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The 'National War Heroes Commemorative Month' began with the pinning of 'Ranaviru Flag' on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday at the Presidential Secretariat. Ranaviru Seva Authority Acting Chairperson Sonia Kottegoda pinned the Ranaviru Flag on the President. Defence Ministry Secretary General (Retired) Kamal Gunaratne also participated. The annual War Heroes Commemoration Month is observed to pay gratitude to the war heroes who sacrificed their lives and limbs during the humanitarian operation to end three decades long terrorism in the country. *Picture by President's Media Division.*

WHO, UN assures support for Lanka

Calls for serious adoption of guidelines

SHAVINI MADHARA

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) stand ready to support in any way possible to save lives and to control the spread of COVID-19, WHO Sri Lanka Officer-In-Charge Dr. Olivia Nieveras said.

Issuing a message on the current COVID-19 situation in Sri Lanka yesterday, she requested to avoid



3Cs, namely 'Closed spaces with poor ventilation', 'Crowded places with many people nearby' and 'Close-contact settings'.

"Globally the cases of COVID-19 have increased considerably over the past few weeks. This is the most challenging crisis the world has faced since the Second World War. No country has been spared including Sri Lanka. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

23 killed in Mexico overpass collapse

A Mexico City metro train overpass collapsed onto a road on Monday night, killing at least 23 people, including children, authorities said. Dozens more

were injured. Photos and video from the scene showed train cars hanging from the crumbled overpass and rescue personnel searching and transporting **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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JABS TARGETED FOR 63% OF POPULATION

VACCINATION DRIVE ON PAR WITH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

25,000 PCR TESTS DONE DAILY AT A COST OF RS. 44 MN PER DAY

13,800 BEDS RESERVED FOR COVID PATIENTS

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi told Parliament yesterday that the Government is hopeful of vaccinating 63% of the total population of the country by year end.

Joining the debate on the current COVID pandemic situation, the Health Minister said the vaccination drive was underway

currently and that the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine is being administered to all health and frontline workers.

She said the Government had ordered 13 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia, of which 15,000 doses were received in Sri Lanka yesterday. She added that the rest would be received in batches. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Tourism gets 54 new projects worth US\$ 879 mn

New Unit to expedite project approvals

Fifty four new investment proposals related to the tourism sector with a total value of US\$ 879 million had been received in the past one and half years despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Tourism Minister Prasanna Ranatunga said.

Out of those proposals, 29 projects with a total of US\$ 188 million investments have already been granted approval by the Tourism Development Authority, he said.

Among those projects are proposals for constructing cable cars, floating markets and underwater galleries. He said the Government has expedited approvals for tourism related investment projects. He added that preliminary agreements are to be signed with 43 public institutions shortly. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Govt created false sense of security among public - Opposition Leader

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI

Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa stated that the government had created a false sense of security among the public which ultimately led to the present spike in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Premadasa also criticised the government for not paying attention to the Opposition which continuously raised concerns over a possible Third Wave. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Broader discourse on Port City Bill needed - JVP

LAHIRU FERNANDO

The Government's unnecessary rush and concealment of facts from the public over the controversial Port City Economic Commission Bill indicates its risks, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Leader MP Anura Kumara Disسانayake said.

Speaking to the media at the Battaramulla JVP Head Office yesterday, he said the Government presented the Bill hurriedly in Parliament without allowing a social dialogue on it. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Cabinet approves change to O/L, A/L exam months

O/L in August, A/L changed to December

University admissions made faster

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers approved Education Minister Prof.G.L. Peiris' proposal to hold the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination in August and the G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations in December, Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

Addressing the weekly Cabinet media briefing held yesterday at the Government Information Department, Minister Rambukwella said the decision was reached with the aim of providing opportunities for students to complete their higher education early and enter the job market. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Port City Bill will not be taken up for debate today

The Committee on Parliamentary Business under Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena decided not to hold the debate on the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill today (5).

Instead, the Adjournment Debate on the current situation in the country in the face of COVID-19 will be held from 10am to 4.30 pm without lunch today. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Daily PCR tests to be increased to 20,000

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a proposal by Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi to expedite the purchase of more testing kits

and other equipment required to conduct Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests in the face of the coronavirus in Sri Lanka.

Co-Cabinet Spokesman Plantation Min-

ister Dr.Ramesh Pathirana speaking at this week's Cabinet media briefing held yesterday said with the discovery of the new COVID variant in Sri Lanka, there is a requirement to conduct more PCR tests.

The Health Ministry said the demand for COVID-19 PCR tests at Government laboratories has increased to 20,000 a day and showing a rising trend. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



First consignment of 15,000 Sputnik V doses arrive



The vaccine consignment was symbolically handed over to Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana by Russia's Deputy Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alexei Brudanov.

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The first consignment of Russian COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik V arrived at the Bandaranaike International Airport at 2 am on a Qatar Airways flight yesterday. The vaccine consignment containing 15,000 doses was symbolically handed over to Production, Supply and Regulation of

Pharmaceuticals State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana by Russia's Deputy Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka Alexei Brudanov.

Sri Lanka has decided to purchase a total of 13 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia.

The National Medical Regulatory Authority (NMRA)

approved the emergency use of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine in Sri Lanka in March.

Cabinet approval was granted to purchase 7 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine at a cost of US\$ 69.65 million.

The purchase order was placed on the recommendation of the Cabinet-appointed Negotiation Committee. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

RAMADAN Prayer Time

DATE	04-08
Satur End	04-22
Subah	04-37
Sun Rise	05-57
Luhar	19-09
Asar	03-27
Mahgrib	06-19
Isha	07-09

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SC tells IGP must ensure officers adhere to laws

Attorneys win FR case on obstructing duty inside police station

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Supreme Court has observed that Inspector General of Police must take steps to adequately train and supervise all police personnel whether gazetted or non-gazetted to adhere to the laws practiced in this country, to show professionalism in policing and to be trained to provide a people friendly police service to the public.

Supreme Court Judge, Justice S. Thuraireja made these remarks while delivering a judgement in connection with a fundamental rights petition filed by two lawyers for obstructing them from representing and looking into the interests of their client at the Ambalangoda Police Station in 2010. The Supreme Court further ordered the two police officers to pay Rs.10,000 to each petitioner as litigation costs.

The Supreme Court three-judge-bench comprising Justice S. Thuraireja, Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare and Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya held that two police officers attached to the Ambalangoda Police Station have violated petitioners' Fundamental Rights enshrined in Article 12 and 14(1)(g) of the constitution after interference with their freedom to engage in their occupation. Two lawyers Chandima Samanmalee de Zoysa and Sudusinghe Liyanage Pubudu Kumara filed this petition naming Don Saman Harishchandra Malawera, Inspector attached to the



Ambalangoda Police Station, Liyana Arachchige Chandrarathna, a Sub-Inspector attached to the Ambalangoda Police Station and several others as respondents. The Attorney General had refused to appear for these 1st and 2nd Respondent police officers.

The petitioners allege that the behavior of these two police officers during the primary incident took place at the police station on February 28, 2010 using abusive language and the harassment afterwards caused them severe pain of mind and humiliation. The petitioners further said two respondents caused the Petitioners severe embarrassment and humiliation and to the legal profession at large.

Petitioners submit that such treatment meted out to the Petitioners amounts to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and is a clear violation of the rights guaranteed under Article 11, 12(1) and 14(1)(g) of the Constitution.

As per the findings of the investigation conducted by the Superintendent of Police at Ambalangoda Division, it is established that the 1st and 2nd Respondents have shouted at the two Attorneys-at-law, and thus has disrespected their integrity and disregarded their

dignity as persons and professionals. Upon the actions taken by the Superintendent of Police, the 1st and 2nd Respondents were interdicted from service. In his submissions, Senior Counsel Viran Corea appearing for the petitioners submitted to court that the Respondents' conduct was in violation of 'Police Rules 2012'. These rules were published in the gazette notification bearing no. 1758/36 dated 18-05-2012.

Clause 3. (1) of the rules is reproduced below: 'Every Attorney-at-Law, who enters the precincts of a police station established under the Police Ordinance situated in any part of Sri Lanka, in his capacity of an Attorney-at-Law for the purpose of representing and watching the interests of a person who is the client of such Attorney-at-Law, shall be treated cordially and courteously and given a fair and patient hearing by the police officers attached to such Police Station, whatever their rank'.

Senior Counsel Viran Corea with counsel Sharmaine Gunaratne, Sarita de Fonseka and Pathum Pramoda appeared for the Petitioners. State Counsel Induni Panchihewa with State Counsel S. Fernando appeared for the Attorney General.

Advanced Level results released

Over 64% qualify for University

Over sixty four per cent candidates who sat for the GCE Advanced Level Examination have qualified for university entrance, the Examinations Department stated.

The results of 2020 Advanced Level Examination were released online yesterday and can be viewed through the official website of the Department of Examinations - www.doenets.lk.

According to the Examinations Department, a total of 194,297 candidates out of the total of 301,771 candidates, who sat for the exam, have qualified to apply for university admission.

Last year's Exam was held from October 12 to November 6 amidst the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

The Department said dates for applying for re-correction of answer scripts would be notified later. Re-correction applications will have to be submitted through an online process. Any inquiries regarding the results can be directed to the following contact numbers:

• School Examinations Organization and Results Branch - 0112784208 / 0112784537 / 0113140314 / 0113188350, • Hotline: 1911

Minister Gammanpila elected Sri Lanka-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Association President

Energy Minister Udaya Gammanpila, was elected as the new President of the Sri Lanka-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Association recently at the revival meeting of the association for the ninth Parliament.



The meeting was held under the patronage of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, High Commissioner for Australia in Sri Lanka David John Holly, and Secretary General of Parliament Dhammika Dasanayake. Several Ministers, State Ministers and Parliamentarians were present at the meeting.

At this meeting State Minister Kanaka Herath was elected as the new Secretary and MPs Mohamed Muzammil, Hector Appuhamy and Rauf Hakeem were elected as the Vice Presidents. In addition, MP Weerasumana Weerasinghe was elected as the Treasurer and MP Dr. Upul Galappaththi as the Deputy Secretary.

The Speaker said that Sri Lankan community of 170,000

people are excessively contributing to the advancement of Australian economy. "We are friends of two different far away continents, yet, Australia is so close to the hearts of our people. Around 12,000 Sri Lankan students are studying in Australia while many more students in Sri Lanka are aspiring to pursue their higher studies in your country. I take this opportunity to pay my gratitude, on behalf of the Government in Sri Lanka, for your state patronage to take care of our people" the Speaker further said.

Ministers, State Ministers and Members of Parliament were present.



The Police were conducting awareness campaigns in various parts of the country over the past few days on the importance of following health guidelines to control the rapid spread of COVID-19. Officers of the Maskeliya Police are advising plantation workers on how to continue their work while taking adequate health precautions. Picture by Maskeliya group corr, Gamini Bandara Ilangathilake.

Port City Bill will...

From page 01

Secretary General Dhammika Dasanayake said the decision not to hold the debate was taken as Parliament had not received the determination of the Supreme Court with regard to the petitions filed on the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill.

After receiving the determination from the Supreme Court, Party leaders will have to make a decision on when the debate should be held, the Secretary General said. The Committee on Parliamentary Business decided to hold this week's Parliamentary sittings on May 4 and 5 only, due to the prevailing situation.

Jabs targeted for 63%...

From page 01

The Minister also stated that agreements have been reached with vaccine manufacturers for the supply of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines which are expected to reach the country during this year.

Although the Government had set a target of vaccinating 60% of the population, it has been able to go beyond that, she said, adding that the Government has promised to provide the required number of additional vaccines as soon as the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine is approved by the WHO. "The vaccination drive in Sri Lanka is on par with developed countries."

Minister Wanniarachchi said the Government was taking all possible steps to control the COVID pandemic while protecting the lives of the people. Measures were being taken to maintain

the living standards of the low-income people and keep the country's economy stable.

With this aim, the Government had provided an allowance of Rs. 5,000 to the low income families to sustain them during the pandemic. "It is ironic that even Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa who talks so much about the low income families, had forgotten about them when raising issues regarding the COVID pandemic."

Commenting on the steps taken by the Government to control the third wave of COVID-19 in the country, the Minister said that 13,800 hospital beds have been reserved for COVID patients, noting that within the next two weeks a further 10,000 beds would be added.

Minister Wanniarachchi noted

that the current Oxygen production in the country is around 23 tonnes, but there is a possibility to increase it to around 80 tonnes. She said the issue in India was that there is a shortage of Oxygen cylinders.

However, the Minister noted that in Sri Lanka there were around 24,000 cylinders at present in addition to 4,000 jumbo cylinders. She said the oxygen suppliers had also ordered an additional 7,000 jumbo cylinders.

Wanniarachchi said that currently around 25,000 PCR tests are done daily at a cost of Rs. 44 million per day.

She told the House that currently, almost 154 million persons have been infected with the Covid-19 virus globally and over 3.2 million have died as a result of the infection.

WHO, UN assures support ...

From page 01

This situation must be taken seriously. I know that many of us are tired because we have been fighting the COVID-19 for over a year now. However, the reality is that we may now be entering the most challenging chapter," she observed.

"In Sri Lanka, the Government, our colleagues of the Health Ministry and other front line workers are working tirelessly to control the pandemic. The Health workers, security forces and other local authorities cannot do this alone. We must always follow the rules, maintain physical distance, practice res-

piratory hygiene and wash our hands with soap and water, disinfect surfaces, wear masks properly and stay at home if not feeling well," she stressed.

"Vaccines are powerful tools that are key to control COVID-19, but researchers around the world proved that we cannot vaccinate our way out of this problem. However, we have evidence based tools to reduce the spread. We must follow the recommended behaviour to protect ourselves, our families and our loved ones. We will overcome this crisis if we do our part together," she said in her message.

23 killed in Mexico overpass...

From page 01

people away from the scene on stretchers. "A support beam gave way," Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum said at the scene.

She said a beam collapsed just as the train passed over it. The accident occurred on the metro's Line 12 around 10:30 p.m. The mayor told reporters at the site that 65 people have been taken to hospitals, and 7 are in a serious condition. Sheinbaum earlier said that one of the victims was in a car underneath the collapsed metro overpass and he is alive at a hospital.

A crane is being used to hold up the train so rescue workers can continue to work, she said. Of the dead, some are minors, she said without specifying a number.

Sheinbaum also called for an investigation into the incident. "If there's a need for an external investigation, there

will be one," she added. "We will get to the truth and we will get justice." The metro's Line 12 was built when now Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard was Mexico City's mayor, Associated Press reported.

"What happened today in the metro is a terrible tragedy. My solidarity with the victims and their families," Ebrard tweeted.

"Of course we need to investigate cause and determine responsibility. I reiterate to all authorities my complete willingness to contribute to everything necessary," he wrote.

A section of the overpass appeared to completely collapse, and another part was partially collapsed at an angle, photos and video showed. Video from Tele-mundo showed rescuers using ladders to reach train cars that hung from the overpass at a downward angle. (NBC)

Tourism gets 54 new...

From page 01

The Tourism Development Authority has also set up a new Unit to guide investors on the procedure for getting approval for their projects. The new Unit will intervene to ease and expedite the investment approval procedure by avoiding red tape seen in the public sector.

The Authority has signed agreements with the Board of Investment, Coastal Conservation Department, National Building Research Organisation, Central Environmental Authority, Wildlife Conservation Department, Archaeological Department, Agrarian Services Department and the Irrigation Department to work collectively for this purpose.

Daily PCR tests to be...

From page 01

Minister Pathirana said the best way to prevent the spread of the virus is by vaccination. He said the government is waiting for the approval of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Chinese COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use and that a considerable amount of doses are available in the country at the moment.

"If the WHO approves, another 600,000 individuals can be vaccinated. The country has already received a consignment of fifteen thousand doses of the Sputnik V from Russia," he said.

First consignment...

From page 01

According to the Government Information Department, each vaccine will be purchased for US\$ 9.95. The Cabinet further granted their consent to order 6 million more of Sputnik V doses. Russian Embassy staff, State Pharmaceutical Corporation Chairman Dr. Prasanna Gunasena and officials were present at the occasion.

Cabinet approves change to O/L, A/L...

From page 01

The government has observed that students are aged 19 or 20 years by the time they complete their school education and they reach 25 or 26 years when they finally conclude their university education.

This is due to the extended period spent on Thursday or Friday for the purpose of taking up the debate of this Bill," he commented.

The G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) and G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examinations will

be in August and December respectively and results will be issued within three months of each exam, so that a total of 45 months at present can be reduced to 32 months.

Selection of students to universities based on the Z score without waiting for the conclusion of the re-correction process of the G. C. E. Advanced Level examination will also be made.

If there are students whose results are upgraded after the re-correction process, they will be awarded new marginal Z Scores so they can undergo the relevant degree courses and this method will be applied from the 2020 Advanced Level examination.

Broader discourse on Port...

From page 01

He added that a two-day debate on the Bill requested by the JVP was turned down by the Government at the Party Leaders' Meeting citing COVID-19 as a reason.

"The debate on the Bill has been postponed because the Speaker has not yet received the Supreme Court determination. If it was genuine about its earlier concern of COVID-19, it has no moral right to convene Parliament either on Thursday or Friday for the purpose of taking up the debate of this Bill," he commented.

"The Government may try to push this Bill through Parliament stating that it is a turning point of the country's economy.

However, we have a different opinion to that. There are doubts that this legislation may turn the Port City into an economic center of black money. The Bill could also pose a risk to the country's sovereignty. The Supreme Court only considers whether the Bill's provisions are consistent with the Constitution, but a broad public dialogue is needed on the Bill's content.

We have been educating the masses in the last couple of weeks, but those had to be abandoned due to COVID-19. The Government must be transparent and allow a public dialogue if it has no hidden motives in rushing this Bill through," he commented.

Govt created false sense of security...

From page 01

Premadasa made these observations in Parliament yesterday (4) joining the debate held on the COVID-19 pandemic situation prevailing in the country.

Premadasa pointed out, "The government has restricted questions asked under Standing Order 27 (2). There were no such restrictions earlier. Our questioning has become a headache to the government. The government criticised us alleging that we are wasting the time of the House.

They insulted and laughed at us for asking questions regarding the pandemic. Questioning the government on its policies and activities is our responsibility as an Opposition. But the government paid no attention to the concerns we raised in Parliament.

The government only boasted. It limited PCR tests and created an artificial confidence to project as if the epidemic was under control.

Basically the whole country was fooled by this act. Now the country and the people are suffering because of these actions. The security of our nation is threatened. This is not a military operation. We need good health facilities to fight this epidemic," he said.

The Opposition Leader said the government needs to work with the other countries to curtail the pandemic. "This is a global pandemic and we need to work with other nations. That is why we, as the Opposition, held discussions with the ambassadors requesting their facilitation," Premadasa pointed out.

Violating ban on plastic, polythene products

Minister instructs CEA to take legal action against two companies

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has instructed the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) to take legal action against two companies for violating the gazette notification banning plastics and polythene.

The CEA banned sachet packets of poly-

thene and plastics weighing less than 20 grams, which do not belong to the category of food and pharmaceuticals, from March 31.

The gazette notification has been issued banning five types



of polythene and plastic products. Following the ban, two companies had continued to manufacture 24 grams of sachets of polythene and plastic.

and have fully suspended production, while some others are still manufacturing them defying the new regulations. The disposal of discarded sachet packets has become an environmental problem. It has been confirmed that drinking water sources and other water sources

were polluted as a result. The ban was implemented after a study of all those facts," the Minister said.

The Minister has instructed the CEA to institute legal action against the companies violating the new regulations.

Wildlife circuit bungalows, guest houses, camping sites closed

Circuit bungalows, guest houses and camping sites under the Wildlife Conservation Department will be temporarily closed to the public from today until further notice, the Department's Direc-

tor General said. He said that those who have already made reservations at these facilities will be provided with the necessary information in the future to make new reservations.

Nine Grama Niladhari Divisions in five districts isolated

Nine Grama Niladhari Divisions in five Districts were isolated from yesterday to control the COVID spread, Army Commander and National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID 19 outbreak Head General Shavendra Silva said.

The isolated areas belonged to the Nuwara

Eliya, Gampaha, Rathnapura, Colombo and Kalutara Districts.

The Ingestre Grama Niladhari Division in Norwood and Fordayas Watta Grama Niladhari Division in Hatton, Eldeniya Church Road and Ranaviru Dhamasiri Mawatha in Kadawatha, Gangulwitiya Grama Niladhari Division

in Rathnapura, Pothupitiya North Grama Niladhari Division in Rakwana, Hapugoda Grama Niladhari Division in Kalawana, Willorawatta Grama Niladhari Division in Moratumulla, and Bombuwala Grama Niladhari Divisions (728 C, 728 D, 728 B, 728, 728 E, 728 A) in Dodangoda have been isolated.

Government striving to establish chemical free farming system – Minister Chamal

M.IRFAN ZAKARIYA, Hambantota Group Corr.

The Government is working to re-establish a farming system free of chemical fertilisers and pesticides despite all obstacles, Irrigation Minister Chamal Rajapaksa said.

He said that the Government will make direct and tough decisions in this regard. The Minister was participating in the National Programme to Cultivate Turmeric Island-wide in Medamulana recently as part of cultivating minor export crops on a large scale.

"Over the past years, foreign currency flowed out of the country when importing these crops. Today the people are receiving that money. The President has made a

tough decision to stop importing chemical fertilisers and pesticides to the country. After 1960, we became dependent on imported fertilisers. Earlier, our farmers relied on local fertilisers and insecticides," the Minister said.

"For about 40 years, we have relied on imported fertilisers and pesticides. As a result, the health of the people deteriorated. The President took into account all these factors before making the decision to stop importing fertilisers," he said.

"There is some increase in the COVID-19 pandemic. This was largely due to the negligence of the people. Some in this country



did not heed the Government's advice to restrict unwanted travel during the New Year," the Minister said.

"Some people went on pilgrimage to Sri Pada. Now there are new clusters of COVID-19. For the New Year holiday, some came from Colombo to visit relatives in the villages. They had given COVID-19 as a New Year gift to their relatives. The COVID-19 Prevention Committee meets daily with the President to make decisions to control the pandemic. The best thing the people can do is to limit travel for at least two or three weeks and stay at homes," the Minister said.



Jaela Excise Department officials arrested four suspects along with a stock of illegal cigarettes worth Rs 2 million from Kelaniya on Monday. The stock contained over 30,000 fags. The suspects who are residents of Kelaniya and Wattala are to be produced before Assistant Excise Commission (Western Province) Upul Kumara today.

Sri Lankan expat wins Dh12 million in Abu Dhabi Big Ticket

Mohammed Mishfak, 36, a sales professional for a private company in Dubai, won the mega jackpot taking home Dh12 million.

Speaking to Gulf News from Sri Lanka where Mishfak is vacationing with his family, the draw winner said he was excited with the win. "I can't breathe or think straight! I have been receiving so

many calls on my mobile."

Mishfak shares his winning ticket with 20 other people. "My share is around Dh600,000 and I am very grateful for this. My father underwent an operation and this money is very handy," said the sales professional, who earns Dh7,000 a month.

"The other contributors to the ticket are super

excited just like me. They have been calling me to tell me to collect the money as soon as possible."

Mishfak won the jackpot with ticket number 054978. He is a resident of Dubai for the past 10 years staying with his friends while his wife is back home in Sri Lanka with their two children. "I could not afford to

bring my family here due to low salary. When Richard called me to say I had won, my happiness knew no bounds. I was excited and happy at the same time when I heard that it's Richard from Big Ticket calling me as I know Richard only calls the winner of the jackpot draw that too on the third of every month."

Mishfak said he has

been purchasing the Big Ticket for the past year and a half together with his 20 friends. They pool money together each month to participate at the Big Ticket.

He said much of the money won will go towards solving his family's financial problems and build a home for his two children and wife in Sri Lanka. -Gulf News

Angunakolapelessa Prison reports 30 COVID cases

M.IRFAN ZAKARIYA, Hambantota Group Corr.

Thirty inmates of the Angunakolapelessa Prison have been infected with COVID-19.

They were tested positive during Rapid Antigen

Tests (RATs) last Friday and Saturday. Southern Province Operations Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19 Coordinating Officer Chamara Mahagama said that the infected inmates are residents

of Kurunegala, Kataragama, Matara, Weligama, Tunkama, Devinuwara, Middeniya, Katuwana and Akuressa. They have been referred to the Kandakadu Rehabilitation Centre and the Welikada Prison.

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PRESS FREEDOM AND GENDER EMPOWERMENT

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

THALIF DEEN

In the contemporary world of journalism, female reporters face a double jeopardy: they are increasingly targeted both as journalists and as women – particularly in repressive regimes and misogynistic societies.

As the United Nations intensifies its campaign for women's rights worldwide – even as it annually commemorates World Press Freedom Day on May 3 – one of the questions lingering in the minds of women activists is: Is press freedom incompatible with gender empowerment?

Marianna Belalba Barreto, Civic Space Cluster Lead at CIVICUS, the global civil society alliance based in Johannesburg, told *IPS* the *CIVICUS Monitor* has documented many cases of women journalists facing online harassment and the gendered nature of it.

In its annual report: People Power Under Attack (PPUA) 2020, CIVICUS documented the use of intimidation as a tactic to deter journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs).

In particular, several cases of intimidation of women journalists were documented in the Balkan region, with threats often gendered in nature.

In North Macedonia, a woman journalist received messages via Facebook and Twitter containing verbal abuses and hate speech. She received dozens of messages threatening her with rape as well as death in response to her work.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina a woman journalist was threatened for reporting on an environmental rights story.

In Bulgaria, a woman journalist, whose story portrayed a far-right group in a negative light, had to flee the country with her family after allegedly receiving threats from unknown people against her and the family, with her personal information leaked online.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris and the Washington-based International Center for Journalists (ICJ) conducted a global survey last year to assess the scale and impacts of online violence targeting women journalists, "and to help identify solutions to this pernicious problem."

ICJ says it is the most comprehensive and geographically diverse survey ever undertaken on the theme, having been offered in five languages and receiving responses from 714 women journalists across 113 countries.

The top findings include: Nearly three in four women respondents (73 percent) said they had experienced online violence; threats of physical (25 percent) and sexual violence (18 percent) plagued the women journalists surveyed; and one in five women respondents (20 percent) said they had been attacked or abused offline in incidents seeded online.

Lucy Westcott, James W. Foley Emergencies Research Associate at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), told *IPS* women journalists around the world face a number of safety hazards while reporting, and risk having their voices silenced for being both journalists and women in public life.



Three women journalists in Lebanon, Dima Sadek, Luna Safwan and Mahassen Moursel, have been subjected to an intense hate campaign



Geri Scott, *Yorkshire Post*

CPJ has spoken to women journalists across the world – including in many of the countries highlighted from the UNESCO-ICJ report, such as Brazil, South Africa, the UK and the US – who described dealing with threats to their safety while reporting, online harassment, misogynistic attacks, and threats of sexual violence and death.

She said women journalists are also at risk of physical attack while reporting in the field, especially if they are reporting alone. Freelance women journalists face a particular risk, as they lack the backing of a traditional newsroom and its support.

"Online harassment continues to be one of the biggest risks to the safety of women journalists globally, and online threats can and do spill over into a real-life setting. The impact of online harassment is far-reaching, and can also result in trauma and mental health difficulties, said Westcott, a former staff writer for *Newsweek*, and UN correspondent for *Inter Press Service (IPS)* news agency.

She added: "Journalist safety is a press freedom issue, and women journalists should be able to do their job and report the news without fearing for their safety and livelihoods. Editors need to be aware

“ONLINE TROLLING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE MANIFESTS IN VARIOUS WAYS AND IS CARRIED OUT TO INTIMIDATE, STIGMATIZE AND SILENCE WOMEN.”

of the risks their female journalists face, and help them take steps to mitigate those risks."

Tara Carey, Head of Media at Equality Now told *IPS* women journalists around the world are speaking out about their experiences of online violence and harassment, and studies are reporting a disturbing increase in misogynistic digital abuse targeting female journalists.

"Online trolling and psychological abuse manifests in various ways and is carried out to intimidate, stigmatize and silence women. It can range from sexual harassment, and threats of sexual and physical violence, including murder, through to privacy violations such as hacking, non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, and 'doxing', which involves personal information and contact details being leaked to the public.

"Trolling is sometimes part of an orchestrated campaign involving multiple attackers, and abuse is often worse when it intersects with other forms of discrimination, such as associated with race, nationality, religion, caste, ethnicity, and sexual orientation," she said.

Online violence and harassment can take a heavy toll, leaving those who are targeted feeling stressed, scared, depressed, and in some instances, at greater risk.

Worryingly, digital abuse is closely asso-



Investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia of Malta, who was killed in a car bomb explosion

ciated with offline violence, with many women journalists confirming they have experienced threats, abuse or assault in face-to-face encounters whilst working, said Carey.

"This onslaught is curtailing women's participation in the media and undermining our ability to engage freely in public debate, report on contentious issues or challenge discrimination. Some women are being pushed to censor what they say, withdraw from public online conversations and frontline reporting, or even abandoning journalism entirely.

"Online abuse against women journalists is an attack on freedom of speech and expression. A reduction in female representation in news reporting erodes gender diversity in public discourse and risks marginalizing gender-sensitive reporting on issues impacting women and girls," declared Carey.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of International Women's Day last March, UNESCO launched a campaign to highlight the specific risks faced by women journalists online.

Guy Berger, Director for Policies and Strategies, Communication and Information, at UNESCO, says, "This violence harms women's right to speak and society's right to know."

"To tackle this increasing trend," he adds, "we need to find collective solutions to protect women journalists from online violence." This includes strong responses from social media platforms, national authorities and media organizations.

Belalba Barreto said CIVICUS also continues to document cases in different regions of the world, as indicated by the following examples:

1. Three women journalists in Lebanon, Dima Sadek, Luna Safwan and Mahassen Moursel, have been subjected to an intense hate campaign.
2. Geri Scott, the *Yorkshire Post's* Westminster correspondent, faced online harassment following her appearance on the Andrew Marr Show TV programme on *BBC One*. Following her appearance on the show, Scott was targeted by an "online troll-



ing campaign", when she received 52 Instagram follow requests and "abusive messages and even rape threats.

3. In Brazil, CIVICUS documented several cases.

In addition, a report published by the Associação Brasileira de Jornalismo Investigativo (ABRAJI) on violence against women journalists in Brazil, identified 20 attacks on Brazilian women journalists between January 2019 and February 2020, including misogynistic and sexist offences, smear campaigns and disclosure of personal information. Of the 17 cases recorded in 2019, 13 were carried out by members of the federal and state congress, ministers and President Bolsonaro himself. A total of 84 percent of the journalists interviewed in the study also said they had faced gender-based violence at work.

4. News outlet *Prensa Comunitaria* and their women journalists were subjected to a smear campaign in conservative media and on social media for their coverage of the International Women's Day march held on March 8, 2020 in Guatemala City.

Carey of Equality Now said: "Dealing with online abuse mustn't fall on the shoulders of those being targeted. Media houses need to develop and implement gender-specific guidelines and training that incorporate anti-harassment policies. Women journalists should feel comfortable raising concerns about abuse and newsrooms should take responsibility for ensuring they feel safe and supported.

"Laws need to be updated and implemented to address this problem. Criminal justice systems should be providing support and redress to victims and punishing perpetrators. Justice being done, and being seen to be done, is important both for the individual and because consequences can act as a deterrent for others.

"There also needs to be better awareness and understanding amongst law enforcement agencies and social media companies, along with the adoption of zero-tolerance policies that involve duty bearers taking swift and appropriate action against perpetrators."

(Thalif Deen, Senior Editor at the UN Bureau of Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency, is the author of a newly-released book on the United Nations titled "No Comment and Don't Quote Me on That" available on Amazon. The link to Amazon via the author's website follows: <https://www.rodericgrigson.com/no-comment-by-thalif-deen/>)



UNESCAP 77th session on Zoom

Premier says COVID pandemic here being controlled effectively

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa at the inauguration of the 77th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) outlined Sri Lanka's successful approach in controlling the COVID-19 and called for renewed "South-South" cooperation, to recover from the pandemic. The session was held virtually in Bangkok from April 26 to 29 on the theme 'Building back better from crises through regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific'.

Prime Minister Rajapaksa said that even during the pandemic, economic and export sector continued to function, tourism restarted in January and the Central Bank reduced policy rates and implemented several concessional refinancing programmes in Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister said that Sri Lanka is deeply committed to

achieving Sustainable Development Goals and toward this end, an Inter-ministerial Steering Committee on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Council have been established and 2021 to 2030 has been declared as the 'Decade of Skills Development' in Sri Lanka.

Foreign Secretary Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage said that the Government of Sri Lanka mitigated the spread of the pandemic and keep the death rate comparatively low against the high recovery rate due to its "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" approach, "Preemptive Strategy", and "matured Public Healthcare system". He said that to date 130,000 stranded Sri Lankans were brought home from over 120 countries and that Sri Lanka continues to provide quarantine facilities free especially for migrant workers.



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa addressing the UNESCAP member countries on Zoom.

Foreign Secretary Colombage requested that Member States of economic strength in the Asia-Pacific region should provide smaller economies like that of Sri Lanka with

investment, greater market access and trading opportunities, foreign employment opportunities and assistance in vaccination programmes, to smoothen the path to build back bet-

ter from crises. Reaffirming its commitment to international cooperation, along with Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Pakistan and Vietnam, Sri Lanka co-sponsored the resolution put forward by Thailand. It was adopted by the Commission on the theme "Regional cooperation to build back better from crises in Asia and the Pacific" in support of all similar efforts of Member States.

Over 50 member States participated in the four day online session and Heads of State/ Government of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Pakistan, Thailand, Tuvalu and Uzbekistan addressed the inauguration of the 77th Session.

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNESCAP Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

emphasized that "As we move towards recovery, our efforts must take into account the aspirations of all countries, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of Asia and the Pacific. More than ever before, the full potential of inclusive and networked multilateralism should be tapped. International development cooperation, including South-South and triangular co-operation, must be further harnessed".

Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UNESCAP Ambassador C.A. Chaminda I. Colonne, Director General Chamindry Saparamadu of Sustainable Development Council, senior officials from the Foreign Ministry, Central Bank, Department of External Resources and Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka were in the delegation.

Cabinet approves lifetime salary for War Hero dependents

Cabinet approval has been granted for the lifetime salary and allowances payment for war hero dependents. Defence Secretary Gen. Kamal Gunaratne (Retd) said.

Approval has been granted for the Cabinet Paper submitted by the President in his capacity as the Defence Minister seeking avenues to facilitate the war hero dependents, the Defence Secretary stated.

Gen. Gunaratne expressed these remarks while addressing a media brief at the Defence Ministry to announce the Cabinet approval and said over 30,000 countrywide war hero dependent families will benefit with the move. "A number of facilities are now available as pledged," the Defence Secretary stressed recalling futile protests staged demanding those despite the real facts.

Accordingly, the total of salaries and allowances entitled to receive

until the completion of 55 years of the deceased member will be paid to the widows of married Tri-Forces / Police Members who died due to terrorism during their life time.

Furthermore, approval has been granted for the payment of lifetime monthly allowance of Rs.25,000 to the parents of married/unmarried Tri-Forces and Police personnel from the date of completion of the age of 55 years to the veteran who died following terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, responding to a question on coronavirus upsurge in the island, Gen. Gunaratne said, "There is no decision for a total 'lockdown' except isolating the affected areas according to the extents of clusters".

"Arrangements are on to enhance the number hospital beds by providing 2500 additional beds from the tri-forces to cater to the situation, if demanded", he added.

The Cabinet approval granted relief measures are as follows:

- The payment of salaries and allowances currently paid to the Tri-Forces/Police members who have been discharged following disability owing to terrorist acts, to their dependents at the time of death of the war veteran.
- Relief measures will be granted to the members of the Armed Forces and Police who were disabled and to the dependents of deceased veterans when the incident is attributed to operational activities under the category of non-terrorist nature whilst on duty, following an investigation by a committee.
- Relief measures will be granted to the Armed Forces and Police personnel who were disabled and deceased as a result of post-war activities (such as demining) following an investigation by a committee.
- Entitlement of salary and allow-



SP receives Rs. 100 m for medicines, medical equipment

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE, Galle Central Special Corr.

Rs. 100 million has been allocated for supplying medicines and setting up wards at hospitals in the Southern Province for COVID patients, Southern Province Governor Dr. Willy Gamage said.

Southern Province Director of Health Services will receive the fund. A committee headed by the Southern Province Chief Secretary has been appointed to procure medicines and other medical equipment, the Governor said.

The wards will be

reserved until COVID patients at hospitals are taken to treatment centres. Special problems faced by the officials will be settled and 450 beds will be allocated for COVID patients.

The Akmeemana National College of Education has been selected for the purpose. The Police have been instructed to make the public aware of health regulations. There are 50,000 public servants in the Southern Province and only a half of them have been called for work, the Governor said.

SL Investment Webinar in Guangdong Province, China

The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Guangzhou organised a Sri Lanka Investment Webinar on April 29 along with the Guangdong Department of Commerce and the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. About 130 persons participated from 95 companies and government entities in Guangdong Province in the Webinar.

Consul General of Sri Lanka in Guangzhou Priyangika Dharmasena briefly met Deputy Director General Zhao Qing and discussed enhancing cooperation on trade and investment between the Guangdong Province and Sri Lanka and both sides acknowledged that the forthcoming Investment Webinar will boost towards that end.

Consul General Dharmasena referred to the Guangdong Province being a rich Province in China, a manufacturing hub, ranking number 1 in China in its GDP and home to major manufacturing industries, including telecommunication, electronics, automobile, power supply, science and technology, also notably included 14 enterprises listed among the Fortune 500 companies.

Consul General Dharmasena enticed large and small companies



The Webinar in progress.

alike in the Guangdong Province to invest in Sri Lanka taking advantage of the attractive factors, including the strategic location, access to key markets, talented workforce and investment protection. BOI Chairman Sanjaya Mohottala focussed on the investment opportunities available in the manufacturing sector, namely pharmaceuticals, apparel, electronic components, rubber products and automotive parts. Chairman Mohottala presented the incentives provided for foreign investment, the investment climate and advantages of investing in Sri Lanka.

Deputy Director General of the Guangdong Department of Com-

merce Zhao said that the Department 'will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the BOI of Sri Lanka and the Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Guangzhou to build a bridge for Guangdong enterprises to participate in the economic construction of Sri Lanka and provide high quality services for promoting bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Two testimonial videos by a successful Chinese investor in knitted fabrics and of an American investor on the manufacture of sails for racing boats were played to the audience providing credence of the conducive investment environment in Sri Lanka.

WFP Country Director presents credentials

World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director to Sri Lanka Aburrahim Siddiqui presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on May 3 at the Ministry.

The 50th anniversary of the long-standing relationship between the Sri Lanka and the WFP falls in November. Accepting the credentials, Minister Gunawardena said

that Brenda Barton, who served previously as Sri Lanka's WFP Country Director had done an excellent job and Sri Lanka expects similar cooperation from the new Country Director.

The WFP new Country Director to Sri Lanka Siddiqui said that Sri Lanka and the WFP will strengthen the close and friendly relationship of the Government and the WFP.



Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena receiving the credentials from WFP Country Director to Sri Lanka Aburrahim Siddiqui.

More beds for hospitals, ICUs soon - Minister

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

A decision has been taken to increase the number of hospital beds by another 4000 to 5000 in a short period and also increase beds in intensive care units in the next few days, Co-Cabinet Spokesman Plantation Minister Dr. Ramesh Pathirana

said. He made this observation at the media briefing held yesterday at the Government Information Department to inform the decisions taken at

The Minister told this week's Cabinet briefing that the health sector and relevant other authorities have entered into COVID

prevention operations in a very systematic and strong manner.

The Minister further said that this needs the support of the people as well as the support of the health and security sectors. The Minister also said that this third wave of COVID is creating a

new situation by causing more complications to infected patients.

The Minister said that a special telephone number 1906 has been introduced to provide information on COVID-19 patients including the delay in admitting patients to hospitals.

Free press 'cornerstone' of democratic societies - UN

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General on Monday urged governments to "do everything in their power" to support free, independent and diverse media, which the UN's top human rights official highlighted as "a cornerstone of democratic societies".

In a message on the World Press Freedom Day, marked annually on May 3, Secretary-General António Guterres underscored the importance of reliable, verified and accessible information.

"During the pandemic, and in other crises including the climate emergency, journalists and media workers help us navigate a fast-changing and often overwhelming landscape of information, while addressing dangerous inaccuracies and falsehoods," he said.

"Free and independent journalism is our greatest ally in combating misinformation and disinformation."

UN General Secretary Guterres said that the personal risks journalists and media workers face, including restrictions, censorship, abuse, harassment, detention and even death, "simply for doing their jobs", and that the situation continues to worsen.

The economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic has hit many media outlets hard, threatening their very survival, he added.

"As budgets tighten, so too does access to reliable information. Rumours, falsehoods and extreme or divisive opinions surge in to fill the gap", the Secretary-General said, urging all governments to "do everything

in their power to support a free, independent and diverse media".

