. People earning in excess of \$1 million a year would see their rate on capital gains — the profits from a sale of a stock or home nearly double from 20% to 39.6%, which would mean the wealthiest Americans could no longer pay at a lower rate than many families who identify as middle class.

UK - JOHNSON PROBE

The Electoral Commission in the UK has launched an inquiry that has the potential to imperil Boris Johnson's premiership as the "cash for curtains" row increasingly engulfed the prime minister, on the cost of renovations to his official residence next to No. 10 Downing Street, London.

With sweeping powers to call witnesses and refer matters to the police, the watchdog said its probe was necessary because it already believed there were "reasonable grounds" to suspect that payments for expensive renovations to Johnson's Downing Street flat could constitute several offences.

Johnson has stuck to claiming that he had paid the costs "personally" - but did not deny receiving a donation or loan of £58,000 from a Conservative peer and party donor, David Brownlow, to foot the bills, despite no record of such a transaction being published.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has labelled Johnson "Major Sleaze" and accused the government of being "mired in sleaze, cronyism and scandal". He also criticised the prime minister for taking time out from dealing with the coronavirus pandemic to reportedly "moan" about his former adviser, Dominic

> spend time choosing wallpaper that costs more than £800 a roll. The commission's announce-

Cummings, to newspaper editors and

ment came after five days of relentless scrutiny of Johnson and his behaviour in office, provoked by his former advisor Cummings' claims in a devastating blog post last Friday. Cummings said Johnson told him last year of a plan to "have donors secretly pay for the renovation" to his No 11 residence, which he shares with his fiancee, Carrie Symonds, and their son, Wilfred.

The commission can also issue fines of up to £20,000, with most offences under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 resulting in a civil sanction.

If any rules are found to have been broken, the focus will inevitably fall on Johnson, as the renovations in Downing Street were undertaken at his behest.

Tory MPs have repeatedly urged Johnson to come clean over the flat payments, fearing

his obfuscation was only driving interest in them and increasingly making it look as if he had something to hide.

IRAN - NUCLEAR TALKS RESUME

World powers resumed talks Tuesday in Vienna about revitalizing the 2015 international pact to restrain Iran's nuclear development programme and bring the United States back into the accord that former U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from in 2018.

Current U.S. President Joe Biden wants to rejoin the pact, aimed at keeping Tehran from developing nuclear weapons, although Iran says its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. The U.S. does not have a seat at the table for the negotiations, but diplomats from the other countries in the agreement — Russia, China, Britain, Germany and France — are representing its interests at the talks.

Trump, believing the agreement approved by former U.S. President Barack Obama was too weak to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, instead stiffened U.S. economic sanctions against Tehran in hopes it would agree to tougher restrictions on its nuclear programme. But no new agreement was reached before Trump left office in January.

Tehran, with the country's economy reeling, instead has steadily increased the purity of uranium it enriches and its stockpiles in a sofar unsuccessful effort to get the other countries in the pact to provide economic relief. The focus of the new talks is on the extent to which the U.S. would ease its economic sanctions and how Iran would again comply with the terms of the 2015 deal.

Meanwhile, Iran said Tuesday it was seeking the release of all Iranian prisoners held in the U.S. amid talks in Vienna meant to bring Tehran and Washington back into the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

Cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei also hinted that another exchange of prisoners between Iran and America was possible, saying that "the idea of a swap of prisoners has always been on the agenda" and adding they should be released because of "humane concerns."

Iran has at times expressed readiness for prisoner swaps with the U.S. When they do take place, the exchanges are seen as rare diplomatic breakthroughs between Tehran and Washington.

On Tuesday, Rabiei said Iranian judiciary has also voiced "readiness" for a swap. His remarks marked the second statement by Iranian officials on a possible prisoner release in less than two weeks.

NORTHERN IRELAND

First Minister of Northern Ireland, Arlene Foster, has announced she is stepping down as leader of the Democratic Unionist Party and Northern Ireland's First Minister, after an internal party revolt.

Foster would step aside as DUP leader on 28 May and as first minister at the end of June, bringing fresh tumult to a region hit by protests over the post-Brexit Irish Sea border.

The DUP struck down its leader to try to avert a voter backlash in next year's assembly elections. Having supported Brexit and paved Boris Johnson's path to Downing Street, the party stands accused of complicity in the EU exit deal's Northern Ireland protocol. Ousting Foster appears to be an attempt to turn the

The inner party rebellion marked an abrupt and humiliating end to a tenure that began in 2015 amid excitement and goodwill - Foster was the youngest person and first woman to lead the DUP and Northern Ireland.

Violence that has spread across Northern Ireland in the past month, a stark reminder that this region of the United Kingdom remains bitterly divided along political and cultural lines.

Night after night, rioters in loyalist areas have hurled bricks and gasoline bombs at police, who responded with water cannons. So far, almost 90 officers have been injured. Dissident republican groups such as the New IRA have also moved to renew a bombing cam-

paign aimed at intimidating the police force. To many observers, the violence recalls the conflict known as "The Troubles," which for three decades pitted pro-British loyalists and unionists against Irish nationalists who wanted Northern Ireland to break free from the United Kingdom and unite with the independent Republic of Ireland.

EU - BREXIT DEAL

The European Parliament has voted overwhelmingly in favour of the post-Brexit trade deal between Britain and the European Union, clearing the last hurdle towards full ratification of the accord.

EU lawmakers backed the trade and cooperation agreement by 660 votes to five, with 32 abstentions. Parliament's consent brings to an end over four years of acrimonious negotiations and debate and lingering mistrust as Britain ended 47 years of EU membership.

The deal, which was finalised on Christmas Eve, had already been ratified by the UK Parliament and conditionally came into force pending the European Parliament's approval, which marks the final legal hurdle.

"Today the European Parliament voted on the most far reaching agreement the EU has ever reached with a third country," said the president of the European assembly, David Sassoli. "This can form the foundation on which we build a new forward-looking EU-UK relationship," he said, warning that MEPs would monitor the implementation of the deal and "not accept any backsliding from the UK government."

The vote comes amid multiple feuds over the UK's implementation of Brexit agreements and angry finger-pointing about the supply of the COVID-19 vaccine from AstraZeneca. A recent wave of rioting in the British prov-

ince of Northern Ireland has been blamed on the consequences of Brexit arrangements with talks underway in Brussels and London to find long-term solutions.

In a final debate in the EU parliament on Tuesday, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen assured MEPs that the agreement had "real teeth" and that any deviation by London from the pact would have consequences.

Britain also welcomed the vote, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling it "the final step in a long journey".

Singapore bars long-term pass holders and visitors from SL, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal

All long-term pass holders and short-term visitors who have been in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in the past two weeks would no longer be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore, Singaporean **Education Minister Lawrence** Wong announced on Friday.

This move, which kicks in from 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, also applies to those who had transited through these countries and who had obtained prior approval for entry to Singapore.

However, returning Singaporeans and permanent residents who have been to these countries would still be able to enter Singapore, said Minister Wong, Co-Chair of the Multi-Ministry Task Force Tackling COVID-19, while speaking at a virtual press conference.

The change was made in view of the recent sharp increases in cases reported by Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, said the Singaporean Ministry of Health in a press release.

"Since we last announced some border measures, the situation has unfortunately continued to deteriorate, and we know that the infection is spreading beyond India to the surrounding countries," said Wong.

This follows a move to bar

long-term pass holders and short-term visitors who have travelled to India in the past 14 days from entering or transiting through Singapore following a second wave of infections in

India reported 386,452 new cases on Friday, while deaths from COVID-19 jumped by 3,498 over the past 24 hours, according to data from the Indian Health inistry.

Additionally, all travellers with recent travel history to these four countries, who have not finished their 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN) period by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, will need to

complete an additional sevenday SHN at dedicated SHN facilities.

They would also need to have a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test when they arrive on the 14th day of their SHN, and also before the end of their 21-day SHN period.

Measures for travellers from Thailand would also be tightened, given the increased risk of community spread in the coun-

From May 2, at 11:59 p.m., all travellers entering Singapore who have been in Thailand in the past 14 days would have to serve the 14-day stay-home

notice at dedicated SHN facilities, said Minister Wong.

They would no longer be allowed to opt out of serving it at dedicated SHN facilities, even if they had obtained approval to opt out earlier.

However, travellers from Fiji and Vietnam would still be allowed to apply to opt out of dedicated SHN facilities and serve their 14-day SHN at their place of residence, if they fulfill certain criteria, said the Singaporean Health Ministry. Meanwhile, Italy has also imposed a ban on people coming from Sri

(The Straits Times)

May Day celebrations limited to online meetings, minimum participation

The Government announced recently not to hold rallies and demonstrations for May Day due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country. Accordingly, a number of political parties and organisations have taken steps to cancel their May Day events.

In addition, several parties, including the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, the Nava Sama Samaja Party, and the United National Party are planning to hold their May Day celebrations online.

The Samagi Jana Balawegaya and the Frontline Socialist Party have stated that their May Day celebrations will be held with the participation of a small number of people, in accordance with the required health instruc-

Eight more Grama Niladhari Divisions isolated

RATHNASIRI PATHIRANA and NUWAN KODIKARA

Eight more Grama Niladhari Divisions in Moneragala, Matale, and Kurunegala were isolated with immediate effect yesterday. With the latest isolation areas, 38 Grama Niladhari Divisions in 9 districts have been isolated since April 22.

The Dambulla, Galewela, Matale, and Naula areas in Matale, as well as Pannala in Kurunegala were isolated yesterday. Steps have also been taken to isolate the Udubaddawa and Galamuna Grama Niladhari Divisions in Kurunegala, as well as the Siyambalanduwa and Helmulla Grama Niladhari Divisions in

Police to probe fake notice on social media

Police Media Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana stated that the Computer Crimes Unit of the Criminal Investigation Department has commenced an investigation into a fake notice published in social media with the Sri Lanka Police logo.

He added that the police did not issue such a notice, and that they would not take responsibility regarding the fake

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION THROUGH THE **PRECIOUS BLOOD OF**

JESUS

Lord JESUS, by faith in Your merits, I now take Your precious blood and sprinkle it over myself and my family right from the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet. I claim total and complete my family.

Lord JESUS, keep me free today from evil, sin, temptation, Satan's attacks and afflictions, fear, doubts, anger, all calamities and from all that is not of Thy Kingdom Fill me Lord JESUS with

the gifts of wisdom, so that will live today in Your glory by doing that which is right.

I Praise You, Jesus I Thank You, Jesus I Love You, Jesus I Adore You, Jesus

O! Holy Spirit, you makes me see everything and shows me the way to reach my ideals ; Thou who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me, and You who are in all instances of my life with me; I in this short dialogue want to thank Thee for everything and affirm once more that never want to be separated great the material desire

I want to be with you and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory.

(MENTION YOUR REQUEST) Thank You, Holy Spirit, for Your love towards me and my loved ones.

This prayer should be said

After the 3rd day the request will be granted, no matter how difficult it may be. While making the request, one must either 01) Promise to publish

on granting of the

favour OR 02) Promise to circulate copies of it to as

many people as possible (THIS IS TO SPREAD THE WONDER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

Thanksgiving

Navy arrests 12 Indian nationals with smuggled turmeric and cardamom



The seized consignments of turmeric and cardamom. Picture courtesy: Navy Media Unit.

The Navy arrested 12 Indian nationals with 2.79 metric tonnes of dried turmeric, 803kg of cardamom, and several other consumer goods on the Northwestern waters of the island on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Two Indian dhows were also seized in the raids, the Navy stated in a communiqué, yesterday. The arrests were made by Naval personnel patrolling the seas off Kudiramalei Point.

The first dhow was intercepted on Tuesday and 425kg of cardamom was found in 1kg packages, along with several other goods.



Seven Indian nationals were arrested, the statement said.

On Wednesday, the Navy intercepted another Indian dhow with 2.79 metric tonnes of dried turmeric in 93 sacks and 378kg of cardamom in 16

Five Indian nationals aboard the

dhow were arrested. It is suspected that in both cases, the contraband was to be transferred to a local fishing vessel, mid-sea, the Navy added.

The 12 Indian nationals were repatriated to India along with their dhows due to concerns regarding the pandemic, the press release said.

May Day dedicated to celebrating Working Class who've toiled for society - Labour Minister

Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva released a statement yesterday to mark May Day. The message is as fol-

As the Minister of Labour, I consider it a privilege to issue a message for May Day dedicated for the appreciation and celebration of the working class who sacrifice their labour for the well-being, safety and future aspirations of humankind. The inability hold May Day processions, rallies, ceremonies, and commemorations as before due to the COVID-19 pandemic is a matter of great regret for the Working Class, as well as the Government.

The responsibility of safeguarding and upholding the rights and privileges won through prolonged and hard-fought struggles and agitations, and, at times, even at the cost of the lives of workers who have made a monumental contribution for the modern social advancement, has been entrusted to the Government.

Having understood this responsibility, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has, in his policy statement 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour', identified ensuring social protection of private sector workers and creating a skilled migrant workforce as top priorities. He has delegated the responsibility of securing the rights of working people, while enhancing productivity and welfare and safeguarding the occupational rights of the labour force to the Ministry of Labour and its affiliated institutions.

On the basis of the 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' policy framework, measures have been taken to amend archaic labour legislations to be more in line with present-day requirements, consolidating the rights of the working class and enabling them to successfully encounter present and future challenges. Further, steps have also been taken to simplify existing labour legislations by removing complexities, while maintain-

ing consistency so as to create a conducive environment to attract investments to the country, ensuring gains to all parties and I am pleased to state that workers benefits have not been undermined in any manner but have been further strengthened through these measures.

Furthermore, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the business community and industrialists of the private sector have faced challenges continuing their businesses and industries without interruption. In particular, industrial peace had to be maintained by putting forward a slew of specific agreements and processes, while implementing an array of relief measures to ensure job security of workers. I wish to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to trade union leaders and employers for demonstrating admirable flexibility, understanding the gravity of the situation, and for offering reasonable solutions.

An outstanding victory during the year was the granting of minimum daily wage of Rs.1,000 as pledged in the last Budget through decisions of the Wages Boards overcoming insurmountable obstacles and challenges. Steps were also taken to increase the national minimum daily wage to Rs.12,500 and arrangements are underway to convey all Wages Boards and increase the minimum wage of every Wage Board within the next three months.

Since assuming office, the Government initiated action to raise the maximum limit of the compensation formula for computing the compensation paid to workers in the event of terminating employment from Rs1.25 million to Rs.2.5 million. The compensation paid to workers in the event of injuries, permanent disability, or death due to occupational accidents was increased from Rs.550,000 to Rs.2 million. Two special provision bills seeking to

transfer the judicial power to hear cases filed against employers who default the payment of Employees' Provident Fund to the Labour Tribunals with a view to expediting the disposing of decisions and determinations and transfer concurrent judicial powers to the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation and the Labour Tribunals are to be presented in Parliament. Necessary action has been taken to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, enabling non-attorney labour representatives to appear for workers in cases filed in Labour Tribunals, and expedite the issuance of disciplinary orders having completed disciplinary inquiries within six months. Furthermore, approval has been secured to legalise the minimum retirement age of private sector employees as 60 years.

Measures are expected to be taken soon to implement an SMS service to instantly notify the members of the accounting of monthly contributions of the Employees' Provident Fund and to amend the EPF Act, making it compulsory for employers to register an employee with the Department of Labour within 30 days of recruitment. Similarly, legal provisions have already been submitted to safeguard labour rights and ensure workers' safety in worksites in consultation with the International Labour Organisation and in compliance with internationally-recognised policies and standards. Laws have already been adopted proscribing the employment of children below 16 years of age and regulations are soon to be introduced for the prevention of employment of children below 18 years of age in hazardous jobs.

Necessary measures have also been taken for the amendment of the EPF Act facilitating the signing of social security agreements with other countries, and to adopt a new Bill in consultation with the relevant stakeholders on healthcare and welfare of employees.

Having ratified Convention 190 of the ILO, 'Eliminating Violence and Harassment in World of Work', necessary laws are being drafted to lay the groundwork enabling workers, in particular, women, to engage in their

employment in a safe and dignified environment. May Day is also the most opportune time to pay our tribute to nearly one million migrant workers who render an invaluable contribution for strengthening national economy and bolstering foreign exchange reserves and further constructive measures are required to be taken to guarantee them a safe and secure future. Our Ministry has already initiated preliminary measures to enforce laws to prevent migrant workers becoming victims of malpractices of unscrupulous brokers and employment agents and introduce a viable insurance and pension scheme for them.

One hundred and twenty-two workers have lost their jobs as a result of the closure of Lanka Tractors Company Limited and, consequent to being deprived of compensation entitled to them upon the termination of employment for a period spanning more than 18 years, they have been driven to despair and untold economic and social hardships and with the involvement of our Ministry, the necessary institutions were coordinated and the workers were paid compensation amounting to Rs.22 million. For strengthening national economy, a high degree of productivity is necessary. It should not be forgotten that productivity could only be achieved through a satisfied workforce.

With gratitude and respect, I recall the immeasurable contribution made by trade union leaders who sacrificed their lives and suffered untold hardships during the colonial period and the post-colonial period in order to uphold the rights of the working class. We must also recall with gratefulness the late S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike for being instrumental in bringing in the EPF Act and declaring May Day as a public holiday, as well as and the late Sirimavo Bandaranaike, former Minister of Labour T.B. Illangaratna, and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa (another former Labour Minister), and all other political leaders who contributed in numerous ways to uplift the working class of the country. While protecting the rights of work-

ers, the Sri Lankan workforce must be equipped with technical knowledge to make them a more skilled labour force. In addition, since an adequate social security programme has hitherto not been designed for the labour force of the private sector, we should have a firm resolve on this International Labour Day to take a sustainable step towards introducing a formidable social security scheme for the private sector. May this May Day be a triumphant day for the entire Working Class.

Batticaloa RCS provides prosthetic limbs to 14 disabled persons

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN.

Batticaloa Red Cross Society (RCS) President T. Vasantharaja said the RCS recently provided prosthetic limbs to 14 disabled persons during a special ceremony held at the Vellaveli Leisure Centre on Tuesday.

He added that it was made possible with aid from a Danish organisation, through a well-wisher attached to the Vaani Social Economic Self-promoting Finance Institution.

The Batticaloa RCS said that the prosthetics were made according to Cambodian standards. He added that there are 859 disabled persons in the Batticaloa District and 192 of them have lost both their legs.

Poraitivu Pattu Divisional Secretary R. Ragulanayagi, Social Services Officer S. Sabesan, Kathiravan Differently-Abled Persons' Organisation President M. Suthagaran, and Organisation Secretary N. Pradeeparaja were present at the event.

Obituaries

DILRUKY WEERAPURA - (Student of St. Lawrence's Convent), called to Rest in the Arms of Jesus. Beloved daughter of Dilo Roshan Weerapura & Bernadine, brother of Deran, granddaughter of Rita Nicholas. Cortege leaves residence on 1st May 2021 at 3.30 p.m. No. 8, Bodhirukarama Road, Kalubowila, Dehiwela for burial at General Cemetery, Kanatte (Roman Catholic Section).

MENDIS - LALANTHA ADRIAN (Proprietor BLA Caterers). Loving son of the late Mr Lionel Mendis & late Mrs Lilian Mendis, beloved husband of Priyanka Mendis (Former SriLankan Airlines), precious father of Priveshni (Anjali) (Medical Student of K.D.U.) & Primeshka (Anjalo) (Aitken Spence PLC), loving father-in-law of Isanga Panchama (Mas Active), beloved brother of Limini & Chamarameehallage, precious uncle of late Delan, Dileni & Dilian, passed away peacefully. Cortege will leave residence at 3.00 p.m. on 01st of May for burial at St. Sebastian's Church Moratuwa at 4.00 p.m. Remains lie at No. 26/1, Holy Emmanuel Church Road, Idama, Moratuwa. 032602

OBITUARY NOTICE



PROFESSOR EMERITUS YOGAMBIGAI **RASANAYAGAM** (nee SIVASUBRAMANIAM)

(Former Chancellor of Eastern University, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Colombo University, Former Academic Head/ Advisor, National Institute of Social Development)

Loving wife of Late Mr.Rasanayagam, Former Secretary(Retired) to the Governor, Western Province, Daughter of Late Mr and Mrs Sivasubramaniam and Virasippillai, Daughter-in-law of Late Mr and Mrs Mayilvaganam and Kanakamma, Affectionate mother of Arani Raguraj and Erakan, Mother-in-Law of Dr.Raguraj and Deepa, Affectionate Grandmother of Iniyal and Venthan, sister of Ambika Thamotharam (London), Professor Gnanabikai Kulendran, Jeyalakshmi Kandiah (Australia), Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan(Sri Lanka), Sister-in-law of Late Mrs Kamaleswary Vaithilingam, Late Mrs.Saraswathipillai Gnanasambanthan, Late Mr.Mayilvaganam Ramanathan, Mr. Mayilvaganam Pathmanathan, Late Mrs Anushyadevi Kodeeswaran, Mrs. Savithiri Umamaheswarampillai, passed away in her home on 26th of April 2021. Final rites were performed on April 27th, 2021 considering the prevailing pandemic situation in Sri Lanka. A date for a memorial service will be notified later.

Arani: +1 (443) 417-8511 Erakan: +1 (512) 415-7395 Rushangan: 077 77 33 931

No.413/2C, Chancellor's Lane **Havelock Road** Colombo - 06

Enjoy Lanka's beauty, explore business opportunities - Dr. Kohona

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to China Dr. Palitha Kohona who attended the opening ceremony of the 2021 China (Zhengzhou) International Mayor's Forum on Tourism held on April 21, 22 invited Chinese people to enjoy the natural beauty of Sri Lanka and to explore its potential business opportunities.

Dr. Kohona while congratulating the Henan Provincial Committee members also said that Sri Lanka and Henan Province must develop closer relations and that will encourage further exchanges in various sectors such as tourism, culture, religion, education, trade and investment.

The forum was organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Henan Provincial People's Government under the theme of "Market Prosperity, Scientific and Technological Innovation to Enhance the Competitiveness of Urban Tourism".

In his opening address, member of the Standing Committee of the Henan Provincial Party Committee



Sri Lanka's Ambassador to China Dr. Palitha Kohona speaking at the opening ceremony of the 2021 China (Zhengzhou) International Mayor's Forum on Tourism.

and the Secretary of the Zhengzhou Municipal Party Committee Xu L iyi, explained the construction project of cultural tourism zone, "Three cities, Three hundred kilometres, Three thousand years" as part of promoting

the cultural tourism. This project also highlighted and promoted China's civilization and the culture of the

Xu stated that through this project, they expect to increase the tourist interactions in the Henan Province and also to expand the cultural cooperation with other countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Acting Governor of Henan Province Wang Kai, stated that in the first quarter of this year, the Henan Province had received nearly 20 million tourists, and the tourism industry will be the major source of income of Henan Province as per the "Fourteenth Five Year Plan" of China.

Executive Director of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation Zhu Shanzhong, President of the World Tourism Union Duan Qiang, Chief Executive Officer of the Asia Pacific Tourism Association Mario Hardy and other representatives of International Tourism Organisations, as well as Mayors of cities in Italy and Greece also spoke via online.

Japan, UNICEF provide cold chain equipment to boost immunization services

The Ministry of Health has received the first batch of cold chain equipment procured by UNICEF with funding from the Government of Japan to strengthen Sri Lanka's delivery of immunization services, including against COVID-

Five hundred vaccine carriers were handed over by Ms. Emma Brigham. UNICEF Sri Lanka Representative, a.i and SUGIY-AMA Akira, Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka at the UNICEF office. The items were received by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi.

The next consignments will include 100 ice lined refrigerators, 145 fridge temperature monitors and over 1,000 vaccine carriers.

"These equipment are not only critical for the current rollout of vaccinations, including the second dose for the COVID-19 vaccines which just started, but also the long-term support to the entire immunization programme. We are thankful to the Government of Japan for providing grants for these important items, that is much needed for the provision of vaccination and to strengthen our cold chain management. Let me recall our long-term relationship between Sri Lanka and Japan and we know that you never hesitate to support our country," Minister Wanniarachchi said.

"Also, with the same spirit, I want to mention that UNICEF has been supporting throughout Sri Lanka with procurement related to cold chain equip-



Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi receiving the vaccine carriers from Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka SUGIYAMA Akira and UNICEF Sri Lanka Representative a.i Emma Brigham. Dr.(Mrs.) T.L.C. Somatunga, Additional Secretary (Public Health Services), Ministry of Health were also present on the occasion.

ment and immunization and on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, my sincere gratitude to UNICEF", she added

Speaking at the event, Ambassador SUGIYAMA said, "As a long-time friend of Sri Lanka, Japan extends "Last One Mile Support" to Sri Lanka to ensure equitable access to vaccines for all people in need across the country by supporting the cold chain system.

While Japan extends such emergency assistance through UNICEF to developing countries across the world, the 500 vaccine carriers handed over to Sri Lanka today is the very first batch of vaccine equipment under our global "Last One Mile Support" programme. We would like to thank UNICEF Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Health for their efficient procurement efforts. The Government of Japan believes that the 500 vaccine carriers will accelerate the vaccination programme in Sri Lanka by safe and prompt distribution of vac-

cines under proper temper-

ature control. The Government of Japan has so far provided USD 14.4 million assistance for Sri Lanka's COVID -19 response as well as contributed USD 200 million to the COVAX Facility. Japan will continue to stand in solidarity with the Government and people of Sri Lanka in the joint combat against COVID-19."

Sri Lanka is currently rolling out vaccinations against the pandemic for prioritized groups, including the elderly population above 60 years of age in high-risk areas impacted by COVID-19, in line with the National Vaccine Deployment Plan of the Ministry of Health (MOH).

"There couldn't have been any better time to handover this cold chain equipment than during this World Immunization Week being marked under the themes, Vaccines bring us closer together and Vaccines work. This partnership of the Government of Japan, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health precisely demonstrates the power of coming together to boost immunization services, which are now more important than ever, given the COVID-19 pandemic",

said Ms. Brigham. "UNICEF is grateful for the long-standing support from the people and Government of Japan and the strong collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka".

Through the COVAX Facility, in March, UNICEF brought in the first batch of 264,000 doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca 'Covishield' vaccines which are currently being rolled out. The cold chain equipment received today will boost the overall immunization system, including to receive, store and roll-out the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday

Today's Jackpot

Hotline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Date: 29-04-2021

Draw Number: 3143

Amaraweera debunks Opposition allegations on MP Harin Fernando

The Opposition's allegation that there is an attempt to arrest UNP MP Harin Fernando is baseless, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said on Thursday responding to questions from journalists at a news briefing in Colombo.

"The Government will not intervene to arrest any person. That is what happens if the Attorney General makes a request to the Court. Otherwise, the Government, the Prime Minister or the President will never intervene in the arrest of any person," the minister said.

"MP Harin Fernando made a speech in Parliament regarding the Easter Sunday Terror Attacks. The Easter Sunday Terror Attacks is the deadliest terrorist attack in this country in the aftermath of the war. Many Catholic lives were lost in an instant. Those people are in great

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Sultanate

of Oman Ameer Ajwad met with Chief Execu-

Food Investment Holding Co. (S.A.O.C) and

of bilateral trade in Food Sector between Sri

They also explored new areas for mutual

connect B2B links between Oman Food

The OFIC is a state-owned-enterprise

co-operation in the Food Sector and agreed to

Investment Holding Co. (OFIC) and food sec-

(SOE) owned by Oman Investment Authority,

mandated to promote Oman's food security,

through partnerships with government agen-

nomic well-being by investing in domestic and

international food projects in partnership with food companies, investors and other stake-

holders. The OFIC is a group of companies

consisting of more than 10 prominent food

Ambassador Ameer Ajwad was accompa-

nied by First Secretary of Sri Lanka Embassy

cies, private operators and investors. OFIC aims to boost Oman's food security and eco-

Lanka and the Sultanate of Oman.

tor companies in Sri Lanka.

sector companies in Oman.

in Oman Dilini Abeysekara.

had a productive discussion on the promotion

tive Officer Saleh M. Al Shanfari of Oman



pain in this regard. It is the responsibility of the Government to arrest those responsible and enforce the

law," Minister Amaraweera added. The Minister said in his opinion, the matter should not be taken light-

co-operation in Food Sector mooted

Sri Lanka - Oman bilateral

ly by anyone. "If Harin Fernando knows anything that others do not know about it, it is his duty to reveal it to the Security Forces. But he is now hospitalized. Meanwhile, the Opposition accused the Government of trying to arrest him".

"As far as I know, the Government has never discussed the arrest of Harin Fernando. However, the Leader of the Opposition gives voice cuts to the media in various places saying that there are attempts to suppress the Opposition and arrest MP Harin Fernando.

'The Opposition Leader said that he was ready to go to jail with Harin. I mean if they haven't done anything wrong they have nothing to fear. But, I want to make it clear that the Government has never discussed the arrest of Harin Fernando," the Minis-

Take legal action against **COVID** law violators

M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Legal action must be taken against those violating COVID-19 health guidelines. Due to the irresponsible and selfish actions of certain sections of the public, Sri Lanka is now facing a surge in COVID-19 patients, said Chairman of the Sri Lanka PHIS' Union Upul Roha-

Rohana was speaking to the media in Kurunegala yesterday.

"Due to the current pandemic situation prevailing in Sri Lanka, the Director General of Health Services has requested Buddhists countrywide to celebrate the Vesak festival-2021 by participating in religious observances with their family members in their homes and to desist from public gatherings. All citizens are kindly advised by the Government to only observe religious activities. That type of behaviour would guarantee all Sri Lankans the desired safety and security healthwise," he said.

Rohana said the holding of 'Danselas' should be banned during the Vesak season this year too, as it did last year. He called for the imposition of travel restrictions for people visiting historic religious places of worship during the forthcoming Vesak for the greater good of the country and the people, until the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic is controlled," Rohana said.



Colour: Brown

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES

Green

Leo

Rs.10,114,300/-Draw Number 1436 Colour

Draw Date > 29.04.2021 Date Thursday **Winning English Letter and Numbers**

Total Value of Prizes Rs. 2,949,320/-



Development Lotteries Board 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02 Tei: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919 SMS: DLB-space>LOT<space>SB & send to 1919 For Interactive Voice Response Service - Call 0114 828 825



Thursday Date: 29.04.2021 Draw No.: 3592 Colour: Red

Total Value of Prizes Rs. 4,021,340/-

Winning Numbers



I12 333 546-47 ne: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Thursday Total Value of Prizes Date: 29.04.2021 Rs. 5,901,440/-Draw No.: 1262 Colour: Dark Blue **Winning Numbers** Development Lotteries Board 356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Winning tickets are valid



only for six months





Next Super Jackpot

Rs. 12,613,304/-The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months

All measures to control the **COVID-19 third wave** - *Lanza*

The required measures will be taken to control the COVID-19 third wave, said State Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure Nimal Lanza.

He said on the advice of health experts and relevant specialists, steps are being taken to provide relevant facilities through District **Development Committees** and Regional Development Committees to control the spread of COVID-19.

Lanza was speaking during a discussion on the measures taken to control the spread of COVID-19 in the Wattala Electorate held at the Wattala Divisional Secretariat yesterday (30).

State Minister Lanza said, "the controlling of



the COVID-19 third wave is more challenging than the first and second waves and we must do our utmost to support the health and other frontline sectors to control the spread of the pandemic. The health and security sectors deserve the

nation's salutation for their commendable services". "People should be

Investment Holding Co.(S.A.O.C).

Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman Ameer Aiwad meet-

ing with Chief Executive Officer Saleh M. Al Shanfari of Oman Food

encouraged to get the vaccinations while adhering to the health guidelines to control this pandemic," he

He said 25,355 people have been vaccinated in the Wattala electorate so

It was decided at the meeting to provide the transport and staffing requirements of the Medical Officer of Health office for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines in the Wattala Electorate through the Wattala Pradeshiya Sabha and the Divisional Secretariat. It was also decided to provide essential services granted by the Government to people under self-quarantine. Lanza further said that

the Government will decide whether or not to lockdown the country on the advice of health experts and will take measures to activate the Village Committees to support the control of COVID-19.

Former Provincial Councillor Randir Rodrigo, Wattala Pradeshiya Sabha Chairman Thyagaratne Alwis, Deputy Chairman Jagath Jayatunga, Wattala Divisional Secretary T.P.G. Rajika, Medical Officer of Health Sadamali Cooray and Government officials were present on the occa-

Labour Minister tells Daily News

'Govt. fully backing labour force amidst challenges'

DILSHAN THARAKA

♦ his year May Day theme is "Janahithakami Wedabimak, Surakshitha Deshayak". We are facing a big challenge economy-wise, health-wise and work-wise. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought challenges to us like never before. Certain countries are struggling to ensure that their people do not die due to the virus. So, in the midst of these challenges, we still have to build up our economy. We have to work according to the COVID-19 health regulations and build up the economy. We have to face these challenges successfully. The Daily News interviewed Labour Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva on these themes for May Day.



Addendum Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Northern Provincial Council



Procurement of Goods

- The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of Provincial Department of Agriculture, Northern Province announced following IFB Clause Change.
- 1. IFB Clause 5 "Application for Bid Documents" : Date shall be extended till 11th of May 2021.
- IFB Clause 8 "deadline for the submission of bids" Shall be extended till 12th of May 2021 at 10.00hrs.
- Section V Addendum of following items Specifications are Changed.