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet also highlighted the importance of free, uncensored and independent press as "a cornerstone of democratic societies", conveying life-saving information, improving public participation, and strengthening accountability and respect for human rights.

"Around the world, people have increasingly taken to the streets to demand their economic and social rights, as well as an end to discrimination and systemic racism, impunity, and corruption," she said.

However, journalists fulfilling their fundamental role of reporting on these social protests have become targets, with many becoming victims of

unnecessary and disproportionate use of force, arbitrary arrests, and criminal prosecution, Bachelet added.

In addition to dissuading other journalists from critically reporting on relevant issues, such attacks weaken public debate and hamper society's ability to respond effectively to challenges, including COVID-19, she said.

Marked annually on May 3, the World Press Freedom Day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom. It is also an occasion to evaluate press freedom globally, to defend the media from attacks on their independence, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

The date marks the adoption of the landmark Windhoek Declaration for

the Development of a Free, Independent and Pluralistic Press at a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conference in the Namibian capital, in 1991.

This year, the World Day focuses on the theme of "Information as a Public Good", affirming the importance of information as a public good, and exploring what can be done in the production, distribution and reception of content to strengthen journalism, as well as to improve transparency and empowerment.

The theme ties in with UNESCO's work to ensure the long-term health of independent, pluralistic journalism, and the safety of media workers everywhere, Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the UN agency tasked with defending press freedom, said.

"As part of these efforts, we are working to create more transparency on online platforms in areas such as content moderation, while respecting human rights and international freedom of expression rules," she said.

She also highlighted the agency's work to equip people globally with the media and information literacy skills they need to navigate this new information landscape, so they can avoid being duped or manipulated online.

"As we mark the World Press Freedom Day, I call on everyone to renew their commitment to the fundamental right to freedom of expression, to defend media workers, and to join us in ensuring that information remains a public good," Azoulay added.

- UN News

Opposition should be actively involved in fighting COVID – Minister Rohitha

The Opposition should be actively involved in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic rather than simply criticising the Government's attempts, Minister Rohitha Abeygunawardena said in Parliament yesterday (04).

Minister Abeygunawardena was participating in the debate on the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Minister Abeygunawardena expressed his disappointment in the Opposition on using the pandemic as a political mean.

"The whole world is facing a serious predicament due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Science can discover cures for most of the diseases, including the coronavirus. However, this ailment suffered by our Opposition, seems to have no cure at all. The reason behind this is that they operate on



political agendas, hatred and jealousy. The Opposition is using any topic as a mean to an end. This is a global pandemic," Minister Abeygunawardena said.

"Over 15 million patients have fallen victim to the pandemic while over 3 million have died. If we look at the global situation, our number of deaths reported is 709. We

should try to lower this number. But we are better off than many of the countries. The number of COVID-19 patients at hospitals is slightly over 14,000. We will have to carry out our usual socio-economic activities while getting use to strict health regulations.

The Opposition demands to lockdown the country with an ulterior motive. If we go for a total lockdown, how can our daily wage earners find their living? Following a lockdown, we will have to deal with an economic crisis.

It will create major social issues. This will make an ideal ground for the Opposition to make a comeback. This Opposition does not like to see a stabilised government. So they want to destabilise ours. The Opposition does not like

to see any economic progress in the country. The Government has provided numerous relief packages for small and medium scale entrepreneurs in this pandemic.

We have paid special attention to low income families. All those were granted a pack of essentials worth Rs. 10,000. It has been given not once but twice during the 14 days. The Opposition is not talking about the reliefs we give to our people. I would like to suggest that each of these Opposition MPs should be assigned to selected hospitals and ask them to take responsibility.

Then we can see how they work. If they question, they need to find solutions, too. As a government, we need to minimise the number of victims," the Minister said.

'Land Development Corporation Amendment Bill consistent with Constitution'

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Land Development Corporation of Sri Lanka (Amendment) Bill, which was challenged before the Supreme Court, is consistent with the Constitution, the Speaker announced in Parliament yesterday.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena announced that the

Supreme Court has ruled that the provisions of the Bill are consistent with the Constitution and can be passed by a simple majority in Parliament.

The Speaker also announced that the decision of the Supreme Court will be ordered to be printed in the official report showing the schedule.

MP Dr. Harsha De Silva nominated for COPE

The Speaker announced in Parliament today that MP Dr. Harsha De Silva has been nominated to serve in the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) by the Committee of Selection.

MP Dr. Harsha De Silva has been nominated to fill the vacancy occurred after MP Ranjan Ramanayake ceased being a Parliamentarian.



Increase in COVID cases not limited to Sri Lanka – State Minister Fernandopulle

Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle said that the increase in COVID cases is not limited to Sri Lanka, but all over the world, there has been an increase in April.

"The COVID virus can mutate periodically resulting in different strains emerging. This could lead to sudden increase in cases and differences in the spread of the virus and seriousness of the infection. According to the WHO, during the past 10 weeks, there has been an increase in COVID numbers globally. Although around 1.2 billion have been vaccinated globally, April 23 recorded the highest global cases, which stood at around 900,000. Globally the



fatalities have increased over the past seven weeks with around 11,000 deaths reported daily." She said.

She said that neighbouring India has around 19.2 million cases over the past five weeks, while Sri Lanka has recorded

around 113,676 cases during this period. State Minister Fernandopulle also said that the cases in the Southeast Asian region had spiked over the past five weeks by around 40 per cent.

The State Minister said that however, Sri Lanka has increased the number of PCR tests but during April, the numbers had increased. She said that constant testing and vigilance had managed to detect the UK COVID strain responsible for the increase.

She, however, said that despite the increase in cases, Sri Lanka is not too late to control the spread of the virus, if the people cooperate with the health authorities and limit their travel avoiding crowded places.

Three gazette notifications on toddy approved

Three gazette notifications pertaining to the sale of toddy were approved by the House yesterday.

The maximum amount of toddy transported by an individual was increased to three litres. Earlier, it was 1.5 litres.

According to the new regulations, the period for selling toddy was also extended until 9 p.m.

The definition of toddy has been changed as well.

Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Buddhika Pathirana said that the new regulations will encourage people to consume more toddy and inadvertently encourage the production of artificial toddy. The concessions given under the new regulations will benefit large scale artificial toddy

manufacturers, MP Pathirana said.

"The daily need of toddy in Sri Lanka is 160,000 litres and natural toddy accounts for only 40,000 litres. The rest is artificial toddy. It is made out of salt, sugar and yeast. Most of the jaggery and vinegar, which is used in Sri Lanka is made out of artificial toddy," MP Pathirana said.

Strictly adhere to health guidelines in Parliament – Speaker

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena yesterday requested all Parliamentarians to adhere to the Health Guidelines by the Health Authorities in the wake of the COVID -19 situation in the country.

The Speaker urged MPs to fol-

low the health guidelines when working outside Parliament as well.

"Special attention was given to the COVID-19 situations in the country at the Committee on Parliamentary Business on April 30. MPs have been requested to sup-

port and adhered to the Health Guidelines such as wearing masks, washing and sanitising of hands, and maintaining social distance when attending and being present in Parliament and when acting outside Parliament.

"I strongly emphasise the need

for all those who come to Parliament, including the staff of Parliament, other affiliated staff, Parliament journalists, and security personnel, to adhere to these Health Guidelines when visiting and while being in Parliament," the Speaker said.



Debate held with doors left open

A parliamentary debate was held for the first time leaving all the doors to the House opened yesterday the Serjeant-at-Arms Narendra Fernando said.

With the permission of Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena and Secretary General Dhammika Dasanayake, the side doors on both sides of the chamber were left open to allow as much ventilation as possible so as not to jeopardise the security of the House, Fernando said.

Serjeant-at-Arms Fernando said that a number of steps have been taken to make Parliament more safe keeping in line with the COVID-19 health regulations. He said that the air conditioning in the chamber was operated in a way that it was ventilated from the outside.

Don't undermine health experts' recommendations – MP Rajitha

Opposition MP Dr. Rajitha Senarathne requested the Government not to undermine the recommendations of the health experts in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

He was moving the Adjournment Debate in Parliament yesterday.

The MP said that the country is at a decisive juncture regarding the health of the people in the third wave of the COVID pandemic. "Unlike fighting the war against enemies, the fight against the COVID-19 virus is far more dangerous as it multiplies daily by the thousands. However, by the Government making way for superstitious beliefs and practices, this only puts the people in danger. Despite medical experts had

warned the Government through scientific research that dangerous strains of the virus had entered the country and recommended certain precautions, the Government continued to disregard their advice and continued with their political agendas resulting the death of scores of valuable lives," he said. He said that the political authority should adhere to the advice of health experts instead of disregarding it.

The former Health Minister said that instead of blaming the people for being careless, the Government should take the responsibility as the guardians of the people. He added that it was because the Government had played down the obvious danger and made the people



believe that they had the situation under control, the people, too, had taken the situation lightly and let down their guard.

The MP blamed the Government for being at loggerheads with the

Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) who are better informed regarding the real situation on the ground as they are directly involved with the people, instead of giving ear to their recommendations.

He said, therefore, the only course of action to prevent the spread of the virus is to break the chain of infection. He said that the only way to do that is to impose travel restrictions and limit direct contact.

MP Senarathne recommended that the public transport system should be better monitored to prevent close contact and break the cycle of infection. He said that by Monday, the daily infection rate in the country had reached its highest with over 2000 cases and 13 deaths

reported. With the increase in cases, he said that a greater number of younger patients were being reported. He said that foreign experts predicted newer strains in the country.

He said that with the new strain, no prior symptoms are prevalent and suddenly patients find it hard to breathe and their condition worsens requiring oxygen.

He commended the Health Minister for taking timely steps to utilise the facilities of the Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) Hospital to meet the ICU facilities to deal with the growing cases.

Time was not allocated for Oral Questions under Standing Orders 27/2 and the Adjournment Debate was held from 11 am.

Fertiliser imports cost Rs 36 billion last year alone - MP Nalaka

Fertiliser imports had cost Rs 36 billion in 2020 alone, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) MP Nalaka Kottegoda said.

Speaking at a press conference convened by 'Viyath Maga' yesterday, he said Sri Lanka had imported 574,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser in 2020.

"The stocks of chemical fertiliser in the country are sufficient for about another one and half years or two years. Therefore, the farmers have enough time to adjust to the new situation. The Government has appointed two expert committees to study how best to implement the new decision. We have promoted



organic fertiliser and we will manufacture fertiliser using organic waste collected by the Local Government Bodies," he said.

He commended President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's

firm decision to stop chemical fertiliser and pesticide imports.

"Within two years, we will fully convert to organic farming. This is a difficult task, but we will do it," he added.

He said the need to shift to local seed varieties as hybrid seed varieties now being cultivated require chemical fertiliser and pesticides.

"Sri Lanka has become the top chemical fertiliser user in South Asia. We use 284 kg of chemical fertiliser per hectare. Australia uses only 64 kg of chemical fertiliser per hectare, but they take better yield compared to ours," he added.

'Methods used to chase away wild elephants accelerated H/E conflict'

NIMAL WIJESINGHE, Anuradhapura Additional District Group Corr.

The Presidential Committee appointed to prepare a National Action Plan to mitigate the Human-Elephant Conflict has said in their report that the methods used to chase away elephants for decades had increased the conflict. The Committee said that in spite of dedicated efforts by the Wildlife Conservation Department in the last 70 years to drive away elephants are forced to live in residential areas.

All elephants driving away operations have proven failures and failed to remove the main problem confining male elephants to reserved forests.

There has been ample evidence that the rogue elephants are not vulnerable to the driving operations and they respond to the humans and the other mitigating strategies violently and in a highly invasive manner.

A majority of the male elephants have become more and more invasive and hateful towards the humans thereby speeding up the conflict at present. The report has stressed that continuing to pursue an objective of confining elephants to protected areas would

cause the death of many elephants as those driven in to protected landscapes and fenced die of starvation. Such a move would cause severe escalation of the conflict as the elephants remain outside become extremely aggressive towards people.

The traditional non scientific elephant driving away operations are seen making peaceful elephants to become problem elephants and later transforming them to uncontrollable murderous elephants helping enormously increase the conflict. The Action Plan has indicated that the continuous unsuccessful elephant drives have made the Sri Lanka to be the country where the conflict expanding to 131 DS Divisions in 19 Districts.

Therefore, the Presidential Committee has indicated that although the information and data concerning the environmental science and behavior of the elephants were very little in the 1950 where the elephant management in use today was planned and implemented is different. Reaching a sustainable and a lasting solution for mitigating the conflict, the country has to use committee recommendations and experience of the past in this regard.

Obituaries

PERERA - INNOCENCE (Ex St. Bridget's Convent Adm. Staff), beloved wife of late Peter Perera, loving sister of Annette, Gregory and late Philomina, Bernedette, Doreen and Aquinas, passed away peacefully following a brief illness on 3rd May 2021. Due to the Covid Pandemic a private funeral will be held. 033350

COVID situation closely monitored – Minister Keheliya

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Government is closely monitoring developments related to the spread and prevention of the coronavirus and making appropriate and timely decisions to stop the further transmission of the virus in the country, Co-Cabinet Spokesman Mass Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella said.

He was responding to a journalist at the weekly Cabinet

media briefing yesterday at the Government Information Department.

The Government holds discussions with the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on the COVID-19 developments and the decisions that need to be made to prevent the spread. Zonal and area-wise lockdowns are sufficient at the moment to curtail the spread of the virus.

“The decision may change in

the future depending on the situation of the country at that time. If the need arises, the Government will go for an islandwide lockdown at any time,” he said.

Minister Rambukwella said that the situation in Sri Lanka will not turn out like India since almost all the people in this country are very well aware about the way they should behave during a pandemic, he said.



Navy prevents 11 Indian vessels from entering Sri Lankan waters

The Navy prevented 11 Indian fishing vessels with 86 individuals, from entering Sri Lankan waters yesterday while the Naval personnel were conducting special patrols in the seas close to the Palk Strait.

The patrols are being conducted to prevent illegal migrants from entering Sri Lanka.

Eleven Indian fishing vessels and 86 persons will be handed over to the Indian authorities after discussions with Indian authorities.



Two of the Indian vessels

Thirty eight arrested for ignoring health guidelines in court

ARIYAPALA WANSHATHILAKE

Kurunegala Police arrested 38 persons who did not wear face masks properly and did not maintain social distance in a Court

premises. They were produced before the Kurunegala Chief Magistrate Sampath Hewawasam and were remanded. Meanwhile, 10 businessmen who were taken into

custody for not following health guidelines during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year were released on bond and ordered to appear before Court on May 11.

Another three three-wheeler drivers who did not wear facemasks were fined Rs.7,000 each by Kurunegala Chief Magistrate Sampath Hewawasam yesterday.

Navy seize haul of Kerala cannabis

Naval personnel along with the Coast Guard seized a haul of Kerala cannabis weighing over 183kg during a special operation in the seas north of Kankesanthurai in Jaffna on Monday.

The stock was seized about eight nautical miles north of Kankesanthurai. The cannabis was stuffed in 58 parcels in four sacks. The street value of the stock is over Rs. 55 million.



The stock

Fake currency notes ‘worth’ Rs. 800,000 seized

RASULA DILHARA GAMAGE, Northern Province Special Corr.

The Special Task Force (STF) on Monday arrested a suspect in Shanthapuram, Kilinochchi along with Rs. 800,000 counterfeit currency notes.

The suspect (43) is a father of three. He was to be produced before the Kilinochchi Magistrate’s Court.

The STF personnel found fake Rs 1,000 currency notes while searching the suspect’s bag on a tip off.

Investigations are continuing.



The fake currency notes

Dilapidated culvert poses accident risks

P.P.A. SUGATHADASA, Thihagoda Group Corr.

The agricultural irrigation culvert in Kitlagoda, Dalugoda in Thihagoda, Matara has not been repaired for many years and is now on the verge of collapsing, residents of the area said.

The road over the culvert.

residents of the area said.

The buses overloaded with passengers and heavy vehicles ply on the road even though the culvert poses a high risk of fatal accidents.

Therefore, they urge the relevant authorities to take steps to renovate the culvert before a fatal accident.



Annual Road Safety Week in November

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Cabinet approval has been granted to declare an Annual Road Safety Week from this year for drawing special attention of society on minimising motor accidents, Co-Cabinet Spokesman Plantation Minister Dr Ramesh Pathirana said.

He was speaking at the weekly Cabinet media briefing yesterday at the Government Information Department.

Minister Pathirana said that about 8-10 lives are lost every day in motor accidents while most of the victims are men. Therefore, their dependents fall helpless and the number is increasing every year.

Last year, 2,023 fatal accidents have been reported and 2,114 died in them. Of them, 963 were motor-

cycle accidents and 987 died in them. Around 500 deaths are reported annually in three-wheeler and lorry accidents, the Minister said.

The National Council on Road Safety, therefore, has paid their attention on implementing a Road Safety Week from November 21, which is the International Day for commemorating the victims of road accidents and to take necessary action to make aware the private institutions, schoolchildren, drivers and the public to minimise motor accidents.

The Cabinet granted their approval to the proposal by the Transport Minister for declaring a National Road Safety Week from Sunday November 21 and conducting it annually in the future.

Local Vannamei prawns capture Jordanian market

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Jordan has obtained an order of 5.6 metric tonnes for Sri Lankan Vannamei prawns from one of the largest Jordanian Seafood chains.

The 5.6 metric tonnes of Vannamei prawns sea freighted to Jordan by HTCey Aquaculture (Pvt.) Limited is the first time Sri Lankan Vannamei prawns of such a quantity is entering the Jordan market subsequent to discussions by Sri

Lanka’s Ambassador Shanika Disanayake with the Jordanian Management to introduce the product. The Vannamei prawns marketed in Jordan are of Vietnamese origin.

The Embassy has been vigorously networking to enhance trade and business opportunities for Sri Lankan Seafood companies to garner larger export volumes of the demand for quality seafood in Jordan.



Prawns ready for export

GMOA presents 11-point plan to contain COVID spread

The Government Medical Officers’ Association (GMOA) has issued an 11-point plan for containing COVID-spread on Sunday. The proposal has been submitted to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

“We believe that the grassroots level delivery of care contributed very much to control the pandemic, whereas contribution at the centre, at Ministry level, as well as the testing scheme has not been adequate for the lateral decision-making. Army intelligence reports, too, are in part based on suboptimal analysis provided by the Epidemiology Unit,” GMOA said.

“We emphasise on inadequacies in testing as well as hospital capacity to successfully face the crisis situation. The GMOA has always joined to shoulder the burden created by the COVID 19 pandemic upon all aspects of the country and its citizens to control the pandemic while maintaining day to day affairs with minimal disruption as we elaborated. The absolute necessity of making appropriate strategy decisions on accurate facts to mitigate COVID 19 should never be underestimate,” the GMOA’s letter to the President said.

The measures proposed by the GMOA include, Establishment of accurate data handling at the Epidemiology Unit, mobilising necessary manpower to the Unit, increasing the testing capacity to an adequate level while minimising discrepancies and establishing a mechanism to accurately amalgamate testing data from both public and private sectors.

The GMOA proposes to share data with GPS mapping to all relevant stakeholders including grassroots level preventive and curative services and establish and implement a strategic plan to expand intermediate, hospital and ICU care capacity depending on forecast projections.

It requests to strictly implement guidelines, zonal lockdowns and restrictions based on accurate real time data and projections while enhancing social capital by accurate, effective and cohesive risk communication while negating contradictory statements by authorities.

It stresses the importance of making every effort to procure COVID vaccines in adequate quantities with rational administration according to local and international recommendations. It recommends home isolation of asymptomatic patients on scientific criteria, considering both individual and social factors.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Wednesday
 Draw No.: 1268 Colour: Pink
 Date: 03.05.2021
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 132,824,705/-
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
 Development Lotteries Board
 306, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Plaza, Colombo 2
 Tel: 233348-47 Fax: 233348-50 Website: www.dlb.lk
 Helpline - 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778

Monday
 Date: 03.05.2021
 Draw No.: 1266
 Colour: Red
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,674,660/-
Winning Numbers
 16 20 60 74
English Letter
 Q
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

Date: 03-05-2021
 Draw Number: 3147
 Colour: Yellow
Super Jackpot has been won
Rs. 5,252,569.80
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.
Winning Numbers
 12 14 23 44
Aries
TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 13,949,429.80

Draw Number: 1440
 Colour: Purple
 Draw Date: 03.05.2021
 Date: Monday
Winning English Letter and Numbers
 E 05 39 47 72
 The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,814,760/-

Date: 03-05-2021
 Draw Number: 1754 | Colour: Yellow
Super Jackpot
Rs. 24,802,056/-
Winning Numbers
 07 27 46 57
ENGLISH LETTER
 U
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,200,300/-
Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 24,925,112/-
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Monday
 Date: 03.05.2021
 Draw No.: 3596
 Colour: Blue
Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,625,720/-
Winning Numbers
 01 21 26 40
English Letter
 U
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

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A silver lining

A silver lining has emerged across the dark clouds with several congested areas in Colombo city which were hitherto reeling under the Coronavirus now reporting a much reduced number of cases, no doubt a direct result of the first vaccine dose administered to a large segment of the City populace.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is heavily relying on vaccines to bail the country out of the pandemic and first signs appear to be favourable if the result in Colombo city is anything to go by. Of course, to be completely immune from the virus the second jab is necessary and the delay in the arrival of the second dose is going to hamper the vaccine programme. The Mix and Match option is now being researched to ascertain if the administering of different vaccines to the same individual will work. This is going to take time and in the meantime, we must make do with what is available.

The dire situation is India has slowed down the arrival of the vaccines on time although 15,000 doses of the Sputnik V vaccine were delivered to Colombo on Monday. The recovery in Colombo though is an indicator that the first jab has proved its efficacy at least to some degree in preventing the spread of the virus. It was feared that those who received the first jab were vulnerable until the second dose was received. The opinion of medical experts that 60 percent immunity could be expected after the first jab seemed to be having a ring of truth vis-a-vis the diminished case numbers in Colombo.

However it is too early to draw conclusions if the good showing in congested areas in Colombo was indeed owing to the first jab or if this was the result of city folk strictly abiding by health protocols. State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle has stated that the vaccine alone cannot do wonders and that discipline on the part of the public was equally vital in preventing the virus spread. She was among the medical fraternity who recommended restrictions of movement during the New Year festival, echoing the sentiments of the PHIs.

If Colombo city is showing encouraging results the same could not be said of the rest of the country where a runaway spread of the contagion is being witnessed with lockdowns being imposed in different locations in rapid succession. For the first time since the outbreak of the Coronavirus, the number of cases has topped 1,000 each for five days running with the highest ever yet of 1,891 cases reported on Monday. That the situation is grim is driven home by Dr. Fernandopulle who asserts that the number of cases within the next two weeks could rise to between 8,000 to 10,000 if the people drop their guard and conduct themselves irresponsibly. If the worst scenario comes true, will our hospitals be able to cope?

Already reports indicate that bed capacity is fast running out and even if cases are accommodated in makeshift or improvised hospitals, if the numbers keep multiplying the way it does medical care is bound to reach a breaking point and medical staff pushed to the wall. Already Deputy Director General of Health Services (DDGHS) Dr. S.M. Arnold has warned against overtaxing the Health Sector's capacity to increase ICU care to COVID-19 patients. He cautioned that if the number of cases increases exponentially they would be hard put to cope with the demand, although there was no immediate alarm on this score with the occupancy rate of ICU beds at 35 percent.

It is not just the case of ICU beds alone, as explained by the doctor, but the question of manning them with competent staff. According to reports there is only one nurse for every 12 ICU beds. It is also not just a matter of deploying any nurse to handle the task but the problem lies in finding competent ones. After all, it takes a couple of years to master the workings of say, an ICU ventilator. With the pandemic swooping on us without warning there indeed was insufficient time to train nursing staff on these lines.

India has deployed interns and final year MBBS students to assist in the fight against COVID under the supervision of senior medical officers to cope with the dire situation in the country with dozens of medical professionals in the field themselves dying from the pandemic. If push comes to shove we too should adopt a similar course, because with the increasing number of positive cases the doctors and medical staff may well reach a crisis point.

How things pan out though will depend on the conduct of the general public. But it appears that little heed is being paid in certain quarters to the stern warnings. With wedding receptions banned in hotels for two weeks the merriment it appears is being shifted to private homes. Police have also raided spots where drinking sprees are held by large gatherings not paying any heed to the health warnings. What danger point are we to reach for the people to realize their folly?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Once you have commitment, you need the discipline and hard work to get you there.
- Haile Gebrselassie



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe in a hand gesture of solidarity

COVID BATTLE CONTINUES AMID DIPLOMATIC MOVES

MIDWEEK POLITICS

with Disna Mudalige

The harrowing scenes full of loud cries and silent sighs of the people in the pandemic-hit neighbouring country have laden the air causing grim feelings and ominous thoughts on how disastrous COVID-19 could be if its shackles were loosened.

Locally, alarm bells have sounded due to a fresh wave of COVID-19 in the post-Sinhala and Tamil New Year season, for which the fingers have been pointed, in hindsight, on the people's unrestricted behaviour and the authorities' lack of timely actions.

It has now been confirmed that the highly infectious UK variant (B.1.1.7), which also has a high mortality rate, is responsible for the current spike of COVID-19 cases in the country, leading to the isolation of over 60 Grama Niladari Divisions and Police areas. For the week ended last Sunday, an average of 1,450 new infections of the Coronavirus had been reported daily, consecutively breaking the records of the highest number of daily cases, with an average of about 20,900 daily PCR tests, according to the statistics.

The new cases have been grouped under 'New Year COVID-19 cluster', a name that does not associate with any location but an event celebrated countrywide, giving an impression that the long-denied community transmission has befallen. Having said that, it is no time to hit the panic button as it will only complicate the situation further.

Even in the global context, there is no sign of easing the pandemic with new potent mutations hitting one after the other in different parts of the world. Many countries are seeking solace in COVID-19 vaccines to build herd immunization against this infectious disease, but supply shortfalls compared to the global demand and the emergence of apparently vaccine-resistant virus variants have acted as setbacks.

VACCINES

The Government has faced a challenging environment when confronting the more virulent Coronavirus wave in the country. Last week, it decided to add more hospital beds, especially the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds, as many Government hospitals were stretched to the limit with the number of COVID-19 in-patients passing the 10,000 mark. It also assessed the oxygen supplies available for the future use of needy patients.

Weighing its options on how best to tackle the current epidemic situation, the Government last week issued revised restrictions under 'Alert Level 3' and the public have been asked to postpone all functions and events at least for two weeks starting from last Monday. Schools islandwide have been closed and workplaces have been requested to call the minimum staff required for duty, while implementing the 'Work from Home' (WFH) concept as far as possible once again. Many offices duly complied with these directives.

The country's COVID-19 inoculation drive, which was started in late January with 500,000 Covishield jabs received as a donation from India under its 'Vaccine Maitri' programme, has run in to a snag as the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine maker, is not in a position to deliver the ordered stocks of vaccine on time for the second dose. This is understandable as India

has to give priority to vaccinate their population given the dire situation in that country. In a recent interview, the SII Chief Adar Poonawalla detailed the immense pressure he is facing from Indian politicians over vaccine supplies.

As a result, the Sri Lankan Government has been forced to look for sources outside India to meet a shortage of 600,000 AstraZeneca shots for the second dose before the effectiveness of the first dose fades. The roll-out of the second dose for the frontline workers of the military and health sector started last Wednesday with the remaining 300,000 dose stock of the vaccine.

Health authorities are awaiting the World Health Organization's (WHO) approval to go ahead and administer the Sinopharm vaccine, a donation from China, to the locals. At the same time, Cabinet has approved the import of 13 million doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V, which is said to have a high efficacy rate (92 percent), and the first batch of 15,000 doses arrived in the country yesterday. Made by the famous Gamaleya Institute in Moscow, the vaccine is marketed by the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF). It has now been approved for Emergency Use in nearly 50 countries. In addition, the Government also intends to procure the mRNA-based Pfizer/BioNTech COVID vaccine as soon as possible. Pfizer was incidentally the first vaccine to be introduced to fight COVID.

COMMON ENEMY

"To overcome this challenge, the people must strictly follow all the rules and regulations recommended by the health authorities, as they did in the first wave of the COVID-19 epidemic. Developing countries such as Sri Lanka cannot take lockdown measures or impose curfews that obstruct economic activities. The majority of our country's income earners depend on informal livelihoods. Only a vaccine can end the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has a systematic programme in place for that. While the Government is fulfilling its responsibilities, the people must fulfil their respective responsibilities for the betterment of the country as well as themselves," reiterated President Gotabaya Rajapaksa recently.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa has decided to call for a cessation of political hostilities to work together to fight the common enemy. He might have realized that constant criticisms of the Government actions to fight the deadly disease would only depict the Opposition in a bad light in the eyes of the public. In a video statement on Sunday, he expressed the Opposition's support to the Government's efforts to save the



Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay calling on Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa



Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa meeting envoys of the West

lives of 21 million Sri Lankans from the Coronavirus pandemic.

"I personally phoned the Ambassadors in several key foreign countries requesting their support to secure enough COVID-19 vaccines. I have also requested the diplomats of the United States (US), Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) to help us to obtain mobile hospital units. This is not a time for political power rivalry," he commented.

Several diplomats called on the Opposition Leader, hours before Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe's visit to Sri Lanka last Tuesday. The Opposition Leader had two meetings, the first with a delegation comprising countries of the European Union (EU) including the Ambassadors of France, Germany, Italy and Romania and the second with another group of diplomatic heads representing the UK, Canada, the US, Switzerland, Norway and Australia.

Interestingly, all those countries were co-sponsors of the Resolution on Sri Lanka at the recently concluded session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Opposition Leader told the media that a broad range of topics was discussed at the two meetings, but little has come out on the specifics. In an apparent move to balance his foreign relations and thereby to ward off any unfavourable comments, he also met the Russian Ambassador on Monday. Premadasa told the media that he requested health supplies needed for the country from all the envoys.

DIPLOMATIC TALKS

Sri Lanka saw another high-profile visit from China last week led by Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe, in the background of the Government finalizing and going ahead with the 'Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill' to pronounce the legal framework of the China-funded Colombo Port City. Again, there were not much detail of the talks between the

Chinese delegation and the leaders of the Government. It was reported that the two countries agreed to enhance pragmatic cooperation in all sectors including defence. Many foreign policy analysts observed this visit as a further consolidation of already flourishing ties between Sri Lanka and China.

"Noting that Sri Lanka has prioritised developing the relations with China and firmly supported China's positions on issues concerning its core interests, President Rajapaksa said his country has been pursuing an independent foreign policy and would never bend to pressure from major powers outside the region as well as never forge an alliance with any country," China's Xinhua news agency reported following the meeting.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa flanked by several ministers holding key portfolios, including Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, also met the Chinese delegation for a round-table discussion.

Hot on the heels of this visit of a high-level Chinese delegation, Indian High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay called on Prime Minister Rajapaksa last Thursday. The particulars of this meeting were also not expressly stated to the media.

"The Indian High Commissioner met me to brief me regarding the COVID-19 humanitarian crisis that is ongoing in India. I conveyed our sentiments of solidarity to PM Narendra Modi. The Government and people of India are in our prayers. We wish them a rapid recovery from this crisis," PM Rajapaksa tweeted after the meeting.

Moreover, President Rajapaksa wrote to PM Narendra Modi last Wednesday expressing concern about the COVID-19 surge in India. "I am confident that under your able leadership and with the resolute support of dedicated experts and professionals, India will soon thwart the current havoc of the pathogen," he said in the letter.

The President added that Sri Lanka's Buddhist clergy would recite the 'Rathana Suthra' to invoke blessings on the leaders and people of India. According to Buddhist chronicles, the Buddha first delivered the 'Rathana Suthra' to ease the fears and agony of the people hit by famine and plague in India's ancient city known as 'Vaishali'. Several religious ceremonies were thus held at a number of cities in Sri Lanka to invoke blessings on the leaders and people of India, where the monks chanted the Rathana Suthra.

In fact, the time demands words and actions of solidarity among the nations in the name of humanity, surpassing the man-made geographical boundaries. After all, COVID-19 has taught us the important lesson that "nobody is safe until everybody is safe".



Second dose of COVID-19 vaccine for frontline health workers

PANDEMIC HYSTERIA AND INDIA PHOBIA ARE BOTH EQUALLY IDIOTIC

RAJPAL ABEYNAYAKE

Those who contribute to the economy or seek to contribute to the economy during the pandemic should be celebrated. Those who sow panic and advocate hermit-like antisocial behaviour on social media should be rapped on the knuckles, if not censured. But in most societies, these verities are turned on their head during this so-called global event of the Covid coronavirus.

However, the pundits have come out in full force in an attempt to censure those who in small ways at least, patronize a restaurant, go to the corner shop and physically leave the 'virtual world' that is being imposed on them these days. Those who engage with other people and contribute to the economy do so in a technical sense at least at some risk to themselves.

But those who are germaphobic and cloister themselves at home contribute nothing most often, except to the spread of bad news. There is a 'pandemic' of bad news out there that is even more dangerous than the pandemic itself.

Twenty-five years down the road, when the story of the pandemic so called of 2020 and 2021 is written, it would be reviewed very differently in the rear view mirror of history. Similar retrospectives in the past looked at Y2K, for instance, as a fiasco. In the rear view mirror, Japan and Germany's World War II conduct is seen as a mere aberration. These are today two of the most celebrated nations for the capitalist cause, and are held up as examples to Russia, which was considered an invaluable partner of the victorious Allied Forces during WW II, but is now considered errant.

Lived reality

The point is that the lived reality of today celebrates some people and some causes because society still worships at the god-



Covid patients in India

head of bad news. But it is not the bearer of bad news but the silent worker and the silent delivery person and the rather intrepid patron of a restaurant that has kept especially a country of this sort, sustained during the pandemic.

Meanwhile it has been revealed — due to the pandemic — that so-called Western liberal democracies are mostly Police States. This has been the reality, but it has been suppressed by the news media that has wanted to portray China as authoritarian and regimented, but the West as being liberated and free to the point of being idyllic.

All this has been revealed to be absolute

nonsense because the Police States in some industrialized Western nations have imposed the same if not more severe restrictions to contain the spread of Covid, than China. Moreover, the Western media has been powered by bad news that has celebrated arbitrary rule creation, such as the so-called two-metre distancing that is now supposedly being contemplated, in contrast to the one-metre distancing that was earlier recommended.

Those who are calling for total lockdowns are not doing themselves or anybody else any good. The sheer volume of traffic on the streets confirms the fact that people are not about to opt for a shutdown when they know that most of the reactions to this so-called 'new Covid strain', etc., is by way of panic. Even in India, where the bad news machinery of the Western media in particular portrays a picture of misery with queues for wayside cremations, etc., the fatalities from Covid per day stands at 0.0007 percent of the population. For hundred days, it would still be 0.007 of the population, which is not a number for Arundhati Roy to go to an insane fit over.

Hollowed out

Roy, novelist turned social commentator contributed a diatribe to the British *Guardian* recently calling India's Covid response a "crime against humanity". It was mostly an attack on the nationalist politics of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but what it ignored was the fact that spreading bad news is not in and of itself a suitable response to the spread of Covid. She never tried to put those numbers in perspective in

a country of a teeming population of over 1.3 billion.

The panic contributes to the slowing down of the economy — and ironically Roy is complaining of the Indian economy, which she writes, has been hollowed out by the Modi Government.

Her brand of bad news contributes more towards the negative economic fallout — and all these Cassandras everywhere whether it is Roy in India or any similar NGO hack in Sri Lanka are guilty of making the lot of the poor and the middle classes they are complaining about even worse. It is because they contribute to the negative perceptions that keep economies suppressed during the spread of the so-called global contagion.

The Sri Lankan people have begun to realize that the more they sacrifice ostensibly because of the pandemic, the more they hurt themselves. They have also realized that it is easy for the cunning with political agendas, and other misguided busybodies who do not answer to the general population because they do not face elections, to get around generating bad vibes, and generally attempting to spread panic.

It is also a pity that India has to get such a bad rap over the pandemic. Roy says that there was no "system" in India to collapse, but she knows the country — with a massive population, can sometimes be unwieldy. John Kenneth Galbraith called it a functioning anarchy. To take some endemic issues and to try to pin them on Modi and say that India failed miserably in the face of the pandemic is a stretch. By the same yardstick or at least much similar yardsticks, the United States also failed miserably in the face of the



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Arundhati Roy

beginning. But there cannot be too long a learning curve when running a country is involved — governing is not an experiment, and presence and wisdom is called for. As for India, "India has possibly saved hundreds of thousands of lives with its decisive (albeit imperfect) interventions."

That is the dispassionate verdict in a book *India's Fight Against The Covid-19 Pandemic*, by Chandrakant Lahariya, Gagandeep Kang, and Randeep Guleria. They are not Modi supporters. These are physicians who can make a neutral assessment of things, and do not have to rant as Arundhati Roy does, because she is more interested in a political agenda than she is about Covid.

We in Sri Lanka have been fortunately able to avoid all the negative imagery, but the burning bodies in "Covid pyres" in India were bilked by the news industry to create a very alarming picture, which is not the need of the time, because Indians need to be helped to get over the current phase with minimum damage.

Instead, the world is enjoying whipping up maudlin hysteria over our neighbour to the North. Fortunately, the Modi Government is too clever to be tripped up by the negative imagery of these news-cycle theatrics. The Indian PM has weathered many storms before, and he will likely weather this one too, and that is what is most likely despite the fact that those such as Roy have already nailed him to the cross. Besides, she is a novelist, and her imagination keeps running riot. But, by the way, look at Australia. The Aussies will fine and jail their own citizens if they return from India. Talk about Police States.



Vaccination in progress in India

THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF VACCINE MAITRI

SWATI PRABHU

As oxygen becomes a luxury for a majority of the populace in New Delhi, India is gravely reeling under the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hailed as the world's third largest pharma hub and positioned at the forefront offering gratis (and also commercial) medical equipment and vaccines to a host of countries, India is now itself scampering across the globe for COVID-related aid. In fact, its flagship initiative *Vaccine Maitri* aimed at steering forward New Delhi's foreign policy, giving it a robust presence thereby creating a safe spot in the neighbourhood and beyond might just have fallen flat.

As India currently sits at the top of the highly infected countries across the world with cases soaring at the rate of 169 infections per 100,000 people, aid has acquired an altogether new dimension in such testing times. Intended towards building positive synergies in tackling the intricate nexus of socio-political and environmental challenges, particularly COVID-19, development partnerships can be viewed from the lens of a realist-cum-idealist approach.

Idealists will call New Delhi's vaccine friendship initiative as a thought process embedded in our cultural values and principles. Assisting those in trouble is one such example. On the contrary, realists would argue that this initiative ensures India's firm presence and visibility in the geopolitical canvas. In fact, development partnerships can be termed as a refined version of aid in contemporary times. Has India's vaccine diplomacy under the broader umbrella of development partnerships nosedived, in turn jeopardising its national interests?

A strategic gameplay

Although New Delhi's move to join the bandwagon of vaccine



diplomacy came at a time when the multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization (WHO) failed in responding promptly to the pandemic, one cannot possibly ignore the sustainable partnerships that were led and built by India. However, it was carved out of strategic geopolitical interests. In a bid to appease and woo the hearts of its immediate neighbour Nepal, *Vaccine Maitri* was kick-started earlier this year by dispatching one million doses to the Himalayan nation. This can be particularly viewed in the aftermath of the burgeoning Chinese influence in the region and also the recurrent territorial squabbles between New Delhi and Kathmandu. In addition, India's vaccine outreach was not restricted only to the South Asian nations but also extended to a multitude of countries in Africa, the Caribbean, parts of Eastern Europe and some regions of Central Asia; an astounding 66 million doses have been distributed to 95 countries so far.



Considering the massive outbreak of the deadly pandemic, international cooperation definitely holds the pivot in solving this crisis; an opportunity which New Delhi has rightly identified and gladly grabbed at the right time. Gaining strategic leverage for its

foreign policy goals in the geopolitical context is also acceptable. However, compromising on the inoculation demands of its own citizens is a glaring mistake from New Delhi's side. Early into the first stages of the pandemic when scientists were rushing to develop



a vaccine, India, taking advantage of its pharmaceutical bent, should have systematically charted its distribution amongst the ailing population. Although *Vaccine Maitri* is rightly being hailed as an "out-of-turn" humanitarian gesture displayed by India, its focus remains primarily on the commercial side. For instance, the commercially sold COVID-19 vaccines by New Delhi stands at 35.7 million compared to the free offerings of 10.7 million.

COVID Aid: Lessons for India

Given the current upsurge in COVID cases resulting in a colossal breakdown of the country's health infrastructure, New Delhi is compelled to now seek assistance from other nations. Responding to New Delhi's plea, the EU, for instance, has extended its support through Team Europe by pledging to provide oxygen and medicines. The USA's COVID aid, on the contrary, came after a series of backlashes. It initially refused to lift the embargo on export of raw materials required for manufacturing the vaccine but in a turnaround, ultimately agreed to dispatch testing kits, ventilators and PPEs. Although President Biden has brought a whiff of fresh diplomacy in comparison to his

predecessor Trump especially on climate change and migration, their realist "America first" attitude remains intact.