S. No.	Bid Number	Item
01	NP/25/03/10/H.duty/PSDG/2021/02	Supply of Heavy Duty Intercultivator
02	NP/25/ 03/10/ Hole.ex/ PSDG/2021/03	Supply of Hole excavator
03	NP/25/03/10/Airgun/PSDG/2021/04	Supply of Air Gun
04	NP/25/03/10/Mul.chop/PSDG/2021/05	Supply of Multi Chopper
05	NP/25/03/10/Bund Maker/PSDG/2021/06	Supply of Bund Maker
06	NP/25/03/10/Multi Seeder/PSDG/2021/07	Supply of Multi Seeder

All the bidders are requested to consider the Addendum of the part of the bidding document.

The Chairman.

Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Northern Province,

No.68, Crossette Lane, Chundikuli, Jaffna.



Excerpts from the interview: Can the Sri Lankan labour force expect some relief on this May Day?

A. Yes. We have already given them some relief. For example, we promised and have already given the daily wage of Rs.1,000 to tea and rubber estate workers. We have increased the minimum salary of a labourer from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,500. At the same time, the Wages Board is considering the present salary structure with regard to the other areas and we are trying to increase the salary scale. We are trying to ensure a steady collection of EPF. In the private sector, the domestic inquiry should be concluded within six months. They cannot drag it. We are bringing legalization. Before the Labour Tribunal, trade union leaders and non-lawyers can appear on behalf of the applicant. Under the Workmen Compensation Ordinance, we have already increased the compensation from Rs. 550,000 to Rs. 2,000,000, in the event of an accident or death etc. A lot of workers' welfare legislation has been enacted this year. I think that is a gift to the working class this May Day.

> Can you explain the measures taken by the Government to help workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

A. As far as the Labour Department is concerned, we have been frequently in touch with trade unions, the Employers' Federation and relevant parties at National level and discussing this issue very briefly every month, sometimes once in two weeks. Following the discussions, we entered into a tripartite agreement that an employer cannot terminate workers without the sanction of the Ministry of Labour under the Termination of Employment Act. Even though some companies and factories are facing severe difficulties in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the employers agreed not to terminate their workers and to pay half of the monthly salary until the situation returns to normal. The trade unions also agreed to these terms. In cases where the trade unions and the employer do not agree, they should come to the Termination Unit of our Labour Department and establish a sufficient reason for dismissal. They have powers to invoke the jurisdiction. That protection was given.

applications but all

were not allowed, even in the instances

where the commissioner allowed the

application. In terms of the Act, they have to pay compensation to

ls there any provision under the Act to regulate compensation?

A. Yes, of course. Under the Termination of Employment Act, there is a formula to calculate the amount to be paid to the employee. The maximum compensation earlier was Rs. 1.25 million and it was increased by regulation to Rs. 2.5 million.

When we consider Lankan migrant workers, are some workers facing problems due to COVID-19?

A. There were about 60,000 applications from Sri Lankan migrant workers who want to come back. They sought our assistance. I think my Ministry, the Bureau and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been able to repatriate about 53,000 Sri Lankans to date. There was an allegation that only the people who can afford to pay for hotels, and quarantine facilities in the country, were given priority. But now we have made a successful venture whereby the Employment Bureau is paying for the hotels where the Sri Lankan migrants are undergoing quarantine and they are also paying for air tickets of Sri Lankan migrants who can't afford to purchase the air tickets. They have made arrangements through various organizations to get them the tickets. The Bureau has also selected 648 hotel rooms in various parts of the country with the assistance of the COVID-19 Task Force. And any migrant worker who comes back to Sri Lanka is sent to these hotels and the expense will be borne by the Bureau.

There is a lot of criticism regarding the repatriation of Sri Lankan migrant workers. Some of these workers have been stranded in foreign countries without work for a long time. What do you say?

A. The problem is there is a bottleneck. In terms of the COVID-19 health regulations, people who are coming to Sri Lanka from abroad have to be quarantined. There must be sufficient quarantine centres and aeroplanes to bring them back to Sri Lanka. In an airplane, usually, about 280 passengers can travel during one journey. But now due to COVID-19 health regulations, only one quarter of passengers can travel in an aero-

How many Lankan workers died in foreign countries due

A. According to information provided by embassies in 16 countries, by March 30, 2021, 4,432 persons had been tested positive for the COVID-19 virus while 4, 071 persons have recovered. The reports also witnessed 122 deaths from the virus.

Earlier you said the Government would establish a Disaster Relief Fund to assist workers affected by disasters like the current pandemic. What is its progress?

A. The matter is under discussion with stakeholders. In the meantime, we are trying to introduce a compulsory insurance scheme. At the moment, people who are migrating through the Bureau have been provided with an insurance cover worth Rs. 600,000, which is not enough. We want to make it mandatory for the employer abroad to provide an insurance cover worth at least US\$ 15,000 that is about Rs. three million. We are in the process of arranging a Cabinet paper to get the approval.

Are you satisfied with the work of labour welfare staff at Sri Lankan embassies overseas?

A. No, because we have certain problems. What we have noticed is most of the people who have been sent from here by the Bureau don't even know the relevant language of the particular country. Therefore, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa directed us to send new trained staff who have knowledge of the language of every country. Now the Cabinet has given approval to establish it. Those vacancies are still available and persons who have knowledge and fluency in relevant languages can apply for those vacancies.

• The Government made a proposal in the Budget to increase the retirement age to 60. Is this practical for the private sector?

A. Yes, of course. We had several rounds of discussions with relevant parties. Now we have almost finalized and will carry the Cabi-

What action has your Ministry taken against EPF defaulters?

A. We have filed more than 16,000 cases in the Magistrate's Courts. But there is a delay in court proceedings. Now I have prepared a new legislation to hand over all these cases to the Labour Tribunal. Otherwise, as the Magistrate's Courts hear these cases together with various other cases, these cases are likely to be postponed. Once it comes before the Labour Tribunal, I'm confident, within one year, we will be able to solve all these cases.

Can you explain the other steps taken by your Ministry to help the country's labour force?

A. Now we have an arbitration procedure. When the Labour Department is unable to settle disputes then the matter is referred to arbitration. At the same time, we have asked the Public Service Commission to recruit more labour officers so that we can inspect factories and workplaces, and then ensure that the grievances of the working class are sorted out without delay. And at the same time, the digitalization of EPF and ETF procedures has already been started. It will facilitate workers to get their funds without delay.

In 2018, you were appointed as the Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO). What do you think of the current situation in the country based on your prior experience in the health sector?

A. I can assure you, Sri Lanka's situation is better than the other countries. The Government is doing its best but the people's responsibility is also very much essential. Without the cooperation of the people, the Government alone cannot face this pandemic.

Can you comment on the unemployment issue in Sri Lanka and the measures taken by the Government to resolve this?

A. The main reason for our unemployment issue is we don't have a trained workforce. People are reluctant to join the private sector. Everyone is trying to seek jobs in the State sector due to the pension scheme. This thinking must be changed. People should be given the confidence that even if they work in the private sector, their future is secure. Therefore, we should have an attractive pension scheme for the private sector enabling more and more job seekers to join the private sector. Also, we have a lot of people who have not undergone training. We do not have enough plumbers, masons and electricians etc. Even for foreign employment, what is needed is a trained workforce. So training is essential; the Government is giving high priority to training and even in foreign countries, there are a lot of opportunities for the trained labourers.



State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services, Carriages and Automotive Industries

National Transport Medical Institute

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

National Transport Medical Institute will receive sealed bids supply of Medical Testing Kits for year 2021. Details of Medical Testing Kits below mentioned.

Item	Detail	Quantity Required	Required Period	Non-Refundable Bid Fee	Refundable Tender Deposit
Rapid Drug Test Kit Urine	Supply of Medical Testing Kits according to tender details	225,000	One year from the date of Bid Bond	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 990,000/-

Bidding documents available to prospective Bidders from 03rd May 2021 to 17 May 2021 on working days between 09 30 hours and 15 00 hours from Accountant, Account Division, 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 should be submitted with the tender documents. Offers received without enclosing refundable deposit are liable to be rejected.

Qualified bidder should be accompanied by a Bid Bond as specified in the Bidding

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 18th 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





GINIGATHHENA AREA

Hatton CSC

Bulk : Argile Metal Crusher , Keangnam Crusher Plant - Hatton, Keangnam

Thulhiriya CSC

Distribution: Ambakumbura, Mobitel Tower - Waddeniya, Waddeniya,

2021-05-05

Wimalagama

2021-05-07

Distribution: Kandegama

A Tribute to all Workers



oday, May 1, workers around the world celebrate
International Workers Day, also known as May Day. It is the day on which the world expresses its gratitude to all those who sweat and toil round the clock - from farmers to postal workers to health workers - to make others' lives comfortable. They work in the hot sun and pouring rain to earn a living and make the world a better place. Thinking of them once a year is not

10:00-17:00

enough, but at least it gives us an opportunity to appreciate their immense hard work and sacrifice for 365 days a year.

This year, a very special word of appreciation must go to all health workers, who have dealt with a pandemic risking their very lives.

The past year has not been an easy one for healthcare workers, with some patients dying in their arms and others barely clinging on to life. Undaunted, they work 24/7 to save every life and prevent others from getting sick. Some have not seen their own loved ones for months, having tended to total strangers as if they were their own brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. The sheer compassion and dedication of a health worker is not easy to comprehend. This May Day, they

should be in our hearts.
In this montage, our photographers captured people at work throughout the country.

08:00-17:00

08:30-

2021-05-11

2021-05-04

Urulewatta

2021-05-06

Bulk: Maligatenna Booster Pump Station

Distribution: Mamudawela, Walgowwagoda

Bulk & Distribution : Dambagoda (Water Supply)

Distribution : Kondeniya





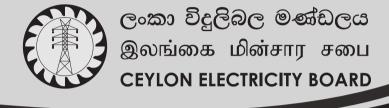
Pictures by Wimal Karunathilake, Saman Sri Wedage, Rukmal Gamage and Hirantha Gunathillake



08:30-17:00

09:20-17:20

09:30-17:30



In pursuit of our objective of improving the quality of supply and service to the consumers, Ceylon Electricity Board intends to attend to construction, rehabilitation and maintenance works in the localities listed below. As a result, the electricity supply would be interrupted to those areas on the dates/times mentioned. We regret any inconvenience caused to the consumers in these areas as a result of these interruptions to our services. Ceylon Electricity Board would take all steps to restore the electricity supplies as soon as the planned works are completed.

CENTRAL PROVINCE - 2 - MAY 2021

Distribution : Akwatta, Maspotha, Paspolakanda, Pinnagoda Kanda, Ragalakanda,

Bulk: Boyagane Apparel, Dialog Tower-Egalla

Ranwala , Wijaya Metal - Egalla

Office, Kotagala R.D.M Factory, Kudagama Metal Crusher, World Wide Cristlers	2021-05-10 08:30-17:00 Distribution : Kandegama
Farm	
Bulk & Distribution: May Field	2021-05-11 08:00-17:00 Bulk : Water Pump Werapitiya
Distribution : Argil New Scheme, Colombo Comm Company, Kudagama New Town, Lockhill Rosita Farm, Mahawligama Ruwanpuragama	Distribution:, Batuwattaketa, Beligala, Demataunuwa Beligala, Hathagoda
Norton CSC	Paragahaliyadda-01, Kumbalgama, Makuddala, Mobitel Tower - Weragoda, Palapoluwa, Pallewela - Galkaduwa, Wadukada Metiyagama
2021-05-04 09:00-17:00	2021-05-12 08:00-17:00
Bulk : Polpitiya New Grid Substaion	Distribution:, Burunnawa, Burunnawa - Udadelgamuwa, Gasnawa Udakotasa,
Bulk & Distribution : Broadland Tea Factory	Gasnawa Yournawatta, Ihala Morawaka, Imbulowita , Mobitel Tower -
Distribution : Athulauda, Belilena, Kalugala RE, Kalukohutenna, Meegasthenna	Tholangamuwa, Peelakumbura, Tholangamuwa, Udukumbura, Udukumbura
KEGALLE AREA	Junction, Watakoluwawa
Moronthota CSC	MAWANELLA AREA
2021-05-04 09:00-17:00	Dippitiya CSC
Bulk : Halmessa Saw Mill, Water Board - Moronthota, Water Board Halmessa	2021-05-05 09:00-17:00
Distribution:, Keselwatta, Moranthota Market, Moronthota New Sub	Distribution : Daswaththa
(Helmessa Road)	2021-05-06 09:00-17:00
2021-05-06 09:00-17:00	Distribution : Dippitiya RE.
Bulk : Hungampola Rubber Factory Distribution : Hungampola Temple	2021-05-10 09:00-17:00
	Distribution : Ambadeniya Rubber Factory, Debathgama, Elangapitiya,
2021-05-08 09:00-17:00	Gavilipitiya - Telecom Exchange, Hathgampola, Moragammana, Wilpola Road
Bulk: Hungampola Rubber Factory	2021-05-13 08:30-17:00
Distribution: Hungampola Temple	Distribution : Pannala
2021-05-10 08:30-17:00	
Distribution : Mabopitiya, Nikapitiya	Hemmathagama CSC
2021-05-13 09:00-17:00	2021-05-03 08:30-17:00
Bulk : Hungampola Rubber Factory, Plywood - Meedeniya, Water Board - Moronthota	Distribution : Ambalawa
Distribution: Hapuvita, Hungampola Temple, Keselwatta, Meedeniya,	2021-05-06 09:00-17:00
Moranthota Market	Bulk : Unique Garment
Rambukkana CSC	Distribution : Thalgaspitiya Habalakkawa, Waduwawala
2021-05-05 09:00-17:00	2021-05-08 08:30-17:00 Distribution : Ambalawa
Bulk : Pinnawala Zoo - 01, Pinnawala Zoo - 02, Pinnawala Zoo - 03	2021-05-11 08:30-17:00
Bulk & Distribution : Water Board Hiriwadunna	Distribution : Ambalawa
Distribution : Dunukewela , Graseline Janapadaya, Mahalandawatta, Pinnawala	2021-05-13 08:30-17:00
Town, Pitiyegama , Wagolla	2021-03-13 08:30-17:00 Bulk : RDA Project - Mixed Pump
2021-05-07 08:00-17:00	1
Bulk: Elephant Health Center, Pinnalanda Group Hotel, Ravi Export (Pvt.) Ltd.	Mawanella CSC
Distribution : Elephant Ophanage, Eraminigolla, Halpitiya , Kiriwandeniya, Naranbadda, Walikanda	2021-05-03 08:30-17:00
	Distribution : Danagama ILV
2021-05-08 08:00-17:00 Bulk : Cargills Food City, P.T.K.Garment, Pradeshiya Saba - Rambukkana	2021-05-03 08:30-18:00
Bulk & Distribution : Dalukgala Oil Mill	Distribution : Nankurugala
Distribution : AGA Office, Champika Madawala, CTB Depot , Dialog Tower -	2021-05-03 09:00-17:00
Madawala, Hasthipura, Hospital Road, Hureemaluwa, Mottapuliya, Pinnawala	Bulk : Athauda Metal Crusher Mawanella, Ilukgoda Metal Crusher, River View
School, Pradeshiya Saba New, Prajashalawa, Rambukkana Town, Regent	Garden Heendeniya - Mawanella
2021-05-10 08:00-17:00	Distribution: Bulugollawatta Land - Heendeniya, Danagama Calony, Ilukgoda - i, Ilukgoda - ii (New), Kondeniya, Renaketugama Mellakele
Bulk : Sudath Lime	
Bulk & Distribution : Weligamuwa Power Loom	2021-05-07 09:00-17:00
Distribution: Gabbala Medagama, Gabbela, Kotawella, Weligamuwa	Distribution : Ruwandeniya
2021-05-12 08:00-17:00	2021-05-08 08:30-17:00
Bulk : Compost Factory	Distribution : Danagama ILV
Distribution : Alugolla, Deliwala , Hangawela Weligamuwa, Hewadiwela ,	2021-05-09 08:30-17:00
Hewadiwela School, Mahagama Hewadiwela, Siyabalangamuwa	Bulk: AL Mubaris (Pvt) Ltd., Aroma Rubber Factory, Block Rubber Factory, Food City Mawanella, Food City Mawanella New, Mawanella Hospital, Safeway
Thulhiriya CSC	Germont Sepumal Industry (Not Energized) Water Supply Kettewaththe

Wijitha Group

Thakiya Rd. Mawanella New

08:00-17:00

08:30-17:00

	Distribution : Rondomya
alakanda,	2021-05-11 08:30-18:00 Distribution : Nankurugala
)-17:00	2021-05-12 09:00-17:00
)-17:00	Bulk: Kodithuwakku Metal Crusher, Re - Speed Metal Crusher, Water Board Pahala Kadugannawa, Winsland Reality Farm
Iathagoda	Distribution : Hinguloya Tea Factory, Makadawara Uduwewa New, New Sub at Hingula
Veragoda,	NAWALAPITIYA AREA
0-17:00	Gampola CSC
dakotasa,	2021-05-02 08:30-17:00
Tower -	Distribution : Nuwara Eliya Road (Gampola)
ukumbura	2021-05-02 09:00-12:00
	Bulk : Deenside Factory - Gampola
	Distribution : Bowala, Bowela Temple, Gampola Mount Temple - Water Project (Unambuwa Water Scheme), Keerapone, Mount Temple, Unambuwa
0-17:00	2021-05-07 09:00-13:00 Bulk : Elpitiya Pathana (Welamboda W.S.S.), Elpitiya Water Board, Silver Land
17:00	Factory, Udaya Industries
)-17:00	Distribution: Elpitiya Udowita, Galgediyawa, Kirinda, Kotagaloluwa R.E., Kotakedeniya R.E., Lucky Seven Rice Mill, Mount Brees Weligalle, Thalawatura, Thalwathura - ii, Uda Aludeniya, Udowita, Weligalla, Weligalle - ii
0-17:00	Nawalapitiya CSC
la Road	2021-05-05 08:30-17:00
)-17:00	Distribution : Inguruoya - ii
	2021-05-06 08:30-17:00 Distribution : Katukitula
0-17:00	2021-05-08 08:30-17:00
17.00	Distribution : Inguruoya - ii
0-17:00	NUWARA ELIYA AREA
	Walapane CSC
)-17:00	2021-05-04 09:00-17:00
17.00	Bulk : Apple Reach Factory
)-17:00	Bulk & Distribution : Bremley Estate, Elma Factory, High Forest Factory, Mahakudagala Factory, Maturata Kurunduoya (Mathurata Factory)
0-17:00	Distribution: Chairly Valley Division, Galaboda - Dulgolla - i, Galaboda RE, Glendevon Estate, Gonakele, High Forest Bunglow, Loriston, Mahakudagala, Rilamulla Estate
)-17:00	2021-05-11 09:00-17:00 Bulk : Pump House - Ragala
)-18:00	Bulk & Distribution : Brookside Estate (To E.C.S.C. Rikillagaskada), Delmar Estate, Liddesdale Estate, Ragala Factory - i, St. Leonards Estate
17.00	Distribution: Dickson Corner, Halgranoya, Mantreethanna, Ragala Town - i,
)-17:00 er View	Ragala Town - ii, Ragala Town - iii, Samagipura, Stafford Factory
C1	PERADENIYA AREA
ukgoda -	Eriyagama CSC
)-17:00	2021-05-06 09:00-17:00 Bulk : Mlesna Tea Center
0-17:00	Distribution : Diyapalagoda, Girakanga, Kehelwela, Kiribathkumbura, Kiribathkumbura II, Kiribathkumbura New (Kiribathkumbura Jc.), Moladanda, Nanuoya, Ranawana Village, Sooriyagoda.
0-17:00 r Factory,	Yatinuwara CSC
C.C.	

Distribution: Embakka, Gaguldeniya (Hiddaula), Hepana, Polwaththathenna,

Deputy General Manager (Central Province 2), Ceylon Electricity Board, Quarry Road, Eriyagama, Peradeniya.

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Garment, Sapumal Industry (Not Energized), Water Supply Kottawaththa,

Distribution : Additional Sub at Mawanella, Additional Substation - Mawanella

- 2, Additional Substation - Mawanella - 3, Beligammana - i, Beligammana - ii,

Hasan Mawatha, Kottawaththa Powerloom, Marawa, Mawanella Town, Nadeniya,

Nankurugala, Nayawela New, New Nankurugama, Thakiya Rd. Mawanella,

Bulk & Distribution: Kappagoda Water Supply, Rubber Factory Mawanella

South Asia needs a united voice at UN Climate, Biodiversity meetings

SHYAM SARAN

It is no coincidence that the COVID-19 pandemic occurred amid rising global temperatures, shrinking forest habitats, and dwindling biodiversity.

As wild animals lose their habitats due to human activities, many are forced into closer contact with farms and people. The closer proximity provides opportunities for diseases to jump between species and infect domesticated animals and humans. The loss of forest habitats leaves other animals and plants struggling

to avoid imminent extinction. Feedback loops involving Climate Change, forests, and the loss of biodiversity need a coordinated response.

In 2021, two multilateral conferences are likely to set the direction and scale of the international response to these interrelated challenges. The UN's Convention on Biological Diversity convenes in October in Kunming, China. In November, the UN's 26th Climate Change Conference of the Parties or COP 26, meets in Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Both are being held a year late because of COVID-19.

The pandemic has created a greater awareness in South Asia and around the world of human dependence on healthy ecosystems for food, water, shelter, fuel, and other needs.

There may be political tensions among South Asian countries. There may be competing economic and commercial interests. However, the cross-border consequences of climate change and ecological degradation demand collaborative action. National or even sub-regional solutions are

not enough. The world needs to hear a united voice from South Asia so the region receives its due attention and support at the multilateral level.

The success of South Asia in dealing with climate change will be a major contribution to the global response to climate change.

As one of the most bio-diverse regions of the world, South Asia is a repository of nature's wealth. It has 19 of the world's 235 eco-regions, a science-based ranking of outstanding terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats. South Asia also has three of the world's biodiversity "hotspots" biologically rich land areas significantly threatened by human activity. They are the majestic Himalaya mountains, the tropical Indo-Burma area, and the Western Ghats mountain range and Sri Lanka. Forests make up 17 percent of South Asia's land area, constituting an extensive and valuable carbon sink for the globe as a whole. These assets are a shared pool of wealth for the region but they sprawl across political boundaries. There is a compelling need to devise collaborative mecha-

nisms to manage these assets. The 16th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2010 adopted ecological sustainability as its theme in a declaration entitled, "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia." Later that year, SAARC countries were able to formulate and present a common SAARC position at COP-16 in Cancun. It is time to revive that brief spirit of common endeavour for the two historic conferences this year. We owe this to our people and to our common future. (World Bank Blogs)



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CENTRAL PROVINCE 1 - MAY 2021

DAMBULLA AREA

Dambulla CSC

Bulk: Hotel Complex Kandalama, New Hotel Project (Kashyapagama), Rangiri Rice Mill, Alchemi Heavy Metal, Apsara Hotel, Mas Tropical Food Processing, Wasantha Rice Mill, Celtel Tower

Distribution: Kolongaha Ela-1 (Kandalama Rd.), Mahasengama, Kandalama Road 1st Mile Post, Hotel Sigiriya, Vilhatha (29 Kotasa), Dambulla Development Plan, Erauala, Pihilla Mookalana, Erauala 1 Kandalama Rd. 2nd Mile Post, Kandalama Tank, Yakkurugala, Kasyapagama, Thalkote Scheme, Diyakapilla

Bulk: K.T.R.-H.M.N.G. Mohamad(Rice Moragollawa), KTC Rice Producers, Lanka Polisaks(2), Nishm (Jayawardana) Rice Mill, Perera Hotel (New Hotel), Ayesha Rice Mill, Cultural Heritage and Spa, Tata & Midland Rice Mill, Dambuluoya Rice Mill, Thilanka Hotel, J.C.Village No.78 1, Victoria Rice Mill, Lanka Plastic (Polisak-1), Dilrukshi Farm

Distribution: Adahana Maluwa, Binthabara Scheme - Dambulla, Rathmalgahaela - 1, Thiththawelgolla, Thiththawelgolla - II, Yapagama, Dambulla - Yapagama, Madamulla Scheme, Puwakaththawala-1, Rathmalgahaela - 2 (Kudagammanaya), Yapagama Siyabalawewa scheme, Puwakaththawala-2, Kirigolla Weehenpitiya, Pahalawewa Yapagama

09:00-17:00

Bulk: Sigiriya Dialog Tower at Kayangwala, Fontine Blue Sigiriya (Pvt) Ltd, Vil Uyana (Royal Heritage), Air Force Camp, Sigiriya Rest House New, Ehelagala Lake Resort, Fresco Water Villa, Sigiriya Village Hotel, Apsara Hotel, Telicom Sigiriya, Flower Garden, New Hotel Project (Kashyapagama), Sigiriya Rest House, Elephant Coredaw Hotel

Distribution: Hotel Sigiriya, Kimbissa, Mahasengama, Milaththawa Kalapuraya Sigiriya, Diyakapilla, Galkotuwa, Rangirigama, Egodawewa dambulla, Sigiriya (New Town), Sigiriya Thennakoon Maw. Elagala Rd., Wewa Addara - Kayanwala, Kegallayaya - 2 Milaththawa, Sigiriya New Musium Scheme, Kasyapagama, Kayamwala Dhuwangala, Thalkote Scheme

Pallepola CSC

2021-05-03

09:00-17:00

Bulk : Aluthwewa Etisalat & Dialog Tower

Distribution: China State Construction (Puwakpitiya), Bambaragaswewa - i, Nilagama, Nilagama Hakirilla, Aluthwewa Egodayaya

2021-05-04 09:00-17:00

Distribution : Galewela Fair, Galewela Town (Near Peopls Bnak), Galewela Town (Pathkolagolla Road), Puwakpitiya RE, Galewela Town New, Food city - Galewela, Ranwediyava, , Bambawa, Divisional Secretariate, Dambagolla, Galewela Pathkolagolla - i, Galewela Town (Near Private Bus Stand), Kalahakele

GALAGEDARA AREA

Nugawela CSC

2021-05-04 09:00-17:00

Bulk: C.T.B. Nugawela

Distribution: Batuambe, Edarutenna - 2

09:00-17:00 2021-05-08

Bulk : Delma Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., Delma Match Co., Tokyo Super Batching Plant Bulk & Distribution : Bolagala (B S)

Distribution : Wiguhumpola, Aladeniya, Pallekotuwa, Palkumbura Water Supply Scheme, Palkumbura, Beragama

Poojapitiya CSC

2021-05-04 09:00-17:00

Distribution: Mirissala Amabatenna, Mirissala Saw Mill 2021-05-08 09:00-17:00

Distribution: Mirissala Amabatenna, Mirissala Saw Mill

2021-05-13 09:00-17:00 Distribution: Mirissala Saw Mill, Mirissala Amabatenna

KANDY CITY AREA

North CSC

2021-05-06

Distribution: Nawayalatenna (Near Samudradevi School)

KATUGASTOTA AREA

Wattegama CSC

2021-05-06 08:30-16:30

Bulk: Mahaweli College of Education, Pallegunnepana Co-op, Watter Board High Lift Polgolla, Ceylinco Sassex Collage - Polgolla, Mahaweli Dam Polgolla, NICD Polgolla, Polgolla Dam - 2 (Virus Lab Polgolla), Watter Board Low Lift

Distribution: Doragamuwa Junction, Dialog Base Station Pahala Gunnepana, Lewella Sirimalwatta , Udugunnepana, Pallegunnepana, Welipala Temple

Bulk: CTB Wattegama, Asian Rice Mill (Victoria, Bangalagedara, Bulding Of NICD, D.C S.L, D.C S.L PLC, Pallethalawinna Garment (Penguin)

Distribution: Meegammana Power Loom, Thunkandura, Udathalawinna Dialog Base ST., Udathalawinna New, Galadeniya, Galambalama, Madawala Mosque, Walaramba, Meegammana North, Wattegedara, Royal Kingdom, 1st Mile Post Puwakgahadeniya, Dunkolawatta, Odillowa, Sarwodaya, Viyanamulla, Wasanakanda, Doragamuwa, Polgolla Town

KUNDASALA AREA

Dumbara CSC

08:30-17:00 2021-05-03

Bulk : Ambagalanda Gammedda

2021-05-04 08:30-17:00 Bulk: Kumbukkandura Church RD.

Distribution: Dananandana Saw Mill

Distribution: NEAR DUMBARA ECSC, Kundasale Pradeshiya Sabawa, Sun Match Rajawella (Aluthwatta), Jethawanarama Temple (Near CEB Quaters), Milk Board (Milco Rajawella), Nito Designer, ACM Dolamite, S.B.M.N.Sooriyabandara, Sampath Bank -, D.N.S. Enterprises

08:30-17:00 2021-05-08 Bulk: Aluthwatta - ii, A.R.M. Builders, Dolomite Factory

Distribution: Samarasingha Dolomite, Aluthwatta - i, Nihal Dolomite

Bulk: Director Jetika Kalaniketanaya, Telecom Kundasale, Industrial Manegment Dev.& Training Insstitute

Distribution: Sasa Housing Scheme, Janasavigama - ii, Army Camp Laksenpaya, Janasavigama - i, Pallekele Soya Project - ii, Ransiyagama, Pallekele Army camp, Inter National Buddhist Center, Pallekele Village, Prime Land Residencies, Secretarial Complex, Smart Shirt Germent, Pallekale Soya project i

Hasalaka CSC

2021-05-03 08:00-17:00

Bulk : Mahaweli Pump House Randenigala, Harispaththuwa Rice Mill, New Ududumbara Rice Mill, Kapuwatta, SD & CC

Distribution: 2nd Mile Post, 9th Mile Post Ambagaha Pellessa, Asamodaganyaya, Kapuwatta 25th Ela, Kolonyaya, Morayaya, Paragahamukalana, Weragama, Bulathwelkandura, Minpe 12 Ela, Weragantota, 34 Galewaththa RE, 6th Mile Post (Ambagahapellessa), Kotika polalanda, Randenigala Dam Site (Not Energized), C.E.B Camp Rantambe, Bamiya, Mahaweli Buliding Site Randenigala, Pallewatta II (47 Ela), Udayagala, Pallewatta - i, Ambagahapellessa, N.C.C. Camp Rantambe, 7th Mile post (Ambagahpellessa), Batuwatta, Hadaganawa at Near Bo-Tree, Hadaganawa R.E, 5th Mile Post, Galeyaya, Rambukkella 29th Ela Scheme, Thennakotuwa

2021-05-03

08.30-17.00 Distribution: Pallewatta - I, Kotika polalanda, Pallewatta II (47 Ela), Bulathwelkandura, Paragahamukalana, Weragama, Weragantota, Harispaththuwa

09:00-17:00

2021-05-07 Bulk : 2Ela

Rice Mill, SD & CC, Batuwatta

Distribution: Mahaeswedduma, Technical College (Hasalaka), Thorapitiya Welgahawadiya, Ranamure, Thorapitiya Eluka, Rathnella Dambawelgolla, Hasalaka Alhena Scheme, Keenapelessa, Narangamuwa

2021-05-10 08.30-17.00

Distribution : Bomaluwa Ranawiru Mawatha, Gurulupotha, Gurulupotha Rice

2021-05-11 09:00-17:00 Bulk: Abenayaka Metal Crusher, Damith Metal Crusher - Guruwelayaya

Distribution: Dewagiriya, Kumbukandana Wasama, Guruwelayaya Scheme, Maraka, Raddunuwewa Scheme, Bogahawewa (Malgammana), Dewagiriya Egodagama, Dunuwala Pitiya Gangeyaya, Medakanda, Bogaswewa No.02 Scheme, Maraka Gangeyaya, Palupitiya, Water Intake - Dunuwalapitiya

Karalliyadda CSC

08.30-17.00

Distribution: Siri Digana, Watapana, Putuhapuwa, Udispattuwa Town - ii, Ranmulla, Iskolamudana, Poddalgoda, Heel Oya Watagala Kotasa, Eaden Growe, Kandekumbura Retiyagama

08:00-17:00

Bulk: Teldeniya Hospital

Distribution: Rambukwella, Euro fashion (Enjoy Fashion), Christal Pack - ii, New Town Karaliyadda, Pahurugolla (Rambukwella), Teldeniya (Power Loom) Christal Pack - i

2021-05-10 08:30-17:00

Bulk: Teldeniva Hospital

2021-05-11

Distribution: New Town Karalliyadda, Pahurugolla (Rambukwella), Teldeniya (Power Loom) Christal Pack - i, Christal Pack - ii, Euro fashion (Enjoy Fashion), Rambukwella

08.30-17.00 Distribution: Udawela, Pahurugolla bunglow, Pahurugolla Village, Wegala – I,

08:00-17:00

08:00-17:00

Wegala Kapuhena - ii.

Ududumbara CSC

2021-05-04 Bulk: Mahawela, Mediwaka Gangoda

Distribution : Madugalle New, Udapitawala, Airtel Tower Galapitagama Madugalla, Dewahandiya, Madugalle, Matiwalatenna, Kalalgamuwa, Kaluntenna, Palle Pitawala, Hapukanda, Kalawala, Galapitagama Miniwangamuwa, Udadumbara - Kalawella

08.30-17.00 Distribution: Udadumbara, Thammitiyawa, Poppitiya – I, Oyathenna Poppitiya, Poppitiya – ii, Padupola

Distribution: Medamahanuwara Hospital, Dodam Golla, Wewathenna Rajawella to Wewathenna, Medamahanuwara, Thennalanda

08:30-17:00

Distribution: Wewathenna Rajawella to Wewathenna, Dodam Golla

MATALE AREA

Matale CSC

Bulk: Toyo Plastic, Telecom Ukuwela

2021-05-04

PUMP HOUSE I

Distribution : Thawalankoya, Nagolla, Ukuwela Town - 1, Marukonawatte Airtel Tower, , Ukuwela Town - 2 (Near Railway Crossing)

2021-05-06 09:00-17:00 Bulk: INTAKE PUMP HOUSE II, Water Intake, Water Purification, , INTAKE

2021-05-09 09:00-17:00

Bulk: INTAKE PUMP HOUSE I, INTAKE PUMP HOUSE II, Water Intake, Water Purification

08:00-17:00 2021-05-11

Bulk: Telecom Ukuwela, Toyo Plastic

Distribution: Marukonawatte Airtel Tower, Thawalankoya, Ukuwela Town - 1, Nagolla, Ukuwela Town - 2 (Near Railway Crossing)

Weragama CSC

Distribution: Polwaththakanda - i, Kauda Gammanaya, Weniwalgolla, Polwaththakanda - ii, DIALOG TOWER ELAGALA

Deputy General Manager (Central Province 01), Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 04, Asgiriya Road, Kandy.