Giving precedence to its own citizens, Washington ensured that vaccinating Americans topped their priority list. This is something that India should have done for its bustling population right in the beginning, instead of doling out vaccines all around the globe. Agreeably New Delhi has been partnering quite handsomely well with major economies of Japan, Australia and the USA, for instance as part of the QUAD. Here, it has pledged to work towards boosting the manufacturing of COVID vaccines in the region. But then again foresight on the vulnerable and susceptible domestic front is also equally essential. With the basket of vaccines now gradually growing, India's development partnership must take a balanced view so as to fulfill its international friendship initiatives and also the national inoculation demands. It is necessary to churn out an appropriate solution which ensures that the world is protected against Coronavirus and at the same time, one's own people are covered as well. (*Observer Research Foundation*)

(The writer is an Associate Fellow of the Centre for New Economic Diplomacy, India.)



On duty



Casting anchor



Quarter Master

SLNS GAJABAHU GUARDING OUR OCEAN'S DOMAIN



At the galley

DISHAN JOSEPH

Strategically located on the maritime map, Sri Lanka commands an important segment of the majestic Indian Ocean. Maritime security is a vital part of our overall national security objective. The Sri Lanka Navy has faithfully guarded our island for seven decades, and continues to augment its deep sea capacity. Cruising majestically at a speed of 28 knots is the formidable addition to the naval fleet, the *SLNS Gajabahu*. I went onboard this amazing vessel which has nine floors and two masts. As she cut through the waves, she unleashed a ripple on the waterline and the spray covered her pennant number P-626. This vessel once belonged to the American Coast Guard and was named *USCGC Sherman*.

She was subsequently handed over to the Sri Lanka Navy. Enhancing the goodwill between both nations the first batch of Sri Lankan officers and sailors visited the port of Honolulu in Hawaii where they trained for almost eight months with their American counterparts. This was undoubtedly an inspiring experience for our Navy's sailors. They had to sail this massive vessel to Colombo. Incidentally, the sea passage from Hawaii to Colombo took 40 days and is the longest recorded sea passage of the Sri Lanka Navy. This voyage had the distinction of crossing the International Date Line (IDL) on April 6, 2019. This remarkable achievement was celebrated at sea in keeping with naval traditions. The ship sailed 8,455 nautical miles to reach Colombo, having crossed the Pacific Ocean, South China Sea, Singapore and Malacca Straits and the Andaman Sea.

Today, the vessel proudly displays the crest of a tusker symbolizing the



At rest

power of King Gajabahu. The elephant is synonymous with the armies of our ancient monarchs. Commanding Officer of *SLNS Gajabahu*, Captain H.S.E. Silva leads a crew of 21 officers and 114 sailors. A senior officer explained, "This vessel has a displacement of 3,300 tons. She is 115 metres long and has a beam of 13 metres. She is also equipped with a helipad." I walked the length and breadth of this floating armed fortress along with her Executive Officer and Navigation Officer. The AOPV (Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel) has five levels below deck and four levels above deck. The flight of ladders is quite confusing for a first timer and only accentuates the magnitude of such a large ship, almost equal to a frigate. Young sailors were moving back and forth through the hatches. The bosun's pipe sent out its high pitched signals above the winds. We walked on to Level Two where the ship's main gun is mounted in a sealed dome-like turret. This is a MK 76mm gun which can accurately fire salvos from a remote controlled firing

system. Unlike other vessels in the fleet, this main gun does not require a gunner to be physically present on deck.

The target acquisition and firing is done from the Combat Information Centre (CIC) under the command of the Principal Warfare Officer. In addition, the vessel has medium and small guns fitted to enrich her firepower at sea, including a 23mm double gun at the rear. Life on *SLNS Gajabahu* has its own rewards for the crew. This is the first naval vessel in the Sri Lankan fleet that comes with her own mini cinema and salon. The cinema has cozy blue cushioned seats. We stopped by at the galley (ship's kitchen) where cooks were setting up lunch. Cooking on a ship is not like cooking on firm land. The pitch and roll of the vessel impacts the galley, for which naval cooks are well trained.

Some sailors were on their tea break and shared their experience of being in Hawaii, USA. It had been a rewarding experience for these young men, though for the first few days

they missed their rice and curry. However, soon they were able to indulge in Sri Lankan food onboard, with the Americans also happily enjoying some spicy food. During their training, the Sri Lankan crew had to suddenly prepare for an incoming hurricane, which was another new experience. The men also recollected seeing dolphins on their long voyage from Hawaii.

We mounted some ladders and were in the MCR- Main Control Room which is the heart of the ship with her engines and roaring turbines. This vessel has two Fairbank Morse 12 cylinder engines and two Pratt & Whitney gas turbines. Technical crews in blue overalls were busy checking the many valves and indicators. From here we safely passed through a hatch and entered the cabin of some junior sailors. Each air conditioned cabin had space for 14 men with bunk beds. One must learn to live in close quarters, unlike on land. Working on a ship amplifies teamwork which fosters camaraderie. These sailors undertake deep sea patrols that last 11 days and if required can be at sea for 21 days. The ship is well stocked with food and water.

The crews train every week maintaining their safety and firefighting drills. The bosun's pipe delivered another shrill signal, as we found our way to the medical station. This room has the equipment required for basic surgery. After enjoying some tea, we visited the wheel house. This location has a clear vantage point of the forecabin (where the main gun is positioned). An officer explained, "We have two kinds of radar onboard. One is the X-Band radar which can scan the horizon for 96 nautical miles and picks up the heat signatures of any vessel."

Small luminous yellow blips appeared on the screen, indicating the presence of fishing boats and trawlers. The double masts fitted on *SLNS Gajabahu* have an array of antennas. One of the masts had an unusual green garland. It was later explained that this was a naval tradition, to indicate that one of the ship's young officers was getting married on shore.

This was a simple but beautiful gesture of naval brotherhood. After her commissioning parade at Colombo, *SLNS Gajabahu* set out on her maiden deep sea patrol for 11 days. During this time she was able to rescue a sick fisherman at sea and transfer him to hospital. Over the past year the AOPV has engaged in numerous deep sea narcotic detections, foiling various smuggling operations. This vessel represented Sri Lanka at the AMAN 2021 multinational maritime exercise in Pakistan.

This magnificent vessel has specialized sailors on board – divers, marines and members of the Navy's Special Boat Squadron (SBS). She is fitted with a rubber boat that has an endurance of 220 nautical miles. This boat can be launched by automatic hoists while the ship sails holding a cruising speed of five knots.

The naval boarding party is armed and ready to approach and investigate suspicious vessels encountered at sea. It was an awesome experience to be on this vessel and meet her motivated crew. *SLNS Gajabahu* is fitted with a stabilized electronic horizon that can enable a pilot to land a helicopter on the rear heli deck at night. With her motto of 'One Ship, One Crew' this formidable vessel is the pride of the Sri Lanka Navy and our nation's first line of defence.

WE WALKED ON TO LEVEL TWO WHERE THE SHIP'S MAIN GUN IS MOUNTED IN A SEALED DOME-LIKE TURRET. THIS IS A MK 76MM GUN WHICH CAN ACCURATELY FIRE SALVOS FROM A REMOTE CONTROLLED FIRING SYSTEM.

THE FLIGHT OF LADDERS IS QUITE CONFUSING FOR A FIRST TIMER AND ONLY ACCENTUATES THE MAGNITUDE OF SUCH A LARGE SHIP, ALMOST EQUAL TO A FRIGATE.



SLNS Gajabahu at sea

Construction of a Sri Lankan traditional Buddhist temple at the White Horse Temple premises of the People's Republic of China.

It has been proposed to construct a Buddhist shrine related to the traditional features of this country at the White Horse Temple premises of the People's Republic of China that is respected by the global Buddhist community with the intention of increasing the long term diplomatic relations existing between Sri Lanka and the People's Republic of China. The White Horse Temple is to bear the entire cost spent for the proposed constructions while it will be performed under the supervision of the subject Ministry of Buddha Sasana. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal submitted by the Prime Minister as the Minister of Buddha Sasana Religious and Cultural Affairs signing a memorandum of understanding between the White Horse Temple premises of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Buddha Sasana Religious and Cultural Affairs.

Revision of the periods of holding G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) and G. C. E. (Advanced Level) Examinations and rendering the opportunities for obtaining first degree qualification within a minimum time frame.

Due to the extended period spent for the issuing of examination results for the G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) and inauguration of G.C.E. (Advanced Level) classes as well as the time spent for the selection of students for the State Universities, the ages of students when they complete school education and completing the University education their ages are 19, 20 and 25 and 26 years respectively as observed. The structural inconsistencies in these examination systems and the unnecessary administrative delays related to technical procedures have led to unnecessary delays in entering the employment market completing the higher education. This is apparent to have been a disadvantage to them personally and to the development of the country as a whole.

Therefore, the resolution tabled by the Minister of Education for taking actions as follows to prevent the above situation in the future has been approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

- Restructuring the syllabus of grades 10 and 11 for only one year and nine months.
- Conducting both G.C.E. (Ordinary Level) and G. C. E. (Advanced Level) Examinations in the months of August and December respectively and issuance of their results within 03 months each so that the total period of 45 months at present can be reduced 32 months whereas providing required provisions for the same.
- Selection of students for the Universities based on the z score without waiting until the re-correction process G. C. E. (Advanced Level) Examination is concluded.
- If there are students whose results be upgraded across re-correction process, they should be awarded new marginal Z scores so that they would be able to undergo the relevant degree courses and apply this methodology with effect from 2020 Advanced Level.

Entering into a MoU between the Open University and the Graduate School of Environmental and Life Sciences Okayama University of Japan.

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the



resolution submitted by the Minister of Education for signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Sri Lanka and the Graduate School of Environmental and Life Science Okayama University of Japan with the objective of promoting and organizing exchange programmes of students and faculties as well as the staffs, solidarity researches, organizing consultancy and cultural programmes as well as exchanging research information.

Nomination of a road security week for drawing special attention of society on minimising motor accidents.

Around 8 to 10 lives are lost per day due to motor accidents at present while most of them are males. Due to this situation, their dependents fall helpless and there is an increasing trend of this number every year. Fatal accidents experienced last year amounted to 2023 while 2114 individuals died from them. 963 out of the amount are due to motor bicycle accidents and 987 individuals died due to them. Also, around 500 deaths are reported annually from three wheel and lorry accidents. Considering all these facts, the National Council on Road Safety has paid their attention on implementing a road safety week from November 21 which is the international day for commemorating the victims of road accidents and to take necessary actions to make aware the private institutions, school children, drivers and the public in order to minimising motor accidents. Accordingly the Cabinet of Ministers granted their approval to the proposal furnished by the Minister of Transport for declaration of a national week on road safety with effect from the Sunday November 21, 2021 and conducting such a week in November annually in the future.

Entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom on research related to micro plastics.

Sri Lanka has inaugurated a number of programmes on the management of micro plastics since its ill effects run across various fields such as the Health, Agriculture and Tourism. Both the Great Britain and the Northern Ireland of the United Kingdom has given their consent for the related research activities and it may lead to assistance for enhancing the local research capacity on micro plastics. It has been proposed to enter into a memorandum of understanding to be effective for two years while draft memorandum of understanding has gained concurrence of the relevant Min-

istries and the Department of Attorney General. Therefore, the Cabinet of Ministers has granted approval for the resolution furnished by the Minister of Environment for entering into that agreement and to appoint an inter-institutional committee comprised of the representatives of the institutions under the Ministries coming, under the purview of the subject area and the institutions under those Ministries aiming the management of plastics while escalating the research capacity of Sri Lanka.

Entering into a MoU between Sri Lanka Tourist and Hotel Management Institute and EHL Consultancy Services Company in New Delhi, India.

Sri Lanka Tourist and Hotel Management Institute has been established in 1966 to train youth in the hospitality trade and tourism industry. Schools of the entity are situated in Anuradhapura, Bandarawela, Pallekelle, Koggala, Rathnapura, Kurunegala, Jaffna and Pasikudah. Although the private sector training schools in the sector has acquired tremendous development the image of the Sri Lanka Tourism and Hotel Management Institute has deteriorated. It has been planned to obtain the assistance of EHL Consultancy Company in New Delhi, India, with the mediation of the Embassy of Switzerland in Sri Lanka to carry out an analytical study on the quality of the educational programmes of that establishment so that the institution can be re-structured and enhanced its image once again. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers has approved the proposal submitted by the Tourism Minister to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between EHL Consultancy Company and the Government of Sri Lanka to obtain consultancy services from that company.

Assignment of Smart Sri Lanka Programme Activities to the Department of Manpower and Employment

Smart Sri Lanka was established under the then Office of the President upon cabinet approval with a view of coordinating and monitoring vocational guidance from the national level to the regional level, with the aim of implementing it as a national program under a new approach using new technology. This institution is now under the purview of the Ministry of

Youth and Sports. Cabinet of Ministers agreed with the steps taken by the Minister of Youth and Sports to transfer this institution to the Department of Manpower and Employment and continue its activities.

Establishment of 500 Outdoor Exercise and Fitness Centers using Containers (Container based Fit Gym) in Selected Places.

Under the theme "Let's Win", we plan to build 500 outdoor gymnasiums island wide using containers with the aim of inculcating an active lifestyle in the youth and providing some catalyst for progress in the field of sports. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 625 million. The project will benefit nearly 100,000 members of the public and about 5,000 athletes a year. It is expected to delegate the responsibility of running these centers to youth clubs and sports clubs at the local level and to employ at least one coach. Accordingly, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal made by Hon. Minister of Youth and Sports to implement the proposed project in 2021-2022 periods and to construct 250 outdoor gymnasiums using containers at selected locations island wide by 2021.

Procurement for the supply of human immunoglobulin BP 5 - 6 grams vials 112,500 for intra-cellular use.

International competitive bids have been invited for the procurement of this medical drug that is utilized for treatment for the patients with immunity deficiencies. The Cabinet of Ministers granted approval to the proposal submitted by the Minister of Health for awarding the procurement of this drug to a number of United States \$ 13.10 to M/s Reliance Life Science (Pvt.) Ltd, India in pursuance of the recommendation of the Standing Procurement Committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Procurement for supplying 840,000 syringes of pre-filled Enoxaparin Sodium vaccines 4000 IU, 0.4mm.

International competitive bids are called to procurement for supplying Enoxaparin Sodium medicine which uses for treatments of heart patients. Accordingly, the proposal submitted by the Minister of Health to award the procurement for supplying 840,000 syringes of pre-filled Enoxaparin Sodium vaccines 4000 IU, 0.4mm for M/s Slim Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd of Sri Lanka at a total sum of Rs.541.80 Million, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Procurement appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers, was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

A National Regulatory Framework for the vessels that engage in commercial activities in territorial waters.

It has been identified that the need of a National Regulatory Framework for the vessels that engage in commercial activities in the territorial waters due to the increase of transportation of passengers and freight by ships in line with the growth of the activities related to the tourism industry. Accordingly, the Export Development Board has commenced a project of making such a regulatory framework with the collaboration of the previous Ministry of Development strategies and International Trade and the Ministry of Naval and the assistance of the Lloyd Register Asia Institute has been taken for the said task. As per it has been drafted 04 regulations by discussing with all relevant parties. According to the provisions in the No.52 Merchant shipping Act of 1971, the power to declare of the provisions has been vested with the Minister In charge. Accordingly, The proposal made by the Minister of Ports and Shipping, to obtain the consent of the legal draftsman for the drafted regulations and to publish in the Government Gazette and thereafter submit to the Parliament, was approved by the Cabinet.

Submitting of the Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for 2020 to Parliament.

The Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka should submit a report to the Finance Minister within four months of the commencement of a year, containing information on the economic situation, situation of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the policies and actions taken by the Monetary Board during the year. Accordingly, the Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the year 2020 was submitted to the Finance Minister on April 30. As per the provisions of the Monetary Act, the annual report must be submitted to Parliament by the Finance Minister within fourteen days of its submission. Accordingly, the proposal made by the Prime Minister as the Finance Minister to table the Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in Parliament, was approved by Cabinet.

Increasing PCR Capacity during the COVID-19 Third Wave.

With the discovery of the new variant of COVID, the demand for PCR tests in government laboratories has increased to around 20,000 per day and is showing a rising trend further. Therefore, the Cabinet approved the proposal made by the Health Minister to expedite the purchase of the testing kits and other equipment required to carry out the PCR tests as required.

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DATE 03.05.2021 MONDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS www.nlb.lk

MAHAJANA SAMPATHA DRAW NUMBER: 4470 Prizes won in this draw
Rs. 9,673,560.00

WINNING LETTER: K WINNING NUMBERS: 6 3 1 2 0 6
The super prize of next draw
Rs. 14,391,638.60

Govisetha DRAW NUMBER: 2765
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 5,985,660.00

WINNING LETTER: H WINNING NUMBERS: 02 03 06 52
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 70,012,323.60

Mega Power 10 DRAW NUMBER: 827
TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 3,757,720.00

ENGLISH LETTER: M SUPER NUMBER: 06 WINNING NUMBERS: 21 59 60 69
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 131,873,164.40**
NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**
NEXT GRAND SUPER: **Rs. 10,000,000.00**

Dhana Nidhanaya DRAW NUMBER: 507
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 2,885,780.00

ENGLISH LETTER: B WINNING NUMBERS: 10 42 49 56
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 96,043,272.40

Vasana Sampatha DRAW NUMBER: 1678
TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW
Rs. 2,594,300.00

ENGLISH LETTER: B WINNING NUMBERS: 18 28 89 94
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW
Rs. 27,116,477.10

03.05.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 603,822
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS **Rs. 24,897,020.00**

Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 01 **Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES 02**
Rs. 1,00,000 PRIZES 24

- All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes
- Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes
- All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date

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தகவிய லொட்டரி சமைய
National Lotteries Board
Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324
Fax: 011-4669416

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

Consular Affairs Division limits services

The Consular Affairs Division of the Foreign Ministry has limited operating hours from 7.30 am to 1 pm because of the new health guidelines of the Government. The Consular Affairs Division will prioritise services to those in urgent needs during the coming weeks. The Consular Services, except in the cases of deaths of Sri Lankans overseas and attestation of export documents and related certificates, are provided by appointment only. Contact the Consular Affairs Division on Tel: 011 2335942, 011 2338836 and 011 2338812 or via consular@mfa.gov.lk to make an appointment.



Special ritual was held at the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, New Chetty Street, Colombo to bless the people of India and Sri Lanka to safeguard them from the COVID pandemic. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Shivasiri Babu Sarma Ramachandran Kurukkal, Hindu Religious Advisor Dr. J. M. Swaminathan, Indian Cultural Centre Director Dr. Rewant Vikram Sing and Trustee of the temple S.N. Udayanayagan were present. Picture by Ruzaik Farook

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ශ්‍රී ලංකා අපනයන සංවර්ධන මණ්ඩලය
இலங்கை ஏற்றுமதி அபிவிருத்திச் சமைய
MINISTRY OF TRADE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR SME FOOD EXPORTERS TO OBTAIN BRC GLOBAL STANDARD FOR FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATION

UK market has been identified as an attractive market for Sri Lankan food products due to the preferential tariff benefits offered under the New Enhanced Framework. However, entry to the UK market for Sri Lankan food exporters is limited by the fact that compliance with food safety certificates such as BRC is considered essential by the British importers.

The Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) proposes to implement a financial assistance scheme to assist SME companies manufacturing and exporting food products to obtain BRC Global Standard for Food Safety Certification, with the objective of building capacity of Sri Lankan food exporters to enter the UK market.

FOR WHOM
Companies engaged in manufacturing and exporting of coconut kernel based products, food & beverages, fruits and vegetables and spices & Concentrates are eligible to apply.

WHAT IS OFFERED
A grant up to a maximum of Rs. 350,000.00 per company will be provided to cover 50% of the inspection and certification cost on reimbursement basis to obtain BRC Global Standard for Food Safety Certification through a recognized certification body. The programme will be operative until 31st December 2021.

SELECTION PROCEDURE
Selection will be through an interview.

HOW TO APPLY
Application form together with the scheme could be downloaded from the EDB website: www.srilankabusiness.com under "Announcements".
Duly filled application with all relevant documents as stipulated in the scheme should be sent by registered post to reach Additional Director General-Development, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, No. 42, NDB-EDB Tower, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 02 on or before 17th May 2021.
For further details please contact Ms. Shanika Weralugolla on 0112300732, Fax: 0112304879, Email: shanikaw@edb.gov.lk.

CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD,
NDB-EDB Tower, 42, Nawam Mawatha,
Colombo 02
www.srilankabusiness.com

G7 leaders to discuss range of issues

Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) developed nations were to meet in London on Tuesday to discuss the most pressing geopolitical challenges facing the world, including Russia and China.

The U.K. is hosting G-7 foreign and development ministers in the first face-to-face meetings since the coronavirus pandemic began, and the first gathering of the group's foreign ministers since 2019.

Geopolitical issues that the U.K. said "threaten to undermine democracy, freedoms and human rights" will be on the agenda Tuesday, including "relations with Russia, China, and Iran, as well as the crisis in Myanmar, the violence in Ethiopia, and the ongoing war in Syria," the government said in a statement.

Russia's "ongoing malign activity," the U.K. said, including the build-up of troops on the border

with Ukraine, its imprisonment of opposition figure Alexei Navalny and the situation in Belarus, are high on the agenda.

On Monday, British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken. At a press conference, they reiterated their shared commitment to "maintaining transatlantic unity in defense of our common values and in response to direct threats," Blinken said.

The talks come ahead of a larger G-7 summit in Cornwall in early June, which will be attended by G-7 leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden who will make his first scheduled trip abroad since taking office.

The G-7 is an alliance of the world's most industrialized nations: the U.K., U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The EU participates in all discussions as a guest.

Following talks through

the day Tuesday, the foreign ministers will then hold a dinner discussion with guest countries Australia, India, South Korea, South Africa, and Brunei as the current ASEAN Chair.

Diplomatic relations between the G-7 with Russia remain strained since its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine which led to Russia's suspension from what was then the Group of Eight (G-8) and international sanctions being imposed on Russia.

Since then, Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election, a 2018 nerve agent attack in the U.K., a cyberattack on U.S. government and corporate networks and alleged interference in the 2020 election have prompted further sanctions on the country. The Russian government has repeatedly denied all the allegations.

Meanwhile, relations



between the West and China remain at an impasse since the departure of former U.S. President Donald Trump, yet questions remain over the future of international trade.

International relations with Iran are also in the

spotlight after the Biden administration said it was willing to hold talks to potentially revive the 2015 nuclear agreement with the Islamic Republic. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the accord in 2018.

The U.K. currently holds the rotating presi-

dency of the G-7 and Foreign Minister Raab commented that the U.K.'s presidency "is an opportunity to bring together open, democratic societies and demonstrate unity at a time when it is much needed to tackle shared challenges and rising

threats." Tuesday's discussions will also cover tensions and escalating conflicts in other parts of the world, including the coup in Myanmar.

The U.K. said it would urge G-7 nations to take stronger action against the military junta, including expanding targeted sanctions against those connected to the junta; support for arms embargoes; and increased humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable in the country.

The situation in Libya, and the ongoing war in Syria are also on the agenda. On Tuesday afternoon, the group will discuss the situation in Ethiopia, as well as Somalia, the Sahel, and Western Balkans.

The London meetings take place as developed nations slowly resume in-person diplomacy after a hiatus due to the pandemic; the last meeting of G-7 foreign ministers took place in April 2019 at

Dinard and Saint-Malo in France.

The U.K. said Tuesday's meeting was a crucial opportunity to revitalize in-person diplomacy and, in addition to geopolitical matters, "will look to establish a shared approach among the world's leading democracies on equitable vaccine access, to agree global girls' education targets, rigorous goals on climate finance and new measures to prevent famine and food insecurity."

The talks in London come ahead of a high-profile G-7 leaders summit in Cornwall on June 11-13 where U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson will gather leaders of member nations, the EU and guest countries.

Covid-secure measures are in place for the London talks, including daily coronavirus testing. All domestic social distancing guidelines will be in force. (CNBC)

India scrambles to treat COVID patients

For three days, Goldi Patel, 25, went from hospital to hospital in New Delhi's oppressive summer heat, frantically trying to find one that would keep her husband breathing.

Four hospitals turned away Patel, who is seven months pregnant with the couple's first child, before she finally found one that would take him. But the level of care at Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital, a makeshift pandemic facility on the outskirts of the capital, is so lacking that her husband is begging to leave.

Around Sadanand Patel, 30, people are dying. He has barely any contact with doctors, and limited medicine. With 80% of his lungs already infected, he's terrified of what happens if his condition gets worse.

"I am very scared," Sadanand said Saturday from his hospital bed, through labored breathing. "If my health gets critical I don't think they will be able to save me."

As coronavirus cases spiral in India, the country's health care system has been stretched beyond breaking point. Beds, oxygen and medical workers are in short supply. Some Covid patients are dying in waiting rooms or outside overwhelmed clinics, before they have even been seen by a doctor.

Only some Covid-19 patients manage to get admitted into India's overburdened hospitals. But once inside, some face a different kind of terror: an absence of medical care or supplies as people die around them.

In February officials ordered the closure of the Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre, believing India had conquered the virus.

When it became abundantly clear that was not

the case, the 500-bed facility reopened on April 26, to chaotic scenes.

Local media reported that despite huge lines of patients outside the hospital, far fewer people were admitted than capacity. Senior officials from the Health Ministry and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, who run the center, did not respond to CNN's request for comment.

Sadanand was admitted the day after the hospital opened. When Goldi visited a few days later, the facility was crowded, she said.

In the cavernous, warehouse-style facility, some patients lie on beds made of cardboard. There is limited medicine, and Sadanand said he had only interacted with a doctor once or twice in three days since he was admitted last Tuesday. He watched two men in beds nearby scream for medicine only to die within hours when their oxygen appeared to run out.

By Saturday, his fifth day in the center, at least five people around him had died, he said. One dead body lay on the bed next to his for hours before it was removed.

India's Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare said last month that it would "swiftly" expand the facility to 2,000 beds with oxygen supplies to help address the city's lack of hospital space. About 40 medical doctors and 120 expert paramedics had already been dispatched to the center.

But that target doesn't tally with Sadanand's experience.

"The government thinks that they have opened this hospital, the patients here are getting treated," he said. "But actually, nothing like that is happening."

The doctors check on patients infrequently, Sadanand said. He's worried that if he needed medical attention, he would be too ill to call for help. Sometimes he talks with a patient in a nearby bed who advised him to get out of the center if he feels even slightly better.

You will die lying on your bed because there's no one to call the doctor," he said. Others have had the same experience. Sarita Saxena told CNN Friday her brother-in-law was admitted to the center after being turned away by at

least seven hospitals. She doesn't believe any doctors are treating the patients — the only people caring for them are family and friends. Those people risk catching Covid as there are no walls within the center to stop the spread. Others outside the hospital are so worried about the lack of care that they are trying to get their relatives discharged.

Sadanand says he is so scared he repeatedly asked a doctor to shift him to another hospital. He made the same plea to his wife — but nowhere else will take him, Goldi says.

"He was asking me to take him away from this place, that he'll stay home, he doesn't feel good here and he's very scared," Goldi said Saturday.

"I kept trying to explain that if you stay here, at least you will get oxygen." Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College (LLRM), a hospital in the city of Meerut, in the neighboring state of Uttar Pradesh, is inundated.

People are everywhere — on stretchers, on tables, on the floor — moaning and desperate for oxygen. There are about 55 beds for 100 patients, according to hospital staff. There are just five doctors. Some patients lie on the floor.

One of those is 32-year-

old mother-of-two Kavita, who has no last name. She's been on the floor of the hospital for four days, struggling to breathe. She says she hasn't received any oxygen, and has seen 20 people die.

"I'm getting anxious," she said. "I'm scared that I'll stop breathing," she said.

Oxygen is a scarce commodity in India, which has reported more than 2.5 million cases in the past week.

Other countries have sent oxygen cylinders and concentrators to India that can help produce oxygen, and the government is ferrying supplies around the country using its train network. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, said Thursday there was adequate oxygen in the country and no need to panic.

"Oxygen was available in adequate quantity earlier and now there is even more," he told reporters outside a hospital. "We have so many more sources of oxygen available in the country ... Whoever needs oxygen should get it."

But hospitals are still struggling.

Some hospitals have tweeted SOS messages, tagging official accounts as they plead for more oxygen to help patients gasping for air. Family members of patients queue for hours outside oxygen refilling centers, holding empty oxygen cylinders. Twelve people — including a doctor — died at one New Delhi hospital Saturday after the facility ran out of oxygen, according to Dr. SCL Gupta, the medical director of Batra Hospital.

Some hospitals have warned patients that if they want to be admitted for treatment, they will have to source their own oxygen. (CNN)



Countries, organisations rush to help India

The COVID-19 crisis continues to devastate India as the official death toll nears 220,000, with many suspecting the actual toll is far higher.

There is a dire vaccine shortage, extremely low oxygen and PPE supplies, and mass cremations are taking place. The anger directed at the government for the slow response is growing daily. The U.S. recently restricted travel from the country.

As the world steps up amid calls to aid India, domestic cricket league team Royal Challengers Bangalore on Sunday announced an initiative to donate money toward "healthcare infrastructure related to oxygen support" across the country. The team will also sport special blue uniforms paying tribute to frontline workers, and then auction off the signed jerseys to raise funds for the initiative.

For those looking for a way to contribute directly to relief efforts, below is a list of organizations seeking donations that are providing oxygen, food, medical supplies, PPE and other forms of support to India: Care India is supplying PPE to frontline workers and help-

ing set up temporary COVID-specific hospitals and care centers across India. Since the pandemic began, it has supplied over 39,000 PPE kits, 220,000 masks and thousands of gallons of disinfectant and hand sanitizer; UNICEF is supplying oxygen concentrators, testing systems, PPE kits and personal care products; Project HOPE is working with the Indian government to deliver medical supplies to the country's hardest-hit areas, train frontline health workers and educate communities on COVID and how to stop the spread; AmeriCares is supplying oxygen concentrators, ventilators, PPE kits, masks, sanitizers, thermometers and other medical equipment.

It is also offering telehealth consultations and medicine delivery and helping educate communities about the disease; Give India's India COVID Response Fund includes wide-ranging fundraisers to help supply oxygen, medical beds, sanitary napkins and food and fund medical treatments and quarantine support; The Indian Red Cross Society is running blood drives and delivering equipment across the country; The Association for India's

Development is providing direct relief services, including delivering groceries and other items to those whose livelihoods are directly impacted by the pandemic.

It is also setting up COVID-19 information helplines and help desks in rural areas, and working directly with grassroots community organizations; Vibha is helping provide food and hygiene kits for families, oxygen concentrators to hospitals and working to set up vaccination centers; The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, which represents more than 80,000 practicing physicians in the U.S., is using financial donations to provide oxygen concentrators to India; Oxfam India is providing PPE, supplying food and cash to those hardest hit, working with policymakers on ensuring vaccine accessibility and working to support India's overall public health system; Indian crowd-funding platform Ketto is fundraising for oxygen supplies; The American India Foundation is assisting with oxygen, medical beds and cold-storage equipment, as well as community outreach and education. (CBS)

Australia retracts 'racist' India ban after backlash

Australia's prime minister fended off accusations of racism and having blood on his hands Tuesday, as he retreated from a threat to jail Australians trying to escape Covid-ravaged India.

Scott Morrison's government moved to ban travelers from India from entering Australia until May 15, threatening rule-breakers — including Australian citizens — with prison time. Amid a widespread backlash, Morrison on Tuesday said it was "highly unlikely" that Australians who skirted a ban would be jailed.

"I think the likelihood of any of that occurring is pretty much zero," Morrison said in a breakfast-time media blitz on Tuesday. Around 9,000 Australians are believed to be in

India, where hundreds of thousands of new coronavirus cases are being detected every day and the death toll is soaring.

Among those trapped are some of Australia's most high profile sporting stars — cricketers playing in the lucrative Indian Premier League. Commentator and former Test cricket star Michael Slater was among those who pilloried Morrison's decision, saying it was a "disgrace."

"Blood on your hands PM. How dare you treat us like this," he tweeted. "If our Government cared for the safety of Aussies they would allow us to get home."



Australian PM Scott Morrison

Morrison said the idea he had blood on his hands was "absurd".

"The buck stops here when it comes to these decisions, and I'm going to take decisions that I believe are going to protect Australia from a third wave," he said.

"I'm working to bring them home safely," he added, indicating that repatriation flights could begin soon after May 15.

The decision came into force on Monday and was denounced by rights groups and some of Morrison's most prominent allies including Sky News commentator Andrew Bolt who said it "stinks of racism". Australia has largely

avoided the worst of the pandemic through some of the strictest border controls in the world.

There is a blanket ban on travel to-and-from the country unless an exemption is secured. Non-residents are mostly banned from entering and anyone who does come into the country must carry out a mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine. But that system has come under increasing strain as the virus has jumped from quarantine facilities and caused a series of outbreaks in the largely unvaccinated community. The conservative prime minister faces reelection in the next 12 months, and had hoped Australia's relatively successful handling of the pandemic would propel him to victory. (Yahoo)

Former Justice Minister berates Netanyahu

Senior Yamina MK Ayelet Shaked described Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, as "dictators" and "tyrants" with a "lust for power," and said the premier only cares about his ongoing corruption trial, in bombshell recordings aired on Monday.

The recordings were played on Channel 12, as Netanyahu was engaged in a last-minute attempt to draw Yamina into a right-wing coalition, with his deadline for forming a government set to expire on Tuesday night.

According to Maariv, the comments by Shaked, a former justice minister, were made earlier Monday during a meeting with national religious rabbis, one of whom chose to record her. Channel 12 did not specify who she was talking with. Shaked has been reported to prefer a coalition with Net-



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, speaks with then Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked in the Knesset, December 21, 2016.

anyahu over a unity government with the centrist Yesh Atid party, in which the chairman of her slate, Naftali Bennett, would serve first as premier in a rotational agreement. But Monday's recordings revealed that she was still prepared to back a unity government if efforts to form a right-wing coalition failed to bear fruit.

Shaked could be heard in the recording insisting

that Yamina would be "thrilled" if Netanyahu manages to convince Bezalel Smotrich, the chairman of the far-right Religious Zionism party, to join a right-wing government reliant on the outside support of the Islamist Ra'am party. She said another option would be for Netanyahu to ask President Reuven Rivlin to transfer the government-forming mandate to

Bennett, claiming that the Yamina chair would have an easier time forming a right-wing government with Likud and could even bring along Benny Gantz's Blue and White as well as Gideon Sa'ar's New Hope — both of whom have vowed not to sit with the premier.

Shaked further asserted that if Bennett receives endorsements from right-wing lawmakers to form a government, "he won't go left."

"But if [Netanyahu] gives the mandate to Bennett, and we fail to form a right-wing government because Gideon and Gantz [don't budge], we are not prepared to head to another election," she said, speculating that the center-left could end up forming a coalition with the help of the majority-Arab parties if another national vote is called. (Times of Israel)

India marks 20 million COVID cases

India crossed 20 million reported cases of Covid-19 on Tuesday. There were 357,229 new cases reported over a span of 24 hours, bringing the total to 20.28 million, according to health ministry data.



gather in public places and areas with high positivity rates should be put into full containment mode.

He added that India needs to ensure adequate social support for people who are recovering at home from milder symptoms.



India's second wave began some time in February when cases started rising again. Before that the country reported about 10,000 infections a day, on average. April saw a steep spike in the curve, with nearly 7 million reported cases. The Indian government is facing criticism for letting large crowds gather for religious festivals and elec-

tion rallies earlier this year. Those mass gatherings likely turned into super spreader events. Scientists say the spike in cases is also partially due to variants of the coronavirus circulating in India at the moment. That includes a local variant called B.1.617 that has multiple sub-lineages with slightly different characteristic mutations. (CNBC)

India's first cases were detected in late January last year and the country's total did not cross 10 million infections until December, according to Johns Hopkins University data. But the next 10 million cases were reported in the span of just under five months, mostly in April.

So far, at least 222,408 people have died from the disease, but that number is likely lower than the actual death toll. Media reports suggest crematoriums and burial grounds are overwhelmed with bodies of those who died from Covid-

"The pandemic has now entered the small towns and the villages, and we are now quite worried about how much of a devastation it will cause in those areas where the health systems are not well developed enough to provide support, when even some of the big metros are struggling with the case load on hospitals," K. Srinath Reddy, president at the Public Health Foundation of India told CNBC's "Capital Connection" on Monday.

During the first wave last year, India imposed a strict national lockdown between late-March and May, which derailed the country's growth trajectory and left millions without a source of income.

While the central government appears reluctant to impose a second nationwide lockdown, several states have stepped up restrictions in recent weeks, including local lockdowns and curfews. That includes Maharashtra, which is India's worst-hit state, Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and others.

Some health experts have suggested that India needs a national stay-at-home order and a medical emergency declaration to address current health-care needs.

India's health-care system has been overwhelmed by the sharp rise in cases as it faces a shortage of hospital beds, oxygen supply and medicines to treat patients.

Public Health Foundation's Reddy told CNBC that India needs a two-pronged approach to fight the second wave. First, efforts to vaccinate more than 1.3 billion people must continue.

India faces at least near-term vaccine shortages and just over 2% of the population has received both doses. Starting in May, India is opening vaccinations to anyone age 18 and older.

Second, India needs a "very strong" containment strategy to reduce the spread.

"What we need to do immediately is to cut down the transmission from person to person, by ensuring that there are no large crowds," Reddy said, adding that India should not allow more than four people to

Humanitarian catastrophe' in India puts global Covid fight at risk


The Covid outbreak in India is putting the rest of the world at risk and is leaving a "humanitarian catastrophe" in its wake, the dean of Brown University's School of Public Health warned.

"India is a big country, and if there are large outbreaks there, of course we're going to worry about more variants, which will be bad for Indians, and ... it will spread around the world," said Dr. Ashish Jha. "So part of keeping America safe is vaccinating the whole world."

The White House pledged to send more

than \$100 million worth of medical supplies to India as the country breaks global infection records on a near-daily basis. The country recorded more than 300,000 new cases for 12 straight days, but experts fear the real numbers could be much higher. Data shows that only about 2% of India's population is fully vaccinated against Covid.

Jha told CNBC's "The News with Shepard Smith" that because the U.S. is now at a point where it has a greater supply of vaccines than demand, that the U.S. should distribute them globally.



MINISTRY OF TRADE FOOD COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTMENT

Invitation for Bids

Invitation of Quotations to cut and remove iron frames and all other parts of cranes

- Quotations will be received for the cut and removal of 03 cranes installed at the Orugodawatta Stores Complex of the Food Commissioner's Department.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Successful bidder should not have been blacklisted to qualify for granting of contract.
- Interested bidders can obtain further details required from the Accounts Section of the Food Commissioner's Department at No. 300, Union Place, Colombo 02 (Tel.No. 0112421211). Interested bidders can obtain a complete set of Bid Documents prepared in Sinhala language, on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2,000.00 and a refundable Deposit of Rs. 50,000.00 and on submission of a written application, from 05.05.2021 upto 13.05.2021, between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days. Payments should only be made by cash.
- Sealed bids could either be sent by registered post or delivered to the Accounts Section, to be received at or before 2.05 p.m. on 13.05.2021. Bids received will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend.

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
Food Commissioner's Department,
No. 300, Union Place,
Colombo 02.**

INVITATION FOR BIDS



MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

CONTRACT No.: RMWDP/Ph2-St1/SN/AFD/2020/01


Phase 2 - Stage 1 of Ratmalana/Moratuwa Wastewater Disposal Project

Bid for Expansion of Sewer Collection Network for Ratmalana/Moratuwa area

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR BID SUBMISSION


Please be informed that Deadline for Bid Submission of the above bid shall be extended from 05th May 2021 to 17th May 2021 (Monday) at 10.00 am.

**The Chairman,
National Water Supply and Drainage Board**



INVITATION FOR BID - 2021/01

DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL, MANNAR



- The **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee on behalf of the Director, District General Hospital, Mannar** invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction work described in the table below.
- Bidding will be conducted through **National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB)**.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of building construction for grade mentioned in the table below.
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the **Bidding Data and Contract Data/Schedule** (Section 5).
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from respective **address given below in 6**, and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to **Director, District General Hospital, Mannar (T.No:023-2222261, Fax:023-2250748)** from 9.00 am to 3.00 p.m. during the period mentioned in the table upon payment of non-refundable fees as mentioned in the table. The method of payment should be by cash.
- Bids (Original, Duplicate) shall be delivered or sent by registered post to the **Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, District General Hospital, Mannar at or before 10.30 am on the date mentioned in the table**. Bid Number must be written on the left hand upper corner of envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Conference will be held at District General Hospital, Mannar commencing at 2.30 p.m. on the date mentioned in the table below.
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security as per the information given in the table.

Document Issuing/ Purchasing Period		From 06/05/2021 until 28/05/2021					
Pre-Bid Conference		at 02.30 pm on 13.05.2021					
Closing and Opening of Bids		at 02.30 pm on 31.05.2021					
Bid No.	Description of Work	Estimated Cost / (Rs in Millions)	Contract Period	Required Grade	Non Refundable Fees (Rs.)	Required Bid Security	
						Security Amount (Rs.)	Valid Period
NP/Hea/DGHM/01 (2021)	Construction of Elevator at DGH, Mannar	12.96	180 Days	C6 or C5 (Buildings)	5,000.00	130,000.00	Till 27.09.2021


"Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs.50 Mn. regional performance and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii)" and Public Finance Circular Nos. 03/2020 and 03/2020(i) dated 09.10.2020 and 11.01.2021 respectively will also be adopted.

**Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee,
District General Hospital, Mannar.**

06.05.2021

T20I JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS

SRI LANKA TOUR OF ENGLAND 2021



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Corporate Houses/ Companies/ Parties/ Consortiums for acquiring the "BACK OF THE PLAYER JERSEY BRANDING RIGHTS" for T20 International Matches played during the Sri Lanka National Cricket Team (Men) Tour of England which is scheduled to take place in 12th June – 7th July 2021 (Away Series).

Grant of rights:
Successful entity will be offered with the **branding/advertising rights** in respect of back of the T20I player jersey (upper areas) with a dimensions of 32 Sq Inches (206.45 cm²) during three (3) T20 International matches played during the Sri Lanka National Men's Team Tour of England.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting, gambling shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- This EOI will be available only for Direct sponsors and therefore Marketing Agencies shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.
- Sub-licensing of the rights to be granted herein will not be permitted.

EOI Submission Procedure:
The EOI along with financial offer must be submitted to the Sri Lanka Cricket Headquarters at No 35, Maitland Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka by close of business hours (before 12 PM) on 10th May, 2021 and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Cricket. Alternatively, firms are eligible to submit the EOI along with its financial offer and necessary documentation electronically via email at sponsorship@srilankacricket.lk On or before the deadline with all the hard copies of the same being couriered to aforementioned address.

The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:

- Certificate of Incorporation/ Business registration
- Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with Certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- Reference from a reputed International Bank certifying the financial stability (Bank Solvency Certificate)
- Updated auditor's report on financial statements (in case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).
- In case of consortium, notarized consortium Agreement.

Financial Proposal Structure and Payment Terms:

- Financial proposal should state the figure of the NET Rights Fee offered in Sri Lankan Rupees and/or US Dollars (in words and numbers) excluding of VAT/Tax/any other deductions depending on local or foreign EOI Participant.
- The following payment structure shall apply in respect of the rights to be granted and rights fee there to shall be payable by the successful EOI participant to SLC in the following manner:
 - The total Rights Fee (i.e. the Offered Value) should be paid in full on or before 17th May 2021.
 - The Mode of Payment: Bank transfer to the SLC Designated Account/ Bank Draft issued in favor of SLC.

If you require any further information in relation to this EOI, Please contact Manager Sales - SLC via 0764 127 253.

The SLC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The SLC also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SRI LANKA CRICKET**



Sri Lanka and Bangladesh players shake hands. Pix courtesy SLC

JAYAWICKRAMA HELPS SRI LANKA CLINCH FIRST TEST SERIES WIN OF 2021

Praveen Jayawickrama took a match haul of 11 wickets on debut to help Sri Lanka clinch a series win over Bangladesh on Monday with a 209-run victory in the second Test at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy.

This was Sri Lanka's first Test win in more than a year, ending a run of eight Tests without a victory. The first Test in this series ended in a draw.

Sri Lanka needed five wickets for victory on the final day and Jayawickrama accounted for three of them to finish with combined figures

of 11 for 178. It was the 10th-best return by a Test bowler on debut and the best by a Sri Lankan, improving on Akila Dananjaya's eight for 44 against Bangladesh three years ago. He was voted Player-of-the-Match.

Off-spinner Ramesh Mendis finished with four wickets, complementing the orthodox spin of Jayawickrama, who flighted the ball, found drift and lot of assistance from a crumpling wicket. The two front-line spinners shared the bulk of the bowling, sending down 60 overs in the second innings and claiming

nine wickets between them. Bangladesh had been bowled out for 251 in its first innings in reply to Sri Lanka's 493 for seven.

Despite a first-innings lead of 242, Sri Lanka did not enforce the follow-on, instead batted again declaring on 194 for nine to set Bangladesh a target of 437.



Praveen Jayawickrama and Ramesh Mendis with the Trophy



Ramesh Mendis celebrates



Praveen Jayawickrama celebrates a dismissal



Dimuth Karunaratne celebrates



Dimuth Karunaratne with the Man-of-the-Series award



Praveen Jayawickrama celebrates with Sri Lanka players after their win



Dimuth Karunaratne congratulates Praveen Jayawickrama



Dilanka Isuru Kumara in action at a weightlifting Meet. (Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl. Corr)

Weightlifter Dilanka clinches Silver Medal in Uzbekistan

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-Kandy Sports Special corr

Twenty five year old, Dilanka Isuru Kumara, a weightlifter attached to the Sri Lanka Army as a Lance Corporal of the Panagoda Camp won a Silver Medal for clean & Jerk lifting 137 Kg, and won a Bronze Medal lifting a full total of 241 Kg, in the 55 Kg. weight class at the Asian Weightlifting Championship held from 16th to 25th of April, 2021 at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

He is an old boy of Gettumana Maha Vidyalaya, Kurunegala from Grade One to Eleven and joined the John Kothalawala National School to do higher studies. After leaving school he joined Sri Lanka Army in 2016 and now he is stationed at Panagoda Army Camp.

Isuru Kumara started weightlifting under the coaching of Rukshan Gunathillake, a talented Weightlifter in the year 2010 when he was studying at Gettumana Maha Vidyalaya. At the start he participated at the Junior National Weightlifting Championship from 2011 to 2016 under the 50 Kg. weight class and 55 Kg. weight class without much success. He proved his class at the National Weightlifting Championship when he won his weight class of 55 Kg. continuously from the year 2016 to 2019.

In the year 2013 he toured Malaysia for the Youth Commonwealth Games and was placed fourth in 50 Kg. weight class and in 2016 again he toured Malaysia for the Youth Commonwealth Championship and won the 55 Kg. weight class. In addition he secured the Champion Trophy at the National Sports Festival in the year 2018 and in 2020 he established three National Records in snatch (111 Kg.) Clean and Jerk (140 Kg.) and a full total of 251 Kg. at the Weightlifting trials.

In the year 2017 he toured Japan for the Junior Asian Championship held at Tokyo and was placed seventh and in 2019 at the Asian Weightlifting Championship held in China he was placed third.

In the same year he won his weight class of 55 Kg. at the South Asian Weight Lifting Contest held in Nepal.

At present Isuru Kumara is training for the World Championship to be held later this year and for the Commonwealth Championship to be held in England next Year. He is thankful to the Sri Lanka Army and to his first weightlifting coach Rukshan Gunathillake for the guidance given to him.

Hasitha Perera the football player turned ruggerite

ALTHAF NAWAZ

Some sportsmen follow and are inspired by certain popular figures who excel in that particular sport in the International arena. Hasitha Perera was a player who was a great fan and followed Sebastien Chabal the French national rugby player whose performance encouraged him to take up rugby from the school level to compete in the International arena donning the National jersey.

Hasitha Perera had a nickname called 'Hassa' in the rugby circles. He was born in 1985 in Colombo and his father was late Gunapala Perera worked as a Mechanic while mother Somawathi was a housewife. He has an elder brother Jeewaka, a former under-19 national football player currently working as assistant swimming coach at St. Peters College, Colombo. Hasitha was over six feet in height and had a playing weight of 120 kgs.

He started his school career with Lumbini College, Colombo from 1991 to 2003 later was offered a scholarship at Ananda College, Colombo to play Rugby whilst continuing his Advanced Level studies from 2003 to 2004. Even though he became the cynosure of all eyes in rugby, he initially competed in other sports like swimming from the age of six followed by football at the age of 12 and then stormed in to handling the oval shaped ball. The body structure of him gave the added advantage in participating in rugby at college where he went on to lock horns in the pack as a second row player.

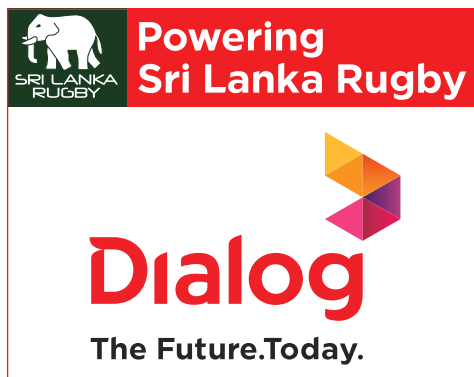
He played a pivotal role by winning the ball for his team in line outs while giving that extra strength in the rucks and mauls. He was also selected to play in the college basketball team from the age of 16 years on par with rugby. At Lumbini, he captained the under-19 football team which won the Brazil Cup in 2003 which his brother



achieved the same feat two years earlier captaining his 'Alma Mater'.

With motivation from the French rugby player Sebastien Chabal, he started playing rugby for the under-13 team at Lumbini when he was 12 years old. But he was injured playing rugby when he was 15 years and decided to continue with football while always having the passion for the game of rugby.

He restarted playing rugby again from the under-17 age group hiding it from his parents who were concerned about him being injured and requested him to engage in football leaving out rugby. Nevertheless, with the progress in rugby, maturing as a useful player, his parents became the biggest supporters, and his mother especially never missed a single match. When he scrummed with the under-19 Lumbini team he was selected for the under-19 National team in 2003. The Lumbini senior coach at that time was Vikum Damsiri. He toured Malaysia in 2003 with the under-19 team coached by late George Simpkin, to whom he is grateful for the opportunity



granted, after which he was selected for the senior National squad in 2004 playing in several tournaments. In 2007 he moved to Brive-la-Gaillarde in France, where he played semi-professional rugby for a club called Malemort and returned to Sri Lanka in 2010.

His tenure with the Sri Lanka team commenced in 2012 against Philippines and surged ahead to represent Asian Five Nations Division 1 tournament held in Sri Lanka in 2013. In 2014, he competed with the National team at the Asian Five Nations Top Five Championship involving Korea and Japan.

Same year, he was selected for Asia Pacific Dragons team 10's tournament played in Hong Kong which was made possible by Hale T-Pole a Tongan national who gave the opportunity to be part of this team which was delighted to have the experience of being coached by Tana Umaga (former All Blacks captain) and Danny Lee (also former All Blacks). There he played with George Smith and Radike Samo (former Wallabies), Alesana Tuilagi (former Samoan national player) and Nili Latu (former Tongan national player). He was later offered a contract by Hale T-Pole to join the Ricoh Black Rams in Tokyo,

Japan for which he was thankful to them. He lived there for a few months while part of that team, but unfortunately suffered a slipped disc which brought him back to Sri Lanka.

While playing for Ananda, he joined CR and FC in 2003 where he launched his club rugby career and went onto represent them until he left for France in 2007. In 2005, CR club coach was Grant Dwyer with whom he shared his knowledge. He is thankful to CR President Ravi Balasuriya and Secretary Jehan Canagaratna at that time who took great care of him and his career. It was a pleasure to play with a group of legends during this time like Viraj Prashantha, Asanga Rodrigo, Shamly Nawaz, Savantha de Saram under the captaincy of Pavithra Fernando. Formed a great bond at CR and FC sharing the scrum with Anuja Perera, Dhanushka Boteju (Botha), Ashean Karthelis (Kara), Shamil Mohamed which remained rock solid pack in the game in that era. In 2012, he joined Up Country Lions and in 2013 Havelocks. In 2014, he moved to Navy and in 2015 his career ended on a sad note with a fracture while playing for Navy after which he hung up his boots.

In 2012, he started training as a group fitness instructor and as a personal trainer with a Colombian trainer Eli Usman, soon after his rugby career. He concentrated full-time into the fitness industry, helping others to achieve their health and fitness goals.

In 2019, he co-founded the business called the 'Island Spin Fit' along with his partner Liz Adamson, from the UK, whom he met in 2016 is also a fitness instructor as well as chartered accountant. At present they run all sorts of group exercise classes - spin fit (indoor cycling), boot camp, box fit, beach workouts, online workouts - as well as personal training in Colombo.

Kosala wins CFSL Online Under 16 Open Youth Rapid Chess Championship

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Kosala Amaraturunge of JMC International School, Kaluthara won the Championship while three more players, Senuka Ahangama (DS Senanayake College), Bridjesh Saravanabhavan (Gateway International School) and SMMP Kulathilake (Sangabodhi Vidyalaya, Nittambuwa) shared the highest points of 7 1/2 out of 8 games at the

Online Under 16 Open Youth Rapid Chess Championship. All four players were unbeaten where they just gave away one draw to their opponents and received a forfeit point where Kosala had the better Tie-breaker.

Senuka Aswin Ahangama won the Silver Medal while Brijesh Saravanabhavan won the Bronze Medal on their tie break performance. S M M P Kulathilake had to



Kosala Amaraturunge was satisfied with the 4th place. CFSL Online Under 16 Open Youth Rapid Chess

Championship 2021 conducted by the Chess Federation of Sri Lanka was successfully held via the Chess.com Platform.

A total of 137 players from all over the country registered for the event which was conducted for 8 rounds.

The event was conducted with the highest precautions for anti-cheating regulations.

Final standings of the players and their points

- Kosala Sandeepa Amaraturunge (JMC International School) 7.5
- Senuka Aswin Ahangama (DS Senanayake College) 7.5
- Brijesh Saravanabhavan (Gateway International School) 7.5
- S M M P Kulathilake (Sangabodhi Vidyalaya, Nittambuwa) 7.5

- K G T S D Kiriella (Maliyadeva College) 7
- Lalindu Sathmina (Isipathana College) 6.5
- Kavishka Gimhan Laksiri (Asoka Vidyalaya) 6.5
- Aruthran Arunakiranthan (Jaffna Hindu College) 6.0
- Pamok Methidinu Samaranayake (Rahula College, Mataara) 6.0
- Nayanaka Insara Wickramarachchi (DS Senanayake College) 6.0

Nikini Sandaleka the karate champion from Dankotuwa

DILWIN MENDIS
Moratuwa Sports
Special Correspondent

Karate Black Belt Second Dan, Sri Lanka Karate National poolist, athlete and gymnast Peduru Kanamage Nikini Sandaleka has brought honour and fame to her Alma Mater Dankotuwa Balika Vidyalaya. Nikini was born on 13th August 2000 and was admitted to her present school in 2006 and from the inception Nikini showed an interest in sports and when she was in Grade Two she took part at the School Primary Sports Meet and won places for 50 and 75 metre races and later she did 100 and 200 metres and High Jump and swept the board but in the Divisional Meet she could not perform well. When she came to the senior section too she continued up to Grade 13 and her events were 100 and 400 metres, Long Jump and High Jump and her relay team came first in the Divisional meet

In the mean time her parents Shantha Seneviratne and Geetha Priyani Dilrukshi noticed that their daughter is not much interested in athletics and they pushed her to commence Karate and she began to take part in karate in 2010 and came under Asela Sumith Lasantha. Her first attempt was the Puttalam District Karate Do Meet and won a Gold Medal for Kumite and a Silver Medal for Kata and in 2011 she won Golds for Kata and Kumite and in the following year at the Nihon Karate National Meet she won Golds for both these events and in the All Island Federation Karate Meet she was first in Kumite and third in Kata and at the NWP School Games Meet in the team event her school were the runners up in Kata and Kumite and in the NWP Meet she won her both events and in 2017 at the District meet she was first in Kumite and second in Kata



Nikini Sandaleka is standing extreme right in the picture with her Coach and her two younger sisters. (Picture by Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

Kumite and in the Puttalam District Meet she was second in Kata and first in Kumite and going further at the NWP Meet she won a Gold for Kata and a Silver for Kumite.

In 2015 at the Nihon Shotokan Karate Do Federation National Meet held at Karadeniya she was second in Kata and Kumite. Same year at the District Meet she won Golds for Kata and Kumite and in the NWP Meet she came first in Kata and second in Kumite and in the following year at the Nihon Karate National Meet she won Golds for both these events and in the All Island Federation Karate Meet she was first in Kumite and third in Kata and at the NWP School Games Meet in the team event her school were the runners up in Kata and Kumite and in the NWP Meet she won her both events and in 2017 at the District meet she was first in Kumite and second in Kata

In 2018 at the NWP



Nikini Sandaleka

School Games she was second in Kumite and third in Kata and in the same year at the District Meet she

won Golds in Kumite and Kata and in the All Island Karate Federation Schools Meet her school came up to Best Eight among the under 20 age group and in the NWP team event they came first in Kumite and in 2019 at the Puttalam District Meet she came first in Kumite and second in Kata, and at the NWP Meet she won a Gold for Kumite and a Bronze for the Kata and in the Karate Friends Federation Open Championship Meet she grabbed Golds for Kumite and Kata and at the All Island National Schools Festival Meet held at Madampe she won Silvers for both her events and at the NWP Meet she was third in Kumite and at the NWP Schools Meet she won a Gold for Kumite and a Bronze for Kata and in the All Island school Games held in 2019 her team won a Bronze and in Sri Lanka Karate Do Championship under 18 age group she came second in Kumite and at the 2020 National Sports Festival Puttalam District Meet she won Golds for Kumite and Kata.

In Gymnastic at the NWP Meet in 2019 in the Individual Event she came third while in the All Island under 20 age group they won the first place in the team event and her teacher in Charge were Mrs. Subashini, Mrs. Hansiak and Mrs. Ruvina. In time to time her Principals, Rev. Sisters Patrick Sovis, Bernadeth and presently Maria Gorenthi supported her to come up the ladder and she is presently following a Diploma in Sports at the International Training Institute Kurunegala and she is in the National Karate Pool. During a span of nine years of her Karate career she has won 54 medals which includes 26 Golds, 20 Silvers and eight Bronzes.

SLC conducts Level two coaching course

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA
Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Sri Lanka Cricket Coach Education Unit has trained former National Players to conduct the Level Two Coaching Courses and the first Course was held on the 20th to 24th April, 2021 at Sinhalese Sports Club and the main task of the Coach Education unit was 'train to train' concept and this course is currently being conducted and managed by Heshan de Mel (Head Coach Education) and Tharaka Samaraturunge (High Performance Coach Educator).

The former Test Cricketers who were involved were: Rangana Herath (Spin Bowling) Nuwan Kulasekera (Fast Bowling) Chamara Kapugedara (Fielding) Saman Jayantha (Batting)

The Coaches from Provincial and Districts were: Sujeewa Gunaratne and Amila Pinnaduwa and Two Coaches from Premier Clubs, Shanuka Dissanayake and Nuwan Shiroman were also involved.

The Coach Education Unit rolled out the Level 2 Coaching courses in 2012 with a Syllabus that has been reviewed by the ICC and the Coach Education Unit has been conducting this Programme on an annual basis. They have now promoted old participants of the course and external Coaches to manage this coaching course for the benefit of everyone and this practice allows the exchanging of



Rangana Herath demonstrating spin bowling. (Picture by Upananda Jayasundera-Kandy Sports Spl. Corr)

Ideas, knowledge and information and enhances the interaction between the Key figures of Sri Lanka Cricket as they are constantly involving former national Players as well to add weight to the programme.

Current and future participants of the Course are taught the fundamentals in an extra level of expertise as they believe that this has to be an effective method of enhancing the panel's Coaching methods and techniques to enhance the skills of their coaching system. A maximum of 20 participants will be allowed to sit per

Course from the Western, North Western, Eastern, Southern, North Central and Northern Provinces. A highlight could be seen with the most recent course conducted having two tamil coaches from Jaffna and they encourage diversity in the Coaching system.

Thanthirimulla cricket champions



Pradeshia Sabha Chairman Hemantha Perera and Pradeshia Sabha Member Naushad Mansoor handed over the champion Trophy to the captain of Thanthirimulla team. Pradeshia saba vice president llangage is also in the picture. (Picture by : M.K.M. Azwer - Moratuwa central Special Correspondent)

Panadura Pradeshia Sabha organised a Cricket Tournament at the Wadduwa Public Grounds recently.

Participating teams were Panadura Pradeshia

Sabha Wadduwa Main office, Thanthirimulla and Keselwatta Sub Office and Pradeshia Sabha Member teams.

Participating teams were Panadura Pradeshia

Sabha member team qualified for the finals. Thanthirimulla team became the champions and the Pradeshia Sabha members team were the runners-up.

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WORLD OF SPORTS

(May 5)
FOREIGN EVENTS
CRICKET

(County Championship):
Yorkshire vs Kent at Leeds
Northamptonshire vs Sussex
at Northampton
Lancashire vs Glamorgan
at Manchester
Nottinghamshire vs Essex
at Nottingham
Warwickshire vs Worcestershire
at Birmingham
Leicestershire vs Surrey
at Leicester
Hampshire vs Somerset
Southampton
Middlesex vs Gloucestershire
at London

FOOTBALL
(Champions League
semi-finals):
Chelsea vs Real Madrid

TENNIS
(ATP, Outdoor, Clay):
Madrid Open at La Caja Magica,
Madrid

GOLF
(USPGA Tour, Stroke Play)
Wells Fargo Championship
at Quail Hollow Club

IPL suspended after rise in COVID-19 cases among players



The IPL Trophy

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has been suspended after an increase in Coronavirus cases among players. A Sunrisers Hyderabad player tested positive before yesterday's match against Mumbai Indians. Monday's match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore was postponed after

two KKR players tested positive. In a statement, the IPL said it had 'unanimously decided' to postpone the season after an emergency meeting. "The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) does not want to compromise on the safety of the players, support staff and the other participants

involved in organising the IPL," it said. "This decision was taken keeping the safety, health and wellbeing of all the stakeholders in mind." "These are difficult times, especially in India and while we have tried to bring in some positivity and cheer, however, it is imperative that the tournament is now suspended

and everyone goes back to their families and loved ones in these trying times." "The BCCI will do everything in its powers to arrange for the secure and safe passage of all the participants in IPL 2021." Today's match between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals had earlier been called off after Chennai bowling Coach

Lakshminath Balaji tested positive. The IPL is the richest franchise tournament in world cricket, with eight franchises representing different Indian cities in matches of 20 overs per side. The Twenty20 tournament features global cricketers superstars purchased by the franchises at auc-

tion, including India icon Virat Kohli. Fourteen England players were signed up for the 2021 season. The IPL was taking place across six venues in India, with players travelling between them on charter and private flights. Teams are staying within secure areas of hotels and resorts in the various cities and do not have contact

with people outside the bubble. Cricket Australia (CA) said it was working with the BCCI to ensure the 'safe accommodation and repatriation' of its players back to Australia. Last week, Australia banned all flights from India until 15 May and CA said it 'will not seek exemptions.' (BBC)

Dharmaraja-Kingswood Big Match postponed

HAFIZ MARIKAR

The second oldest Big Match in the country between Dharmaraja College and Kingswood College which was to be played on May 14 and 15 at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy has been postponed due to the current health situation.

This would have been the 114th encounter between the two schools and out of the 113 matches played so far, Dharmaraja lead the tally with 33 wins against 19 by Kingswood with 56 matches ending in a draw.

The last win for Dharmaraja was in 2015 under Tharusha Weragoda and Kingswood's last win was in 1958 under Maurice Fernando.



The champion Mahinda Under-19 Cricket Team with Lasith Malinga, Coach Dhanushka Denagama and Principal Gamini Jayawardena

Dedication is important to move forward, says Malinga

Motivational speech for Mahinda U-19 Cricket Team

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka T20 Captain Lasith Malinga commended the performance of Mahinda College Cricket Team after they won the Inter-Schools Under-19 Tier 'B' title on Sunday.

"I saw the quality of the game during this tournament. I saw how the Mahinda bowlers had improved and the batsmen did their part

well except in the final", Malinga said after game.

"When one team gets out to a low score the opponents tend to play in a much relaxed manner and that's what happened in this final," he said.

"I am very happy the bowlers did their best and they were able to get 3-4 early wickets during the first 10 overs. This is the first time Mahinda emerged champions and

when I played for Mahinda we couldn't achieve this."

"When you play the two-day game you have to practice more in all three departments batting, bowling and fielding. Now you have to target your Big Match."

"You have to make your game plan for the two day game. You have to get 20 wickets to win the game. The batsmen also have a responsibility."

"When you look at the batting style of Steve Smith and Virat Kohli they play with minimum dot balls. That is their style but I never say you have to follow that style but you have to create your own style."

"But your dedication is more important to move forward. You can enjoy cricket and forget all mistakes but you should try to correct them in the future," he added.

Hampshire sign de Grandhomme for T20 Blast

Hampshire have acquired the services of Colin de Grandhomme for the 2021 T20 Blast season. It is understood that the New Zealand all-rounder is likely to be available for the business end of the tournament.

De Grandhomme has been battling an ankle issue which has kept him out of international cricket for more than a year now and it also saw him miss the home series against West Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Australia in 2020-21.

But the 34-year-old featured in domestic tournaments - Ford Trophy and Super Smash - albeit played as a specialist batsman.

The explosive all-rounder returned to training last month post the completion of his surgery to his right ankle and is in the recon-

ing for a Test recall for the two Tests against England next month and the subsequent World Test Championship final from June 18-22.

It is believed that de Grandhomme will link up with the Hampshire squad after the WTC final and is expected to be available for the business end of the competition, starting with the clash against Somerset on June 25.

However, there isn't any confirmation over his availability for the full tournament since there is a five-week window after the final league game.

He last played for New Zealand in March 2020 against India and his last stint in the T20 blast was with Birmingham Bears for two years in 2017 and 2018. (BBC)



Colin de Grandhomme

Out of an early mistake comes another Hamilton masterclass

Any victory feels good, but even as the Mercedes driver closes on 100 Grand Prix victories - the one in Portugal on Sunday was his 97th - some are more special than others. And this was undoubtedly one of the special ones.

The fight Hamilton and Mercedes are facing against Max Verstappen and Red Bull this year is arguably the toughest they have faced since they began their domination of Formula 1 in 2014.

So for Hamilton to pass not only Verstappen but also his own Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas to take his second victory in three races in a season the team started very much on the back foot was an achievement to savour. "It feels fantastic," Hamilton said.

In all three races now, Hamilton and Verstappen have fought wheel-to-wheel, but this was perhaps the most definitive statement the reigning champion has yet made. He dropped to third in the early laps but was in the lead by lap 20. Once Hamilton was there, the fight for the win was over. "He just drove an immaculate race," team boss Toto



Lewis Hamilton

Wolff said. "But it makes no sense to talk about these exceptional Lewis performances because they have become quite regular now. It's his standard now and he sets that standard for himself."

Hamilton being Hamilton, he made his victory at Portimao look easy. It was anything but, and the evidence for that was provided by the two drivers he was racing against.

Bottas, Hamilton and Verstappen were running in their grid order when the safety car came out after two laps in Portugal. It pulled off at the start of lap

seven, leaving Bottas in control of when the racing restarted, and Hamilton made his only mistakes of the day.

He was looking in his mirrors to check where Verstappen was behind him, he said, at exactly the moment Bottas decided to jump. "That wasn't great," Hamilton laughed. But worse was to come.

The split second's reaction advantage allowed Verstappen to get a run on Hamilton, who recounted the incident in the post-race press conference, sitting between his vanquished rivals. (BBC)

Netball Elections postponed

The elections of the Netball Federation of Sri Lanka (NFSL) scheduled to be held on May 25 has been postponed due to the COVID-19 situation.

According to the Chairman of the Netball Election Committee Retired Supreme Court Judge Upali Abeyratne the objections of the nomination of the Netball Elections is scheduled to be considered today (5).

But due to the present situation in the

country the parties who are engaged with these objections have difficulties arriving in Colombo.

The new date for the consideration of objections and the new election date will be notified later.

Former Director General of Sports Ranjani Jayakody, Gampaha District MP Kokila Gunawardena and former Sport Director Padma Beddewela have submitted their nominations for the post of president. (DR)

Australia walks back 'racist' India ban after backlash

SYDNEY, TUESDAY: Australia's prime minister fended off accusations of racism and having blood on his hands Tuesday, as he retreated from a threat to jail Australians trying to escape Covid-wracked India. Scott Morrison's government moved to ban travellers from India from entering Australia until May 15, threatening rule-breakers - including Australian citizens - with prison time.

Amid a widespread backlash, Morrison on Tuesday said it was "highly unlikely" that Australians who skirted a ban would be jailed.

"I think the likelihood of any of that occurring is pretty much zero," Morrison said in a breakfast-time media

blitz on Tuesday. Around 9,000 Australians are believed to be in India, where hundreds of thousands of new coronavirus cases are being detected every day and the death toll is soaring.

Among those trapped are some of Australia's most high profile sporting stars - cricketers playing in the lucrative Indian Premier League.

Commentator and former Test cricket star Michael Slater was among those who pilloried Morrison's decision, saying it was a "disgrace".

"Blood on your hands PM. How dare you treat us like this," he tweeted. "If our Government cared for the safety of Aussies they would

allow us to get home." Morrison said the idea he had blood on his hands was "absurd".

"The buck stops here when it comes to these decisions, and I'm going to take decisions that I believe are going to protect Australia from a third wave," he said.

"I'm working to bring them home safely," he added, indicating that repatriation flights could begin soon after May 15. The decision came into force on Monday and was denounced by rights groups and some of Morrison's most prominent allies including Sky News commentator Andrew Bolt who said it "stinks of racism". (Agencies)

Madrid Open: Dan Evans beats Jeremy Chardy to reach 2nd round

Britain's Dan Evans reached the second round of the Madrid Open with victory over Frenchman Jeremy Chardy.

The British number one, who had never won in Madrid, came through 7-6 (8-6) 6-7 (7-9) 6-2.

Evans had three match points in the second set but the world number 51 saved them to send it to a decider. However, the world

number 26 started the third set positively and broke his opponent twice, sealing it with an ace to go through to the last 32.

It was Evans' third win out of three against Chardy this year after victories on hard courts in Melbourne and Doha.

"I'm happy to be through," said Evans, who had lost in the first round on his only previous

appearance at the event in 2017. "The first round is always tough but it was a good match and I felt good on my serve."

"I'm moving better on clay and I've found a medium between being aggressive and standing too far back, and I'm winning matches."

Chardy controlled much of the first set as Evans recovered an early break

and then saved a set point at 4-5 before taking advantage of an untimely double fault from his opponent at 6-6 in the tie-break.

The second set saw Evans holding his serve much more easily and putting pressure on Chardy. But a match point came and went at 5-4 and then two more in the tie-break before he eventually lost it. (BBC)



Dan Evans

Business

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State Minister Mohan P. De Silva launching the drone project

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Creating agricultural history, the Government will launch a mega drive to use drones to spray fertilizer and a separate unit will be set up in each electoral district for this purpose. State Minister of Production and Supply of Fertilizer and Regulation of

Government to use drone technology to spray fertilizer

Chemical Fertilizer, Mohan P. De Silva told the Daily News that the first trial was successfully done last year in Panwila, Galle, using drones to spray organic fertilizer on paddy fields.

"Post studies from the venue found out that this trial was very successful and now we want to commercialize this."

Drones were rented from a private company and technology in this regard was acquired from Universities a while another private entity provided the liquid organic fertilizer for this trial which cost around Rs. 2 million.

"However now we have found cost effective ways to broad-base this

launch as a commercial venture offering the service at a fee to paddy farmers."

One of the mega advantages of this is that the process can be done with minimum human intervention and it also covers a larger area in a shorter time. "Hence we now plan to set up mini mobile 'drones spray fertilizer' units in several areas and operate them on a commercial basis thus covering the investment."

Commenting on use of chemical fertilizer, De Silva said that the government has invested around Rs. 1 billion in 2021 to reduce chemical

fertilizer and make farmers shift towards the use of organic fertilizer while also enforcing a ban of imports. The import bill of fertilizer was around USD 400 million.

"Opposition is trying to create a picture that the chemical fertilizer ban was imposed to save foreign exchange which is not true."

The election manifesto of President

Gotabaya Rajapaksa clearly spells out that the government will curb excessive use of the fertilizer and shift towards use of organic material. This will also have additional price when exporting agro produce as there is a global demand for organic food."

He said that there is a common myth that yields reduce when organic fertilizer is used. "People who say this have forgotten about the health hazards of the use of chemical fertilizer." The Minister said that they are now using the services of



SLT DIGITAL INFO SERVICES DESIGNS... PAGE 20

microbiologists, scientists and Nano technology to add more value to organic fertilizer especially in the liquid organic fertilizer segment.

This move is also a part of the government's policy to modernize agricultural production with new technologies. "Sri Lanka's vision is to be the first country in the world to discontinue the use of chemical fertilizer and shift as a 100% organic fertilizer using the country."

Sri Lanka Tourism sector attracts US\$ 188.4 mn investments

Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic and the downturn in tourism, the Sri Lanka Tourism sector attracted US\$ 188.4 million investments for 29 projects in the last 18 months.

These approved projects included cable car projects, floating restaurants, underwater art galleries and similar projects. Minister of Tourism Prasanna Ranatunga said that in addition even under the C-19 situation a further US\$ 690 million tourism related investment projects have been submitted for approval. The number of projects received for approval were 54. "This proves that the investment sentiment for Sri Lanka is still active as the country attracted a total of nearly USD 880 million investments."

"We are now focusing on speedily granting approvals for other pro-



Minister Prasanna Ranatunga

jects and to meet this objective a new 'Investment Relations Unit' (IRU) to expedite investment in tourism has been set up."

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority established IRU has been set up subsequent to taking into consideration the complexity of the procedure for approval of investments and the fact that there are many linear institutions.

Minister Ranatunga said that they observed that 43 government

institutions are usually involved in the approval process and arrangements have been made to sign Memorandums of Understanding with these line Ministries and institutions.

Accordingly, the Board of Investment, the Coast Conservation Department, the National Buildings Development Department, the Central Environment Authori-



A sea museum

ty, the Wildlife Department, the Forest Conservation Department, the Archaeological Department, the Agrarian Services Department and the Irrigation Department have signed relative MoUs. The Minister said that arrangements have been made to sign MoUs with other government institutions as well.

"This unit has been assigned the task of

simplifying the procedure of granting approval for investments and to expedite it."

More attention has been focused on expanding new investment opportunities in the field of tourism, according to the Manifesto of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, 'Saubhagayee Dekma.' Taking into consideration environmental concerns as well.

Prime Lands Residencies to debut IPO on May 11

Prime Lands Residencies Limited, the condominium property arm of Prime Group, recently debuted its Initial Public Offering (IPO) Proposition.

The opening date is currently set for May 11. The company has extended an invitation to subscribe for 100 million Ordinary Shares at an Issue Price of RS 10.40 per Share which is payable in full on application. The company has also

facilitated an option to subscribe for a further 87.5 million shares in the event of an oversubscription of the initial 100 million shares.

Through this IPO, Prime Lands Residencies Limited seeks to allow the public to have a 10 to 20% percent stake in the company and raise 1.95 billion rupees in funds. This IPO is expected to ensure that the firm continues to grow from strength to strength,

with a commitment to bring the best value to all their stakeholders, ensuring their satisfaction is parallel to the growth of Prime Lands Residencies and the Prime Group.

Over 40 apartment projects have been initiated by the company so far in Colombo, other main cities and suburbs. Out of which, 35 projects have been fully completed and handed over to residents.

SANASA Life Insurance receives '[SL] BBB (Stable)' rating

SANASA Life Insurance Company, was recently accredited an Insurance Financial Strength Rating of "[SL] BBB (Stable)" by ICRA Lanka Ltd recognising its financial stability in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. ICRA Lanka is a Credit Rating Agency licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) and is a fully-owned subsidiary of ICRA Ltd., India.

The attack of the COVID-19

pandemic brought day-to-day activities to a halt and sent Sri Lanka's economy into a downward trajectory since March 2020. However, despite numerous challenges posed by the pandemic situation, SANASA Life Insurance Company was able to perform reasonably well and its financial strength and stability is reaffirmed by the assigning of this "[SL] BBB (Stable)" rating by ICRA Lanka.

SANASA Life Chief Executive Officer Indika Kiriwandeni-

ya said, "It has certainly been one of the most challenging years for SANASA Life Insurance due to the negative impact of the pandemic. Given such a backdrop, we are happy to receive this rating by ICRA Lanka in recognition of our financial stability as one of Sri Lanka's leading insurance companies."

SANASA Life Insurance has been a giant in the field of insurance in Sri Lanka for nearly 30 years.

Pan Asia Bank posts best Q1 results, PAT soars by 81% to Rs. 750 mn

Pan Asia Banking Corporation PLC reported the best-ever first quarter financial results during the quarter ended March 31, 2021 to report a Pre-Tax Profit of Rs. 986 million and a Post-Tax Profit of Rs. 750 million after recording impressive growth rates of 51% and 81% respectively, demonstrating the resilience amidst challenging macroeconomic conditions.

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 impact on the Sri Lankan economy, the Bank's Operating Profits before VAT on Financial Services reached Rs. 1,197 million with an increase of 47%, reflecting excellence in core banking performance and the success of cost containment measures evidenced by improvement in all key matrices which now rank among the industry bests. This feat was achieved even after setting aside provisions for probable loan losses amounting to Rs. 638 million.

The Bank's Net Interest Income for the period witnessed an increase of 17% due to significant reduction in financial cost of funds at a rate faster than the drop in

interest yields of interest bearing assets. Consequently, the Bank's Net Interest Margin for the quarter improved to 5.07% from 4.41% reported three months ago.

The Bank's Cost-to-Income Ratio improved from 45.66% to 38.08% within a three months period owing to the excellence in core banking performance which is reflected in the noteworthy overall growth in key revenue lines and various strategies and measures taken to contain overhead costs. In fact, the Bank managed to bring down its Other Operating Expenses by 9% in 2021 Q1 compared to 2020 Q1.

The Bank's Post-Tax Profits for the reporting quarter also gained to an extent due to application of lower corporate income tax rate of 24% for tax provisioning in accordance with the guideline issued by CA Sri Lanka on April 23, 2021.

The Bank's Gross Non-Performing Loan Ratio marginally slipped from 6.73% to 6.77% during the quarter amidst tough macro-economic conditions.

Mobiglotech Blockchain Corp invites investment for EXIP Project

Mobiglotech Blockchain Corp.'s flagship project in partnership with Dev Ceylon Holdings and Niftron, The EXIP project is looking for an investment of USD 1million to become a billion-dollar company by 2025.

The EXIP project themed as 'By Community for Community', is expected to create real independence on the internet and make sure it remains neutral to any political affiliations.

"EXIP ecosystem is custom built to the needs of any individual, private or government institution where they can have the ownership of their domain or TLD other

than renting it as from present service providers. In future, depending on the way the world is moving with blockchains and decentralizations, all aspects of the project will be decentralized. The community will control it without any monopoly.

We will build this project in such a way that all the users have equal rights to access and anyone will be able to create domains and top-level domains whose ownership will be identified through Non-fungible tokens," said Founder/CEO Mobiglotech Shashi Meghavar-nap. Mobiglotech is the world's first decentralized domain and TLD name service.

"The internet transformed the way we carry out transactions, communicate, share information, promote business, entertain, study, and so forth. Nevertheless, the internet was never properly designed for such a global role.

On the other hand, some organizations have the power to seize, revoke, dismiss, and permanently erase any domain from existence. Once the EXIP project is completed, the community would be able to decide all the major actions in the system based on their voting such as removing or banning a domain or a user," he added.



Founder Shashi Meghawarna

EXIP is specially designed to decentralize the internet and overcome monopolistic control over domains and TLDs. While providing the connectivity of the internet it assures full security similar to an intranet. The EXIP project is moving forward smoothly and looking for an investment of USD 1 million to become a billion-dollar company by 2025.

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Pfizer donates \$70 mn medical supplies to India

US pharma giant Pfizer has donated medical supplies worth \$70 million, including drugs to treat the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), to India, the company said in a statement on Monday, adding that it was in talks with the Indian government to expedite its Covid-19 vaccine approval.

The supplies of items that are a part of India's Covid-19 treatment protocol are being made from Pfizer's distribution centres across US, Europe, and Asia, the firm added.

"These medicines, valued at more than \$70 million, will be made avail-

able immediately, and we will work closely with the government and our NGO partners to get them to where they are needed most. This effort, in combination with Pfizer foundation funding that supports humanitarian organisations providing essential and life-saving equipment to India, such as ventilators, oxygen concentrators, and consumables, is our most comprehensive humanitarian relief response ever," said Albert Bourla chairman and chief executive officer, Pfizer, in a statement.

He said the effort is an attempt to mobilise the largest humanitarian

relief effort in Pfizer's history being made because they were deeply concerned by the critical Covid situation in India.

"Pfizer is aware that access to vaccines is critical to ending this pandemic. Unfortunately, our vaccine is not registered in India although our application was submitted months ago. We are currently discussing with the Indian government an expedited approval pathway to make our Pfizer-BioNTECH vaccine available for use in the country," Bourla added.

(www.hindustantimes.com/)

China's exports to remain elevated in year-over-year terms

China's foreign trade surplus likely widened in April, after narrowing to US\$13.8 billion in March. According to Moody's Analytics Asia Pacific Economic Preview China's exports will remain elevated in year-over-year terms due to low base effects as the pandemic wreaked havoc on foreign demand.