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Development work must continue under strict health regulations: Dr. Godahewa

AMALI MALLAWAARACHCHI

Development activities must continue under strict health regulations, as COVID-19 is still prevalent in the country. Otherwise, people would suffer the consequences of delayed development, Urban Development State Minister Dr. Nalaka Godahewa said yesterday.

He was speaking at the commencement of a 700-unit housing project launched for low-income families in Madampitiya, Colombo. It is being carried out under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour' project, under the guidance of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and State Minister Dr. Nalaka Goda-



Commencing the 700-unit housing project. Picture courtesy: Urban Development State Ministry.

hewa. The project's construction work began without the participation of the public as per the provided health regulations. The Urban Development Authority is implementing the project

with financial assistance of Rs.394 million provided by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. MP Yadamini Gunawardena, Urban Development Ministry Secretary Sirinimal Perera, Urban Development Authority Chairman Harshan de Silva, and Urban Development Authority Director-General Prasad Ranaweera

were present at the event. Addressing the participants, Dr. Godahewa said, "The present government has launched several housing projects to help low-income families. With

the appointment of the new President, the construction of about 7,000 houses has commenced. Today, we have started such a housing project in Madampe." "At present, there is a pandemic in the country. However, we believe that development activities must continue under the required health regulations. Otherwise, the public will suffer the consequences. Therefore, we are dedicated to carry out development activities while ensuring the safety of the people. We hope to finish this housing project in about a year. If the severity of the pandemic increases, however, it would take over a year and a half," he

Indika Gayan Pathirana,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 20 - Moneragala

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 22 - KEGALLE**

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 19 - BADULLA

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 16 - PUTTALAM

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 5 - MATALE

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 4 - MAHANUWARA

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

during office hours at the Kandy District Elections Office.

during office hours at the Matale District Elections Office.

during office hours at the Puttalam District Elections Office.

during office hours at the Badulla District Elections Office.

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Kegalle District Elections Office.

> S.W. Welgama, Assistant Registering Officer, Electoral District No. 22 - Kegalle

> > Indika Haturusingha,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 19 - Badulla

N. Regan,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 16 - Puttalam

Kumarini Prathapasingha,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 5 - Matale

M.M.S.K. Bandara Mapa,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 4 - Mahanuwara

District Elections Office, Kegalle. 30th April 2021

District Elections Office,

District Elections Office,

District Elections Office,

District Elections Office,

Matale.

Kandy.

30th April 2021

30th April 2021

Puttalam.

30th April 2021

Badulla.

30th April 2021

Showers likely to enhance in coming days

Showers in the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, Southern, and Uva provinces are likely to enhance during the next few days, the Meteorology Department stated in a communiqué, yesterday.

Showers or thundershowers could occur in most parts of the island during the evening or night. Showers or thundershowers may occur in the Western and Southern provinces during the morning as well, they added.

Heavy rainfall of about 100mm could be expected in some areas of the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, and Uva provinces, as well as in the Galle and Mathara districts. Meanwhile, the sea area extending from Puttalam to Pottuvil via Colombo, Galle, and Hambantota could be rough at times, the department said.

Sea areas off the coasts extending from Puttalam to Hambantota via Colombo and Galle may experience surges due to the effects of swell waves of 2 to 2.5m in height. Temporary gusty winds and rough seas could be expected during thundershowers, the department added.

Winds would move towards the Southwest in the sea areas extending from Kankesanthurai to Pottuvil via Mannar, Colombo, Galle, and Hambantota, and towards the Northeast in other sea areas. Overall wind speeds may range from 20 to 30kmph, the Meteorology Department stat-

However, they could rise to 40 to 45kmph in the sea areas extending from Galle to Pottuvil via Hambantota, and in the sea area extending from Puttalam to Kankesanthurai via Mannar, they

added. Moreover, showers or thundershowers may occur in several sea areas extending from Mannar to Pottuvil via Colombo, Galle, and Hambantota, the department said.

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 21 - RATNAPURA**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Ratnapura District Elections Office.

Suranga Ambagahathenna, **Assistant Registering Officer,** Electoral District No. 21 - Ratnapura

District Elections Office, Ratnapura. 30th April 2021

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 18 - POLONNARUWA**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Polonnaruwa District Elections Office.

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 14-TRINCOMALEE

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 15 - KURUNEGALA

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 13 - DIGAMADULLA

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

during office hours at the Ampara District Elections Office.

during office hours at the Kurunegala District Elections Office.

during office hours at the Trincomalee District Elections Office.

Piumi Atigala, Assistant Registering Officer, Electoral District No. 18 - Polonnaruwa

S. Sudhakaran,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 14 - Trincomalee

Gamalathge Dilip Nishantha,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 15 - Kurunegala

D.T.I. Wickramarathne,

Assistant Registering Officer,

Electoral District No. 13 - Digamadulla

District Elections Office, Polonnaruwa. 30th April 2021

District Elections Office,

District Elections Office,

District Elections Office,

Ampara.

30th April 2021

Kurunegala.

30th April 2021

Trincomalee.

30th April 2021

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020**

M.B.M. Sufyan, **Assistant Registering Officer,**

District Elections Office, Anuradhapura. 30th April 2021

District Elections Office,

Moneragala.

30th April 2021

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 17 - ANURADHAPURA

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 20 - MONERAGALA

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

during office hours at the Moneragala District Elections Office.

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Anuradhapura District Elections Office.

Electoral District No. 17 - Anuradhapura

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during

> R.C. Amalraaj, Assistant Registering Officer.

District Elections Office. Jaffna. 30th April 2021

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 10 - JAFFNA

office hours at the Jaffna and Kilinochchi District Elections Office.

Electoral District No. 10 - Jaffna

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Hambantota District Elections Office.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 9 - HAMBANTOTA

Ravindra Subashana Wedage, **Assistant Registering Officer,** Electoral District No. 9 - Hambantota

District Elections Office, Hambantota. 30th April 2021

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Galle District Elections Office.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO:7-GALLE

K.U. Chandralal, **Assistant Registering Officer, Electoral District No. 7 - Galle**

District Elections Office, 30th April 2021

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act. No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

> Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando, **Assistant Registering Officer,**

District Elections Office, Kalutara. 30th April 2021

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 3 - KALUTARA

during office hours at the Kalutara District Elections Office.

Electoral District No. 3 - Kalutara

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 12 - BATTICALOA**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Batticaloa District Elections Office.

> **Assistant Registering Officer,** Electoral District No. 12 - Batticaloa

District Elections Office, Batticaloa. 30th April 2021

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 11 - VANNI**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullativu District Elections Office.

J. Jeniton, Assistant Registering Officer, Electoral District No. 11 - Vanni

District Elections Office, 30th April 2021

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO:8-MATARA Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Matara District Elections Office.

> T.W. Poshitha Kaumadi, Assistant Registering Officer, **Electoral District No. 8 - Matara**

District Elections Office, 30th April 2021

Nuwara-Eliya.

30th April 2021

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Gampaha District Elections Office.

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 2 - GAMPAHA

K.J.S. Madawa, **Assistant Registering Officer,** Electoral District No. 2 - Gampaha

District Elections Office, Gampaha. 30th April 2021

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980 **Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020 ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO : 1 - COLOMBO**

Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection during office hours at the Colombo District Elections Office.

> P.A.S. Senarathne, Assistant Registering Officer, Electoral District No. 1 - Colombo.

District Elections Office, Colombo. 30th April 2021

during office hours at the Nuwara-Eliya District Elections Office. P.S. Pathirana, **Assistant Registering Officer, District Elections Office,**

THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ACT NO. 44 OF 1980

Revision of Electoral Registers - 2020

ELECTORAL DISTRICT NO: 6 - NUWARA-ELIYA

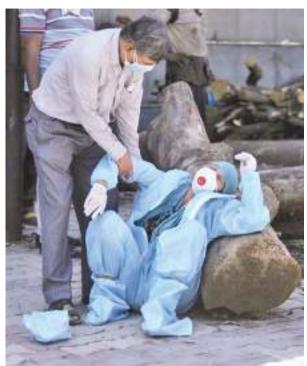
Notice is hereby given under Section 20 (1) of the Registration of

Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, that the Registers of Electors for the

above Electoral District have been certified and are open for inspection

Electoral District No. 6 - Nuwara-Eliya

INDIA ACCOUNTS FOR 38% OF GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES



A relative of a person who died of COVID-19 breaks down.

As the number of COVID-19 cases worldwide has been on the increase for the ninth consecutive week, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday that India alone accounted for 38 percent of all infections - or 2,172,063 new cases -- recorded in the seven-day period that ended on April 25.

The surge in India is understood to be fueled by the new COVID-19 variant dubbed as the "double mutant" and scientifically identified as B1617. It was "detected at increasing prevalence" among the new cases in the country, according to the WHO.

The B1617 variant is believed to contain mutations from two separate virus variants. The WHO said that B1617 "has a higher growth rate than other circulating variants in India, suggesting potential increased transmissibility."

Seventeen countries are now suspected of harboring the new variant, the WHO said in its weekly update. They include Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

India also reported a 93 percent week-on-week increase in the number of coronavirus-related deaths last week.

The number of COVID-19-related deaths has also increased for the sixth consecutive week in southeast Asia and the eastern Mediterranean region, but elsewhere the fatality figures have slightly decreased.

"To put it in perspective, there were almost as many cases globally last week as in the first five months of the pandemic," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday. He described the situation is India as "beyond heartbreaking."

Meanwhile, On Tuesday India recorded 3,23,144 fresh cases and 2,771 related deaths as the second wave of the novel coronavirus continued to wreak havoc. India's cumulative case count stands at 1,76,36,307 while its death toll has climbed up to

Experts, however, believe that this number is far from the reality as testing is very limited in the rural areas.

Positivity rate has also been surging. A good indicator of the proportion of infections being captured by the official data is the share of tests that come back positive. The World Health Organisation con-



Attendants carry an oxygen cylinder for a patient inside a hospital in Srinagar.

siders an epidemic to be accounted for nearly one in under control if that proportion is below 5%. In America, it currently stands at about 7%; in Britain it is 0.2%, while in India, as a whole, it is 25%.

Vaccination in the country has also not picked up pace with only 10% of the 140 crore-odd population having been inoculated.

Meanwhile, For the third consecutive day, India recorded 3,443 deaths on Thursday. The country

every four deaths in the world due to the virus as on April 28.

The country also surpassed 386,795 new cases on Thursday. India has so far reported a total of 1,87,55,126 cases and 2,08,255 deaths.

Maharashtra also recorded 771 casualties, followed by Delhi (395) and Uttar Pradesh (298).

The figures do not include cases and deaths

from Ladakh. The data are sourced from covid19india. org, an independent aggregator of daily figures.

As many as 2,89,998 new recoveries were recorded on April 29, taking the total

to 1,53,72,243. Among the five countries with the highest death toll due to the virus — the U.S., Brazil, Mexico, India and the U.K., fatalities are on a

rising trend only in India.

-THE HINDU. HINDUSTAN TIMES

Over 40 countries sending Oxygen, medical support to India - Foreign Secretary



Hospitals are overflowing with patients, often two to a bed.

Medical and oxygen-related support is being worked out from over 40 countries that will send items to deal with the pandemic's second wave, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Thursday. The capacity-boosting supplies are expected to arrive in the coming days from Egypt, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Guyana, apart from the big powers like Russia, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

"Over 40 countries have come forward to offer assistance in whichever capacity possible. We have got commitment of assistance from Europe, Gulf region and even further parts of the world, Australia, New Zealand and countries like Guyana which are located geographically further away," Mr. Shringla told the media.

He said around over 550 oxygen generating plants being sourced from governments, community groups, corporates and private individuals are being brought. The consignments are likely to include over 4,000 oxygen concentrators and over 10,000 cylinders. The announcement for the global mobilisation of resources by the Foreign Secretary came hours before the first consignment of oxygen cylinders, regulators, rapid diagnostic kits, N95 masks and pulse oximeters from the U.S. took off in a C-5M Super Galaxy and a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. The two aircraft are

expected to reach India by Friday. While the large-scale support from the big powers is being flown in, important assistance is on the way also from the developing countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh has announced 10,000 anti-viral vials, 30,000 PPE kits, and several thousand zinc, calcium, vitamin C and other necessary tablets that will be sent to India in the coming days. Bangladesh is also being tapped for remdesivir, an important drug.

"We have tried our best to reach out to the supply sources including original manufacturers like Gilead Sciences. We have also contacted Egypt. Gilead Sciences has committed 4,50,000 doses of remdesivir. We are hopeful of getting 4 lakh doses from Egypt. We know that Bangladesh is manufacturing some and there are stocks in Uzbekistan and the UAE. We are trying to get those stocks so that we can cover these short term gaps," said Mr. Shringla. Following the April 25 telephone con-

versation between Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the UAE, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, a special cargo for medical aid including 157 ventilators, 480 BiPAPs and other medical supplies arrived from the UAE on Thursday. Three oxygen generation units will be sent from surplus stocks in Northern Ireland. The units are each capable of producing 500 litres of oxygen per minute, enough for 50 people to use at a time. This follows the U.K.'s recent action to support India with 495 oxygen concentrators and 200 ventilators sent from surplus stocks. The first batch of these medical supplies arrived in Delhi on Tuesday and the rest is expected to arrive on Friday. According to the Defence Ministry, as on Thursday, the IAF carried out 16 sorties from abroad, airlifting 27 oxygen containers with 460 MT of capacity.

"Partner countries like Russia, and those from Southeast Asia, U.K., France, Germany and our own neighbours have been generous and forthcoming on their own. Many of these countries have put this in the context of the assistance that they have received in the past [from India]. If countries are coming forward, it is also because of the global goodwill that was generated in the past. Our international partnerships and cooperation

are supplementing our domestic resources to fight the second wave of the COVID-19," said Mr. Shringla. Among neighbours, the role of Pakistan came for appreciation on Thursday from the European Union after Islamabad gave quick permission for overflight for the aircraft from EU that will deliver humanitarian supplies to India.

Shringla also pointed out that vaccine cooperation under Quad' consisting of Australia, Japan and the U.S. is proceeding 'very well". "Massive additional capacities of vaccines are being created," he said adding there will be a 'very very significant" increase in domestic production in the coming two-three A relative of a person who died of COVID-19 reacts at a crematorium. months. - THE HINDU

Indians turn to Twitter in hunt for Oxygen, hospital beds

With India's coronavirus crisis becoming increasingly more desperate and beds, medicine and oxygen supplies scarce, people in cities across the country are relying on Twitter and the kindness of strangers for help during a time of national upheaval.

Some are using the platform to share locations where gas cylinders, which are in limited supply, can be refilled. Others are posting details about patients in urgent need of help. Some posts advertise which hospitals have empty beds and others ask for blood plasma donors. There are tweets that offer advice on how to stay safe and others that beg for ambulances before it is too late.

"URGENT PLEASE! REQUIREMENT: ventilator urgently as hospital has no ventilator Delhi," reads one tweet flooding the platform with SOS

"Okay have a very critical 30 year old patient with SpO2 level < 50, wife is pregnant. Urgently

need an ICU/ventilator bed in Gurugram," reads another. Overburdened health-care facilities and staff members also are appealing for supplies and assistance on social media.

Some on the platform are changing their Twitter usernames to indicate that they are trying to help provide resources, including phrases such as "covid support," to flag to others that they are working independently to contact hospitals and verify information.

Worried friends, partners and relatives of people with COVID-19 also are using Instagram to search for help, using the hashtags #covidemergency2021 and #IndiaNeedsOxygen.

Earlier this week, Twitter's official India account warned users that while much of the information circulating was reliable some of it would not be, stressing the importance of following verified and trusted accounts.

"If you need a list of SOS resources - access to hospital



A COVID-19 patient gets oxygen on the spot provided by a Sikh Organization in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

beds, oxygen, food - please look at the COVID-19 SOS: Resources page. This will update in realtime as people put out their emergency tweets," the company said

Amid the heartbreaking flood of requests, came some glimmers of hope and success stories of help that arrived just in time.