But beyond that, pent-up foreign demand is expected to ease over the year, particularly for audio and video equipment and parts, lighting devices, and furniture. Factories have reopened

in many major economies, and their domestic manufacturing is picking up speed, squeezing demand on China's exports. The domestic market will play a more important role in digesting and supporting production this year, backing import growth and likely keeping the trade balance relatively narrow. The surge in China's imports in March was largely due to rising prices. The import volume of refined oil and pharmaceutical products slipped compared with December, but their import value soared by more than 35%.

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Security	Volume	**V.W.A. Previous Close	Open	High	Low	**V.W.A. Yesterday's Close	Change (Rs.)
Main Board							
A.SPEN.HOT.HOLD.	40	28.30	29.00	29.00	28.70	28.30	0.00
ABANS	10	148.75	149.75	149.75	149.75	148.75	0.00
ACCESS ENG SL	198,786	22.60	22.50	22.70	22.30	22.50	(0.10)
ACL	141,889	37.30	37.20	37.40	36.70	37.00	(0.30)
ACL PLASTICS	815	249.50	253.50	253.75	243.25	243.25	(6.25)
ACME	6,956	6.50	6.50	6.70	6.50	6.70	0.20
AGALAWATTE	410	24.30	24.30	24.90	24.00	24.00	(0.30)
AHOT PROPERTIES	2,001	35.00	35.10	35.20	35.00	35.00	0.00
AITKEN SPENCE	164,558	52.00	53.00	53.00	50.10	50.90	(1.10)
ALLIANCE	8,431	50.50	46.60	50.00	46.60	50.00	(0.50)
AMANA BANK	122,781	3.10	3.20	3.20	3.10	3.10	0.00
AMAYA LEISURE	62	16.90	16.90	16.90	16.90	16.90	0.00
ASIA ASSET	246,100	6.00	6.00	6.30	6.00	6.20	0.20
ASIRI	33,212	28.40	28.70	28.70	28.60	28.60	0.20
ASIRI SURG	96,610	13.90	14.00	14.20	14.00	14.00	0.10
AUTODROME	41	67.50	68.70	68.70	67.50	67.50	0.00
BAIRAHA FARMS	2,056	125.75	128.00	128.00	124.00	125.00	(0.75)
BALANGODA	1,650	11.90	12.20	12.20	12.10	12.10	0.20
BUKIT DARAH	2,194	296.00	295.00	299.00	281.00	282.00	(14.00)
C M HOLDINGS	221	79.10	80.00	80.00	79.00	79.10	0.00
C T HOLDINGS	4,855	170.25	170.75	171.00	170.25	170.25	0.00
CARGILLS	103	230.25	231.00	231.00	229.00	229.00	(1.25)
CARGO BOAT	532	60.00	60.00	62.50	60.00	60.00	0.00
CARSONS	4,509	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	0.00
CDB	9	109.50	105.00	105.00	105.00	109.50	0.00
CDB [CDB.X0000]	648	73.30	74.50	74.50	74.50	74.50	1.20
CENTRAL FINANCE	415	81.30	82.90	82.90	82.00	82.00	0.70
CENTRAL IND.	28,246	107.00	107.00	107.00	103.75	104.25	(2.75)
CEYLINCO INS.	306	1,932.25	1,925.00	1,935.00	1,900.00	1,900.50	(31.75)
CEYLINCO INS. [CINS.X0000]	100	1,081.00	1,099.50	1,100.00	1,099.50	1,100.00	19.00
CEYLON GUARDIAN	500	117.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	115.00	(2.00)
CEYLON INV.	7,170	57.00	57.00	57.90	55.10	55.30	(1.70)
CEYLON TOBACCO	1,325	963.25	963.00	968.00	962.25	963.50	0.25
CHEMANEX	4,065	74.00	71.10	71.10	70.50	70.90	(3.10)
CHEVRON	57,077	91.50	91.50	91.90	91.00	91.20	(0.30)
CIC [CIC.X0000]	518,057	47.00	46.50	47.70	44.80	45.40	(1.60)
CITRUS LEISURE	863,949	38.30	37.50	38.00	36.00	36.40	(1.90)
COLD STORES	15	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	8.70	0.00
COLOMBO CITY	349	581.75	580.00	581.00	579.00	581.00	(0.75)
COLOMBO LAND	416	827.50	831.25	838.00	821.00	830.00	2.50
COMMERCIAL BANK	539	22.70	21.90	21.90	21.80	21.80	(0.90)
COMMERCIAL BANK [COMB.X0000]	246,591	79.50	80.00	80.00	79.00	79.30	(0.20)
CONVENIENCE FOOD	477	1,174.75	1,175.00	1,175.00	1,150.00	1,174.50	(0.25)
DANKOTUWA PORCEL	31,974	11.10	11.10	11.40	11.10	11.10	0.00
DFCC BANK PLC	12,967	57.00	57.00	57.00	56.60	56.80	(0.20)
DIALOG	247,611	12.70	12.80	12.80	12.60	12.70	0.00
DIMO	21	551.25	525.00	554.00	525.00	551.25	0.00
DIPPED PRODUCTS	1,482,549	54.40	57.30	57.30	52.90	53.20	(1.20)
DOCKYARD	6,972	74.40	74.50	74.50	71.10	71.10	(3.30)
DOLPHIN HOTELS	100	22.70	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	1.30
DURDANS	2,255	103.50	103.50	103.50	100.00	100.00	(3.50)
DURDANS [CHL.X0000]	400	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	0.00
E B CREAMY	3,266	27.00	27.00	27.50	27.00	27.00	0.00
EAST WEST	22,118	9.90	10.00	10.00	9.80	9.80	(0.10)
EASTERN MERCHANT	18,586	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.10	5.20	(0.20)
EXPOLANKA	2,453,583	45.50	45.00	45.90	44.00	44.30	(1.20)
FORT LAND	1,973	12.40	12.30	12.30	12.30	12.30	(0.10)
GESTETNER	5	95.80	86.20	86.20	95.80	95.80	0.00
GRAIN ELEVATORS XD	40,747	127.00	127.00	129.50	125.25	125.75	(1.25)
HAYCARB	494,373	102.50	104.75	105.00	100.00	100.25	(2.25)
HAYLEYS	554,940	75.10	75.20	75.20	73.50	73.80	(1.30)
HAYLEYS FABRIC	908,787	17.20	17.10	17.10	16.60	16.80	(0.40)
HAYLEYS FIBRE	15,608	47.20	47.00	48.00	47.00	47.00	(0.20)
HDFC	6,935	33.30	33.90	33.90	34.30	34.30	1.00
HDMAS HOLDINGS	6,952	80.00	80.40	80.40	79.60	79.70	(0.30)
HNB	8,477,779	129.75	130.75	130.75	127.50	128.25	(1.50)
HNB ASSURANCE	13,757	56.50	57.50	57.50	56.00	56.00	(0.50)
HNB [HNB.X0000]	187,642	93.70	93.40	93.70	92.70	92.90	(0.80)
HORANA	500	20.50	19.80	21.00	19.80	21.00	0.50
HOTEL SIGIRIYA	264	58.30	60.90	60.90	59.00	60.00	1.70
HOTELS CORP.	4	10.80	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.80	0.00
HUNTERS	4	685.00	650.00	670.00	650.00	685.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL ASPH.	6,807,434	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	0.00
JKH	266,813	139.75	140.00	140.00	137.00	137.75	(2.00)
KANDY HOTELS	550	4.70	4.90	4.90	4.70	4.70	0.00
KEGALLE	11,069	99.10	99.00	100.00	99.00	99.10	0.00
KELANI CABLES	2,670	117.00	117.00	117.00	115.00	115.25	(1.75)
KELANI TYRES	79,889	83.00	84.90	84.90	83.00	83.70	(0.70)
KELANI VALLEY	1,560	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.20	37.20	(0.30)
KINGSBURY	3,010	5.80	5.90	5.90	5.90	5.90	0.10
KOTAGALA	22,801	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.20	5.30	(0.10)
L O L C HOLDINGS	344,887	336.25	339.25	339.75	317.00	319.00	(17.25)
LAKE HOUSE PRIN.	24	144.25	149.00	149.00	149.00	144.25	0.00
LANKA ALUMINIUM	198,103	19.70	19.70	19.70	18.80	18.90	(0.80)
LANKA ASHOK	100	832.00	794.50	794.50	794.50	794.50	(37.50)
LANKA HOSPITALS	5,595	42.00	42.20	42.20	40.90	40.90	(1.10)
LANKA IOC	60,375	18.90	18.60	18.60	18.60	18.60	(0.30)
LANKA TILES	70,921	44.80	45.00	45.00	43.50	43.60	(1.20)
LANKA WALLTILE	127,012	46.20	46.20	47.00	44.00	44.30	(1.90)
LAUGFS GAS	10,966	19.20	19.10	19.10	18.60	18.70	(0.50)
LAUGFS GAS [LGL.X0000]	10,300	13.10	13.00	13.00	12.80	12.80	(0.30)
LAXAPANA XD	29	14.00	13.80	13.80	13.80	14.00	0.00
LB FINANCE	91,187	52.70	54.00	54.00	52.10	52.50	(0.20)
LEE HEDGES	160	60.00	62.70	62.70	62.70	62.70	2.70
LION BREWERY	72	590.25	553.25	572.75	553.25	590.25	0.00
LMF	3,356	162.50	163.75	163.75	160.00	160.50	(2.00)
LVL ENERGY	12,111	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.20	9.30	(0.20)
MALWATTE [MAL.X0000]	1,000	7.60	7.70	7.70	7.70	7.70	0.10
MELSTACORP	324,716	45.10	44.60	44.60	43.00	43.10	(2.00)
MERC. SHIPPING	22	65.70	76.40	76.40	67.20	65.70	0.00
MERCHANT BANK	6,300	6.80	6.80	6.90	6.80	6.90	0.10
MULLERS	136,219	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.00	(0.10)
NAMUNUKULA	4	158.50	158.50	158.50	158.50	158.50	0.00
NAT. DEV. BANK XR	160,272	75.50	76.00	76.00	74.90	74.90	(0.60)
NAT. DEV. BANK [NDB-R-0000] XR	13,889,495	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.10	0.10	(0.10)
NATIONS TRUST	20,716	53.50	53.90	53.90	53.50	53.70	0.20
NAWALOKA	14,118	4.70	5.00	5.10	4.80	4.90	0.20
NESTLE	1,163	1,007.75	1,030.00	1,030.00	950.00	1,002.75	(5.00)
OVERSEAS REALTY	33,677	15.60	15.40	15.50	15.10	15.40	(0.20)
PAN ASIA	548,314	15.10	16.00	16.00	15.20	15.30	0.20
PANASIAN POWER	791,350	3.60	3.50	3.70	3.50	3.60	0.00
PEOPLE'S INS	6,418	31.00	30.50	31.00	30.30	31.00	0.00
PEOPLES LEASING	79,689	11.70	11.80	11.90	11.70	11.80	0.10
PIRAMAL GLASS	663,334	11.50	11.60	11.60	11.20	11.30	(0.20)
R I L PROPERTY	72,164	6.10	6.20	6.20	6.00	6.00	(0.10)
REGNIS	6,405	46.00	46.00	46.80	45.40	45.50	(0.50)
RENUKA AGRI	115,634	3.80	3.70	3.80	3.70	3.70	0.10
RENUKA CITY HOT.	205	221.00	221.00	221.00	221.00	221.00	0.00
RENUKA FOODS	4,666	12.70	12.30	12.80	12.30	12.70	0.00
RENUKA FOODS [COCO.X0000]	3	10.40	11.10	11.10	10.20	10.40	0.00
RENUKA HOLDINGS	3,331	14.00	14.10	14.30	13.80	14.00	0.00
RENUKA HOLDINGS [RHL.X0000]	500	10.60	10.80	10.80	10.80	10.80	0.20
RESUS ENERGY	3,895	24.30	24.50	24.60	24.30	24.40	0.10
RICHARD PIERIS	108,538	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.50	15.50	(0.40)
ROYAL CERAMIC	2,715,385	34.10	34.20	34.50	33.00	33.20	(0.90)
S M B LEASING	611,010	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.00
S M B LEASING [SEMB.X0000]	2,518,451	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.20	0.30	0.00
SAMPATH	721,133	49.20					

NEWS

KPMG in Sri Lanka joins with VizuaMatix

VizuaMatix and KPMG in Sri Lanka (as the Knowledge Partner) signed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the 30th of March 2021 at the KPMG premises, with the understanding to work together to deliver a state-of-the-art predictive analysis tool for financial risk management which is designed to revolutionize the financial services industry. This tool will assist banks and financial institutions to mine data and make reliable predictions on the associated financial

risks when providing and managing loans. This will assist Sri Lankan financial service institutions to follow the suit of global leaders in the industry and move from a security-based lending approach to a risk-based lending approach. VizuaMatix is a software company that takes a research-oriented approach to develop world-class Enterprise Solutions. The VizuaMatix team goes beyond customer-centricity to anticipate your customers' needs for a seamless user experience, using

Agile methods and unconventional thinking to resolve business challenges quickly. A member of the KPMG Global network of firms, KPMG in Sri Lanka has been servicing clients for 124 years in the lines of audit, tax and advisory services. Leveraging the global network of firms, KPMG in Sri Lanka continues to provide services with globally accepted standards and state of the art tools and methodologies to help clients steer towards their vision in unprecedented



Reyaz Mihular and Theekshana. P. Kumara sharing the MoU.

times and dynamic market conditions. VizuaMatix is a key entity in developing world-class Enterprise Solutions which are used in visualizing and monetizing data using innovative and proven open-source technologies. As a knowledge part-

ner, KPMG in Sri Lanka will support VizuaMatix in their journey by acting as a Knowledge Partner and assisting them in releasing their software to the market while also supporting them in implementing this top of the line solution to prospective customers.

Tecno Mobile enters Sri Lanka

Global premier mobile phone brand Tecno Mobile announced its entry into the Sri Lankan market with the introduction of its revolutionary Spark 6 Go smart mobile phone to Sri Lankan customers.

The flagship brand of the Chinese technology giant Transission Holdings, Tecno Mobile is one of the fastest-growing smartphone brands globally and was listed amongst the world's top 10 mobile phone brands in 2020 by the International Data Corporation.

Tecno Mobile will be present throughout the island through a wide agent network, presenting high-quality smart mobiles with state-of-the-art technology at a convenient price to the Sri Lankan customers.



At the heart of our success is our eternal commitment to creating the best technological solutions that meet all the needs of the modern consumer, in line with our motto 'Expect More'. We are glad to offer the same to our Sri Lankan customers.

Ray Zhao, Country Manager for Tecno Mobile in Sri Lanka stated, "It gives us immense pleasure to share our innovations with Sri Lankan customers. We are confident our entrance to this market will be a real game-changer due to the stylish elegance, state-of-the-art technology of our products, combined with the superior service, all of which come at a convenient price.

The first Tecno Mobile product in the local market, SPARK 6 Go comes with a 6.52" HD + Drop display, 5000 mAh battery, two options for memory -32GB+2GB and 64GB+3GB, 8MP front camera, and 13MP dual rear camera (2 flashes) with smart features like AI scene detection, AI beautification, etc. SPARK 6 Go is equipped with a HiOS 6.2 TECNO operation system that comes with an array of useful functions.

Daraz Sri Lanka certified by Great Place to Work

Daraz Sri Lanka was certified as a great workplace today by the independent analysts at Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka. Daraz Sri Lanka earned this credential based on extensive ratings provided by its employees in an anonymous survey conducted by Great Place to Work®.

The vast majority of employees stated they were proud to work at Daraz, and that they look forward to coming to work every day, according to research and

consulting firm, Great Place to Work®.

"The success of Daraz is driven by the unique culture we have created for our employees, and we are proud to be a certified great place to work. Taking part in the Great Places to Work survey has allowed us to understand the pulse of the organization, and continue our focus on creating the most progressive, transparent and fun workplace in Sri Lanka," said Daraz Sri Lanka MD Rakhil Fernando,

"We applaud Daraz Sri Lanka for seeking employees' feedback and the opportunity to certify itself," said Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka CEO Kshani Ratnayake.

"These ratings measure its capacity to earn its own employees' trust and create a great workplace - critical metrics that anyone considering working for or doing business with Daraz Sri Lanka should take into account as an indicator of high performance."



Calcey Technologies is Great Place to Work Certified

Calcey Technologies was certified as a great workplace today by the independent analysts at Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka. The company earned this credential based on extensive ratings provided by its employees in an anonymous survey conducted by Great Place to Work®.

"We are extremely happy and humbled by our employees rating us as a Great Place to Work. It reinforces that our values, culture, and processes are all aligned with each other and are working in tandem and as intended to foster an exemplary work environment where everyone can bring their whole selves to work," said Calcey Technologies General Manager Gehan Dias.

"We applaud Calcey Technologies for seeking employees' feedback and the opportunity to certify itself," said Great Place to Work® in Sri Lanka CEO Kshani Ratnayake. "These ratings measure its capacity to earn its own employees' trust and create a great workplace - critical metrics that anyone considering working for or doing business with Calcey Technologies should take into account as an indicator of high performance."

"According to the Great Place to Work® study, 94 per cent of our employees have an overall perception that Calcey Technologies is a great workplace. This is a much welcome acknowledgement of our efforts to build a closely-knit company

where open communication and collaboration thrives at all levels" said Calcey Technologies HR Manager Ishara Walpola.

Calcey Technologies is a Gartner recognised technology consulting and software product engineering services provider based in the United States and Sri Lanka.

Great Place to Work® is the global authority on high-trust, high-performance workplace cultures. Through proprietary assessment tools, advisory services, and certification programs, including Best Workplaces lists and workplace reviews, Great Place to Work® provides the benchmarks, framework, and expertise needed to create, sustain, and recognize outstanding workplace cultures.



NDBIB advises Sunshine Energy on hydropower asset sale

NDB Investment Bank (NDBIB) continued to lead and facilitate strategic Mergers and Acquisition (M&A) transactions in Sri Lanka this year as well as the recently concluded divestiture of the hydropower assets of Sunshine Energy (Private) Limited (SEL) to Aitken Spence PLC. NDBIB acted as the exclusive sell-side advisor to the divesting shareholders of Waltrim Energy Limited (WEL) which included Sunshine Energy, the renewable energy arm of Sunshine Holdings PLC and its co-investors.

NDBIB CEO Darshan Perera stated "Our focus when it comes to M&A is to make sure our clients receive best-in-class financial advisory services to achieve their strategic goals. This facilitates our clients to grow, reorient themselves and consolidate their business opera-



CEO Darshan Perera



Corporate Advisory Team Nilendra Weerasinghe

tions to better create shareholder value."

WEL consists of three mini-hydropower plants with a total installed capacity of 6.6 MW and was transacted at an enterprise value of LKR 1.5 Bn. NDBIB executed the transaction via a multi-stage process carefully designed to establish the objectives and sensitivities of divesting shareholders and ensure focused efforts in investor screening. NDBIB carried out pre-

transaction preparation including business due diligence, financial forecasting and valuations, and was able to garner healthy interest from both local and foreign investors covering both strategic and financial sponsors.

NDBIB's Chief Corporate Advisory Officer, Nilendra Weerasinghe, commented on the transaction "We see significant levels of activity in the M&A space with the low-interest-rate environment

boosting asset valuations. Renewable energy and agriculture have emerged as top two areas attracting M&A interest and we hope to close many more transactions soon."

NDBIB coordinated and assisted SEL in facilitating the legal, financial and tax due diligence carried out by Aitken Spence and other shortlisted investors despite interruptions from COVID-19 related lockdowns that prevailed during the execution of the transaction. NDBIB also played the lead role in negotiations with Aitken Spence and other shortlisted investors to arrive at the most favourable terms for SEL to successfully close the transaction.

Sunshine Holdings PLC has grown to become one of Sri Lanka's most respected conglomerates with interests in healthcare, consumer goods,

agribusiness and renewable energy. The divestiture enabled SEL to restructure its renewable energy portfolio, allowing the company to monetize its hydropower investments to create value for its shareholders. This transaction comes hot on the heels of Sunshine Holdings' acquisition of Daintee Limited, the market leader in the confectionery space, enhancing its footprint in the consumer sector. NDBIB acted as the exclusive financial advisors to the divesting shareholders of Daintee Limited. Aitken Spence emerged as the successful bidder in a highly competitive M&A process, particularly given its strategic fit and existing presence in the renewable energy space, with the acquisition diversifying its energy sector portfolio.

Lean Six Sigma awards certification to NDB Bank participants

The Lean Six Sigma Company, one of the leading Six Sigma providers with offices in 25 destinations across the world, awarded certifications to participants from NDB Bank recently. A total of 27 participants were trained; 20 for the basic-entry level Yellow belt and 7 for the advanced Green belt who also completed individual projects.

Lean Six Sigma is a globally practised methodology in both manufacturing and service sectors to bring down operational cost and lead time while improving product quality and customer satisfaction. The certification comes in various skill levels namely Yellow belt, Green belt and Black belt. Companies are seen opting for these programs at a growing pace than ever before.

NDB Bank Chief Operating Officer Deepal Akuretiyagama said "Lean Six Sigma methodologies are well-proven techniques in optimizing operational efficiencies whilst enhancing our services that best suit our customers. We are happy to have our employees trained from The Lean Six Sigma Company and immensely proud of them in receiving their globally rec-



One of the participants from NDB Bank receiving the Six Sigma Green Belt certification.

ognized certifications. The Lean Six Sigma Company has trained hundreds of professionals from numerous leading organizations in the country through workshops, training and coaching. Participants have the option of choosing a physical or virtual classroom with simulation and other advanced teaching techniques including case studies.

Recently, it also went on to launch a special program for the services sector, namely 'Lean Six Sigma Black Belt for Services' to cater to the growing demand from banking and financial institutions, healthcare, BPO, academic providers among others.

Focused on providing quality training and global recognition, its certification programs are based on both ISO18404 and ISO13052 international standards, making it one of the very few

providers certified for both standards.

It is the number one lean six sigma provider in Europe and one of the leading globally, with a presence across Europe, the USA, Canada, Latin America, Africa and Asia. Sri Lanka was the first country to enter the Asian region, and within just two years it has now expanded into India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Founded in 2002, The Lean Six Sigma Company with its headquarters in Rotterdam, Netherlands has trained over 25,000 professionals from 4,000-plus businesses globally. It offers a wide range of courses and programs in the areas of lean and six sigma catered to various requirements of the client. For more information on courses and programs in Sri Lanka, please visit www.theleansixsigmacompany.lk

Dilmah founder celebrates 71 years

A brand image of brewing cups of kindness

Founder of Dilmah Tea Merrill J. Fernando recently celebrated 71 years in the tea industry. He entered the tea trade in 1950. He was one of a batch of five local youth to be trained in the art of tea tasting, which was previously limited to British citizens.

A statement from the company notes; "Dilmah is, undeniably, the global face of Ceylon tea. The brand, with the image of its founder, has carried the message of the purity and authenticity of Ceylon tea to over a hundred countries in the world. However, it is not only in the promotion of the product that Fernando has made his contribution. Over the years he has lent his weight to many initiatives that have benefited the industry and Ceylon tea in its totality.

In the early years,



he championed several initiatives which created facilities and remedied inequalities that hampered the local exporter of value-added tea. The tea industry then represented a long value chain, stretching from the local plantation to the retail market overseas, designed for the benefit of the British, allied multinationals and their local associates. He was successful in interposing his authority on this tightly closed system, with a mixture of guile, confrontation and leverage of influence, for the benefit of the local entrepreneur."

NOTICE TO UNITHOLDERS

The Unit holders of the following Unit Trust Funds managed by NDB Wealth Management Ltd are hereby notified that Financial Statements for the period ended 31st December 2020 are available at www.ndbwealth.com

1. NDB Wealth Growth Fund
2. NDB Wealth Growth & Income Fund
3. NDB Wealth Gilt-Edged Fund
4. NDB Wealth Income Fund
5. NDB Wealth Money Fund
6. NDB Wealth Money Plus Fund
7. NDB Wealth Islamic Money Plus Fund
8. NDB Wealth Income Plus Fund



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SLT Digital Info Services designs website for Bar Association

SLT Digital Info Services (SLTDS) which is a fully-owned subsidiary of Sri Lanka Telecom PLC (SLT) has extended its expertise to the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) with the launch of its upgraded feature-rich new website: www.basl.lk.

With a wide range of web development, digital marketing and advertising services, SLTDS helps its clientele create a well-rounded-up story to fulfil their business goals.

Revamp of the website came as a result of BASL's initiative to digitize

many of its functions. The new website aims at providing greater accessibility for its membership and the general public both locally and globally and it comes with a range of new features such as e-Shop, Payment Gateway Integration, Member Login Area enabling members to renew membership, apply for services such as car labels and register for CPD programmes and conferences and it offers access to over 50 BASL webinars as well.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, BASL Secretary Rajeev Amarasuriya

said, "the BASL has in the past 10 months converted all its professional development activities to online platforms through which the BASL has reached out to the entire membership and that the next phase was the launch of this brand-new and state-of-the-art website".

President BASL Kalinga Indatissa said, "it was an important day for BASL in its digital transformation."

He further said that the members now could benefit from the several services of BASL without having to physically

visit BASL. He said that a new fully-fledged interactive website was a long-felt need for BASL and that he was glad that the project could be completed during his tenure of office and thanked the Secretary of BASL Rajeev Amarasuriya and the other officers and SLT Digital Info Services for the job well done.

SLT Digital Info Services CEO Malraj Balapitiya said that they were extremely happy to see BASL truly following the path of digital transformation. In addition to the newly



The new BASL Website being launched by Arjuna Obeyesekere, Kalinga Indatissa, Rajeev Amarasuriya, Duminda Chandrasiri, Danushka Gangoda, Suranee Samarasekera, Oshan Ubhayarathna, and other officials of SLT and BASL at the National Law Conference 2021.

launched website, keeping up with the trends and technology, BASL has also been able to digitize most of its activities and the recent series of webinars conducted on Zoom stands as proof which shows their commitment

towards the transformation. The fully functional website is needed especially given the road map laid down by the management of the BASL to better connect the 85 branch associations spreading across the country.

HNB donates 300 white canes to Welfare Society



Ranil Peiris handing over white canes to members of the society.



Chiranthi Cooray distributing dry rations to members of the society.

Supporting the livelihoods of visually impaired women, Sri Lanka's most customer-friendly bank HNB PLC donated 300 white canes and dry ration packs to the members of the Sri Lanka Welfare Society of the Blind Women.

The donations made utilizing voluntary contributions gathered by HNB employees were handed over to members of the Society at a spe-

cial event at HNB Towers under the patronage of HNB Managing Director and CEO Jonathan Alles.

"HNB is proud to partner with the Sri Lanka Welfare Society of the Blind Women to serve the visually impaired women of the country. Our goal is to do our part in ensuring they are given opportunities, recognition and respect that are equal to every other citizen, and we hope that

partnerships of this nature will pave the way for a more inclusive and caring society," HNB Managing Director and CEO, Jonathan Alles said.

With 252 customer centres across the country, HNB is one of Sri Lanka's largest, most technologically innovative banks, having won local and global recognition for its efforts to drive forward a new paradigm in digital banking.

Allianz Lanka unveils solar installation project to rural schools

Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited (Allianz Lanka), one of the fastest-growing insurance service providers in Sri Lanka, recently carried out a solar installation project at a rural school in Warawewa, uplifting the facilities for education and overall quality of life of the students in the community.

This is the company's first sustainability initiative for 2021 and is in line with the group's Climate Change and Decarbonization Strategy of encouraging solutions for tomorrow's climate. Following a stringent selection process, the Market Management team picked NW/ Maho/Giribawa Hettiearachchigama Primary School in Warawewa as the school with the greatest need for this solar installation. The school now has a solar panel with a



At the event.

capacity of 3kWh (a 7 solar panel unit) which provides its complete electricity requirements. In addition to this, some essential equipment and stationery were donated to the school and students. Close to 50 children from farmer families between the grades of 1-5 and five teachers will benefit from this benevolent gesture by Allianz Lanka.

"At Allianz, sustainability has always been at the very core of our DNA, as we focus on long term outcomes focussed on how we can make the world a more resilient place.

This project is the first of many initiatives that we will be carrying out locally for the betterment of the lives of our fellow Sri Lankans.

We believe it is possible for all of us to together, slow down climate change, encourage global progress, and develop an equitable society over the long term," said Allianz Insurance Lanka Limited CEO Gany Subramaniam. "Staying true to our purpose, we will continue to secure the future for our customers and society, sustainably."

ComBank's turtle protection project sees over 8,000 hatchlings released

Thousands of turtle hatchlings have been safely released to their natural habitat under an initiative supported by the Commercial Bank of Ceylon to protect these endangered mariners and promote biodiversity.

In the past eight months alone, 8,490 hatchlings from 70 protected turtle nests in Panama in the Ampara District were returned to the ocean through the Bank-funded marine turtle conservation project of Wildlife and Ocean Resource Conservation (WORC) of Sri Lanka, a project

Commercial Bank has supported since 2019.

The immediate objective of the project is to protect the nests and eggs of sea turtles within the identified territory from predators such as pigs, foxes, mongoose, spotted iguana and dogs. With Commercial Bank's participation, WORC expanded its efforts to three kilometres of previously unprotected beach last year and another three kilometres in 2021.

The initiative benefits four species of turtles including the Videlicet

Green, Olive Ridley, Loggerhead, and Leatherback turtles that call this stretch of beach their home. The success of the collaborative conservation activities last year inspired the Bank and WORC to extend the term of the MoU governing the project. The protection of nests persisted despite interruptions to night patrols, owing to frequent leopard visits at night in the past few months, according to the nest protectors.

The ultimate aim of the project is to restore a degraded ecosystem and inspire a culture and community of

environmental stewardship. Besides funding the project, Commercial Bank also supports WORC in its efforts to build partnerships with communities, raise education and awareness, and identify sustainable livelihoods and business opportunities associated with the project and kick-start associated activities.

Wildlife and Ocean Resource Conservation initiated the turtle conservation project in 2013 at the Panama beach under the observation and instruction of Professor K.B. Ranawana and Vimukthi Veerathun-

ga. The territory spans the 17km coastline from the Panama Lagoon to Okada Lagoon or the Kumana National Park entrance.

The conservation initiatives of WORC in Panama are important because four of the seven species of sea turtles in the world come ashore to nest in Panama. Of these, the Leatherback has only been reported once after twenty years. WORC offers travel experiences in all of these areas and all income from ecotourism is used to fund ongoing conservation and restoration work.



To mark 50 years of its chronographs TUDOR relaunches Black Bay Chrono

To mark 50 years of its chronographs, TUDOR is relaunching its Black Bay Chrono model in steel with a reworked case and two dial options with contrasting sub-counters in the purest tradition of the sports chronograph.

- Domed matt black dial or opaline, with contrasting circular sub-counters
- "Snowflake" hands, one of the hallmarks of the TUDOR divers' watches introduced in 1969, with grade A, Swiss Super-LumiNova luminescent material
- Manufacture Chronograph Calibre MT5813, certified by the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute (COSC), with a silicon balance spring, a 70-hour power reserve, a column wheel and vertical clutch
- A choice of three bracelet designs: black Jacquard fabric, cuff in black aged leather or riveted steel
- Five-year transferable guarantee, without registration or mandatory maintenance checks

Like other models in the Black Bay range, the Black Bay Chrono has adopted TUDOR's characteristic angular hands known as "Snowflake" that first appeared in the brand's 1969 catalogue. The result of a subtle blend of traditional aesthetics and contemporary

watchmaking, the Black Bay line is far from simply being an identical rerelease of a classic. Resolutely anchored in the present, it brings together almost seven decades of TUDOR divers' watches. Whilst it is neo-vintage in conception, its manufacturing techniques and its robustness, reliability, durability and precision as well as the quality of its finish are above modern industry standards.

In 1970, TUDOR introduced its first chronograph, the Oysterdate. A watch that was both robust and functional, its unique design was characterised by its bright colours, its pentagonal hour markers shaped like a baseball home plate, its 45-minute counters and its date function at 6 o'clock. Immediately adopted by the world of motor sport, it paved the way for 50 years of technical chronographs that TUDOR has never stopped improving.

TUDOR is an award-winning

Swiss-made watch brand, offering watches with refined aesthetics, proven reliability and unique value for money. Chatham Luxury Watches, Sri Lanka's first multi-brand luxury watch boutique is the sole retailer for Tudor watches in Sri Lanka.



Key points

- Satin-brushed and polished case in 316L stainless steel, 41 mm in diameter, with a fixed bezel in 316L stainless steel, insert in black anodised aluminium with tachymetric scale

T'ING

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DAVID LEAN'S

VISIONS OF

GRANDEUR

MADAPATHA CHINTAKA

If the cinema by definition belongs in halls and not TVs, David Lean was a definite purveyor of the cinema. In a career spanning half a century, Lean directed 17 films, editing 24 others. David Putnam called him "the greatest storyteller on film", Walter Kerr perhaps "the best British film director", and the New York Times "a meticulous craftsman noted for technical wizardry." These are fragmentary judgments, yet they are right.

Lean is known today for three films in particular: two of them won for him the Best Director Oscar: *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957, shot in Sri Lanka), *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), and *Doctor Zhivago* (1965). Lean perfected the epic form, and these are some of the greatest epics to ever grace the screen. He attempted a comeback after *Zhivago*, a romance set in the time of the Russian Revolution, with *Ryan's Daughter* (1970), a similar romance, though not quite on the same scale, set in the time of the Easter Rising.

The result was not to Lean's liking: critics across the Atlantic, including Roger Ebert and Pauline Kael, lambasted it, the latter going as far as to claim it had was "no artistic or moral rationale." Beyond the Atlantic, it proved to be more popular: even in Sri Lanka, where Sunil Ariyaratne saw it at the Quinlon in Nugegoda; he argued that it influenced his work. Dayan Jayatilaka saw it too; he called "forgettably anodyne." Both were correct.

Ryan's Daughter won two Oscars, fewer than the five *Doctor Zhivago* received: Best Supporting Actor for the person who played a village idiot, and Best Cinematography. Lean vowed never to make a film again: the critics had been too harsh, and perhaps he knew that as cruel as some of their judgments may have been, they were not wide of the mark when they claimed that the historical backdrop of the story, 20th century Ireland, did not cohere with the epic scale of the movie. He had attempted a square peg in a round hole.

Like any perfectionist, he viewed this as an aberration from which he could not recover. He very nearly did not: for the next 12 years, barring a minor work on *James Cook*, he spent time from the cinema, until, in 1984, he returned with an adaptation of E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India*. Critics liked it: both Ebert and Kael gushed positively in their reviews. It also won three Oscars. It was to be his last work. Eight years later, while plans were underway for an adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *Nostromo*, he died in London at the age of 83.

Of his early work as director, two stand out: *Brief Encounter* (1945) and *Great Expectations* (1946). Like most of his films from this period, he also wrote their



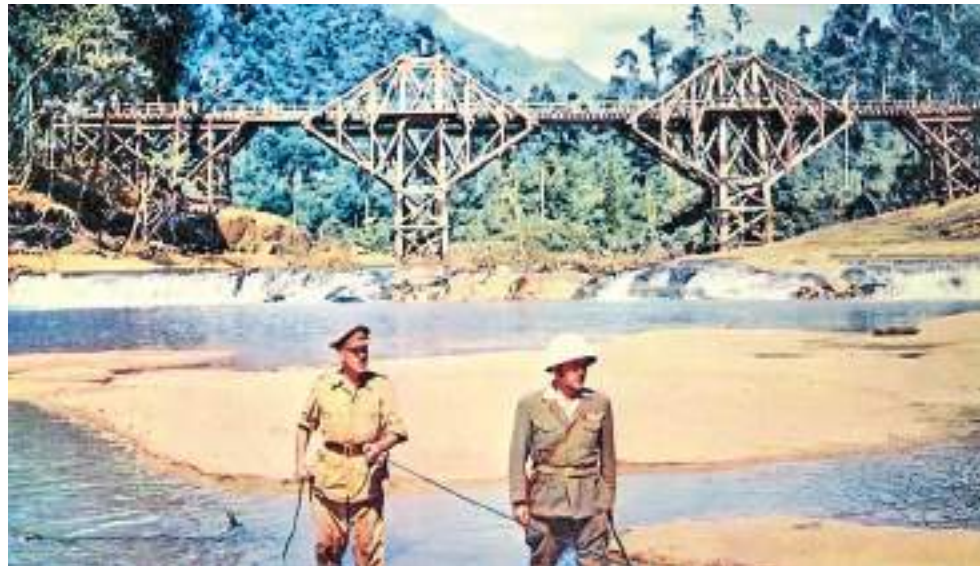
scripts. *Brief Encounter* is hailed today as a landmark in his country's cinema: the British Film Institute's list of the 100 Top British movies puts it at number two. *Great Expectations*, number five on that list, is considered a superior, authentic, and moving adaptation of a Dickens story. It also has the most effectively terrifying encounter between Pip, the narrator, and Magwitch, the escaped convict who figures in his life, from any adaptation of that story I've seen.

What intrigues me more than these accolades and achievements, however, is not so much how they are different to his middle period (*Kwai-Lawrence-Zhivago*) as why they are different at all. The devil is in the detail, the clue in the credits: he wrote them. Lean was an exceptional director in the epic vein, but as a writer, he preferred pianissimos to fortissimos; that quality surfaces discernibly in *Brief Encounter's* restrained ending.

What was true of Lean was true also of other British directors who migrated to Hollywood: what they directed back home felt more sensitive to the vagaries of the human condition than what they churned out in Tinseltown. Insofar as this quality distilled Lean, it put him in the same league as Carol Reed and Alfred Hitchcock, not to mention Ridley Scott.

Such comparisons go deep once you see the first few films these directors made in the US, especially Lean: one his first Hollywood ventures was *Summertime* (1955), a love story centring on an unmarried, middle-aged woman (Katharine Hepburn) and her paramours in Venice, where she spends her money and time in fulfilment of a life-long dream.

There's nothing in *Summertime* which suggests the bombastic dialogues, wide landscapes, and symphonic crescendos of his later years. Like Orson Welles, Billy



Wilder, the Coen Brothers, Woody Allen, and Quentin Tarantino, his most nuanced work came out in the movies he co-wrote, even in Hollywood. When responsibility for the script shifted to another, Lean, like Ezra Pound translating classical Chinese poetry and Boris Pasternak translating Shakespeare, turned into a versatile conduit for another's vision.

It is hard, if not impossible, to square the Lean of these formative years with the Lean of *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Lawrence of Arabia*. The latter, the greatest epic ever made, in fact combines two genres: the Western and the war film. Influenced heavily by the films of John Ford, the plot sways from grand vistas to introspective monologues, from desert battles to quiet moments, with a dexterity rarely to be seen even in Ford's work.

What is interesting and evocative about *Lawrence of Arabia*, however, is not that it grows in stature, but that it holds back what it grows up to: rarely has an epic film, on this scale, been so nuanced. There are moments in the film, like the scene where the hero arrives at the Suez Canal after traipsing for days in the desert, when the quietness and the solitude of the moment yield to a symphonic cacophony, only to hold back.

Nuance is hard to find in *Doctor Zhiva-*

go; it's nowhere to be found in *Ryan's Daughter*. One can discern a swelling of confidence in these works. The source material doesn't provide the sort of backdrop for them in the same way it did for *Lawrence*: *Zhivago* is a love story set in the time of revolution based on a novel that only pretends to know about love or revolution (Regi Siriwardena called it one of the world's most unreadable novels), while *Ryan* is based, loosely, on Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, anachronistically transposed to Ireland.

There's hardly any depth of character in *Ryan's Daughter*, and the little there is in *Doctor Zhivago* comes, not from the protagonists, but from characters on the side: even the hero's brother, who in the story's flashbacks does not speak one word, seems more solid.

Zhivago, however, proved to be Lean's biggest box-office draw: it elevated Julie Christie, the lover of the hero, to stardom (she won an Oscar for another movie the following year), and did the same with Omar Sharif, the hero. Depicting communist Russia was not easy in those Cold War days, and Lean had to replicate the entire country in anticommunist Spain. Not surprisingly, like the novel, the film was banned in Russia, drawing polarising responses from Western critics: Pauline Kael went as far as to suggest that it pro-

vided a postcard version of Soviet life, a view I highly doubt the Soviets shared. Of course these hardly mattered to popular audiences: what caught them wasn't so much the characters, or the authenticity of the locations, as the landscapes and the music. Lacking even this crutch, *Ryan's Daughter* sagged and meandered badly.

Given Lean's diminished reputation at the time of its release, *A Passage to India* goes down as one of the more notable comebacks in film history. The movie does its best to conform to the E. M. Forster story, though it deviates from the plot. It ends on a plaintive note, the most discernible departure from the novel, but still strikes the right chord.

On the other hand, it also succeeds, as *Lawrence of Arabia* did and *Zhivago* failed to do, to strike a balance between the nuanced sensitivity of his early years and the visions of grandeur of his middle period. The only dissonant chord in the movie is Alec Guinness's performance as a Brahmin, who waxes eloquently and convincingly on Hindu philosophy, but whose face, and accent, betrays the actor beneath the character.