Others shared accounts of help that didn't arrive fast enough.

Social media influencer Janice Sequeira said Wednesday that thanks to leads on the platform she was able to find an ambulance with a functioning oxygen tank to transport a coronavirus patient.

She fell to knees and begged for Oxygen

Shruti Saha had spent hours searching for somewhere in New Delhi to refill an oxygen canister when she heard that her frantic efforts had been in vain: her mother had died of COVID-19.

A ferocious second wave of coronavirus in New Delhi has overwhelmed hospitals and caused a shortage of oxygen, leaving many helpless as they try to treat their sick relatives at home.

As she waited outside a refilling plant in a shabby industrial estate in the capital, Saha began to panic, falling to her knees and begging for the facility to open, but police and security guards told her to wait.

Some time later, still waiting in the queue, Saha got a call from home telling her that her mother had died. She broke down, collapsing in a heap as people around her tried to console

Her empty oxygen cylinder was left where she had



Shruti Saha, who had been waiting since Tuesday night for her turn to get an oxygen cylinder refilled for her mother, reacts after she was informed about her mother's death, outside a refilling workshop in New Delhi.

been standing in line. "We have been out of the house since 2 am. There is no oxygen anywhere in Delhi. Finally we reached here. I kept telling them Mummy is serious..." she said, weeping. Delhi is reporting one

COVID-19 death in under four minutes for the past several days. Because hos-

pitals have no space, families are trying to treat COVID-19 patients at home, strapped to oxygen

"For two days we tried for beds in so many hospitals. Take me home now," Saha said, and a young man took her by the arm and led her away.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES



Relatives of a deceased COVID-19 patient grieve in front of a hospital in the Indian city

Delhi seeks more cremation space as deaths rise

Police in India's capital Delhi have asked local authorities to identify more sites for cremations, as the city recorded its highest COVID death toll.

A ferocious second wave is ravaging parts of India, overwhelming hospitals, morgues and crematoriums. The total number

of COVID cases passed 18 million on Thursday with 379,257 infections recorded - the bigone-day increase on record

for any country. India reported 3,645 deaths on Thursday, which was another record.

More than 390 of those deaths were in Delhi, the highest the capital has ever seen in a single day since the pandemic began.

"Deaths in the city are mostly related to Covid and due to shortage of space, people are being forced to cremate their



bodies for cremation sit on the rear step of an ambulance inside a crematorium in New Delhi.



Gravediggers are concerned they may soon run out of space to bury the people succumbing to COVID-19.

loved ones in crematoriums not designated to take victims of Covid. That's why we suggested more crematoriums should be set up," a senior Delhi police officer said according to the NDTV news channel.

Oxygen, medicine and hospital beds continue to be in short supply, with people making pleas on social media to find

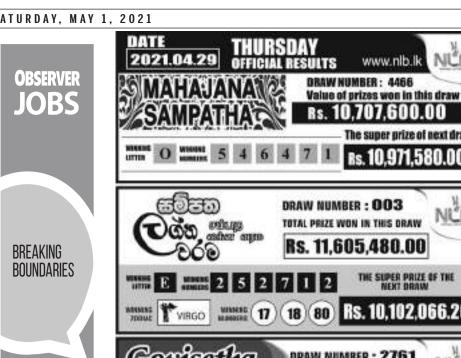
some for their loved

India's central government is facing mounting criticism of its handling of the pandemic, and for allowing election rallies and religious festivals to go ahead. But the health min-

ister defended the government on Thursday, saying the country's fatality rate is the lowest in the world and that oxy-Exhausted workers who bring gen supplies were "adequate".

- HINDUSTAN **TIMES**

page 13 DN SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021 **ADVERTISEMENTS**



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32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.

 Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

ජාතික ලෝකරැයි මණ්ඩලය

Bத்சிய கொத்தி சமை

National Lotteries Board



Road Development Authority MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS



Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324 Fax: 011-4669416

Requires a suitable building on Lease Basis for the establishment of following office

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE - NIKAWERATIYA

Proposed building should conform to the following specifications:

- 1. Minimum floor area of the building should be 2500 sq.ft. and minimum land area should be 40 perches.
 - a. Should have at least 03 rooms with good ventilation (one room with attached bothroom)
 - b. Should have two common bathrooms.
 - c. Should have electricity, water supply, Sri Lanka Telecom Connection, Water Storage tank with a capacity of 1000 liters.
- 2. The building should be within 1 km distance from the town centre.
- 3. Should be situated close to main road or less than 200 m away from main road but easy access.
- 4. Adequate vehicle parking facilities (at least 720 square fee area).

Interested building owners are requested to forward their quotations with the approved building plan with relevant details to reach the following address on or before 13.05.2021.

Please indicate "Quotation for Office Building" on top left corner of the envelope.

The Chairman, Provincial Procurement Committee (NWP), Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, Puttalam Road,

Kurunegala.

The Housewives' companion **Classifieds on** Daily Actus

PROCUREMENT NOTICE **UVA PROVINCIAL COUNCIL** PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

The Chairman, Procurement Committee of Provincial Buildings Department, Uva Provincial Council will receive sealed Bids up to 25.05.2021 from qualified Contractors and Institutes with registration in the relevant field in Construction Industries Development Authority (CIDA) for the undermentioned work/industries on the basis of Competitive Bidding.

Serial No.	Contract No.	Name of Work	Civil Work Value (Rs. Mn.) (Without VAT)	Required CIDA Grade Building Construction Field	Refundable Bid Security Amount (If paid in Cash) (Rs.)	Construction Time Period (No. of Days)	Bid Document Fee (Rs.)	Office where Bid Documents are issued	
01	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/01	Construction of 60'x25' Two Storeyed Building - B/Dowa Maha Vidyalaya	17.79	C6 and C5	89,000.00	180	5,000.00		
02	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/02	Construction of 90'x25' Two Storeyed Building - (Stage I) Mo/Maduruketiya Kanishita Vidyalaya	15.54	C6 and C5	78,000.00	180	5,000.00		
03	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/03	Construction of 110'x25' Two Storeyed Building (Stage I) B/Welimada Wijaya Vidyalaya Primary Section	14.02	C6 and C5	70,500.00	180	5,000.00	Office of the	
04	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/04	Construction of 110'x25' Two Storeyed Building - for Primary Section of B/Welimada Muslim Maha Vidyalaya (Stage I)	14.02	C6 and C5	70,500.00	180	5,000.00	Director of Provincial Buildings	
05	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/05	Construction of 70'x25' Four Storyed Building - (Stage 2) B/Seewali Maha Vidyalaya	12.41	C6 and C5	62,500.00	180	5,000.00		
06	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/06	Construction of 100'x25' Building (with Library and Laboratory) B/Paharagammana Muslim Vidyalaya	11.61	C6 and C5	60,000.00	180	5,000.00		
07	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/07	Construction of 90'x25' Two Storeyed Building - Lat State M/o Muthukandiya 3rd Step Kanishta Vidyalaya	8.34	C7 and C6	42,000.00	180	3,000.00	Office of the Regional Engineer (Buildings) Monaragala	
08	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/01	Reconstruction of Welanwita Clinic Centre (Roof and Ceiling)	2.10	C8 and C7	10,500.00	120	3,000.00	Office of the Regional Engineer (Buildings) Bandaraweld	
09	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/08	Construction of a 100'x20' Building B/Dambagolla Sri Sumana Vidyalaya	8.00	C7 and C6	40,000.00	180.00	3,000.00		
10	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/09	Renovations of 100'x25' School Building B/Gemunupura Maha Vidalaya	3.35	C8 and C7	17,000.00	120	3,000.00		
11	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/10	Renovation of 40'x20' Building and Home Science Unit - B/Batalayaya Maha Vidyalaya	2.66	C8 and C7	13,500.00	120	3,000.00	Office of the Regional Engineer (Buildings) Bibile	
12	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/11	Renovation of 80'x20' Main Hall Mo/Hepola Kanishta Vidyalaya	2.34	C8 and C7	12,000.00	120	3,000.00		
13	UPBD/EDU/ PSDG/2021/ 03/12	Renovation of 80'x25' Primary Hall Mo/Yakunnawa Maha Vidyalaya	2.07	C8 and C7	10,500.00	120	3,000.00		

- 2. Bids will be called through National Competitive Bidding procedure and in industries where the cost not exceeding Rs. 50 Million Contractors Regional Preference and CIDA Registration preference will be considered in evaluating the Bids according to Finance Ministry Circular No. 4/2016 (iii).
- 3. Successful and qualified Bidders who possess the CIDA Registration in the relevant field and who have not been named to be blacklisted are eligible for the award of contract.
- 4. In evaluating the Bids evaluation process will be carried out according to Finance Ministry Circular No. 3/2020 (i) and the amendments issued in relevance and following qualifications will be considered.
- Experience in completing a minimum of one similar work with a value of 80% of the civil work value within last five years (this condition is not relevant to work in the table above for which CIDA Grade C7 and C8 is requested).
- ii. The average turnover maintained during the past five years in equivalent to above civil construction work. (This condition is not relevant to work in the table above for which CIDA Grade C7 and C8 is requested).
- iii. Financial ability.
- iv. Financial and Physical Progress of the work in hand.
- For work with a value of Rs. 50 Million or more should be registered under Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987 and that Registration Certificate or documents in proof should be submitted along with Bids. Non submission of the said certificate or documents will be a reason to reject the Bids.
- Interested Bidders could obtain a complete set of Procurement Forms in English Language on submission of a written application to the Offices mentioned in the table above and upon payment of the Bid Document Fee from 03.05.2021 to 24.05.2021 during office hours and could inspect the documents free of charge.
- If the Bid Security is not paid in cash or a Bid Bond should be attached to the Bid. If a Bid Bond is submitted, the Bid Security should be two times to the value mentioned in the table and should only be in the form of an unconditional and on demand bank guarantee obtained from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The Bid Security should be valid up to 25.09.2021.
- Duly perfected Bids in duplicate should be submitted to the relevant Procurement Committee before 10.00 a.m. on 25.05.2021. Bids marked as original and duplicate and inserted in two separate covers should be enclosed in one sealed envelope of which the relevant name of the work is marked on the top left hand corner and sent either by Registered Post to reach the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Uva Provincial Buildings Department, Pingarawa, Badulla or deposited in the Tender Box kept at that Office. Bids received late will be rejected.
- 9. The duplicate should be a photocopy of the original of which every page is certified.
- 10. Further details could be obtained from Regional Engineer's (Buildings) Office, Bandarawela T.P. 057-2222025, Regional Engineering (Buildings) Office, Moneragala - T.P. 055-22760038, 055-2224753, Regional Engineering (Buildings) Office, Bibile - T.P. 055-2265317, coming under Uva Provincial Buildings Department - T.P. 0552229629.
- 11. Bids should be valid up to 25.08.2021.
- 12. Bids will be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 25.05.2021 at Provincial Buildings Department, Badulla and Bidders or their representatives could be present at the time
- 13. A Pre Bid Meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on 17.05.2021 at the Office of the Uva Provincial Director of Buildings, Pingarawa, Badulla and prospective Bidders could request for any clarification over the projects. Further a site inspection could also be arranged
- 14. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids received and its decision will be final.

Chairman,

Provincial Department of Buildings,

Pingarawa, Badulla.

TP/Fax No: 055-2229629 Email: bdplanningunit@gmail.com

Date: 29.04.2021

INVITATION FOR BID

Registrar General's Department PROVIDING OF PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE

Chairperson of the Departmental Procurement Committee invites bids for providing the service of issuing photocopies of Government documents for the period of year 2021/22 for the 47 sub offices of this Department situated islandwide and bids will be accepted till 2.00 p.m. on 24.05.2021.

- 02. Bids can be submitted to any sub office where Bids are being called or all offices under the Zonal list. The bidding documents can be obtained from the Accountant (Supplies) until 10.00 a.m. on 24.05.2021 by paying a non-refundable tender fee of Rs. 12,500.00 to the Shroff of the Registrar General's Department Head Office and producing receipt to the Accountant (Supplies) for said payment. Further information can be obtained from the Accountant (Supplies) and the contact number is 011-3070870. The bidding documents can be examined at this office if
- Completed bid documents in two sealed sets together with a Bid Bond worth of Rs. 600,000/- as per the conditions of the Bid Document shall be placed in the Tender Box kept at this Department or sent via registered post to the address of Registrar General, Registrar General's Department, No. 234/A3, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla before 2.00 p.m. on 24th May 2021. Top left hand corner of the cover in which the Bid documents enclosed shall be written as "Calling bids for providing of Photocopying Service- 2021/22".
- Bid opening will be held at 2.00 p.m. on 24.05.2021 and bids received late will not be accepted.

Registrar General Chairperson of the Procurement Committee Registrar General's Department, No. 234/A3, Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulia.





A/L Economics tu-0776533337. 028806

Replies to Classifieds

Casual Advertisements published

C/o the

ition by Econ Master, Bsc Finance, CIMA, first ranker in school 2021, revision Sunday 8.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. 2022, theory Sunday 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. 2023, theory Sunday 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. WhatsApp now.

Daily Aews

should only be sent by ordinary post.

Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.



Sunday Observer

Is the best way to fulfil your Future Dreams

National Gem And Jewellery Authority State Ministry of Gen And Jevellery Related Industries

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Renovation of Regional Office at Ratnapura BID NO - NGJA/18/51/ 2021

things Proposition | Bidden's

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the National Gem and Jewellery Authority invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Renovation of Regional Office at Ratnapura, Estimated Cost is Rs.24.4 Mn[without Taxes]

Contract No.	Works Description	Qualification	Application fee	and sond	Further Details
NGIA/18/51/2021	Renovtion of Regional Office at Ratnapura Estimate Cost - Rs.24.4 Min Contract Period - 180 Days	ICTAD - C5 + C6 Graded Building Renovation	Fs.5,000.00 + VAT	Rs. 360,000.00 119 Days	Deputy Director (E.R.D.) Ratnapura 071, 536 2 547

- (i) Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure, (NCB)
- (ii) A Complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by you on the submission of a written application to the Deputy Director (E. &R.D. - Ratnapura), and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Rs. 5,000.00 + VAT on normal working days between 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 03.05.2021 to 23.05.2021 the mode of payment will be in cash.
- (ii) Bids must be sent to the, National Gem and Jewellery Authority at Ratnapura under registered post or deposited in the Tender Box available at National Gem and Jewellery Authority,Rathnapura Regional Office later than 10:00 s.m. on 24:05:2021 Please indicate as "Renovation of Regional Office at Ratnapura - 2021" on the top Left hand Corner of the Sealed Envelope.
- Completed Bid Documents should be accompanied by a bank guarantee / bid bond for the value (Rs. 360,000.00) relevant to the bid documents as indicated above and issued by a commercial bank valid for a minimum period of 119 calendar days from the date of opening of bids (From 24.05.2021 to
- Bids will be opened at National Gem and Jewellery Authority, Ratnapura at 10.15 a.m. on 24 .05.2021. The bids received after 10.00 a.m. will be rejected and returned unopened. The bidder or his representative may participate at the bid opening.
- vil Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 12.05.2021 at 10.30 a.m. at National Gem and Jewellery Authority Regional office at Rathnapura

Further details: Technical Assistant (Civil): 071 4 244 690

The Chairman - Department Procurement Committee National Gem and Jewellery Authority

Tele: 011-2329295, 2325364, and 2390645-8 Fax: 011-2320758, 011-2332397 Web site: www.ngia.gov.lk.

Daily Actus Classifieds, the Housewives' companion

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION TENDER NOTICE

(NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project

On behalf of the Project Procurement Committee (PPC), Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Sealed Bids will be received by the Project Director, Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Welikanda up to 11.00 hrs on 25th May 2021 for the following works.

Item No.	Description	Contract No.	Non Refundable Tender Fee per set of a Bidding Document	Required CIDA/ICTAD Grade, Field of Registration
01	Improvement of Damminna - Walamandiya Road from 0+630 km to 4+030 km. (Total Estimated Cost is Rs. 123.00 Million excluding VAT and Contract period is 301 days)	MORBDP/Con/ RD/2021-11	Rs. 20,500.00	C4 & C3 Highways
02	Construction of Maduru Oya Right Bank Main Canal from 6+500 km to 7+000 km. (Total Estimated Cost is Rs. 107.00 Million excluding VAT and Contract period is 301 days)	MORBDP/Con/ MC/2021-14	Rs. 19,000.00	C4 & C3 Irrigation & Land Drainage
03	Construction of Maduru Oya Right Bank Main Canal from 12 + 430 km to 13 + 300 km. (Total Estimated Cost is Rs. 172.00 Million excluding VAT and Contract period is 336 days)	MORBDP/Con/ MC/2021-28	Rs. 27,000.00	C4 & C3 Irrigation & Land Drainage
04	Construction of Maduru Oya Right Bank Main Canal from 13 + 300 km to 13 + 900 km. (Total Estimated Cost is Rs. 181.00 Million excluding VAT and Contract period is 336 days)	MORBDP/Con/ MC/2021-29	Rs. 28,500.00	C3 & C2 Irrigation & Land Drainage
05	Construction of Maduru Oya Right Bank Main Canal from 13 + 900 km to 14 + 492 km. (Total Estimated Cost is Rs. 176.00 Million excluding VAT and Contract period is 336 days)	MORBDP/Con/ MC/2021-30	Rs. 27,500.00	C4 & C3 Irrigation & Land Drainage

Bidders who have the Grade and field of registration under the CIDA/ICTAD scheme of registration mentioned in the above table against the work only will be eligible for bidding.

Prospective bidders can obtain Bidding Documents by a written request on a company/firm letterhead, addressed to the Project Director, Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Welikanda from 01st May 2021 to 24th May 2021 from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs. on working days, on payment of a nonrefundable Tender fee as given above per set of Bidding Documents for each bid. Bidders are free to bid for more than one tender but selections will be made according to the capacity limits of the bidders.

Bidding Documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of Project Director, Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Welikanda on normal working days from 01st May 2021 to 24th May 2021 from 09.00 hrs. to 15.00 hrs.

Sealed Bids in duplicate clearly marked the contract name and the number on the top left corner of the envelope may be dispatched either by Registered Post or hand delivered to the Project Director, Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Welikanda before the closing time of specified date of submission. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter. Bidders or their authorized representatives, not exceeding two (02) in numbers are permitted to be present at the opening of tenders.

For further details, please contact Project Director, Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Welikanda on Tel. 027-3288912.

Project Director, Maduru Oya Right Bank Development Project, Ministry of Irrigation, Welikanda. (Tel. 027-3288912)

Southern Provincial Council Southern Provincial Chief Secretary's Office

Invitation for Bids

Sealed bids are invited by the Chairman, Chief Secretary's Procurement Committee on behalf of the Chief Secretary's Office of the Southern Province from eligible and qualified bidders for the undermentioned contracts.

Ser. No.	Name of Contract	Contract No.	B.O.Q. Amount Rs. Mill.	CIDA Category	Bid Security (Rs.)	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)
01	Construction of Four Storey Building of Management Development Training Institute (Stage 2)	SP/CS/NCB /21/01	21.1	C6 / C5	200,000.00	4,000.00
02	Repairing the Government Quarters No. B - 6 in Labuduwa	SP/CS/NCB /21/04	4.0	C8 / C7	50,000.00	2,000.00
03	Repairing the Government Quarters No. C - 4 in Labuduwa	SP/CS/NCB /21/02	3.6	C8 / C7	45,000.00	2,000.00
04	Repairing the C7-U1, C7-U2, C7-L1, C7-L2 Two Storey Government Quarters, Labuduwa	SP/CS/NCB /21/03	2.4	C8 / C7	30,000.00	2,000.00
05	Construction of Matara Office of District Engineer (Buildings) (Stage 2)	SP/CS/NCB /21/05	20.7	C6 / C5	200,000.00	4,000.00

- 2. Bids should be submitted based on National Competitive Bidding Procedure. Successful bidder for award of contracts should not have been blacklisted and should be registered with CIDA in the above categories.
- 3. As the total estimated cost of these procurements are below Rs. 50 million Regional Preference and CIDA registration grade preference will be taken into consideration when evaluating the bids as per Finance Ministry Circular No. 04/2016(iii) dated 18.02.2021. Further the conditions mentioned in Public Finance Circular No. 03/2020(i) dated 11.01.2021 will be applicable.
- 4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and bid documents from Supplies Division of the Chief Secretary's Office, S.H. Dahanayake Mawatha, Galle upon payment of the abovementioned fee between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days from 30.04.2021 until 24.05.2021.
- 5. Bid security submitted with the bid should be drawn in favour of "Chief Secretary, Southern Province" obtained from a commercial bank in Sri Lanka valid up to 25.09.2021 or else may be paid in cash to the Accounts Division of the Chief Secretary's Office and the cash receipt obtained should be submitted with the bid. Bid Securities submitted in the form of Cheques and Bank Drafts will be rejected.
- 6. Bids submitted relevant to the above contracts should be submitted in duplicate and the Original should be marked as Original and the duplicate should be marked as Duplicate. Original and Duplicate should be inserted in separate covers sealed and both covers should be reinserted in a single cover and submitted.
- 7. Bid Number and the description should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the perfected bid. Sealed bids may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Procurement Committee, Southern Provincial Chief Secretary's Office, S.H. Dahanayake Mawatha, Galle" or hand delivered and deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Official Room of the Accountant (Supplies) to be received before 10.30 a.m. on 25.05.2021. Bids submitted should be valid up to 25.08.2021.
- 8. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids on 25.05.2021at the Office of the Chief Secretary and the bidder or his authorized representative may be present at the time of opening of bids.
- 9. Pre bid meeting will be held at 10.30 a.m. on 12.05.2021 under the patronage of the Chief Secretary of the Southern Province at the Auditorium of the Office of the Southern Provincial Chief Secretary. Prospective bidders may attend this pre bid meeting.
- 10. Please note that the decision of the procurement Committee is final.
- 11. For further details;
- a. District Engineer, Office of the District Engineer (Buildings), Matara (Tel. Nos. 0412233934 / 0412222386)
- b. District Engineer, Office of the District Engineer (Buildings), Galle (Tel. No. 0914941546)

Note: Tender Notice is also published in the www.cs.sp.gov.lk website of the Office of the Southern Provincial Chief Secretary.

Chairman

Procurement Committee Office of the Southern Provincial Chief Secretary S.H. Dahanayake Mawatha Galle

Date: 29.04.2021

Tel. Nos. 091-4944016 / 091-4946368 Fax: 091-2242697 Email: procurementplan1@gmail.com

Ananda - Rajans clash for P. W. Perera Trophy

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent The traditional cricket match

between Ananda College,Colombo and Dharmaraja College, Kandy for the P.W.Perera Memorial Trophy will be played on the 3rd & 4th of May,2021 at Ananda Mawatha, Colombo

Saviru Bandara leads Ananda College while Dharmaraja College is led by Upendra Warnakulasuriya.

Ananda and Dharmaraja, two leading Buddhist Schools established by the Buddhist Theosophical Society in 1886 and 1887 respectively have been playing cricket with each other since 1893 when Dharmaraja team was led by their Principal at that time, Sir D.B. Jayatilleke, the nation-

P.W.Perera Trophy was introduced in 1999 by the Cricket wing of Ananda Old Boys led by the former Captain of Ananda, Charith Senanayake in appreciation of PW Perera's great

service to uplift cricket in both Dharmaraja and Ananda as the cricket coach of both schools at different

PW Perera, the former Ananda College Cricket Captain was appointed to the Staff of Dharmaraja in 1941 by L.H.Mettananda the Principal of the school. mainly to coach the crick-

He coached from 1941 to 1943 at Dharmaraja and the teams produced by PW Perera were undefeated Cricket Teams. Under his guidance five players of the School scored centuand they T.B.Talwatte, P.L.Arthur Alwis, Rajah Mettananda, S.G.Munasinghe, and M.R. Gunawardena. The 1942/43 cricket team was considered unofficial Champions having won all the matches played by Dharmaraja during that season.

P.W.Perera left Dharmaraja accepting an appointment in the Prisons Department and he retired from the



The Captain of Dharmaraja College-Upendra Warnakulasuriya

Public Service as the Superintendent of Prisons.

From 1960 he guided Ananda, his Alma mater producing many Sri Lankan cricketers and he passed away in 2006 on the eve of the Ananda/Dharmaraja cricket match at the Peradeniya Campus Grounds and the players observed two minutes silence at the commencement of the game and



The Captain of Ananda College- Saviru Bandara

continued playing the match wearing black arm bands as a mark of respect.

The first year the Trophy was won by Ananda in the year 1999 with an outright victory under the captaincy of Jithendra Perera and Dharmaraja was led by Asanga Marapana.

The Trophy was retained by Ananda and since then it was awarded only for an outright victory.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

K. A. Karunaratne - first Sri Lankan to win a marathon in Europe

Karunaratne more popular as K. A. Karunaratne, represented Sri Lanka in the marathon event at the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992.

He was born in Colombo on September 24, 1966 and was educated at the Junior School Mahara/Nugegoda and at the Kalyana Pirivena at Delgoda.

Having participated in marathon events organised in connection with the Sinhala New Year Day celebrations, Karunaratne graduated to the National level marathon competitions and gained international honours

Kuruppu Arachchilage in this event. In 1984, he and in 1989 at the World arunaratne more popular as won the 5,000m the 10,000m Marathon Championships and the marathon event and continued to set up record after record and the hearts of athletics fans in the country.

> In the very first year that he participated at the National Athletics Championships, he was selected for the inaugural SAF Games in Kathmandu, Nepal.

At these Games, he won a Bronze Medal in the 10,000m event. In 1985, he was placed in the Asian Athletics Championships held in Indonesia. In 1987, he participated in the World Marathon Championships and was placed 71st

Marathon Championships held in Italy, he was placed 45th.

At the Asian Games marathon held in Beijing, China in 1990, Karunaratne recorded a time of 2.18.57s and was placed fourth.

That same year he won the International Marathon in Singapore recording a time of 2.21.09s.

In 1991, he was placed 77th in the World Marathon Championships held in London, England and later in the same year he won the International Marathon in Zurich recording a time of 2.18.48s

and thus became the first Sri Lankan to win a marathon in Europe.

He participated in another

international marathon event in Akidan in Japan and was awarded a Diploma. Although Karunaratne

participated in the marathon at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, 1992 he could not give off his best.

Karunaratne started his career as a clerk at the JEDB and later joined the Army. Hailing from a modest beginning, he was able to reach the top rungs in athletics through sheer spirit and determination



K. A. Karunaratne

However, Karunaratne was an unfortunate victim of a terrorist suicide attack on April 6, 2008 where he succumbed while organising a marathon event in Weliweri-

Nadun Nimesha Rajapaksha excels in karate

DILWIN MENDIS

and up and coming Black mala Kumari insisted their Belt Karate Holder Karuna Pedige Nadun Nimesha Rajapaksha has brought honour and fame to his school Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa and he was born on 11th day of January 2007 and initially he was admitted to Dickwella Primary School in 2013 when Mr. Balasuriya was the Principal of the school and his first class teacher was Mrs. Nirmala Kumari.

When he was in Grade Three he participated in the Inter House Sports Meet in 2015 and he came first in 100 metres and his House Team won the skipping event and 4x100 relay team won their event. In the following year he came second in 100 metres and the Master in Charge of Athletcs

was Mr. Priyadarshana. In 2017 his parents Nishantha Fourteen year old athlete Nuwan Rajapaksha and Nirson to take up to Karate and in 2017 he commenced Karate and he came under school karate coach Asela Sumith Lasantha and his first attempt was Puttalam District Do Karate Association Meet and he grabbed Gold Medals for Kumite and Kata In the following year too at Puttalam District meet he won Gold Medals for Kumite and Kata and in the NWP Meet he was placed third in Kata and second in Kumite and in 2019 at the Puttalam Meet he won a Gold for Kata and at the NWP Meet he won Golds for both these events and at the All Island Inter Schools Meet held at Albert F. Peiris Stadium he won a Gold for Kumite and a Gold for Kata.



Nadun Nimesha

Sports promoter Premadasa remembered

Today May 1, the sports loving people of Kandy will man. remember the late President R. Premadasa on his 28th death anniversary.

He was also a sportsman and sports benefactor who did his best for the country. The name of R. Premadasa will go down in the annals of our history not only as a nation-builder but also as a great sports promoter.

He gave his best to everyone irrespective of caste and race. He is the man who built the Khettarama Stadium for cricket and after his death it was named as R. Premadasa Stadium.

Today this cricket venue can be rated as one of the best in the world. For football he re-developed the Sugathadasa Stadium and gave a facelift to the Henry Pedris Park in Colombo.

The game of football came naturally to him, per-

haps because football was identified with the poor

As a young footballer, he learnt the game at Keselwatte in Colombo. He introduced a rugby tournament together with the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union under the presidency of YC Chang. This tournament was known as the R. Premadasa Trophy and became very popular among clubs and subsequently he introduced it among schools. Even after taking to politics, Premadasaa promoted the game among parliamentarians. He gave his support to football's controlling body, the Football Federation of Sri

Lanka. Today, all sports have realized his loss. It's a void which will be very difficult to fill because he had so much to offer for sports and the country.

Danushka Boteju excellent ruggerite and coach

Powering

Dialog

The Future.Today.

Sri Lanka Rugby

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Mostly people in life work towards achieving a goal. When it comes to sports, it will remain the same as they like to reach the top in a particular sport and to become a top coach. Danushka Boteju had similar ideas and strived hard to reach that milestone starting as a player from school level then engaged in competitive club rugby going onto don the National jersey before becoming a qualified rugby coach.

Danushka was born in Colombo in 1983 was better known as 'Botta'. His father Wilman Boteju worked as a Government Employee with mother Kamala Fernando being a housewife. He has one sister Thushani. From his younger days he was very particular in maintaining a good physique having a hefty frame by birth. He was enrolled at Isipathana college in 1989 and continued his academic career until 2002. He had a liking towards sports and was very optimistic in becoming a top class coach with the oval shaped ball game.

At Isipathana rugby was like a religion, and he too got into momentum and joined playing rugby at under-13 age group when he was 12 years old. He then competed in all age groups starting from under 13/15/17/19. In the year 2000 they became under-17 All Island Cup champions defeating Royal at a time they were

left out without coaches. Next year in 2001, they surged ahead to clinch the Western Province 10's tournament and they couldn't participate in the All Island tournament due to sudden loss of their teammate Suranga Warunasuirya who had a tragic death during the practice sessions. In 2001

they won the under-19 Premier Championship beating St. Peters in the final under the captaincy of Ranga Perera played at Police Park He made his debut with the college first XV team in 2001, . In 2002, they remained as an unbeaten team led by Anuranga Walpola and went on to create history by crushing Trinity 43-8 which apparently was the highest score against them in Pallekele coached by Sanath Martis. His school coaches were Sanath Martis, Champika Nishantha, Bimal Perera, Isinth Perera and Gamini Indrasena. Apart from rugby, he played cricket and football for school. He was a member of the School Oriental Band while being a senior prefect.

After an eventful school career, he decided to continue playing club rugby experience. From there he played for the under-24 team with CR where they ended up joint champions with CH and FC, which was while representing the college first XV team. Throughout his career from the school days he occupied the position of Prop forward and that CR team was captained by Shamly Navaz coached by Tony Amit. In 2009, he was assigned as vice Captain of the Longden place club and later captained them in the Inter Club 10's tournament in which they became champions. The memorable moment in his club

rugby was when he was adjudged the 'Best Forward' in 2006 at the Caltex Rugby Awards. His tenure with CR was from 2003 to 2009 and played under several captains including of Shamly Navaz, Pavithra Fernando, Anuradha Dharmathilake, Shamil Mohamed and Ashen Karthelis and was coached by Tony Amit, Asanga Seneviratne, Grant Dwyer, Tavitha Thualgesi (Laga) and John Carinton. His team mates were Savantha de Saram,



Viraj Prashantha, Pavithra Fernando, Ravindra Wekadapala, Anuja Perera, Hasitha Perera, Ashen Karthelis, Shamil Mohamed, M.J. Musthaq, Asanga Rodrigo, Harin Kaluarachchi and Zulker Hameed are few to be named.

He was nominated for the National squad in 2004 and played in several tournaments. In 2006 played against China. In 2007 played against Arabian Gulf and Kazakhstan under Sanjeewa Jayashinghe's captaincy coached by late George Simpkin and Rob Yule. After hanging up his boots, he started focusing on his work

> and joined Asia Securities as a Trainee Stock Broker, where he worked 16 years and was promoted to Assistant Man-Then ager. opted to start coaching with Agoal Academy in 2010 invited by Dilroy Fernando. During this period they had tours to

Thailand and Malaysia. In 2010, he joined D.S. Senanayake College as assistant coach with A.C. Tennakoon. Then he moved to St. Josephs, Maradana as head coach for the under-16 and 18 teams. They assigned him to develop the junior structure in 2011/12 seasons. In 2012, he had an opportunity of joining another sport, the American Football, a new sport to be developed

in Sri Lanka. Dilroy selected him as a Trainee coach for EFLI league where he participated in coaches orientation and training programmes with American coaches. He obtained a level-1 coaching certificate for American football and worked as linesmen coach for Colombo Lions team with them.

He then served as head coach of S. and joined CR and FC under-21 team in Thomas under-18 team and Assistant 2002 under the captaincy of Haren Kalu- Coach for the first XV under Grant Dwyer arachchi which was his first club Rugby from 2013 to 2015, where they were promoted to 'A 'division in 2013 overcoming several big schools. He had a great experience to improve his coaching skills (professional Rugby coaching skills) while working under

Australian Coach Grant Dwyer.