Satyajit Ray, one of the few detractors of the film, lambasted the acting, the music, and the direction of the plot: he accused it of glossing over Indian life. Was this a mere difference of opinion? Had Ray directed it, and *A Passage to India* was a project he had wanted to work on long before Lean, it would have been Ray's film, in the same way it is Lean's. Of course, this is not to deny the validity of Ray's criticism, for he was correct: as a South Asian, I find the film's characterisation of Indian life, particularly Alec Guinness's Orientalist ramblings, too misplaced to authenticate anyone but the British characters.

Yet in that he merely shared the one shortcoming of the novel: as Regi Siriwardena observed once, E. M. Forster fails to get into the Indians in the book, in the same way Lean fails to in the movie. Are we being too harsh by both, adopting a criterion for a work of art that may be irrelevant and invalid? Perhaps. Without getting into cultural polemics, then, it would do well to watch Lean's swansong, and his oeuvre, on Lean's terms, in the same way we watch Ray's work on Ray's terms, as part of his own distinct vision.





Pabilis Silva hands over the three books to Education Minister Professor GL Peries. Former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, Power and Energy Minister Dulles Alahapperuma and Mount Lavinia Hotel Chairman Sanath Ukwatte.



The Chief Guest, Education Minister Professor GL Peries addressing the gathering.



Professor Praneeth Abeysondera delivering the keynote address.



HD Premasiri handing over the books published to Chef Pabilis Silva.

WELL-WATCHED POT

HERBERT PERERA

To mark the 84th Birthday and the 65th Anniversary as a Chef at Mount Lavinia Hotel three books written by Veteran Chef Dr Pabilis Silvawere launched under the patronage of Education Minister Professor GL Peries at the BMICH recently. First of the three books, The Art of Cookery, is a practical cookery book for children studying in hotel schools. Athuru Ahara, the second book, teaches bakery, short-eats and kavili. The third, Food of the Nations, includes Tamil, Muslim, Malay, Burger and Adivasi Cuisines.

1957 and was promoted to the post of cook in 1960 after an extensive training in all sections. Mr. Pabilis Silva has been the cook for the late Sir Oliver Goonatileke, the then Ex-Governor General of Ceylon, and the late Sir John Kotalawala one-time Prime Minister of Ceylon.

During the period the Mount Lavinia Hotel was managed by the Hyatt Corporation of USA, he underwent training under foreign cookery experts and was promoted as Assistant Chef at Mount Lavinia Hyatt in 1972, in 1974 he served in the capacity of executive Chef at the Kuramathi Tourist Island Resort in the Maldives in the year 1983.

He organized the



Chef Pabilis Silva cutting the birthday cake with his beloved wife.

cookery competition, Food and Travel Mart, held in Sri Lanka for the first time in 1986. He was also the main tech-

nical coordinator of Bak Maha Asiriya food exhibition 1992 and 1993 held at the BMICH which had the participation of over 16,500 persons on the two occasions.

Dr Pabilis Silva organized several International Food Festivals in collaboration with food experts in Canada, Germany, Singapore, China, and India. He has traveled to several countries in the world to host Sri Lankan food festivals in world-renowned hotels in Switzerland, Holland, England, Sweden, France, Germany, Belgium, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Pakistan, Maldives,

India, Dubai and Bahrain.

Chef Pabilis was invited to Japan to introduce Sri Lankan Cuisine to some of the well-known Japanese Chefs.

Chef Pabilis presents number of cookery demonstrations to the public through both electronic and printed media. He is invited to train Home Science Teachers, students and housewives on Sri Lankan cuisine at many regional seminars. Chef Pabilis is in the forefront in introducing new Sri Lankan food preparations and works on standardization of Sri Lankan food preparations.

He also researched and presented the traditional meal partaken by the last King of Sri Lanka-Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe and also of Andare the court Jester. He has also introduced a method of preserving Sri Lankan food for a

period of over two years without using any preservatives or refrigeration. Chef Pabilis introduced a dry curry powder containing all curry ingredients required to make a proper Sri Lankan curry, which could be cooked in 20 minutes. Currently this is being promoted in UK, Dubai and Australia.

Chef Pabilis's most recent achievement was to enter the Guinness Book of records by cooking the largest and longest Kiribath (traditional rice of good omen) with 1020kg of rice and presented it on a 600 ft long table. The accompanying Katta Sambol that weighed 240kg was pounded manually by 12 chefs.

Chef Pabilis has published books, one in 1992 titled Sinhala Bhojana and one in 2005 titled Hela Ratawata Iwum Pihum introducing traditional and new Sri Lankan dishes.



Chef Pabilis Silva with his three daughters and son



Spirituality in INDIAN DANCES

Dr SUBASHINI PATHMANATHAN

Most of the Indian classical dances are deeply rooted in Hinduism and promote spiritualism. Inside the temple courtyard, various religious, cultural and ritual activities were carried out. These activities were directly involved with the moral, spiritual, and upliftment of the individuals. For these purposes certain halls were built up, to hold the kathapirasangaas (sermons). These Katha piarasangaas imparted religious values and epics. Similarly to protect and promote the dance through religious worship, dance halls were built in Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Kerala and Manipur.

Temples played an important role in Hindu society. These temples were built not only for religious worship

but they were also considered as community development centres. The construction of temples of each religion has its own architecture. They resemble culture, customs, regional and religious influences of different periods. Besides, a construction pattern of each religious temple of each region provides ample evidence of each ruler's taste with their involvement in art, culture and religion as a result of these they built temples throughout India.

In South India, East India and West India the institution of devadasis flourished. The devadasis were attached to the temples, as the handmaids of the Lord. According to puranic sources, the female dancers were proficient in music and dance. In Karnataka, a dance called Yakshagana has close ties with dramas. That is why the Yakshagana was regarded as a dance drama. Like many other classical Indian dance forms, this particular dance was also practised and performed in temples, and temple festivals.

Vaishnava monasteries

Sattariya is another dance form of the East Indian state of Assam. It originated in the 16th century. This was practised in the Vaishnava monasteries. Chhu, another dance form of Assam is performed during the temple festival. Kuchipudi has its origin in the village of Kuchipudi, in the modern Andhra State. Earlier it was performed in the Ramalingeswara Temple, and later it was performed in various other temples.

In Kerala, chakiyarkoothu, koodiatam, Krishna attam, and Kathakali, are the main dance forms of Kerala. All these are strongly linked with spiritualism and all start with religious rituals. Chakiyarkoothu took place in Koothampalam theatre which looked very dull and dim. To bring out the real effect of the performanc-



Carved dancing figures



es inside the hall. Small windows were kept to prevent the effect of the crosswind. Koothampalam was a permanent theatre built inside the temples.

Kathakali though it did not originate in temples, eventually, was danced in temples. In the East Indian state Manipur, the Manipuri dance gained worldwide recognition. In the Manipuri dance the Rasa Leela, dances are deeply linked to devotional Vaishnava worship and these dances were danced in temples. The dances were performed at the Nat Mandapas in temples.

Similarly, Bharatha Natyam evolved out of temple dance Sadir which was essentially a temple dance. Sadir was practised in temple rituals, processions, and festivals. Sadir was practised and preserved by the devadasi clan. The devadasis mean the female servants of the gods. Earlier there was a belief that the devadasis were formally married to the god of the temple where they served. And those who were serving in Vaishnava temples were called Sri Vaishnava Manikam and the male dancers were called Ariyer. In temples, dance halls were separately established and managed.

In Manipuri, several Rasa Leela dances took place as a form of worship. Each temple had its dance hall, called Nat Mandapa. Even today dance halls the Nat Mandapas are decorated with leaves, colourful flowers, and white cloth. It is a large Mandapam which accommodates from 2500 to 3000 audience.

In Orissa Maharis held their dance at Nat Mandapa. There is a reference, that at the sun god temple in Konarak, dances took place. The temple was built during the 13th century with Nat Mandapa. This Nat Mandapa was fully and thoroughly decorated with beautifully carved dancing figures. Now it provides an opportunity for dance researchers, art lovers, and foreign tourists to enjoy ancient Indian architecture.

The structure of the Konarak temple resembles the sun god's, chariot driven by seven horses. The Maharis were allowed to perform not only inside the Nat Mandapa but they were allowed to enter the inner temple, with a certain discipline.

In Tamil Nadu, dance halls were built up to promote dance and drama inside the temple premises. These dance halls were very well administered and maintained by the temple authorities. The classical dances of India are based on spiritual and religious philosophy. The female temple dancers were called devadasis, kuthier and Sri Vaishnavamaikam in different temples and different regions.

Hence most of the Indian classical dances were originated in temples and promoted spiritualism. Through spiritualism, these dance forms uplift the souls towards salvation.

LOVE, ANGER AND AGONY

The translators of the original theatrical works have been lined up as an esteemed team of recreators. The original play of Eugene O'Neill rests on several humane layers of existence. On one hand, it is a calm and serene climate that paves the way for better human relations. In this context, it is a farmyard.

Professor SUNANDA MAHENDRA

Out of the many dramatists known to the world at large, three or four major American playwrights are well known to the local theatregoers over four decades. Presumably, they are, to my best observation, are Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Thornton Wilder and Eugene O'Neill. Most of these plays written by them have been adapted to suit either the local perceptive awareness or for the sake of a better rapport between the characters and the intended audiences.

The thematic awareness of most of these plays remains to be assessed as they take the change of audience from different cultural groups. When my friend, late Dhamma Jagoda adapted Street Car as Vesmuhunu to the local audience, there were startling controversies that sprang up. The same happened where the late Sugathapala de Silva adapted another play of the Williams as Hele Negga Dom Putha. Perhaps this embedded theme had not been fully well transformed.

But my basic notion is that the attempt enabled the audiences to grasp the differences in cultural groups and the reasons why those should be transformed into local theatrical creations.

HUMAN CONDITIONS

Perhaps the play of Garcia Lorca that came to known to the world as Yerma has been adapted by Gunasena Galappatti as Muhudu Puttu, the veterans of the calibre of late Martin Wickramasinghe and Prof Ediriweera Sarachandra were enraged. One of the reasons being the gross distortion of the salient human conditions laid in the original works. This perhaps paved the way for Professor Sarachandra to translate Yerma in association with Professor Sunil Ariyaratne. The play-script was accredited with the honour of a State Literary Award.

I was for a moment reminded of all these nuances as I went on reading the translation of Eugene O'Neill's celebrated play Desire Under the Elms by a well-known performer cum playwright Mahawedage Champa Pushpa Buddhispala. The Sinhala play script that has come out as a printed text is titled Elm Thuru Yata Snehaya as an author publication.

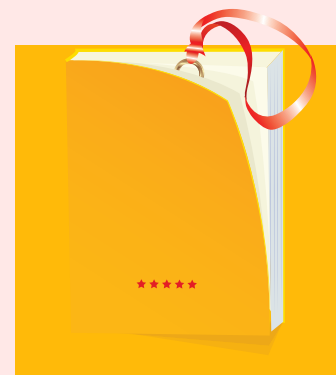
I sincerely felt that the attempt on the part of Buddhispala is perhaps a welcome variant to the availability of the classics around the world. This playscript of Eugene O'Neill (1888 - 1953) was written as far back as 1924. But it remains as I feel the pulse of it as a most modern expressionistic model for the local experimental dramatist as well as the intended performer.

I grip into the conceptual frame that demands more and more translated works in order to ascertain this value of the original creations. This view cannot be undermined in the theatrical activities as we need more and more examples to be drawn into the concept of teaching and learning cross-cultural communication patterns.

In this direction, the translators of the original theatrical works have been lined up as an esteemed team of recreators. The original play of Eugene O'Neill rests on several humane layers of existence. On one hand, it is a calm and serene climate that paves the way for better human relations. In this context, it is a farmyard.

INSTANCES OF AGREEMENTS

Into the farmyard, a selected group of people come and go. They exchange views. They make merriments as there are instances of agreements and disagreement. These are human encounters all over the world.



BOOKMARK

O'Neill in his narrative written in a mixed creative form selects more than ten characters. But he tempts to focus attention on three humans: one a female and two males. The playscript is packed with human paths that changes from moment to moment. For me, the entire play in the form of a creative work rests on the two forms, the narrative form fused in the dialogues, songs, dances and musical rhythms.

There is not a single moment of dullness in the reading process. This gives ways to feel that if the script is turned into a theatrical form as selected by a particular director, the result could be a yielding outcome of a meritorious series of performance. The two characters, Cagot and Eben are prominent in the subtle changes that take part in the entire human experiences that address issues of love, hatred, passion and desire. The entire gamut of the experience in the process of reading these lines and perceiving the inner layers or the subtext one may feel that the culmination of the actions ought to take various forms devoid of placing with an assassination of a baby born to the world as a gift.

This may be a point of debate when the play is performed. It had happened in the case of Yerma the Spanish play when it was performed in London on the pulsating womb theatre. I have not seen this particular play as performed on a more modern stage with all the theatrical facilities.

But I had the chance of seeing the play at Vanbarsh playhouse as an amateur production. But I sincerely feel that the element that has gone into the creative text needs a healthy discourse, transcending the cultural and racial barriers. Eugene O'Neill has written several plays that had gone into discussions.

STAGECRAFT

One of his major plays titled The Hairy Ape is expressionistic and paves the way for several experimentations that deserve on the stagecraft. O'Neill continued, like Ibsen, the tradition of realism in varying patterns. The play titled Ann Christie that I saw in London is one such example as directed by Paul Davee. In this direction, the play of O'Neill titled Lon Day's Journey into Night was seen as one of the most searching plays of the post-war era in the development of world theatrical patterns. The fairly long preface written to the translation of Buddhispala is a commendable effort that impacts various dimensions in the script-writing process of the original playwright Eugene O'Neill. The need for good translations is a lesson in itself.

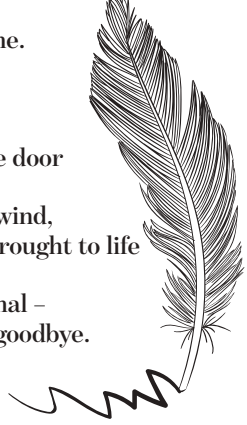
POETRY CORNER

Love

The renunciation

He thinks she's asleep,
As He tiptoes towards their divan,
Gently moving the gossamer curtain that separates the two of them,
He leans in,
Takes hold of her hand softly,
Places it to his lips and sighs.
I see the slight glint of a teardrop in the fire light.
He touches the iron handle of the door.
He is ready to leave.
The slight stir of satin sheets,
The tender gurgle of a baby
Stops him.
He turns,
And looks at him for the last time.
The baby smiles,
He smiles,
They have parted.
He pushes the iron handle of the door
and takes a step outside.
I hear the doleful mourn of the wind,
I hear the distant melancholia brought to life
By an unaccompanied flute.
The moon, so serene yet so dismal -
Feels the pain of this inevitable goodbye.
She shines her brightest,
paving the way for Him,
As He mounts His steed
And embarks on His journey;
To find the missing element of Humanity.

- Ayodhya Bandara Perera



No one was there to love me when I'm alone, except you...
No one was there to hug me when I'm cold, except you...
No one was there to help me when I was in a trouble, except you...
No one was there to kiss me when I needed a kiss, except you...
No one was there to talk with me when I'm crying, except you...
And today you are not here to be with me when I need you...
You are far away from me...
You are forever gone from me...
My love I'm here waiting for your return till I die...
But please remember how much I loved you...
Never changes on me whether you come to me or not...
Please remember that a little girl is crying for you...

- Sachi Joseph

Ode, Composed On A May Morning

While from the purpling east departs
The star that led the dawn,
Blithe Flora from her couch upstarts,
For May is on the lawn.
A quickening hope, a freshening glee,
Foreran the expected Power;
Whose first-drawn breath, from bush
and tree,
Shakes off that pearly shower:
All Nature welcomes Her whose sway
Tempers the year's extremes;
Who scattereth lustres o'er noon-day,
Like morning's dewy gleams;
While mellow warble, sprightly trill,
The tremulous heart excite;
And hums the balmy air to still
The balance of delight.
Time was, blest Power! when youth and
maids
At peep of dawn would rise,
And wander forth, in forest glades
Thy birth to solemnize.
Though mute the song—to grace the rite
Untouched the hawthorn bough,
Thy Spirit triumphs o'er the slight;
Man changes, but not Thou!
Thy feathered Lieges bill and wings
In love's disport employ;
Warmed by thy influence, creeping
things
Awake to silent joy:
Queen art thou still for each gay plant
Where the slim wild deer roves;
And served in depths where fishes haunt

Their own mysterious groves.
Cloud-piercing peak, and trackless heath,
Instinctive homage pay;
Nor wants the dim-lit cave a wreath
To honor thee, sweet May!
Where cities fanned by thy brisk airs
Behold a smokeless sky,
Their puniest flower-pot-nursling dares
To open a bright eye.
And if, on this thy natal morn,
The pole, from which thy name
Hath not departed, stands forlorn
Of song and dance and game;
Still from the village-green a vow
Aspires to thee address,
Wherever peace is on the brow,
Or love within the breast.
Yes! where Love nestles thou canst teach
The soul to love the more;
Hearts also shall thy lessons reach
That never loved before.
Striped is the haughty one of pride,
The bashful freed from fear;
While rising, like the ocean-tide,
In flow the joyous year:
Hush, feeble lyre! weak words refuse
The service to prolong!
To yon exulting thrush the Muse
Entrusts the imperfect song;
His voice shall chant, in accents clear,
Throughout the live-long day,
Till the first silver star appear,
The sovereignty of May.

- William Wordsworth

We're all mad here

It's good that we're insane
Since the world, it tallies with us
With it's capricious volcanoes
And soothing air...
With its sagely bespectacled half
And the wild and the free...
It's good that we're insane
The world;
It worships insanity.

- Tharusha Deegala



Passing through

Uninvited, hither we came
And, without leave, departed hence.
What reason here for agony
Other than regret, as we shall meet
again?

I crossed many rivers and mountains
Obstacles overcome with nary a care.
During my earthly journey,
Hope did not hurt anyone in my path.
I plead, my friends or foes

Do not hinder my ascent to the Heavens
Thro' love or longing, other than regret.
Remember me, as I will remember you
Across that golden shore.

- Chris Defonseka



MARMADUKE

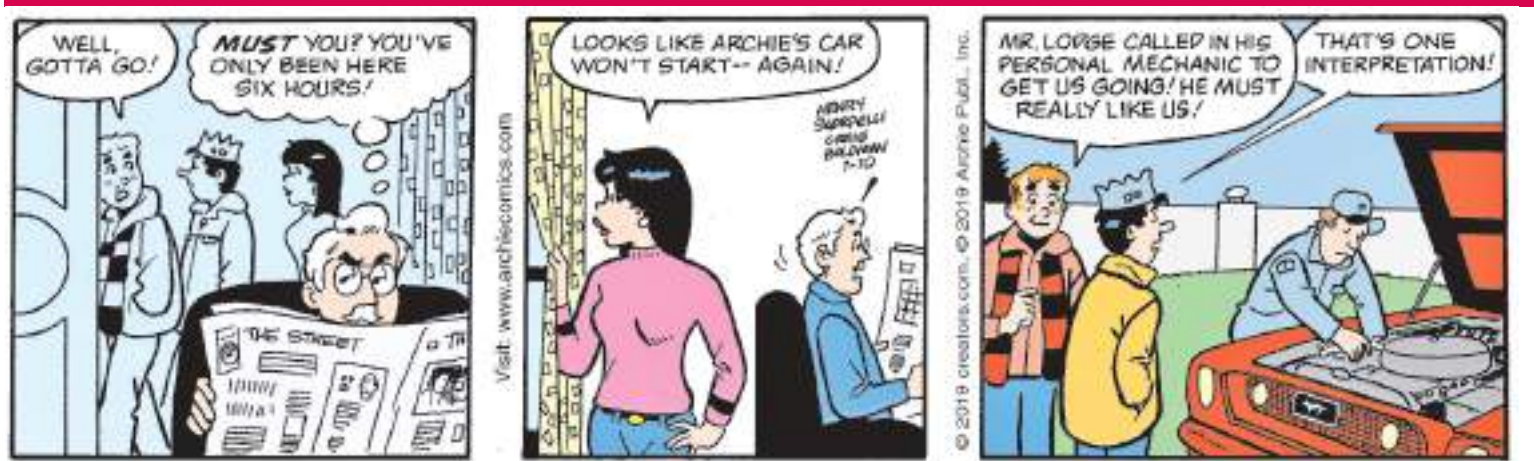


"That's the last time we let Marmaduke into our blanket fort."

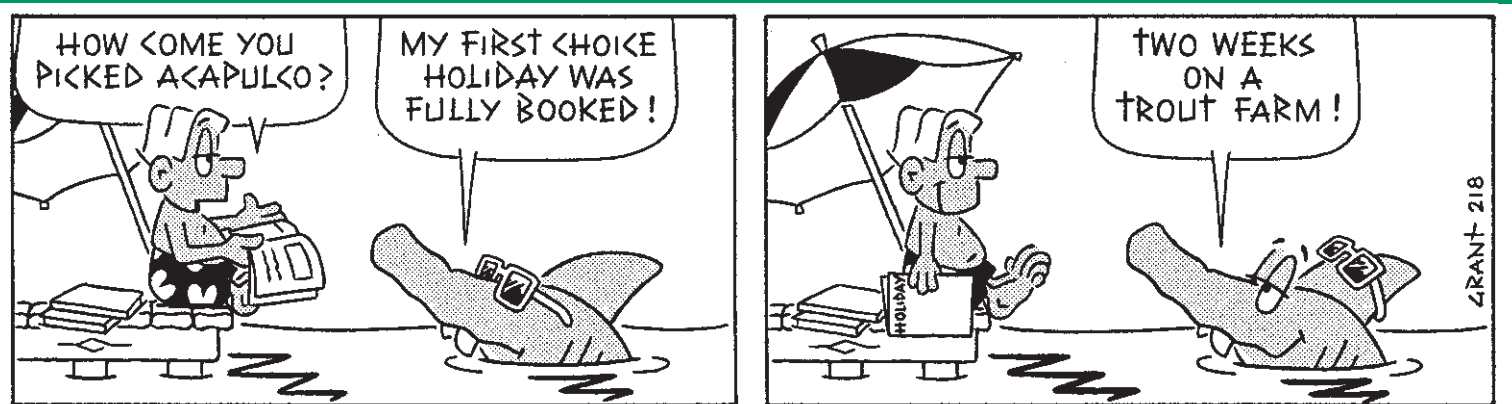
MUTT AND JEFF



ARCHIE



FISH TALES



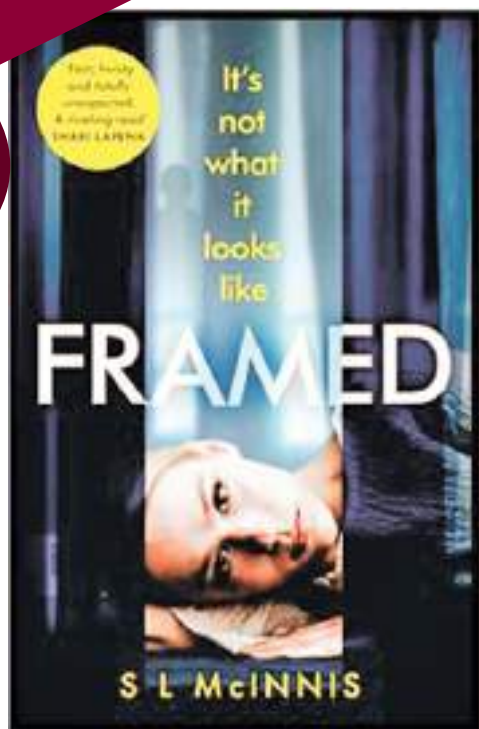
UP & RUNNING



theycantalk.com

TITLE: FRAMED
AUTHOR: SL MCINNIS

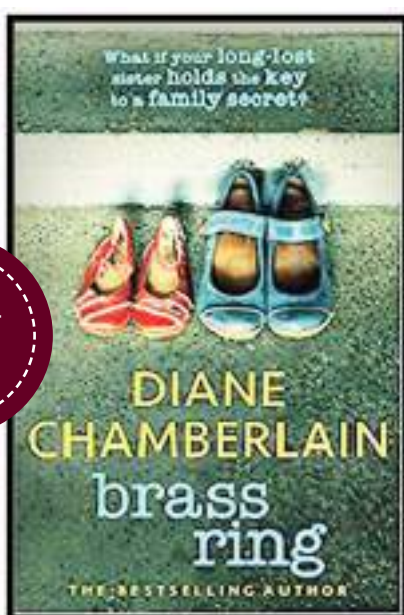
One dark Los Angeles night, Beth Crawford is driving home from a dinner party, furious at her husband for spending money they don't have. A few blocks away, a scantily dressed woman in a blonde wig lugs a suitcase full of blood-spattered cash toward a bus stop. In the streets between the two women, police cars flash past, racing to the scene of a quadruple homicide, a botched drug deal in which an undercover LAPD officer is among the dead....



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TITLE: BRASS RING
AUTHOR: DIANE CHAMBERLAIN

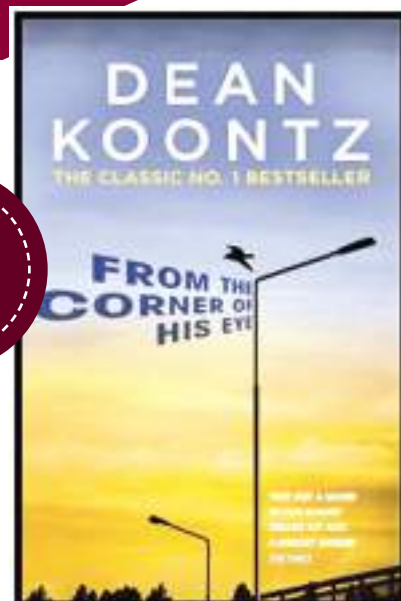
Claire Harte-Mathias is an infinitely capable solver of other people's problems. Along with her husband, she has established a prestigious foundation to aid in the rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injuries. Training therapists, counseling patients, and conducting workshops keeps Claire busy, fulfilled, and happy. It is a life she wouldn't trade for anything...and one that is about to fall apart. One snowy night, Claire tries and fails to prevent a tragedy from occurring.



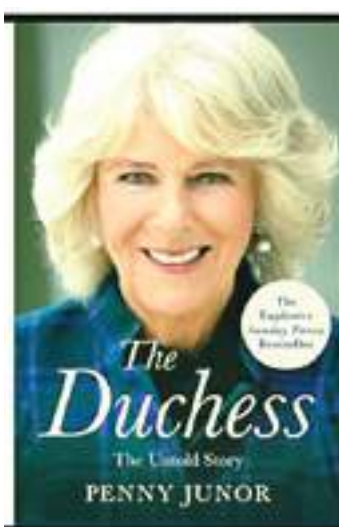
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AUTHOR: PENNY JUNOR

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AUTHOR: DCRA GOONETILLEKE

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AUTHOR: PROFESSOR ANDREW SILKE

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AUTHOR: MAHINDAGALLAGE

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TITLE: MAN IN THE MUSIC: THE CREATIVE LIFE AND WORK OF MICHAEL JACKSON
AUTHOR: JOSEPH VOGEL

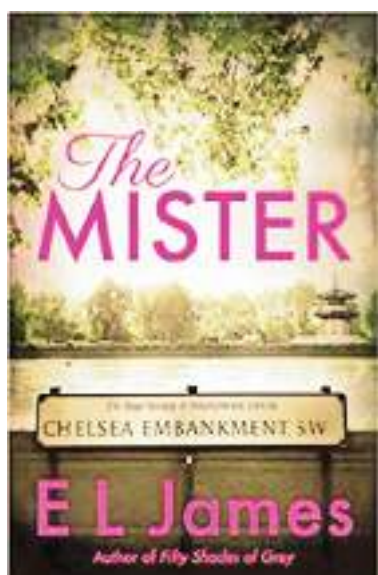
Man in the Music meticulously tracks Jackson's solo career—from 1979's groundbreaking Off the Wall to 2001's Invincible to his yet-to-be-released material. Vogel analyzes every song and album, placing the music in its social, historical, cultural, and even personal context. The result is an in-depth assessment of one of the most compelling, influential artists in popular music history.

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TITLE: THE MISTER
AUTHOR: EL JAMES

The thrilling new romance from EL James, author of the phenomenal number 1 best-selling Fifty Shades trilogy. London, 2019. Life has been easy for Maxim Trevelyan. With his good looks, aristocratic connections, and money, he's never had to work and he's rarely slept alone. But all that changes when tragedy strikes and Maxim inherits his family's noble title, wealth, and estates, and all the responsibility that entails. It's a role he's not prepared for and one that he struggles to face. But his biggest challenge is fighting his desire for an unexpected, enigmatic young woman who's recently arrived in England, possessing little more than a dangerous and troublesome past.

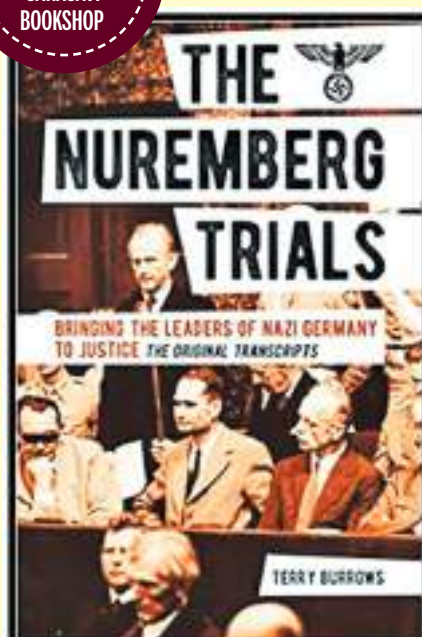
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TITLE: THE NUREMBERG TRIALS
AUTHOR: TERRY BURROWS

The Nuremberg trials were the most important criminal hearings ever held, charging Nazi leaders with war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law.

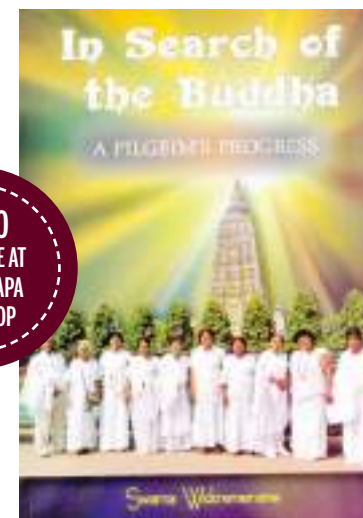
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TITLE: IN SEARCH OF THE BUDDHA: A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS
AUTHOR: SWARNAWICKREMATNE

In Search of the Buddha: A Pilgrim's Progress is a personal narrative of the author's experiences in tracking the pilgrimage route encompassing the most sacred sites hallowed by association with the historical record of the Buddhas birth, awakening, preaching career, mission and death.

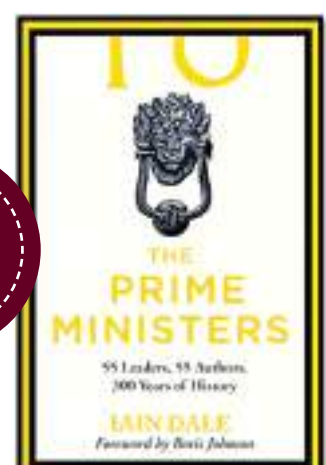
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TITLE: THE PRIME MINISTERS
AUTHOR: IAIN DALE

It has almost been 300 years since Sir Robert Walpole arguably became the first holder of the office of Prime Minister in 1721 - an office which today is under scrutiny like never before. The Prime Ministers, edited by leading political commentator Iain Dale, brings to life all 55 of Britain's 'First Among Equals' with an essay for each office holder, written by key figures in British politics. From the obscure 18th-century figures like the Earl of Shelburne to 20th-century titans like Churchill and Thatcher, this book provides a much-needed reminder about their motivations, failures and achievements.

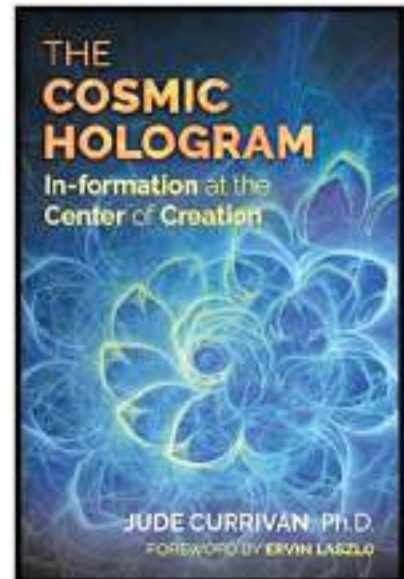
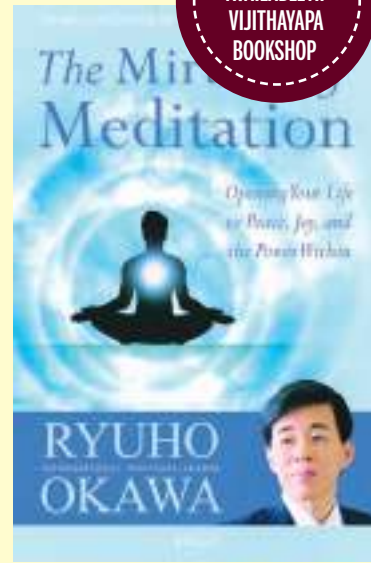
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TITLE: THE MIRACLE OF MEDITATION
AUTHOR: RYUHO OKAWA

Meditation can open your mind to the self-transformative potential within and connect your soul to the wisdom of heaven – all through the power of belief. Ryuho Okawa's The Miracle of Meditation combines the power of faith and the practice of meditation to help you create inner peace, discover your inner divinity, become your ideal self and cultivate a purposeful life of altruism and compassion.

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TITLE: THE COSMIC HOLOGRAM
AUTHOR: JUDE CURRIVAN

Our understanding of the Universe is about to transform at all levels, from the tiniest Planck scale to the vast reaches of space. Recent scientific discoveries show that the information that upholds all of our modern technologies is exactly the same as the universal information that underpins, pervades, and is all we call physical reality.

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TITLE: AGRO - NATURE AN EDUCATIONAL GUIDE
AUTHOR: ISHANDA SENEVIRATNE

This book is the working account of one and half exploring years spent at Jetwing Kaduruketha as a resident Environmentalist. My objective has been to understand the complex agro-ecosystems and create awareness among tourist, locals and students, and with this to encourage conversation of traditional paddy seeds and promote organic paddy farming. As a responsible hotel chain Jetwing started traditional paddy farming in October 2018 at Jetwing Kaduruketha. The author's vision for this book is to create awareness traditional paddy farming and village life and conversation of traditional rice varieties of Sri Lanka.

Rs1000
AVAILABLE AT
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Procurement Notice - Temporary Suspension
Central Provincial Council - Chief and Education Ministry
National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
Grant Source - Province Specific Development Grant

Due to the prevailing Covid Pandemic Situation in the country, it is hereby informed that the period for issuing of Bidding documents, mentioned in the Paragraph No. 04 and the period of accepting Bids, mentioned in the Paragraph No. 06 of the Procurement Notice, published in the 'Daily News' newspaper on 09.04.2021, inviting Bids for 33 work purposes regarding the construction and repairing of school buildings in the Central Province, are temporarily suspended and amended time periods will be informed later through a newspaper advertisement.

Ministry Secretary and Procurement Committee Chairman,
Chief and Education Ministry,
Tel / Fax : 081-4481322 / 0812424938
 On 04.05.2021

Provincial Council Building Complex,
Pallekelle, Kundasale.



**STATE MINISTRY OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILS &
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**JICA Funded Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging
 Regions (RIDEP) - Loan No.SL-P116**

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT – UVA PROVINCE

Tender Number : PL/5/W/RIDEP/2021/2

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging Regions. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Improvements to Ilugapathana Road (Paththinikumbura Road) and Keenagoda - Udagama Road (Kiriwanagoda - Udagama Road) in Lunugala Pradesheya Sabha Area of Badulla District in Uva Province-Contract No. SL-P116/UP/RR/2020/03.
- Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee, State Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government Affairs** on behalf of the Employer now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above road development works and some eligibility criteria highlighted in bid document are tabulated below for the construction and completion of improvements to 4.98 km of community access roads named Ilugapathana (Paththinikumbura Road) (off Lunugala - Madusila Road) Road and Keenagoda Udagama (Kiriwanagoda - Udagama) Road in Lunugala Pradesheya Sabha of Badulla District in Uva Province as part of Phase 1 of Project implementation. The work includes earthworks, new road sub-base and New Concrete pavement. It is proposed to construct 3m wide concrete road with 1.0m wide soft shoulder both sides. Some sections 1.0m width L walls & some sections hard shoulders. Culverts to the required places and Drainage Constructions. ("The Works").

Note; (I) To be considered for contract award, some eligibility criteria highlighted in bid document are tabulated below.

Sl. No.	Package No / Item No.	Non Refundable Deposit	Validity of the Bids	Bid Security	CIDA Registration	Financial Situation	Financial Resources	Construction Experience
01	SL P116/UP/ RR/ 2020/03	LKR 35,000.00	Valid up to 27.09.2021	LKR 3.5 million, Valid up to 25.10.2021	Grade C2 and C3 in highway construction and a copy of the certificate of registration issued by the Registrar of Companies in Sri Lanka and form PCA3	LKR 360 Million minimum average annual construction turnover previous 03 years.	LKR 81 Million minimum amount of liquid assets or credit facility	Minimum 1 similar nature contracts (at least 120 Million worth) satisfactorily completed in the last 07 years.

Table (1)

Note ; (II) CIDA registration requirement as JV. Please refer Clause No 2.1.4 of Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Office of the Project Management Unit, Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging Regions (RIDEP), No.157A, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08. Tel : 011-2667748 Fax : 011-2667768.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee specified in above Table (1). The method of payment should be by cash. Bids shall be issued **from 05.05.2021 to 28.05.2021 from 09.00 a.m. to 03.00 p.m.** on normal working days at the **Project Management Unit, Rural Infrastructure Development Project in Emerging Regions (RIDEP), No. 157A, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08. T.P. 011-2667768.**
- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Small Works.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held on **17.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m.** at Office for the Project Implementation Unit, Uva Province, 37/2, Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Badulla. Site visit conducted by the Employer will be organized on the same date soon after the pre bid meeting and location for site visit is Ilugapathana (Paththinikumbura) Road and Keenagoda - Udagama (Kiriwanagoda - Udagama) Road.
- Sealed original and duplicate bids should be in separate envelopes and marked "**Bids for Package No. SL-P116/UP/RR/2020/03**" on the top left hand corner, and sent by registered post to the "**Finance Division, State Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government Affairs, No. 330, Union Place, Colombo - 02**" or may be deposited in the Tender Box available at the above location on or before **02.00 p.m. on 31.05.2021** and bids must be accompanied by a bid security as per the above Table (1). The form of the Bid Security shall be an unconditional guarantee issued by a Bank registered & authorized by Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the **Finance Division** of the State Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government Affairs, No. 330, Union Place, Colombo - 02 soon after the bid closing.

Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee ,
State Ministry of Provincial Councils & Local Government Affairs,
No. 330, Union Place, Colombo - 02.

Telephone : 011- 2399735; Fax : 011- 2329725
Email : secretary@pclg.gov.lk

Date : 05.05.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SEED CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Bids are hereby invited from Bidders having registered with ICTAD or CIDA for the minimum Grades indicated in this Notice for the following Constructions implemented by the Seed Certification Service, in Gannoruwa.

Bidding documents and other information could be obtained from the Establishment Branch of the Seed Certification Unit, Gannoruwa, from 05.05.2021 up to 2.00 p.m. on 25.05.2021 during office hours upon payment of the non-refundable Registration Fee as given in the table below.

Bidding documents could be inspected free of charge at the same address during office hours. Completed Bids could be delivered either by Registered Post to the following address or deposited in the Bid Box kept at this Office, after registering at the Registrar, placed therein to be received at or before 10.30 a.m. on 01.06.2021. Bids will be opened at 10.35 a.m. on the same day in the presence of the Bidder or one of his accredited Agents, who choose to attend.

Further information, if required on the above works could be had visiting the Establishment Branch of the Seed Certification Service or contracting over the following Telephone No.

"Name of the Contact, Date and Time of the Opening of Bids" should be indicated on the top left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing Bids. Late Bids will be rejected.

Nature of Work	Minimum Registration (ICTAD) (CIDA)	Bid Deposit		
		Non Refundable	Refundable	
			If paid in Cash	If submitted by Bank Guarantee
1. Repairs to the male Toilet of the Head Office of the Seed Certification Service (Rs. 924,759.40)	C8 & C9	1,500/=	9,000/=	18,000/=
2. Construction of the New Building at Bathalagoda Seed Certification Regional Office of the Seed Certification Service (Rs. 9,996,483.47)	C6 & C7	3,500/=	90,000/=	180,000/=
3. Repairs to the Toilet System of the Upper Floor of the Gannoruwa Central Seed Laboratory (Rs. 1,202,470.00)	C8 & C9	1,500/=	12,000/=	24,000/=
4. Preparation of Wire Mesh Fence of Bata-atha Post Central Unit (Rs. 2,528,247.00)	C7 & C8	3,500/=	25,000/=	50,000/=
5. Repairs to Bata-Atha Regional Office Building (Rs. 4,391,456.09)	C7 & C8	3,500/=	43,000/=	43,000/=

Additional Director,
Chairman / Procurement Committee,
Seed Certification Service,
Gannoruwa.

Telephone No : 081-2388217 / 081-2388421, Fax 081-2388217



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

**PROPOSED BALANCE WORKS OF 2nd FLOOR OF THE
 AUDITORIUM IN THE NEW GEOLOGY BUILDING,
 DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, FACULTY OF SCIENCE,
 UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

CW/CON/2021/1458

- The Chairman, UNIVERSITY PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE on behalf of the UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the **Proposed Balance Works of 2nd Floor of the Auditorium in the New Geology Building, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya** for which the total estimated cost is Rupees Fourteen point Nine Million (Rs. 14.9 Million) without VAT. The Project consists of preliminaries, concrete works, masonry works, wall, floor, ceiling finishers, timber doors and wooden stage, aluminium works, electrical works and air-conditioning, painting works and some miscellaneous works. The Contract period is 180 days.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedures. Since the Total Cost Estimate of this procurement is above Rs. 10 million and below Rs. 25 million, regional preferences and CIDA Grade preference shall apply as stipulated in the Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii) dated 18th February 2021.
- To be eligible for awarding the contract, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the ICTAD **Registration C6 and C5**.
- Requirements to qualify for the awarding of the contract include:
 - Key Technical Personnel at site;
 - Bsc.(Civil) qualified Engineer with minimum 2 years experience (one person)
 - N.C.T.(Civil) qualifying with minimum 5 years experience (one person)
 - Financial; annual turnover not less than Rs 22.35 Million
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Works Engineer of the University of Peradeniya and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below.
Deputy Registrar, Capital Works Division, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.
Tel. No. : 081 2392450
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the Deputy Registrar, Capital Works Division, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya **from 5th May 2021 until 31st May 2021 from 09:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs.** upon a payment of a non refundable fee of **Rupees Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty (Rs. 3,750.00)** to the Shroff of this University by cash.
- Bids shall be delivered to the Chairman, University Procurement Committee, Senate House, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya at or before **13:30 hrs. on 01st June 2021**. Late bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened soon after the closure of bids, in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- All bids shall be accompanied by an irrevocable and unconditionally encashable bid security of **Rupees Two Hundred and Twenty Three Thousand (Rs. 223,000.00)** obtained from a recognized Bank valid for a period of Hundred and Nineteen (119) days or should be paid by cash to the Shroff of this university and receipt should be submitted along with the bid.
- A Pre-bid meeting will be held in the Conference Room, Senate House of the University of Peradeniya at **10:00. hrs. on 19th May 2021** for the Bidders to clarify any obscurities of the Bidding Document.

Chairman
University Procurement Committee
University of Peradeniya
Peradeniya.





NOTICE FOR INVITATION OF BIDS FOR SALE OF FRESH COW MILK OF NATIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Chairman of National Livestock Development Board, No.40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 is calling sealed bids from the Local Buyers/Companies for sale of Fresh Cow Milk produced by below mentioned NLDB upcountry, dry zone and Coconut Triangle farms on daily basis for the period of 01st July to 30th September 2021.

Farm	Address	Max. Avg. Qty per day (Ltrs)	Farm	Address	Max. Avg. Qty per day (Ltrs)
Bopatthalawa	Bopatthalawa Farm, Bopatthalawa	3,000	Koulwewa	Koulwewa Farm, Narammala	500
Menikpalama	Menikpalama Farm, Bopatthalawa	4,000	Rukkaththana	Rukkaththana Farm, Bingiriya	300
Dayagama	Dayagama Farm, Dayagama	3,500	Narangalla	Narangalla Farm, Kithalawa	200
Ridiyagama	Ridiyagama Farm, Ambalanthota	15,000	Siringapatha	Siringapatha Farm, Badalgama	200
Rosita	Rosita Farm, Kotagala	250	Melsiripura	Melsiripura Farm, Melsiripura	350
Marandawila	Marandawila Farm, Bingiriya	200	Nikaweratiya	Nikaweratiya Farm, Nikaweratiya	150
Andigama	Andigama Farm, Dambadeniya	600	Oyamaduwa	Oyamaduwa Farm, Alayapattuwa	100
Galpokuna	Galpokuna Farm, Udubaddawa	200			

The Buyers should forward their Bid Documents as per the following specimen format.

The selected buyer/s should agree to sign a legal agreement with the National Livestock Development Board for the above purchase before awarding the contract and cash deposit/Bank Guarantee value for the milk purchase for 02 weeks should be made. Transport of milk from the respective farm should be done by the respective buyers.

Date

Chairman,
National Livestock Development Board,
No. 40, Nawala Road,
Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

Bids for Purchase of Fresh Cow Milk from National Livestock Development Board

Name of the Buyer/Company :

Official Address of the Buyer :

I/We agree to purchase the following quantity of Fresh Cow Milk from National Livestock Development Board at the below mentioned rates.

	Farm	Price offered per Ltr of Fresh Cow Milk (Rs.)	Quantity of Fresh Milk agreed to purchase per day (Ltrs)	Fat%	SNF%
01				

Other rates :

Date

Signature & official seal of the Buyer/Company

The sealed quotations should be sent to reach **The Chairman - National Livestock Development Board (NLDB), P.O.Box 1748, No.40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05** through registered post or deposited in the quotation box available in this office before **2.00 p.m. on 25/05/2021**. Please indicate the quotation name on top left-hand corner of the envelope. The decision of the NLDB would be final and conclusive.

Bids will be opened at **2.30 p.m. on the same day** and the Bidders or their authorized agents are permitted to be present at the Bid opening by establishing their identity.

Chairman,
National Livestock Development Board,
No.40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.
Tel: 011 -2501701/2, 077-3782127

Ministry of Plantation Industries

Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation

Management of daily duties of the Goomera State Estate by online Software

Quotations are invited for preparing data for the management of the daily duties (activities) of the Goomera State Estate of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation by a computer software under modern technology.

Detailed reports that include as to how the computer software management should take place may be obtained from the Head Office of the Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation or Panwila Regional Office until 24.05.2021 and the quotations will be received up to 1.00 p.m. on 25.05.2021. Those quotations will be opened at the Head Office in Colombo at 1.30 p.m. on the same day.

As a bid security, a refundable deposit of Rs. One Hundred Thousand (Rs. 100,000.00) may either be credited in Account No. 046 1002 40000 933 in the First City Branch of the People's Bank in favour of Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation or deposited with the cashier and a copy of the receipt or counterfoil should accompany the quotation submitted.

Quotations received will be opened in the presence of the Bid Opening Committee at the Head Office in Colombo at 1.30 p.m. on 25.05.2021. Bidder or his representative may be present at the time of opening of quotations and the decision of the Chairman of the Procurement Board will be final regarding the quotations that are not received on time on the specified date.

Chairman
Procurement Board
Sri Lanka State Plantations Corporation
Colombo 12

03.05.2021

QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY OF 70 GSM - WOODFREE WHITE PRINTING PAPER IN REELS & 220 GSM D/S GLOSS ART BOARD

IMP/ADV/2021/10

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from foreign principals and local suppliers for the supply of **"Woodfree White Printing Paper in Reels & D/S Art Board"** as specified below:

70 GSM Woodfree Surfaced sized White Printing Paper - 29 1/2" Width - 500 Mt

Specification of Reel:

Diameter of the Reel	: Max. 50", Min. 40"
Diameter of inner core	: 3" (76.20 mm)
Brightness ISO %	: 85 min.
Opacity	: 90% min.
Tensile Strength	: MD - 35 k Nm / Kg Min. CD - 20 k Nm / Kg Min.
Bulking Thickness / Caliper	: Not more than 85 Micron

Packing : Sea Worthy export Packing in 3-4 sheets of thick hard board with one inner layer of moisture barrier including reinforced sides.

Core Plug : Heavy duty compressed hard board (non-collapsible wood, metal or plastic)

Certification : SGS certificate for quality woodfree surface sized paper.

220 GSM - Double Side Gloss Art Boards - Size : 21" x 31" - 85 Mt

Packing : Palletized packets with extra Seaworthy Export packing with moisture barrier.

Foreign Offers

Offers on at sight basis as well as 90 days Usance indicating Cost, Insurance & Freight Charges (All Inclusive) separately with samples and specifications should be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as **"Quotations for Woodfree White Printing Paper in Reels & D/S Art Board"** on the top left hand corner.

Local Offers

Ex-stock price indicating transport charges, VAT and other levies separately with samples should be submitted in a separate cover in the same manner.

General Conditions

- Order quantity could be varied depending on requirement.
- The successful bidder should provide SGS certificate for quality woodfree surface sized paper with each and every shipment (Only for Woodfree paper).
- Offers should be sent to **Head of Procurement to reach on or before 19th May 2021 2.30 p.m.** and will be opened immediately. No separate documents will be issued. Suppliers may use their own formalities.
- Probable date of delivery, validity of price, terms of payment etc. to be clearly indicated on offers.
- Acceptance of new sources / product is subject to quality test.
- The successful bidder should provide a Performance Bond to the value of 5% with validity period of 90 days.
- Offers should be valid minimum 90 days from bid opening date.

Bidders or accredited representatives will be allowed to be present at the opening. However, The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Head of Procurement
THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF
CEYLON LIMITED
Lake House, No.35,
D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.

For Details: 2429452

INVITATION FOR BIDS

District Secretariat, Trincomalee.

- The **Chairman, District Procurement Committee**, on behalf of the District Secretary, Trincomalee invites sealed bids for the under mentioned works from eligible bidders who possess CIDA registration for the Grade mentioned below.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been black listed.
- Bidding documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the written application, from 05th May 2021 until 24th May 2021 from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm on week days at office of Accounts Branch, District Secretariat, Trincomalee upon payment of Non-refundable fee made at the office of the Accounts Branch, District Secretariat, Trincomalee District.
- Procurement method will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). However, priority to the bidders who are registered within the administrative boundary of the Eastern Province.
- Interested bidders may inspect the bidding documents free of charge prior to collection, if desired and obtain further information from the **Accounts Branch, District Secretariat, Trincomalee** Telephone Number (026- 2222233 Fax - 026-2228310).
- All Sealed Bids marked as original and duplicate accompanied with a bid security drawn in favor of **District Secretary** for the amount mentioned below shall reach the **Chairman, District Procurement Committee, District Secretariat, Trincomalee** Or may be deposited in the **Tender Box available in Accounts Branch at District Secretariat, Trincomalee on or before 2.30 pm on 25.05.2021 and bid will be opened 25.05.2021 3.00 pm**. Late bids will be rejected. The bidders or their authorized representatives can be present during the opening.
 - Procurement Committee's decision is the final in awarding the contract.
 - Bid security can be provided by cash or state bank bond or approved licensed commercial bank or CGF Bonds.

S. No.	Name of the Work	CIDA / ICTAD Grade	Estimated Cost (Mn) Excluding of VAT	Contract Period	Non Refundable Fee (Rs.)	Bid Validity	Bid Security	
							Amount (Rs.)	Validity (From the Date of Opening)
1	Construction of Retaining wall and Culvert at Elangaithurai Mugathuwaram in Verugal (GAT/FIN/PU09/WALL. VER/2021)	C8 and C7 only (Civil)	3.55	04 Months	2,500.00	63 Days	71,000.00	91 Days 23.08.2021
2	Improvement of Sooriyapura flood protection bund in Kantale (From 6 + 100 to 7 + 200) (GAT/FIN/PU09/BUND. KAN(S)/2021)	C6 and C5 only (Irrigation)	9.15	05 Months	5,000.00	77 Days	200,000.00	105 Days 05.09.2021
3	Improvement to flood protection bund of Janaranjana scheme (5150m to 5525m) (GAT/FIN/PU09/BUND. KAN(J)/2021)	C8 and C7 only (Irrigation)	3.0	04 Months	2,500.00	63 Days	60,000.00	91 Days 3.08.2021

Chairman
District Procurement Committee,
District Secretariat,
Trincomalee.

Date : 04.05.2021



DISTRICT SECRETARIAT - KALUTARA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAIN WATER DRAIN SYSTEM FROM AMBE, PAYAGALA TO THE SEA - FINAL STAGE - 2021

Reference the Bid Invitation notice published on 30th April, 2021 in Daily News newspaper, it is hereby notified by me, that the portion of Para 1.2 contained therein as "C04, C05 and C06 or higher" is to be amended as "C04, C05 and C06 Grades only".

Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
District Secretariat,
Kalutara.



UNFPA Request for Quotation

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency addressing that expands the possibilities for women and young people to lead healthy sexual and reproductive lives.

RFQ No: UNFPA/LKA/RFQ/21/03 – Development of online course for shelter clients

These Request for Quotations are open to all legally-constituted business entities (sole proprietorships, partnerships, and Companies) that can provide the requested products and services and have the legal capacity to perform in Sri Lanka, or through an authorized representative.

To view the detailed RFQ and instructions on the submission of Quotations and other required documentation, please visit:
<https://srilanka.unfpa.org/en/>

Closing Date: 20 May 2021, 4:00 PM Sri Lanka Time.



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

CEYLON PETROLEUM CORPORATION

JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR REGIONAL OFFICE PREMISES AT WEST (NUGEGODA), SOUTH (GALLE), NORTH CENTRAL (ANURADHAPURA), CENTRAL (KANDY), UVA (BADULLA), EAST (BATTICALOA), NORTH WEST (KURUNEGALA), NORTH (JAFFNA) & SABARAGAMUWA (KEGALLE)

B/33/2021

The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee (PC) of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will receive sealed bids from reputed organizations for the above.

Bidders who have past experience in similar services may collect the Bidding Documents from my office on payment of Rs. 1,000.00 (i.e. Rs. 925.93 + 8% VAT) which is non-refundable. Bidding Documents will be issued upto 1500 hrs on 21.05.2021. The Bid will be closed at 1400 hrs on 24.05.2021 and bids received will be opened immediately thereafter.

Bidder or his representative will be permitted to be present at the time of opening the bid.

The duly completed Bidding Document may be deposited in the tender box available in my office or sent by registered post to the address given below to reach us before the date and time of closing of the bid.

Bidding document could be inspected free of charge in my office until 24.05.2021. Clarifications, (if any), shall be sought from the Engineering & Premises Manager over the Tel. No. 011-5455132 or from my office over Tel. Nos. 5455331 (Fax: 5455424).

Note: A Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted at 10.00 hrs. on 13.05.2021 in the Premises of Head Office of CPC. It is a mandatory requirement for interested bidders to participate for the Pre-Bid Meeting. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic Bidders may participate the Pre-Bid Meeting via zoom facility.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the bidders can download the bidding document from CPC website i.e. - www.ceypetco.gov.lk, and all the payments can be made to the Account No. 004100110208633 of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation of People's Bank (Head Office). Please submit the original of the bank receipt along with the bid.

Chairman,
Departmental Procurement Committee,
C/o Manager (Procurement & Stores),
Procurement & Stores Function
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation,
1st Floor, No. 609, Dr. Danister De Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 09.



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS PRADESHIYA SABHA - HOMAGAMA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Construction of Sub Office Building for Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha at Wethara - Stage II

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, on behalf of the Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for "Construction of Sub Office Building for Homagama Pradeshiya Sabha at Wethara-Stage II" as described below and estimated to cost **Rs. 21.9 Million**.

The construction period is 273 Days.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure (NCB). Since the Estimated Value of Work to be performed under this Procurement is below Rs. 50 Mn. Regional Preference and CIDA Grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016(iii) & 03.02.2020.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of Building Construction for **Grade C6 or C5** with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), valid until the date of closing of the Bids. Further, the Registration should be valid at the date of award.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Secretary, Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from 9.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. Contact Numbers are : Phone : 011-2855230, Facsimile : 011-2857169.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the Secretary, Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama from 06.05.2021 until 31.05.2021 from 9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Six Thousand (Rs. 6,000/=).

6. Bids shall be delivered or sent by Registered Post to the Chairman, Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama to reach on or before 10.00 hrs on 01.06.2021. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the Secretary's Room, Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

7. Bids shall be valid for a period of 77 Days from the last date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.

8. All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be ;

- in the form included in Section 09 of the Bidding Document.
- in favour of Chairman, Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama.
- for an amount of Rs. 350,000.00.
- valid up to 13th September 2021.
- issued by one of the agencies indicated in the Clause 16.2 of the Bidding Data.

Chairman,
Pradeshiya Sabha, Homagama.

State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development

SRI LANKA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY

Registration of Energy Auditors, Energy Managers, Energy Service Providers and Training Provider Institutes for Energy Auditors, Energy Managers and Other Energy Management Programmes

This is an invitation extended to suitably qualified professionals for being registered as Energy Auditors and Energy Managers with SEA and also to institutes who wish to being registered as Energy Service Providers and to institutes who wish to conduct training programmes for Energy Auditors, Energy Managers and other Energy Management Programmes to register their respective programmes with SEA.

Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA), under the State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development, is empowered by Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority Act No. 35 of 2007 and is responsible for improving Energy Efficiency and developing Renewable Energy in the country.

SEA is in the process of registering Energy Auditors, Energy Managers, Energy Service Providers and Training Provider Institutes under the Section 38(1) of the Act and in accordance with the regulations, published in Gazette Notification No. 1715/12 of 20th July 2011.

Required qualifications to be registered in above categories and application forms are given in guidelines. Guidelines can be obtained from the website of SEA (www.energy.gov.lk) or from the office of SEA at the address below or by e-mailing a request to kalanika@energy.gov.lk

Payment of registration of above categories are as follows.

Category	Amount Payable (LKR)
Energy Auditor	10,000
Energy Manager	5,000
Energy Service Provider	
Training Institutes for Energy Managers	20,000
Training Institutes for Energy Auditors	25,000
Institutes for other Energy Management Training Programmes	20,000

Interested, parties should submit their duly filled applications along with the copies of relevant certificates of educational/professional qualifications and other necessary documents in accordance to the prescribed guidelines. Applications should be sent through registered post or hand delivered to reach the office of SLSEA on or before 30th May 2021 along with a Bank Draft payable to "Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority". Amounts payable are mentioned in the table above.

Director General
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
No. 72, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha,
Colombo 07.



MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD

BID NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement Committee on behalf of the National Water Supply & Drainage Board now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Works / Supplies as described below.

No.	Name of Contract & Contract No.	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Security Requirements	Eligibility Requirements	Estimated Cost (Rs.) Excluding VAT	Place of Issuing of Documents & Contact Person
CIVIL TENDERS						
01	Augmentation of Gallella Water Treatment Plant Contract No: NWSDB/NC/CP/A2-22/GOSL/2021/01	60,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 2,750,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C3or C2 and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract	201.5 million	Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele:011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885
02	Construction of Valve Chambers for Water Supply Scheme in Kilinochchi & Mullaithivu District Contract No: RSC/N/DGM/NRW/CHAMBERS/KIL-MULLAI/2021/003	4,000/- + VAT	Rs. 46,000/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building Construction or Water Supply and Sewerage Grade C5 to C9	4.60 million	RSC (North), Jaffna Road, Vavuniya. Tele:011-2605328 Fax: 024-2225720
03	Construction of Gate & Boundary Fence at Udammitta Bouser Point in Kelaniya Region Contract No: RSC(W/N)/CIVIL/KEL(RH)/2020/64	4,000/- + VAT	Rs. 66,600/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building Construction Grade C5 to C9	4.44 million	RSC (W-N), No. 433/4A, Ganemulla Road, Kadawatha. Tele:011-2922129/ Fax: 011- 2922146
04	Construction of Zn/Al Roof for Existing Filter Units at Medirigiriya WTP. Contract No: RH/NC/DGM/SER/MED/2021/056	2,000/- + VAT	Rs. 15,900/-	Registration with CIDA in the field of Building Construction Grade C5 to C9	1.16 million	RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura Tele : 025-2235993 Fax: 025-2225609
05	Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.04.07, Construction of a Beach Chamber and Sea Outfall at Proposed Textile Zone at Eravur Batticaloa - Eravur Textile Zone Wastewater Scheme, Contract No: NWSDB/WR-P&D/BOI/WWTP/ERAVUR/2021/01- Please note that the Closing date of this tender has been extended up to 13-05-2021 at 10.00 am					
M&E TENDERS						
	Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.04.07, Supply and Installation of Water Pumping Sets and Accessories for Santhiveli Pump House at Batticaloa. Contract No:RSC(E)/DGM/LBF/PUMP/ODDAM/2018/17R - Please note that the Closing date of this tender has been extended up to 19-05-2021 at 10.00 am					
	Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.04.07, Supply and Installation of 02 Nos. End Suction Vertical Delivery Pumping Set, Motor Control Panel Equipment and Accessories for Nugawela-Kulugummana Booster Pumping System at Yatiwala Booster Pump House in Greater Kandy Water Supply Scheme. Contract No:RSC-C/M&E/S&I/M&E/ENERGY/NUGA-KULU/2021/03 - Please note that the Closing date of this tender has been extended up to 19-05-2021 at 10.00 am					
SUPPLY TENDERS						
06	Supply and Delivery of Stainless Steel Sheets for Package Water Treatment Plants Contract No: NWSDB/P&D/S/SS/GOSL/2021/01	100,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 8,850,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agent and Registration of the contract as per the Act. No. 3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele:011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885
07	Supply and Delivery 15mm 20,000 Nos. of Brass Lockable Ball Valves for Western North Region. Contract No: RSC(W/N)/SS/Brass/GAM(RH-SPE)/2021/72	12,500/- + VAT **	Rs. 255,000/-	Manufacturers or their local accredited agents/distributors and Registration of the contract as per the Act. No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		RSC (W-N), No.433/4A, Ganemulla Road, Kadawatha. Tele:011-2922129/ Fax: 011- 2922146
HIRING OF VEHICLE						
08	Hiring of a Motor Car for DGM Office North Central. Contract No: RSC/NC/DGM/HV/DGM/2021/076	4,000/- + VAT	Rs. 28,125/-	As per the document		RSC (NC), Godage Mawatha, Anuradhapura Tele : 025-2222296 Fax: 025-2225609
SERVICE TENDERS						
09	Provide a Call Center Solution for NWSDB Contract No: NWSDB/CALL CENTER/GOSL/2021/01	35,000/- + VAT **	Rs. 1,500,000/-	As per the Document and Registration of the contract as per the Act.No.3 of 1987 with the registrar of public contract		Tenders & Contracts Section, NWS&DB, Galle Road, Ratmalana Tele:011-2605328 Fax: 011-2635885

Please register on line www.drc.gov.lk of Registrar of Companies to get PCA 3 form (only for tenders marked as "**"). Further, please use gmail for registration.

Bidding documents will be issued on production of a letter of request on a business letterhead together with the payment receipt of non-refundable tender fee during 09.00 hours to 15.00 hours on normal working days up to day before the closing date.

Bidding documents may be inspected free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.

Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids will be returned unopened.

Chairman,
National Water Supply and Drainage Board



North Western Provincial Department of Agriculture – Kurunegala

Invitation for the Purchase of Agricultural Equipment and Construction of Protective Houses under the “Saubagya” Agricultural Development Programme

Sealed quotations are invited by the Chairman, Procurement Board of the Office of the North Western Provincial Director of Agriculture from qualified suppliers for the purchase of undermentioned goods for the North Western Provincial Department of Agriculture up to 12.30 p.m. on 28.05.2021. Bids may either be sent by registered post addressed to “Chairman, Procurement Board, Office of the Provincial Director of Agriculture, Dambulla Road, Kurunegala” or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Official room of the Director in 3rd Floor to receive before 12.30 p.m. on 28.05.2021. The caption “**Invitation of Quotation for Agricultural Equipment 2021**” and the Name of the relevant Equipment and Serial Number should be clearly mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the quotation.

Ser. No.	Equipment	Quantity	Bid Security Amount
1	Construction Protective Houses 20m x 10m	10	150,000.00
2	Parachute Trays	300,000	120,000.00
3	Inter Cultivator	171	73,000.00
4	Seed Drill	181	23,000.00
5	Protective Fences from Animals (Large)	239	60,000.00
	Sprinkler Water Supply System for Red Onion Cultivation		
6	¼ Acre	40	28,000.00
7	½ Acre	35	35,000.00
8	1 Acre	10	12,500.00
9	¼ Acre (Kalpitiya)	30	22,500.00
10	½ Acre (Kalpitiya)	30	36,000.00
11	1 Acre (Kalpitiya)	150	255,000.00
	Sprinkler Irrigation System for Chilly Cultivation		
12	¼ Acre	100	85,000.00
13	½ Acre	140	196,000.00
14	1 Acre	10	20,000.00
15	½ Acre (Kalpitiya)	50	50,000.00
16	1 Acre (Kalpitiya)	50	75,000.00
	Water Pumps		
17	Electric Water Pumps (High Quality)	55	45,000.00
18	Fuel operated Water Pump (High Quality)	90	81,000.00
19	Electric Water Pumps (Normal)	435	200,000.00
20	Fuel operated Water Pumps (Normal)	180	90,000.00
21	Drop Irrigation System	50	175,000.00
22	Solar Heat Drying Machines	100	150,000.00

- Separate quotations should be submitted for each item and quotations may be submitted for even a single item. Bid form fee for each item is Rs. 1,000.00 and a copy of the Business Registration Certificate should be submitted at the time of obtaining bid documents. **If more than one quotation is submitted for one item, separate application forms should be obtained. If more than one quotation is submitted in a single application, such applications will be rejected.**
- At the time of submitting bids, a bid security to the value mentioned above should be submitted for each item and this may either be paid in cash or by a bank guarantee valid up to 28.08.2021 issued either by a reputed commercial bank registered with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka or an insurance agency. Bid forms may be obtained from the Accounts Division of the Office of the North Western Provincial Director of Agriculture between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. on working days of the week from 06.05.2021 until 27.05.2021.
- Bids should be submitted according to the conditions and instructions mentioned in the bid documents.
- Further information, if required, may be obtained from the Accountant by calling on Tel. Nos. 037-2222325 / 037-2221235.
- Decision taken by the Procurement Board regarding this quotation is final.

**Provincial Director of Agriculture
Chairman
Procurement Board
Provincial Department of Agriculture (North Western)
Dambulla Road
Kurunegala.**

VEHICLES FOR SALE

Registered Vehicles

Vehicle Yard - COMMERCIAL LEASING & FINANCE PLC
C / 193, UHANA ROAD, AMPARA

Commercial Leasing & Finance PLC

4 WD / WHEELED TRACTORS

EP RE-XXXX	TAFE 45DI 2500.00 CC	2016
EP RC-XXXX	ITMCO ITM240 2500.00 CC	2010
NC RF-XXXX	TAFE 45DI 2500.00 CC	2017
SP RF-XXXX	NF 3552 2955.00 CC	2017
EP RE-XXXX	TAFE 45DI 2500.00 CC	2015

THREE WHEELER

EP AAP-XXXX	BAIAI RE 198.88 CC	2014
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VAN

51-XXXX	TOYOTA TOWNACE 1830.00 CC	1987
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HARVESTER

ZH017011XXXX	DANKA GRAND V COMBINE HARVESTER	2017
ZH021611XXXX	IN JIA GRAND V COMBINE HARVESTER	2018

On view to vehicles 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

M. SANATH 077-472468, M. GADDA 077-439675, M. ANJANA 0769048102

STATE MINISTRY OF RURAL HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRIES PROMOTION

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Repairs to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Office, Sri Lanka Police at Thambuththegama

- The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee (Zone 03), on behalf of the Department of Buildings now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for “Repairs to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Office, Sri Lanka Police at Thambuththegama” as described below and estimated to cost **Rs. 12.4 million**. The construction period is **182 Days**.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB). Since the Total Cost Estimate of this Procurement is below Rs. 50 Mn. Regional Preference and CIDA Grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016(iii) & 03/2020.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall be registered in the field of Building Construction for Grade C6 or C5 with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) and valid until the date of closing of the bids. Further, the registration should be valid at the date of award.

“The Bidders shall also register themselves with Registrar of Public Contracts, Sri Lanka, in term of the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987. The original certificate of Registration (PCA 03) shall be submitted with the Bid. The Procurement shall not be awarded to any Bidder unless such Bidder had submitted the PCA 03 Certificate”.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Chief Engineer (Zone 3), Department of Buildings, Wilgoda Road, Kurunegala and inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address on any working day from **9.00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs.** Contact numbers are :
Phone 037-2222437
Facsimile : 037-2222197
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English Language may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the Chief Engineer (Zone 3), Department of Buildings, Wilgoda Road, Kurunegala from **10.05.2021 until 24.05.2021 from 9.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Four Thousand (Rs. 4,000/=).
- Bids shall be delivered or sent by Registered Post to the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee (Zone 03), Chief Engineer (Zone 03), Department of Buildings, Wilgoda Road, Kurunegala to reach on or before **10.00 hrs. on 25.05.2021**. Bids will be opened soon after closing at the same address in presence of the Bidders' Representatives who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of 77 Days from the last date fixed for receiving of Bids or any extended period.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security which shall be :
 - in the form included in Section 09 in the bidding document
 - in favour of Director General of Buildings
 - for an amount of Rs. 180,000.00
 - valid up to 06th September 2021
 - issued by one of the agencies indicated in the Clause 16.2 of the Bidding Data

**Eng. Mrs K. Liyanage
Director Construction (Region 3),
Department of Buildings,
2nd Floor, “Sethsiripaya”,
Battaramulla.**



PROVINCIAL MINISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT & TRADE, LAND, ELECTRICITY & ENERGY, SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS, CULTURAL & ART AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - NWP

Invitation for Bids

Providing and Installation of Solar Systems

NWP/MOCD/ACC/04/80/04/04

01. Bids are invited by the Chairman - Procurement Committee of the Ministry from qualified and eligible bidders registered under Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority for providing and installing solar Power systems for 10 clusters of houses that consist of 10 houses in each cluster, located at the Baththalanguwa island of Paliyaththa GS Division in Kalpitiya D.S. Division in the Puttalam District.

2. Descriptions are as follows:

Serial No.	Description	Expected Quantity
01	Providing and Installing Solar Power Systems for 10 clusters of houses that consist of 10 houses in each cluster (100 houses).	10 clusters of houses that consist of 10 houses in each cluster. (100 houses).

03. Bid documents could be obtained from the Accountant of the Ministry, during working days till 2.00 pm on the week days from 05.05.2021 to 02.06.2021 after submitting a written application to the following address with the non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500/=.

04. The bids should be valid until 19.08.2021

05. A bid guarantee equivalent to Rs. 300,000/= valid up to 17.09.2021 in the form of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka should be submitted with the bid.

06. Sealed bids along with the duplicates should be delivered by registered post to the address: Chairman, Procurement Committee of the Ministry, Ministry of Co-Operative Development & Trade, Land, Electricity & Energy, Sports & Youth Affairs and Information Technology - NWP, 2nd Floor, Provincial Council Complex, Kurunegala or should be hand delivered to the procurement box kept at the Accounts Section of the office at or before 12.00 noon on 03.06.2021. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids, in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

07. Project identification No. 11 & "Prices - Solar Power Supply 2021" should be mentioned in the top left hand corner of the envelope. Bidders should bear all the cost of bidding & will not be reimbursed by the Project.

08. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on 24.05.2021 at the conference hall of the Ministry.

09. Interested qualified bidders may obtain further details from the Accountant of the Ministry (Tel. No. 037-2227960)

10. The decision of the Procurement Committee will be final and conclusive regarding accepting fully or partly or rejecting of this procurement.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee of the Ministry**
Date: 05.05.2021

INVITATION FOR BIDS

DISTRICT SECRETARY'S OFFICE - GALLE

Sealed Bids will be received by me, the Chairman, Procurement Committee of Divisional Secretary's Office from qualified Suppliers up to **2.00 p.m. on 31.05.2021** for the Supply and Fixing of Electric Elevators for the following Divisional Secretary Buildings.

Bidders could obtain applications along with Bid Documents from Accounts Division of this Office during Office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. from **05.05.2021 to 28.05.2021** on submission of the receipt issued by the Shroff of Second Floor of District Secretary's Office for the payment of the non-refundable Bid Deposit mentioned below.

Contractors registered with Construction Industries Development Authority (CIDA) in the field of Elevators, Escalators & Travellators are eligible for this contract.

Further details relevant to the Bid could be had from the District Engineer of District Secretary's Office, Galle during normal office hours on working days. Telephone : **091-4944806**. Pre Bid Meeting will be held at **10.00 a.m. on 17th May 2021** at the Office Room of the District Secretary and Bidders or their authorized representatives could participate.

All Bids should be accompanied with a valid Bid Security drawn in favour of "District Secretary - Galle" as mentioned in Bid documents.

Serial No.	Work	CIDA Registration	Non Refundable Bid Deposit Rs.	Bid Security Rs.
01	Supply and Fixing of Electric Elevator at Baddegama Divisional Secretary's Office	EM3 or above	2,000.00	75,000.00
02	Supply and Fixing of Electric Elevator at Gonapeenuwala Divisional Secretary's Office	EM3 or above	2,000.00	75,000.00
03	Supply and Fixing of Electric Elevator at Habaraduwa Divisional Secretary's Office	EM3 or above	2,000.00	75,000.00
04	Supply and Fixing of Electric Elevator at Hikkaduwa Divisional Secretary's Office	EM3 or above	2,000.00	75,000.00
05	Supply and Fixing of Electric Elevator at Niyagama Divisional Secretary's Office	EM3 or above	2,000.00	75,000.00

Sealed Bids should either be sent by Registered Post or hand delivered to reach the District Secretary, District Secretariat, Galle before **2.00 p.m. on 31.05.2021**. If hand delivered, the relevant Bids should be deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Office Room of the Chief Accountant, Accounts Division, Second Floor, District Secretariat Building. Bids should be submitted in duplicate (Original & Duplicate) with the relevant name of work marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelopes. Bids will be opened at **2.00 p.m. on 31.05.2021** immediately after closing of receiving Bids and Bidders or their authorized representatives could be present at the time. Incomplete Bids will be rejected and the deposits too would be forfeited. **The decision of the Procurement Committee will be final.**

**Chairman of the Procurement Committee,
District Secretary,
Galle Administrative District.**

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Government Notifications

Direction No. 75

**Consumer Affairs Authority Act No. 09 of 2003
Direction under Section 10(1)(b)(ii)**

ACTING under the powers vested in it by Section 10(1)(b)(ii) of the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No. 09 of 2003, the Consumer Affairs Authority directs that no importer, manufacturer, distributor or trader of Hand Sanitizers shall import, manufacture, store, distribute or display for sale, expose or offer for sale, wholesale or retail any Hand Sanitizers unless such Hand Sanitizer is registered with the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) and the Registration Number is displayed in a conspicuous place of the pack or container of such Hand Sanitizer.

This Direction shall become operative with effect from 01st April, 2021.

The Consumer Affairs Authority do by this Direction, rescind Direction No. 74 published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 2208/27 dated 31st December 2020.

By Order of the Consumer Affairs Authority

**Maj. Gen. Shantha Dissanayake (Retd.)
Chairman**

Colombo
25th February, 2021



N-131

**DEPARTMENT OF
GOVERNMENT PRINTING**

EXTENSION OF THE TIME PERIOD FOR BID INVITATION

Notice to foreign manufacturers / Suppliers or their authorized agents by the Chairman, Procurement Board, Department of Government Printing regarding supply of the undermentioned items.

No.	Bid Reference No.	N.No.	Description	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	Bid Opening Date
01	SI 2021/19	116	Supply, Installation, Commissioning & 01 (One) Maintenance of Envelope Making Machine (Fully Automated / Semi Automated)	2021.05.06, 2021.05.17	2021.05.21
02	SI 2021/27	122	Purchase of 01 No. of Three Knife Trimmer for Perfect Binding Machine (BQ No. 470)	2021.05.13	2021.05.20

Due to the unfavourable situation prevailing in the country at present, the date for the pre-bid meeting and bid opening date as mentioned above published on 29.04.2021 relevant to the Procurement Notice for purchase of Three Knife Trimmer for Perfect Binding Machine (BQ No. 470) - 01 unit and Supply, Installation, Commissioning - 01 (one) Maintenance of Envelope Making Machine (Fully Automated / Semi-Automated) has been postponed and the precise date and time for the bid opening will be publicized by a newspaper advertisement on a future date.

**Gangani Liyanage
Chairperson, Procurement Committee,
Department of Government Printing
No. 118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.
Telephone: Fax: 011-2694898
Website: www.documents.gov.lk
www.npa.gov.lk**



N-128

**EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD
FOR BID INVITATION
DEPARTMENT OF
GOVERNMENT PRINTING**

Notice to Suppliers in Sri Lanka or their authorized Agents by the Chairman, Procurement Board, Department of Government Printing regarding Supply of the undermentioned item.

**1. Item No. 128 - Digital Printing Machine
Quantity Required - 01 No.**

Reference No : SCP 07/D.P.M./2020-25

Due to the unfavourable situation prevailing in the country at present, the opening date of Bids (as 06.05.2021) published on 12.04.2021 relevant to the Procurement Notice for purchase of a Digital Printing Machine has been postponed and the precise date and time for the Bid Opening will be publicized by a newspaper advertisement on a future date.

Further details regarding this matter could be obtained on working days of the week between 8.30 a.m. and 4.15 p.m. by calling on Tel. No. 011-2694898.

**Gangani Liyanage
Chairperson, Procurement Committee**

Department of Government Printing
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.

Telephone / Fax : 011-2694898
Website : www.documents.gov.lk

**EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD
FOR BID INVITATION
DEPARTMENT OF
GOVERNMENT PRINTING**



N-135

Notice to Suppliers in Sri Lanka or their authorized Agents by the Chairman, Procurement Board, Department of Government Printing regarding Supply of the undermentioned item.

- Item : Workstation Computers
Quantity Required : 14 Nos.
Reference No. : SCP04/W.C./NCB10/2021-07
- Item : Conner Cutting Machine
Quantity Required : 01 No.
Reference No. : SCP04/CCM/NCB14/2021-04

Due to the unfavourable situation prevailing in the country at present, the opening date of Bids as published on 23.04.2021 for Supply of 14 Nos. Workstation Computers and the opening date published on 27.04.2021 for Supply of 01 No. Conner Cutting Machine according to the relevant Procurement Notices (as 17.05.2021 and 18.05.2021 respectively) has been postponed and the precise date and time for the Bid Opening will be publicized by a newspaper advertisement on a future date.

**Gangani Liyanage
Chairperson, Procurement Committee**

Department of Government Printing
118, Dr. Danister de Silva Mawatha,
Colombo 08.

Telephone / Fax : 011-2698653
Website : www.documents.gov.lk

**KANDY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Procurement applications are received up to 10.00 a.m. on 01.06.2021 for the leasing of Trading Rights in the Trade Stalls of the Kandy Municipal Council mentioned in the Schedule below.

Procurement Applications will be issued up to 3.00 p.m. on 31.05.2021 and procurement applications will be opened at 01.06.2021. Sealed applications may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Council, Kandy" or hand delivered. Name of the Central Market and the Stall Number should be mentioned on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the application.

Further details may be obtained from the Municipal Accountant (Revenue) of the Kandy Municipal Council during Office hours either by calling on Tel. No. 081-2227395. Procurement document may be inspected during office hours.

No.	Market	Stall No	Business	Non-Refundable Procurement Application Fee (Rs)	Refundable Procurement Deposit (Rs.)	Minimum Bid	Period	Monthly Shop Rent (Rs.)
01	Central Market	171	Retail	1,090.00	50,000.00	400,000.00	02 Years	5000.00
02		162	Beef Stall	1,090.00	250,000.00	1,997,100.00	02 Years	5000.00
03	Snagaraja Mawatha	2-D	Grocery or Restaurant	1,090.00	60,000.00	530,775.00	02 Years	35,000.00

- Government Taxes will be charged in addition to the tendered amount. Shop rent may be subject to revision.
- 55% of the amount mentioned in the Procurement Application accepted by the Council should be paid as first instalment and either in to agreement and the balance 45% should be paid in 03 installments with 10% interest within 06 months and completed after entering into agreement.

Refundable Procurement Deposit

Refundable Procurement Deposit may either be paid in cash to the Shroff of the Kandy Municipal Council and the receipt obtained or an On Demand and Irrevocable Bid Security obtained in favour of Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Council, Kandy should accompany the Procurement Application. Applications without the Bid Security will be rejected. (Tender conditions are displayed in the Notice Board of the Kandy Municipal Council for pre inspection).

**Amila Nawarathna
Municipal Commissioner
Kandy.**

Office of the Municipal Council

30.04.2021



**GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF WATER SUPPLY
WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Credit No.: Cr. 5685-lk

BID NOTICE

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received a credit from the International Development Agency of World Bank towards the cost of Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contracts given below.
- The Chairman, Procurement Committee now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for projects described below.