Later he had a great opportunity to work as a coach for his club CR as Assistant Coach in the 2016/17 season with Scottish Coach Ben which was a great experience. He joined Zahira College as Head coach for the under-18 team in 2019 and has several achievements. Later was promoted to take care of the first XV team where he worked hard to develop the team and had a great start against Mahanama in 2020 winning the match by 40 points, after which the season came to a standstill due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Currently is working with Zahira rugby as in charge. He has completed the rugby coaching level 1 and 2 accredited by World Rugby and also has level one Officials certificate. His wife is Nadee Subashini and has a child Thedam Ranshia.

Malaka and Dilshan excel in Kandy's Battle of the Golds



HAFIZ MARIKAR

The first big match in Kandy the Battle of the Golds which was played last Saturday and Sunday at Katugastota between Sri Rahula College and Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College ended in a draw. Wariyapola Sri Suamngala College won the toss and elected to bat first and scored 208 runs for the loss of 8 wickets when play was halted at 4.03 pm due to rain.

They declared at the overnight score and bowled out Sri Rahula College for 114 runs in 36.4 overs. Malaka Samaranayake took 4 wickets for 22 runs to rip through Rahula College batting line up.

None of the batsmen were able to get past 20 runs in the innings and Sri Sumangala College started their second innings with an 84 runs lead, were bowled out for 115 runs in 50.4 overs and the game ended in a draw.

Thineera Akalanka scored 28 runs and it was once again Dilshan Arambegoda who ripped through Sumangala batting line up to take 6 wickets for 47 runs. Thilanka Kumarathunga also picked up 4 wickets

Sri Sumangala College 208 (68.5)

and 115 (50.4). Sri Rahula College, -114 (36.4)

Sachin and Kayla golf champions

Over eighty golfers were seen in action at this year's Donald Steel Golf tournament, which was held last weekend at the Victoria Golf and Country Resort. The winner Gents Gross (Donald Steel Trophy) Sachin and runner-up NirekTeiwani . Ladies Gross (Pam FernandoTrophy) winner Kayla Perera and runner-up Ahalya Rajan. Then in the nearest to Pin Gents winner Ranjith Nagalingam and Ahalya Rajan. Longest Drive Gents Sachin de Silva and Ladies Arika Wickramasinghe. Senior Best Nett score Gents Dr. S. Amunugama, Ladies Ahalya Rajan, runner up gents Ebert Pot and Ladies Rohini Sangani. Winner (Ebert Pot) Gents Alan Bond, runner-up Surain Prematilake. Gents Gross (Donald Steel Trophy)

A new big match on the way

Talks are going on to start a cricket big match between Sri Chandranadna Buddhist College and Ranabima Royal College, Both schools do well in cricket, and a big match is ideal. Sri Chandranada Buddhist school is housed at Asgiriya was inaugurated on 4thJanuary 2006 and took up cricket in 2011 has done well in this year's inter school cricket tournament playing in under 19 division III level II Group E, now they have qualified for the next round. Ranabima Royal College was inaugurated on 2nd March1996 is housed at Ganoruwa. And this year they play in the level II Group E

KDCA domestic qualifying tournament

Kandy District Cricket Association has finalized the match dates for their domestic limited over qualifying cricket tournament. Most of the matches will be played at the Prisons grounds Pallekelle.

The first game has been fixed for 6th May Central Youth SC vs Akurana CC -Prison grounds, 7th Sport Plus CC vs Lion Heart CC - Prison grounds, 10th Hewaheta CC vs Siyanco CC, 11th Titans CC vs Sport Plus CC – venue for the two games to be fixed, 11th Old Jinaraja CC vs Old Ranabima CC- Prison grounds, 12th Kingswood SC vs. Thunder CC – venue to be fixed, 12th Honest Star CC vs Tuskers CC - Prison grounds, 13th Up Country SM vs Assex CC - Prison grounds, 13th Akurana CC vs. Siyanco CC venue to be fixed, 14th Kingswood SC vs Titans CC - Prison grounds, 17th Hewaheta CC vs Central Youth CC - Prison grounds Titans CC vs Lion Heart CC – venue to be fixed, 18th Tuskers CCvs Sport Plus CC – venue to be fixed, Thunder CC vs New Wave CC - Prison grounds,19th Upcountry SM vs Siyanco CC – venue to be fixed, 19th Akurana CC vs Old Ranabima CC -Prison grounds, 20th Honest Star vs Lion Heart - Prison grounds, 21st Old Jinaraja CC vs Assex CC - Prison grounds, 24th Kingswood SC vs Sport Plus CC - Prison grounds, 24th Central Youth CC vs Siyanco CC – venue to be fixed, 25th Titans CC vs New Wave CC venue to be fixed, 25th Hewaheta CC vs. Upcountry SM - Prison grounds

Kotmale speed hill climb postponed

The new wave of the coronavirus has halted Kotmale Speed Hill Climb which was organised by Senkadagala Motor Sports Club's in association with the Sri Lanka Motor Cycle Club and was to be held today May 1st and 2nd . they had over 150 entries, for both cars and motor bikes. And at the last moment had to postpone it, due to the present situation Once they get the greenlight from the Police and Health department the event will be brought back.

One dayer Postponed

The one day encounter between Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College and Sri Rahulla College which was to be played tomorrow at Katugastota, has been postponed. When things come to normal the match will be played.

Cue sport dormant in Kandy

The sport of billiards and snooker over here in the hill capital of Kandy has taken a nosedive.

There are no tournaments unlike in the past when there were inter-club matches between Kandy clubs and also played against Colombo clubs.

In the early days, CYO - Catholic Club which was housed at the St. Sylvester's College building, Lawn Club near the Kandy Market where the present library is housed, Public Service Club behind Policeground, Mahanuwara YMBA, Kandy YMMA both are neighbours above the Kandy Lake, Kandy Garden Club, Peradeniya Faculty Club, Kings Cue Club who earned a name through cue sport, took the game very seriously and the tournaments were a great attraction to many cueists. Today, the sport is dormant in most of the clubs and only played in parlours. Whatever said and done Mahanuwara YMBA and Public Services club switch on the lights and the game is played. The most looked forward to event was the Kandy District 'Lanka Plate' Billiards and Snooker championships, today it is not there. At one time

Kandy was only next to Colombo in billiards and snooker, and provided national players and officials. Today sad to say the sport is in the dark. Some clubs don't even switch on the lights of the table.

Kesara to upgrade sports in the city

The Mayor of Kandy Kesara Senanayake believes sport is a powerful tool for social change, and can be used to address a range of issues facing com-

The Kandy Municipal Council is blessed with 24 playgrounds across the city, and many of them need to be upgraded as they have reached the end of their life spans. The Mayor has started to clean and upgrade the playgrounds, which is going to help sports lovers in a big way. The KMC also has 45 community centres where indoor sports are played.

These sporting venues not only help the very young, but also kids of older ages and teenagers and adults. The Mayor's strategy for sport – Sport for All of Us - will support a long-term vision to make Kandy the most active and socially-integrated city. Today there are many schools and clubs without grounds. The only ground they had for matches the Bogambara Stadium was taken over by the Sports Ministry in the late 1990's.

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(May 1)

LOCAL EVENTS

CRICKET (Under-19 Division One Tier 'A' final) Royal vs St. Joseph's at NCC Grounds

FOOTBALL (Super League Tournament): Ratnam SC vs Blue Star SC at 4.30 p.m Blue Eagles SC vs Red Star SC at 7.30 p.m (Both matches at Sugathadasa Stadium)

FOREIGN EVENTS

CRICKET (Indian Premier League): Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings at New Delhi

(May 1 and 2) **LOCAL EVENTS**

CRICKET (ICC World Test Championship): Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh (2nd Test) at Pallekele Stadium (3rd and 4th

days) **FOREIGN EVENTS CRICKET**

Zimbabwe vs Pakistan (1st Test) at Harare (3rd and 4th days)

(May 2) **LOCAL EVENTS**

CRICKET (Under-19 Division One Tier 'B' final):

Devapathiraja vs Mahinda at NCC Grounds **FOOTBALL**

(Super League Tournament): Up-country Lions FC vs Defenders FC at 4.30 p.m Colombo FC vs Renown SC at 7.30 p.m (Both matches at

Sugathadasa Stadium)

Navod Paranavithna

(Mahinda Captain)

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Mahinda College will meet Devapathi-

raja College Rathgama in the Under-19

Division One Tier 'B' Cricket Tournament

Mahinda defeated Ananda College by

72 runs while Devapathiraja beat Dhar-

final at the NCC Grounds on Sunday.



Oshada Fernando plays a shot

After a disappointing first day, Bangladesh pulled things back, stifling the runs and taking wickets in regular intervals, as Sri Lanka reached 469 for six on day two of the second and deciding Test at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy, yesterday.

After having conceded only 43 runs in the morning session, which also saw the dismissals of Lahiru Thirimanne, Angelo Mathews, and Dhananjaya de Silva, the visitors kept a tight lid on the scoring, while reaping the rewards with the wickets of Oshada Fernando and Pathum Nissanka during the latter stages.

But the advent of Niroshan Dickwella finally brought in some sense of urgency in the scoring.

At 382 for six, Sri Lanka were in danger of getting bowled out for less than 450, but Dickwella and Ramesh Mendis played with the sort of freedom that wasn't seen in the half first of the day. A naturally aggressive batsman, Dickwella constantly

swept the spinners off their lengths, while Mendis climbed into anything off the radar. Earlier, Sri Lanka who started the day at 291 for one

slipped to 334 for four at lunch as Bangladesh kept their basics and their discipline well in control.

The visitors did well to keep the run-scoring in check, with only 18 runs being scored in the first hour and were rewarded finally when Lahiru Thirimanne fell, gloving a short delivery down the leg-side.

It was a deserved reward for the perseverance of Taskin Ahmed and he should have had another one in the

masoka College by 40

runs in their respective

Skipper Navod Para-

navithna is the key player

for Mahinda and they will

also bank on Kausitha

Kodituwakku, Sandev

Madushanka and Kavindu

Lakshan for a good score.

Rajapaksa are the two key

Meanwhile, Devapathi-

raia are the dark horses of

the tournament as they

spinners for Mahinda.

Lakshan and Subanu

Rashmika

semi-finals.

Induwara,

recorded two upset victories against

Isipathana College and Dharmasoka to

reach the final. Skipper Sudeera Weerar-

athne is a useful spinner for Devapathi-

raja and they will also bank on Pawan

Sandesh and Jeewaka Shasheen to put

up a good performance.

DICKWELLA KEEPS SRI LANKA AHEAD on rain-hit second day

S C O R E C A R D						
SRI LANKA 1ST INNINGS D. Karunaratne c Das b S. Islam	N. Dickwella not out					

same over, only for everyone to miss the faint edge on Angelo Mathews' bat as he prodded forward.

However, the reprieve didn't cost the tourists as the relentless pacer kept harrowing Mathews, eventually forcing a thick edge that was held by the wicket-keeper Liton Das.

He was soon followed by Dhananjaya de Silva. The right-hander, who made a classy 166 in the first Test, couldn't get going and was helpless when a sharp turner from Taijul Ahmed caught his gloves and was gobbled up

It was an anti-climatic passage of play as the hosts lost three wickets for 15 in the space of 46 balls.



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Taskin Ahmed celebrates a dismissal.



Niroshan Dickwella celebrates his fifty.

Upbeat Joes look to upset Royal in Tier 'A' final

Pix courtesy SLC

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Unbeaten Royal College will meet St. Joseph's College in the Under-19 Division One Tier 'A' Cricket Tournament final at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place, today.

Royal defeated Mahanana College by six wickets, while the Josephians trounced Trinity College by 10 wickets in their respective semifinals played earlier.

Royal Skipper Ahan Wickramasinghe has already scored 437 runs from seven matches, including a century and three fifties, while Sineth Jayawardena, Isiwara Dissanayake, Sadisha Rajapaksa, wicket-keeper batsman Shehan Herath and Dasis Manchanayake are all in good touch with the bat.

All-rounder Kavindu Pathirathne and Sonal Amarasekara will spearhead the Royal bowling attack with Dan Poddiwela providing the back

up support. In addition, Gishan Balasooriya, Manchanayake, and off-spinner Sadisha Rajapaksa are among the wickets in this tournament and are capable of providing vital breakthroughs.

Meanwhile, all-rounder Dunith Wellalage is the key player for St. Joseph's and will also depend on the two opening batsmen wicketkeeper Sadeesh Jayawardena and Sheran Fonseka to produce a repeat performance.

The pair put on an unfinished 161-run opening stand in the semifinal against Trinity and will look to continue with the same form.

St. Joseph's have a solid middle order batting line-up comprising of Shevon Daniel, Yesith Rupasinghe, and Skipper Wellalage.

The Josephian bowling will be in the hands of fast bowlers Mithira Thenura and Deshan Seneviratne, with off-spinner Senuka de Silva and leg-spinner Wellalage expected to get an early breakthrough. Royal Under-19 Squad: Ahan



St. Joseph's Under-19 Cricket Squad



Royal Under-19 Cricket Squad

Wickramasinghe (Captain), Kavindu Pathirathna (Vice-Captain), Ishiwara Dissanayake, Gishan Balasuriya, Prashan Kalhara, Dasis Manchanayake, Sadisha Rajapaksa, Sonal Amarasekara, Dan Poddiwela, Sehan Herath, Sineth Jayawardene, Ashen Gamage, Uvindu Weerasekara,

Uthum Dissanayake, Nethin Panapitiya, Damith Kappagoda, Resandu Tillekaratne and Lahiru Gangewatte. St. Joseph's Under-19 **Squad:** Dunith Wellalage (Captain), Shevon Daniel, Dinal Anuradha, Ashan M.N. De Alwis, Sheran Fonseka, Mithira Thenura, Yesith Rupasinghe, Shenuka De Silva, Dineth Anthony, Sadeesh Jayawardene, Gagan Chamod, Shenuk Serasinghe, Deshan Senevirathne, Hiran Jayasundara, Lahiru Amarasekara, Sahan Dabare, Hirun Matheesha, Yenula Dewthusa, Sasanka Ranaweera and Kenneth Sasmina.

Shaw stars as Delhi eases to win over KKR

Sudeera Weerarathne

(Devapathiraja Captain)

Mahinda favourites to beat Devapathiraja

Prithvi Shaw struck 82 off 41 balls as the Delhi Capitals eased to a seven-wicket win over the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match played on Thursday at Ahmedabad.

The opener reached his half-century in 18 deliveries as Delhi chased a target of 155 with 3.3 overs to spare. Shaw, 21, also became the second man

boundaries in an over.

with Andre Russell scoring 45 not out.

in IPL history to score six consecutive Earlier, Eoin Morgan was out for a secThe win takes Delhi up to second in the IPL table with KKR - who have lost five in seven - remaining in fifth.

After losing opener Nitish Rana (15) in the fourth over, Shubman Gill and Rahul Tripathi stabilised the KKR innings as the side reached 69 for one in 9.2 overs.

Chief scores

Kolkata Knight Riders: 154/6 in 20 overs (Andre Russell 45 n.o, Shubman Gill 43, Lalit Yadav 2/13, Axar Patel 2/32)

Delhi Capitals: 156/3 in 16.3 overs ond-ball duck as KKR posted 154 for six (Prithvi Shaw 82, Shikhar Dhawan 46, Pat Cummins 3/24). (BBC)

Sri Sumangala bags U-19 Division Two Title

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Leg-spinner Vishwa Lahiru Kumara had fine figures of five for 12 as Sri Sumangala MV Panadura recorded a six-wicket win over St. John's College, Panadura in the Under-19 Division Two Tier 'A' Cricket Tournament final played at the BRC Grounds, yesterday.

The game was reduced to a 36-over per side contest due to wet ground conditions and St. John's batting first were bowled out for 68 in 33.4 overs.

In reply, Sri Sumangala reached their target in 19.3 overs with Mihiranga Fernando scoring an unbeaten 36.

Chief scores

St. John's: 68 in 33.4 overs (Vishwa Lahiru Kumara 5/12, Charuka Jayathilaka 3/14)

Sri Sumangala: 69/4 in 19.3 overs (Mihiranga Fernando 36 n.o, Dinushka Madushan 2/6).



Vishva Lahiru Kumara (Sri Sumangala MV)

Devapathiraja wins Girls' U-19 Title

Devapathiraja College, Rathgama retained the Girls' Under-19 limited over cricket title when they defeated Wadduwa Central by 12 runs in the final played at the Bloomfield Grounds in Reid Avenue, yesterday.

Devapathiraja scored 88 for five from their restricted 14 overs and reduced Wadduwa Central to 76 for eight in their allotted 14 overs.

Chief scores

Devapathiraja: 88/5 in 14 overs (Imesha Dulani 22, Inushi Shenorika 3/15, Nethmi Poorna 2/13)

Wadduwa Central: 76/8 in 14 overs (Navodya Nethmini 23, Sachini Nisansala 2/8, Vihara Sewwandi 2/16, Kavisha Dilhari 2/17). (D.R)