Name of Contract & Contract No.	Non Refundable Fee (Rs)	Bid Security Requirements (Rs)	Eligibility Requirements	Place of Issuing of Documents & Contact Person	Closing Date and Time
Project Procurement Committee (Major)					
Works Tenders					
Rehabilitation of Mahalanda Rural Water Supply Scheme in Badulla District. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/Badulla/Haldumulla/RE/Mahalanda/2019/02	Rs. 20,000/=	Rs. 1,996,000/=	Registration with CIDA (ICTAD) in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage C3 or C2 and certificate of Registration of Public Contract in Sri Lanka according to the Act No. 3 of 1987 of the Government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notification and the paper advertisement appeared on 16.10.2018 on Ceylon Daily News.	Project Director's Office, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, No. 230, E. W. Perera Mawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda Tel/Fax: 011-2890943/ 011-2890941	02nd June 2021 10.00 hours
Supply Tenders					
Supply and Installation of Pumps of Existing Rural WSS in Welioya DS Division in Mullaitivu District. Contract No: MWS/WaSSIP/Mullaitivu/NCB/Supply & Installation of Pumps - Welioya/2020/19	Rs. 3,500/=	Rs. 185,500/=	Registration with CIDA (ICTAD) in the field of Water Supply and Sewerage C6 and below or CIDA (ICTAD) in Electrical & Mechanical Service EM 3 and above and certificate of Registration of Public Contract in Sri Lanka according to the Act No. 3 of 1987 of the Government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notification and the paper advertisement appeared on 16.10.2018 on Ceylon Daily News.	Project Director's Office, Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, No. 230, E. W. Perera Mawatha, Jubilee Post, Nugegoda Tel/Fax: 011-2890943/ 011-2890941	25th May 2021 10.00 hours

- Bidding documents will be issued on submission of a written application on the applicant's letterhead to the office of Project Director.
- Bidding documents can be collected between 09.30 hours and 15.30 hours on normal working days up to the closing date.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Project and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the place of issuing documents during normal working hours.
- Bids shall be either hand delivered or dispatched by registered post or courier to the address given above.
- All Bids will be opened at the same address soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. **Late bids will be returned unopened.**

**Project Director,
Water Supply & Sanitation Improvement Project**

ජල සැපයුම පිළිබඳ හදිසි ඇමතුම් සඳහා ගාස්තු අයකිරීමෙන් තොර 1939 අංකය පැය 24 පුරාම ඔබ වෙනුවෙන් ක්‍රියාත්මකයි.

පුරා ජල යෝජනා ක්‍රම වෙනුවෙන් 1914 අංකයෙන්

PEOPLE'S BANK**AUCTIONING OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES**

Articles pawned up to 31.03.2021 at the undermentioned Branches and Service Centres of the People's Bank and unredeemed up to dates indicated below will be sold by Public Auction at 9.00 a.m. each day on the dates and places as stated below.

NAME OF BRANCH	ARTICLES UNREDEEMED UP TO	DATE OF AUCTION	PLACE
Uhana - 189 Central Camp SC Gonagolla SC	21.05.2021	22.05.2021	Uhana Branch Premises
Mahaoya-181 Padiyathalawa SC			
Ampara - 015 Eragama SC Nawagampura SC Thirukkivil-224 Pottuvil - 164 Panama SC	21.05.2021	23.05.2021	Ampara Branch Premises
Akkaipattu-063 Alayadivembu SC Addalaichenai-228 Olivil SC Palamunai SC			
Nintavur - 296 Karativu - 223			
Kalmunai - 023 Sainthamaruthu - 338 Maruthamunai - 346			
Sammanthurai - 064 Sammanthurai SC Vilinyady SC			

All participants should bring their National Identity Cards.

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate, re-auction, postpone or do any other activities Bank may think fit with regard to these auctions.

REGIONAL MANAGER**PEOPLE'S BANK**

REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE, D.S. SENANAYAKE STREET,
AMPARA

**PEOPLE'S BANK****AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES**

Articles pawned up to 31.07.2018 at the undermentioned Branches of the People's Bank & Service Centres in Kandy Region will be sold by Public Auction on the dates and premises given below.

The Auction will commence at 9.00 a.m. each day.

	Name of the Branches & Service Centres	Articles unredeemed up to	Auction Date & Place	
1	Kandy Branch Court Premises S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Kandy Branch Premises
	Kundasale S.C.			
	Lawyers Complex S.C.			
	Pallekele S.C.			
2	Kandy City Centre			
3	Senkadagala Thalatuoya S.C.	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Senkadagala Branch Premises
	Marassana S.C.			
4	Gampola Gelioya S.C.	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Gampola Branch Premises
	Gampola S.C.			
	Kurunduwatta S.C.			
5	Teldeniya Meda Mahanuwa S.C.	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Teldeniya Branch Premises
	Udadumbara S.C.			
6	Panwila Huluganga S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Panwila Branch Premises
7	Peradeniya Muruthalawa S.C.	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Peradeniya Branch Premises
	University S.C.			
8	Daulagala Welamboda S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Daulagala Branch Premises
9	Nawalapitiya	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Nawalapitiya Branch Premises
10	Wattegama Madawala Bazaar S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Wattegama Branch Premises
11	Hasalaka Kolongoda S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Hasalaka Branch Premises
12	Deltota Galaha S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Deltota Branch Premises
	Pattiyagama - Pallegama S.C.			
13	Pussellawa	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Pussellawa Branch Premises
14	Katugastota Hedeniya S.C.	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Katugastota Branch Premises
	Polgolla S.C.			
15	Menikhinna Digana S.C.	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Menikhinna Branch Premises
16	Galagedera	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Galagedera Branch Premises
17	Ankumbura	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Ankumbura Branch Premises
18	Poojapitiya Bokkawa S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Poojapitiya Branch Premises
19	Alawatugoda	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Alawatugoda Branch Premises
20	Hataraliyadda	06.09.2019	07.09.2019 08.09.2019	Hataraliyadda Branch Premises
21	Pilimalalawa Poththapitiya S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Pilimalalawa Branch Premises
22	Kadugannawa	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Kadugannawa Branch Premises
23	Akurana Ambatenna S.C.	13.09.2019	14.09.2019 15.09.2019	Akurana Branch Premises

The Bank reserves the right to change the place, cancel, amalgamate or postpone these auctions without further notice to the public.

Regional Manager
People's Bank, Regional Head Office,
No. 17, Dalada Veediya, Kandy.

Telephone : 081-2234283 / 081-2228383

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

STATE MINISTRY OF ESTATE HOUSING &
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

**PLANTATION HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRUST****PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLYING & DELIVERING OF 3000 NOS ZINC ALUMINIUM ROOFING SHEETS**

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee of Plantation Human Development Trust invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply & Delivery of Roofing Sheets under National Competitive Bidding Procedure (NCB) on behalf of the State Ministry of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure to distribute among the Plantation Sector poor families as per the specifications given in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders may obtain additional further information from Director - Finance, PHDT, and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 09.30 - 15.00 hrs. on normal working days commencing from 6th May 2021 to 18th May 2021.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on submission of a written application to the address given below, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Sri Lanka Rupees 5,000.00. The method of payment will be by cash, paid to the Accountant, PHDT and the document may be collected from Finance Division on normal working days commencing from 6th May 2021 to 18th May 2021 from 09.30 - 15.00 hrs.

Bid containing in sealed envelope with all required documents should be sent by registered post or by hand to the Director - Finance, Plantation Human Development Trust, No. 427/14, Robert Gunawardena Mawatha, Battaramulla to reach him on or before 2.00 p.m. on 19th May 2021 or to be deposited in the tender box kept in the Finance Division.

"Supplying & Delivering of Roofing Sheets" should be marked on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

All bids must be accompanied by an unconditional Bid Security to the value of 2% from the Bid Value which is obtained from a reputed financial Institution on behalf of Director General, Plantation Human Development Trust or a Receipt which is obtained from PHDT by making refundable cash deposit for the 1% of Bid Value.

Plantation Human Development Trust or the State Ministry of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Late or incomplete bids will be rejected.

**Chairman,
Procurement Committee,
Plantation Human Development Trust,
No. 427/14, Robert Gunawardena Mawatha, Battaramulla.
Tel: (94-001) 2887497-9, 2887500, Fax: (94-011) 2888619**

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**MINISTRY OF ROADS & HIGHWAYS****INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Provincial Director's Office (Sabaragamuwa) on behalf of the Road Development Authority (RDA) invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the *Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Passenger Lifts for the Construction of RDA Office Complex at Rathnapura* as described below.

- The Work consists of supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Passenger Lifts (700 kg with 4 stops) for the construction of 4 storied building at RDA Office Complex at Rathnapura. Time for Completion is 150 Days.
- Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- To be eligible for the Contract Award, the successful Bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the following requirements.
 - The Bidder shall be a reputed local company having experience in planning, engineering, supplying, installing, testing, commissioning and maintenance of Lifts, at least for last five (5) years.
 - The manufacturer of the Lift equipment shall have at least ten (10) years' experience in the design and manufacture of Lifts.
 - The make of Lift offered shall have a satisfactory service record in Sri Lanka. At least 50 Nos. of same product for last five (5) years.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Rathnapura from 09.00hrs to 15.00hrs until 20.05.2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be collected by interested Bidders at the Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Rathnapura from 09.00hrs to 15.00hrs until 05.05.2021
- Bids shall be delivered in duplicate to the Office of Provincial Director (Sabaragamuwa), Road Development Authority, Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Rathnapura and deposited in the Tender Box provided at the above address, **at or before 10.00hrs, on 21.05.2021**. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing, in the presence of Bidders' representatives, who choose to attend.
- Bids shall be valid up to 65 days after the deadline for Bid Submission.
- All Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of Rs. 20,000.00, valid up to 26.07.2021.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on 17-05-2021 at 10.00a.m at the Provincial Director's Office, Road Development Authority, Bandaranayaka Mawatha, Rathnapura.

**The Chairman,
Regional Procurement Committee,
Provincial Director (Sabaragamuwa)
Road Development Authority
Rathnapura.**

LAND REFORM COMMISSION

Notice under Section 29 of the Land Reform Law No. 1 of 1972 as amended by Land Reform (Special Provisions) Act, No. 39 of 1981 and Land Reform (Special Provisions) Act, No. 14 of 1986

BY Virtue of the powers vested in me under Section 29 of the Law, I hereby direct every person who is interested in any agricultural land or lands described in the Schedule hereto immediately before the date on which said land or lands have been vested in the Land Reform Commission to make, within one month from 09.05.2021 a written claim in triplicate to the whole any part of the compensation payable under the law in respect of such land or lands and to specify in the claim.

- His name and address
- The nature of his interest in such land/lands
- Particulars of his claim and
- How much of such compensation is claimed by him

All claims should be sent by registered post, addressed to the Chairman, Land Reform Commission.

NILANTHA WIJESINGHA,
Attorney-at-Law,
Chairman / Land Reform Commission.

Office of the Land Reform Commission,
No. 475, Kaduwela Road,
Battaramulla.

01.04.2021

SCHEDULE

Serial No.	Unique No.	Name of the Declarant	Name of the Land	District	Village	Extent		
						A	R	P
01.	Ra/22	Mr A. Udayarathna	Earlscourt Estate	Rathnapura	Welegoda	179	3	15
02.	Maha/386	Mr D.M.N.B. Senanayake	Wariyagala Waththa	Kandy	Kalugamuwa	10	2	16
03.	Co/2975	Mrs Bibiyana Ereen Fernandopulle	Delgasyaya Waththa	Kurunegala	Uthurawala	08	1	09
04.	Co/2287	Mr Siril Dunstan Stanislaw	Ambalaweli Kadu	Puttalam	Ambalaweli	01	2	09
05.	Maha/481	Mrs E.N.L. Jazeema Umman	Cregin Hill Estate Alutha Estate	Kandy	Owissa Uduwa Kiralgama	35 47	2 1	26 04
06.	Co/2938	Mr Ramachandra Welupillai	Sinnawanniya Paththu Mayfield Estate Pothuvil Estate	Ampara	Palantharai Wantharamullai Waranai	2 7 18	3 0 0	08 00 00
07.	Co/2224	Mr H.R.W.M. Gunapala Somabandu	Kadawala Waththa	Kurunegala	Wetahetiya	68	3	18
			Dhanalechchumi Waththa	Kegalle	Batuwita	48	0	04
08.	Maha/370	Mr W.J.B. Karunarathna	Rajakandaluwa Estate	Puttalam	Rajakaduwa	00	3	28
			Sisiliyana Estate	Rathnapura	Kalawana	34	0	36
09.	Co/750	Mr J.R.M. Fernando	Erihembe Estate	Kurunegala	Erihembe	2	0	30
10.	Co/829	Mr D.T.A.K. Jayasinghe	Sedawaththa alias Thalgahawaththa	Puttalam	Mundel	3	0	00
11.	Co/1267	Mr T.M.De Silva	Isweetiya Wela	Colombo	Waradala	00	2	00
			Hinni Kumbura	Kurunegala	Watuwaththa	01	1	00
			Nehenigammana Waththa	Kurunegala	Neheni Gamwala	06	2	00
			Mahawela Kumbura	Kurunegala	Watuwaththa	03	2	00
12.	Co/1611	Mr Sunil Chandra Kulathilaka Jayakodi	Mahawaththa (Werellagaha Landa) Kirimetiwala Kumbura Akkara Nawaya Halgahakumbura Medakele	Colombo	Balagalla	58	0	12
			Dorakadaliyadda Waththa and Paddyfield	Colombo	Balagalla	5	2	16
			Udugoda Gedara Idama	Colombo	Udugoda Gedara	0	0	26
			Maluwe Henyaya	Kurunegala	Yataaththawala	30	1	38
			Kattuwa Kella	Kurunegala	Bopitiya	2	0	00
			Halgala Agara Waththa	Kurunegala	Wewellawela	30	3	30
			Ramawaththa	Kurunegala	Paragammana	52	2	20
13.	Co/1186	Mr K.G.S. Anthony Perera	Gommedapitiya	Kurunegala	Delmaga	1	0	00
			Arupola Waththa	Kurunegala	Arupola	7	2	00
			Rukgolla	Kurunegala	Girana	11	0	32
			Dansalkella Waththa	Kurunegala	Girana	2	0	00
			Delgahawaththa	Kurunegala	Dawatawa	1	2	00
			Thalagahamula Waththa and Meegahamula Waththa	Kurunegala	Narangoda	3	0	00
			Bogahamula Hena and Nagahamula Waththa	Kurunegala	Narangoda	01	3	00
14.	Co/1716	Mr G.J.S.E. Perera	Walasena Idama	Puttalam	Pulachchikulam	0	2	05
			Jasinta Estate	Puttalam	Neththapola	75	0	12
15.	Ke/42	Mr W. Rajakaruna	Lellagawa Owita	Kegalle	Kebulgala	3	0	00
			Bulugodaoya Waththa	Kegalle	Kithulgala	4	0	00
			Nakutukosgahamula Hena	Kegalle	Kithulgala	1	0	00
			Galapitamulagawa Kurahan Waththa	Kegalle	Kithulgala	2	0	00
			Galabada Unapanduragawa Waththa	Kegalle	Kithulgala	0	2	00
			Nadugalahagawa Waththa	Kegalle	Kithulgala	4	0	00
			Pallebage Waththa	Kegalle	Pallebage	30	0	00
			Nawala Waththa	Kegalle	Nawala	46	0	00

Serial No.	Unique No.	Name of the Declarant	Name of the Land	District	Village	Extent		
						A	R	P
16.	Pu/27	Mr W.W.B.L.S. Parakrama Fernando	Kappal Adikani	Puttalam	Kappaladi	52	0	00
17.	Co/1462	Rev. Fr. Richard Peries	Heraliyawala Waththa	Kurunegala	Alakoladeniya	13	2	06
18.	Co/2221	Mr P.B. Suddhami Dissanayake	Galmaduwa	Anuradhapura	Galmaduwa	2	0	00
19.	Ba/128	Mrs S. Sabur Umma	Farook Land	Badulla	Shreepura	87	0	00
20.	Pu/161	Mr M.A. Fernandopulle	Peellakand Waththa	Kurunegala	Alawwa	05	2	00
21.	Co/441	Mr H.Q.T. Thissera	Bopitibokke Kumbura alias Kadolgaha Kumbura	Colombo	Bopitiya	4	2	11.1
22.	Co/1000	Mr M.S. Wijerathna	Kothala Kodiyawagama	Kurunegala	Kothalakodi-yawa	20	0	00
			Gedaragawa Wela	Kurunegala	Inguruwaththa	0	3	00
			Inguruwaththa Gamawela	Kurunegala	Inguruwaththa	0	3	00
			Gepellawela and Tank	Kurunegala	Gepallawa	5	0	00
23.	Co/2331	Mr G.C.E. De Silva	Yakiriya Pelessa alias Weerawila Waththa	Hambantota	Weerawila	9	3	38
24.	Co/2923	Mr Lalith Sunil Warnakula Weerasuriya	Medagama Estate	Puttalam	Uraliya	2	0	28
25.	Co/3152	Mr Francis Wickramasuriya	Upper Ampitithenna Waththa	Badulla	Koslanda	31	3	20
26.	Co/843	Mr L.D.H. Abesekera	Toyndbee Estate	Puttalam	Karukkuliya	02	1	00
			Minuwnagoda	Gampaha	Pansilgoda	02	0	00
			Kumbura alias Dawatagaha Kumbura					
27.	Co/2306	Mrs Manohari Muthukumari	Ambalaweli Estate	Puttalam	Ambalaweli	22	0	00
			Mancholai Estate	Puttalam	Kaththaikadu	71	0	00
			Thillayadikadu	Puttalam	Thillayadi	07	0	00
			Periyawelli Wayal	Puttalam	Madurunkuliya	08	0	00
28.	Co/3285	Mr E. Muthkumara	Ambalaweli Kadu	Puttalam	Ambalaweli	04	3	26
29.	Maha/411	Mr S. Wegadapola	Ranawana Walawwe Waththa	Kandy	Ranawana Moladanda	13	0	18.75
30.	Ra/20	Rev. M. Sumedananda Thero	Sri Sumeda Aranya, Thero	Rathnapura	Konkatuwa	72	1	15
31.	Ku/93	Mr L.H. Perera	Karawila Land	Kurunegala	Melgama	15	0	16
32.	Co/2219	Mr P.B.M. Dissanayaka	Siyambalewa	Anuradhapura	Siyambalewa	2	2	00
			Galmaduwa	Anuradhapura	Galmaduwa	2	0	00
			Koniththa	Anuradhapura	Koniththa	2	2	00
33.	Mo/37	Mr T.B. Thishami	Galgamuwegama Idama	Monaragala	Galgamuwa	100	0	00

Revision

Revision of the notification published in the Gazette under Section 29 of Land Reform Act, No. 01 of 1972. The notification published in the Gazette Extraordinary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 2116/2 dated 25.03.2019 under Co/1736, Co/441 dated Ke/57 are hereby removed and revised the same in substitution with the following notifications.

SCHEDULE

Unique No.	Name of the Declarant	Name of the Land	District	Village	Extent		
					A	R	P
Co/1736	Mrs Harris Manel Abeywardana	Eliyagoda Waththa Aragoda Kumbura	Kurunegala	Eliyagoda Aragoda	5	0	00
Co/445	Mrs S.A.D. Leela Abeysekera	Helweeshiya Waththa	Kurunegala	Narammala	128	0	00
Ke/57	Mr K.S. Nadarajah	Faithfield Estate	Kegalle	Yatiantota	06	1	14

NILANTHA WIJESINGHA,
Attorney-at-Law,
Chairman / Land Reform Commission.

Office of the Land Reform Commission,
No. 475, Kaduwela Road,
Battaramulla.

01.04.2021

The Notice has been published in the Gazette (Extraordinary) of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 2222/53 of 09.04.2021

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GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:	05.05.2021
Loan/Grant No. and Title	Loan 3727/G0618-SRI: Health System Enhancement Project
Contract No. and Title	HSEP/PIU/SP/W18/01/2021 Procurement of Works - Round 2 - Phase-1 (2 DHC/3 PMCU) Ratnapura District
Lots	(W18) LOT A. Belihuloya DHC 1 (W18) LOT B. Galpaya PMCU 1 (W18) LOT C. Kuruwita PMCU 2 (W18) LOT D. Pelmadulla DHC 2 (W18) LOT E. Rajawaka PMCU 3
Deadline for Submission of Bids	04.06.2021

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Health System Enhancement Project. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- Project Director, Health System Enhancement Project, No.3/19, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08**, under the Office of the Secretary, Ministry of Health ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of the Works which includes new construction of two Divisional Hospitals (DHC) and three Primary Medical Healthcare Units (PMCU) as described below.

Names of the Health Centers	New Construction / OPD Area (Sq.Ft.)
LOT A. Belihuloya DHC 1	2,937
LOT B. Galpaya PMCU 1	3,562
LOT C. Kuruwita PMCU 2	3,852
LOT D. Pelmadulla DHC 2	9,146
LOT E. Rajawaka PMCU 3	2,755

- Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

A. Financial

- Historical Financial Performance** - Submission of audited financial statements for the last three years (2017/2018, 2018/2019, and 2019/2020) to demonstrate the current soundness of the Bidder's financial position.
- Average Annual Construction Turnover** - The Bidder (including Joint Venture and Partnership) must have minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover (see table below) calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years (requirements stated below is applicable for each Lot separately);

Names of the Health Centers - Lots	LKR (Mn)
LOT A. Belihuloya DHC 1	40.33
LOT B. Galpaya PMCU 1	47.54
LOT C. Kuruwita PMCU 2	45.22
LOT D. Pelmadulla DHC 2	69.70
LOT E. Rajawaka PMCU 3	47.20

- Financial Resources** - The Bidder (including Joint venture and Partnership, if applicable) must demonstrate that its financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments, meet or exceed the total requirement for the subject Contracts (Lots) stated below (requirements stated below is applicable for each Lot separately).

Names of the Health Centers	(Lot Nos.)	LKR Mn.
LOT A. Belihuloya	DHC 1	6.53
LOT B. Galpaya	PMCU 1	7.70
LOT C. Kuruwita	PMCU 2	7.33
LOT D. Pelmadulla	DHC 2	11.29
LOT E. Rajawaka	PMCU 3	7.65

B. Experience

- Contracts of Similar Size and Nature** - The Bidder (including Joint Venture and Partnership, (if applicable) must have participated as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least one contract that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 5 years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation under each contract exceeds for;

Names of the Health Centers	(Lot Nos.)	LKR Mn.
LOT A. Belihuloya	DHC 1	16.13
LOT B. Galpaya	PMCU 1	19.02
LOT C. Kuruwita	PMCU 2	18.09
LOT D. Pelmadulla	DHC 2	27.88
LOT E. Rajawaka	PMCU 3	18.88

- If a Bidder submits several successful (lowest evaluated substantially responsive) bids, the bid evaluation will also include an assessment of the Bidder's capacity to meet the following aggregated requirements as presented in the bid:

- Average annual construction turnover,
- Financial resources,
- Equipment to be allocated, and
- Personnel to be fielded.

The qualification criteria are more fully described in the Bidding Document

- To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge, the bidders should contact during office hours (08.30 Hrs. to 16.15 Hrs.) on working days:

Project Engineer,
Health System Enhancement Project,
Project Implementation Unit
No. 75, Dharmapala Mawatha, Ratnapura
Email: eng.hsep.piusab@gmail.com
Tel: 045 - 2221554
Fax: 045 - 2221554

- To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should;
 - write to address above requesting the bidding documents for W-18: Procurement of Works - Round 2 phase -1 - (2 DHC/3 PMCU) Ratnapura District
 - pay a non-refundable fee as stated in the table under item No. 08 (**Sri Lankan Rupees**) on or before 03.06.2021 15.00 Hrs.
 - The method of payment will be in the form of a bank draft or favour of the "Deputy Project Director, Health System Enhancement Project- A/C 84171161" or in cash, from 09.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs on working days or pay by direct deposit to the bank account number **84171161** at Bank of Ceylon
- A pre bid meeting will be held on 19th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs. at the address given in Para 5** conducted by the Employer. All bidders are strongly advised to attend this pre-bid meeting.

Deliver your bid; to the address;
Deputy Project Director,
Health System Enhancement Project,
Project Implementation Unit,
No. 75, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Ratnapura, Sri Lanka.

on or before **04.06.2021 at 1030 Hrs** together with a Bid Security as specified in the bidding document. If the Bid Security is submitted in a form of a Bank Guarantee, it shall be issued using the format given in the Section 4 of Bidding forms by a commercial bank approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka in favour of "The Project Director - Health System Enhancement Project".

Names of the Health Center (Lot)	Bid Security LKR	Non-Refundable Fee / LKR
LOT A. Belihuloya DHC 1	403,000	6,000.00
LOT B. Galpaya PMCU 1	475,000	7,000.00
LOT C. Kuruwita PMCU 2	452,000	7,000.00
LOT D. Pelmadulla DHC 2	697,000	10,000.00
LOT E. Rajawaka PMCU 3	471,000	7,000.00

- Late Bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' or their representatives who choose to attend.
- The Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of bid opening. The Bid Security shall be valid for 118 days from the date of bid opening.
- The Health System Enhancement Project of the Ministry of Health or the Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Chairman/Project Director,
Project Procurement Committee,
Health System Enhancement Project,
No.3/19, Kynsey Road,
Colombo 08, Sri Lanka.

Date: 04.05.2021



GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:	05.05.2021
Loan/Grant No. and Title	Loan 3727/G0618-SRI: Health System Enhancement Project
Contract No. and Title	HSEP/PIU/SP/W17/01/2021 Procurement of Works - Round 2 - Phase -1 (MO Quarters/DHC/2 PMCU) Kegalle District
Lots	(W17) LOT A. Basnagala MO Quarters (W17) LOT B. Hinguralakanda DHC (W17) LOT C. Karandupana PMCU 1 (W17) LOT D. Poddenikanda PMCU 2
Deadline for Submission of Bids	04.06.2021

- The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Health System Enhancement Project. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- Project Director, Health System Enhancement Project, No.3/19, Kynsey Road, Colombo 08**, under the Office of the Secretary, Ministry of Health ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of the Works which includes renovation of the existing OPD building and facilities, new construction of MO quarters, Divisional Hospital (DHC) and two Primary Medical Healthcare Units (PMCU) as described below.

Names of the Health Centers	Renovation / OPD - Area (Sq. ft)	New construction / OPD Area (Sq. ft)	Total Area (Sq. ft)
LOT A. Basnagala MO Quarters	1,883	1,722	3,605
LOT B. Hinguralakanda DHC		4,347	4,347
LOT C. Karandupana PMCU 1		3,540	3,540
LOT D. Poddenikanda PMCU 2		1,614	1,614

- Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: One-Envelope procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
- Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

A. Financial

- Historical Financial Performance** - Submission of audited financial statements for the last three years (2017/2018, 2018/2019, and 2019/2020) to demonstrate the current soundness of the Bidder's financial position.
- Average Annual Construction Turnover** - The Bidder (including Joint Venture and Partnership) must have minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover (see table below) calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years (requirements stated below is applicable for each Lot separately);

Names of the Health Centers-Lots	LKR (Mn)
LOT A. Basnagala MO Quarters	33.61
LOT B. Hinguralakanda DHC	56.91
LOT C. Karandupana PMCU 1	55.93
LOT D. Poddenikanda PMCU 2	33.01

- Financial Resources** - The Bidder (including Joint venture and Partnership, (if applicable) must demonstrate that its financial resources, less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments, meet or exceed the total requirement for the subject Contracts (Lots) stated below (requirements stated below is applicable for each Lot separately).

Names of the Health Centers	(Lot Nos.)	LKR Mn.
LOT A. Basnagala	MO Quarters	7.26
LOT B. Hinguralakanda	DHC	9.22
LOT C. Karandupana	PMCU 1	9.06
LOT D. Poddenikanda	PMCU 2	7.13

B. Experience

- Contracts of Similar Size and Nature** - The Bidder (including Joint Venture and Partnership, (if applicable) must have participated as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least one contract that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 5 years and that are similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation under each contract exceeds for;

Names of the Health Centers	(Lot Nos.)	LKR Mn.
LOT A. Basnagala	MO Quarters	13.44
LOT B. Hinguralakanda	DHC	22.76
LOT C. Karandupana	PMCU 1	22.37
LOT D. Poddenikanda	PMCU 2	13.21

- If a Bidder submits several successful (lowest evaluated substantially responsive) bids, the bid evaluation will also include an assessment of the Bidder's capacity to meet the following aggregated requirements as presented in the bid:

- Average annual construction turnover,
- Financial resources,
- Equipment to be allocated, and
- Personnel to be fielded.

The qualification criteria are more fully described in the Bidding Document

- To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents free of charge, the bidders should contact during office hours (08.30 Hrs. to 16.15 Hrs.) on working days:

Project Engineer,
Health System Enhancement Project,
Project Implementation Unit
No. 75, Dharmapala Mawatha, Ratnapura
Email: eng.hsep.piusab@gmail.com
Tel: 045 - 2221554
Fax: 045 - 2221554

- To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should;
 - Write to address above requesting the bidding documents for W-17: Procurement of Works - Round 2 phase -1 - (MO Quarters/DHC/2 PMCU) Kegalle District
 - Pay a non-refundable fee as stated in the table under item No. 08 (**Sri Lankan Rupees**) on or before 03.06.2021 15.00 Hrs.
 - The method of payment will be in the form of a bank draft in favour of the "Deputy Project Director, Health System Enhancement Project- A/C 84171161" or in cash, from 09.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs on working days or pay by direct deposit to the bank account number **84171161** at Bank of Ceylon
- A pre bid meeting will be held on 19th May 2021 at 1030 Hrs. at the address given in Para 5** conducted by the Employer. All bidders are strongly advised to attend this pre-bid meeting.

Deliver your bid; to the address;
Deputy Project Director,
Health System Enhancement Project,
Project Implementation Unit,
No. 75, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Ratnapura, Sri Lanka.

on or before **04.06.2021 at 1030 Hrs** together with a Bid Security as specified in the bidding document. If the Bid Security is submitted in a form of a Bank Guarantee, it shall be issued using the format given in the Section 4 of Bidding forms by a commercial bank approved by Central Bank of Sri Lanka in favour of "The Project Director - Health System Enhancement Project".

Names of the Health Centers (Lot)	Bid Security LKR	Non-Refundable Fee / LKR
LOT A. Basnagala MO Quarters	336,000.00	5,000.00
LOT B. Hinguralakanda DHC	569,000.00	8,000.00
LOT C. Karandupana PMCU 1	559,000.00	8,000.00
LOT D. Poddenikanda PMCU 2	330,000.00	5,000.00

- Late Bids will be rejected and returned unopened. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' or their representatives who choose to attend.
- The Bids shall be valid for 90 days from the date of bid opening. The Bid Security shall be valid for 118 days from the date of bid opening.
- The Health System Enhancement Project of the Ministry of Health or the Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Chairman/Project Director,
Project Procurement Committee,
Health System Enhancement Project,
No. 3/19, Kynsey Road,
Colombo 08, Sri Lanka.

Date: 04.05.2021

**FORM 3 (RULE 7)
ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE SITTING
IN COLOMBO IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS CIVIL JURISDICTION**

Kanmec Holdings P.V.T
NO 830,1/1 A,
E.W. Perera Mawatha,
Ethulkotte,
Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte.

Petitioner

Vs.

01.CML-MTD Constructions Ltd
No 18,
St. Michels Road,
Colombo - 03

Case Number: CHC/38/2020/CO
Nature: Winding Up
Procedure: Regular
Value: Rs. 28,812,199.76

**COMPANY SOUGHT TO
BE WOUND UP**

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition has been presented to the Provincial High Court of the Western Provincial Holden in Colombo be Kanmec Holdings P.V.T of No NO 830,1/1 A, E.W. Perera Mawatha, Ethulkotte, Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte on 15 day of October 2020 for the winding up of the above-named company, and that the said petitioner is directed to be inquired before the Court on the 15 day on July 2021 and any creditor or contributory of the said company desirous to support or oppose the marking of an order on the said petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his counsel or proctor for the purpose. And a copy of the petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the prescribed charge for the same.

Mr. K.D.N.Pushpakumar (Attorney-At-Law)
Company Lawyer
NO 830,1/1 A,
E.W. Perera Mawatha,
Ethulkotte,
Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte

Note:- Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above - named Mr. K.D.N.Pushpakumara (Attorney-At-Law) notice in writing of her intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm the name and address of the firm and must signed by the person or firm or his or their proctor and must be served, or if posted must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above named not later than 6.00 p.m in the afternoon of the 14 day of July 2021

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State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education,
Research and Innovation
Department of Technical Education & Training



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for Bids for Maintaining Cleaning Services - 2021

Sealed bids are invited up to 2.00 p.m. on 19.05.2021 by the Director General of the Department of Technical Education & Training, Colombo 10, only from reputed bidders, fulfilling the requirements mentioned below for maintaining cleaning services for a period of one year from 01.06.2021 at the Department of Technical Education & Training and at the Technical College of Sri Lanka.

Bid No.	Details of Work	Bid Security (Rs.)
DTET/14/07/04/2021	Maintaining Cleaning Services 2021	110,000.00

- The Bid Security should be submitted through a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Tender documents could be obtained during working days of the week from 05.05.2021 up to 18.05.2021 any time between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,500.00 to the Shroff of this Department and submitting the receipt thus obtained to the Technical Assistance Services Division.
- Activities relevant to the contract could be obtained by calling over at this Department and inspecting the relevant premises before submitting quotations. Bid documents could be inspected by logging on to the Departmental Website.
- The average Annual Trade Turnover for the nearest past 03 years should be Rs. 16 Million.
- The last date and time for accepting bids is 19.05.2021 at 2.00 p.m.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held on 11.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the Auditorium on the Second Floor of the Department of Technical Education & Training.
- The Director General of the Department of Technical Education & Training retains the right of accepting or rejecting a bid, a No. of bids or all bids on any occasion.

**Director General,
Department of Technical Education &
Training,
No. 557, Olcott Mawatha,
Colombo 10.
Website: www.dtet.gov.lk**

**Tel. Nos.
Chief Accountant: 011-2342087
Technical Assistance Services: 011-2327008**

**MINISTRY OF PLANTATION
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD**



**CALLING BIDS FOR AN AUDITOR FOR AUDITING AND PAYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE EXPORT TRANSACTIONS OF TEA**

Procurement Ref No.: PROC/PROM/2021

The Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB) is incorporated by the Tea Board Law No. 14 of 1975 as the apex body for the Sri Lanka tea industry. The SLTB is responsible for the development, supervision and execution of regulatory functions of the industry as well as promotion of Ceylon Tea locally and globally.

The Chairman of Departmental Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Tea Board now invites the reputed Audit Firms in Sri Lanka to submit their bids for providing services for the tasks assigned below.

Scope of Work:

The appointed audit firm requires to scrutinize/verify the export documents and make recommendations for the release of funds as well as to confirm the accuracy of the funds allocations to each tea exporting company as specified under the scope of the work.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) adopting single stage envelope system among suitably qualified (eligible) bidders.

The Intended Contract Period is 4 years from the date of awarding.

Eligibility Criteria of the Bidder

- At least minimum of three (03) partners should be registered under the audit firm and the engagement partner should have at least minimum of 05 years of post-qualifying auditing experience.
- The audit firm should have at least minimum of 10 years' experience in auditing and have involved in at least 06 exporting companies during the last two years period

The Bid Document can be inspected and downloaded free of charge from the www.srilankateaboard.com web of Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03, from 5th May to 16th May 2021.

Pre-bid meeting will be conducted on 10th May 2021 at 11:00 am at Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

The Bid Security shall be from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka) for "One Hundred Thousand" on Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR.100,000/-) drawn in favour of the Director General, Sri Lanka Tea Board No. 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03 and valid for 180 days from the date of closing the Bid.

The Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes which the top left hand corner marked as "Calling Bids for an Auditor For Auditing And Payment Recommendations for the Export Transactions of Tea", either delivered by hand and deposited in the Tender Box kept in the office of the Administration Division of the Sri Lanka Tea Board located at the address given below or sent by registered post to reach Chairman, Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka Tea Board, 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03 on or before 1:00 pm on 17th May 2021. Late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be closed at 1:00 pm on 17th May 2021 and opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders' representatives who intend to attend in person at the Administration Division of the Sri Lanka Tea Board 574, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their applications.

**Chairman
Procurement Committee
Sri Lanka Tea Board,
574, Galle Road,
Colombo 3.**

**DISTRICT SECRETARIAT,
MANNAR**

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the District Secretariat, Mannar invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Construction works which is allocated by **State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management** in the following table.
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB). Since the total cost Estimate of this procurement is below Rs. 50Mn regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2006 (iii) dated 18.02.2021.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have been registered in the field of Irrigation & Land Drainage Construction for grade mentioned in the table below with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA).
- Qualification requirements are indicated in Section 4 of the Bidding document. Additional details are provided in the Schedule (Section 5).
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from **District Secretariat, Mannar (District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit - 023-2250133)** and inspect the bidding documents at the same place on any working day from 06.05.2021 to 25.05.2021 from 09.30 hrs to 15.00 hrs.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the **District Secretary, District Secretariat, Mannar from May 6th 2021 to May 25th 2021 9.30 hrs to 15.00 hrs upon payment of a non-refundable fee mentioned in the table below.** The method of payment should be by cash.
- Sealed Bids in original and duplicate dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered to the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, District Secretariat, Mannar on or before 31.05.2021 on 15.00 hrs.** Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 15.15 hrs after closing in the presence of the Bidders' authorized representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on 19.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m. at the Conference Hall, District Secretariat Mannar.
- Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, from a bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka as per the information given in the Table.

Bid No.	Description of Work	Engineer Estimate Cost	Contract Period	Eligibility Requirement (CIDA Grade & Category)	Non-Refundable Amount	Required Bid Security	
						Amount	Validity Period
MN/GA/DDMCU/M-Project (PP) 65-01/2021	Improvements to training bund and retaining wall in Periyapandivirichchan	8.36	03 Months	C7 and C6 (Irrigation and Drainage Canal)	2,000.00	83,700.00	01st August 2021

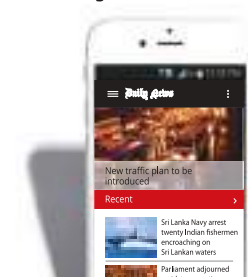
**A.Stanley De Mel
Chairman / District Secretary
Department Procurement Committee,
District Secretariat,
Mannar.**

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Medical Research Institute INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT & LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

1. Sealed Tenders For the supply of following computer equipment & Laboratory equipment will be received by the Chairman, MRI Divisional Procurement Committee, Danister de Silva Mw, Colombo 08 up to 10.00 a.m. on 31.05.2021.

- 01. Server Unit** 01No. (Health IT Dept. (FB/07/2020))
02. Platelet Aggregometer 01No. (Hematology Dept.(FB/12/2020))
03. Refrigerator 4°C — 8°C 01No. (Rabies & Vaccine QC Dept.(FB/05/2021))

2. Tenders brought by hand should be deposited in the Tender Box kept in Finance Department, Medical Research Institute, Colombo 08. If not Tenders may be forwarded under Registered cover to Chairman, Divisional Procurement Committee, MRI, Colombo 08. Reach at or before 10.00 a.m. on 31.05.2021

3. Tenderer or an authorized representative is allowed to be present at the time of opening of tenders. Tenders will be opened immediately after the closing of Tenders at the Medical Research Institute at above address.

4. Sealed Tenders should be made on a complete set of bidding documents in Duplicate (Original & one copy) purchased by any interested eligible Tenderer, Agent, Representative Or Nominee for or on behalf of a Tenderer on the submission of,

- A written application to the Director (Actg), Medical Research Institute, Colombo 08 &
- Upon payment of the Non-refundable fee of Rs. 3000.00 (for each tender document set) in cash to the Director, MRI &
- Certificate of business registration with a photo copy or certified copy.

5. Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Medical Research Institute from 06.05.2021 to 28.05.2021 between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. during any working day.

6. Further Information could be obtained from Office of the MRI (Tel-011-2693532 / 3 / 4 Fax - 011-2691495.

**Chairman,
Provincial Procurement Committee,
Medical Research Institute,
Colombo 08.**

STATE MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

DESIGN, MODIFICATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY - KURUNEGALA

Contract No.: SDVT/PRO/01/05/2021

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC) of the State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders to Design, Modification and Refurbishment of College of Technology – Kurunegala as described below and estimated to cost of Rs. 200 Million.

Renovations of buildings, Demolition of Haphazard buildings, Landscaping, Design and Construct of Facility Building including cafeteria, Interior arrangement of the existing classrooms with new furniture and existing furniture and modification of main entrance.

Contract Period - 5 Months and 365 days of defects liability period.

2. Bidding will be conducted through national Competitive Bidding Procedure – (Bidder has to submit Preliminary Information, Design/Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in duplicate. The proposal will consist of two different sealed envelopes, where the first envelope will contain the Preliminary Information, Design/ Technical Proposal and the second envelope will contain the Financial Proposal). Bid price of the technically qualified bidders will be read out at the time of opening of financial bid.

3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall meet the requirements of Institution for Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) registration with the Grade C3 and C2 for Building Construction.

4. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,

- Average annual turnover value of the company in last three years shall be at least LKR 300 million.
- Experience in successful completion of one project in similar nature of which value shall not be less than LKR 150 million within last five years.
- The minimum amount of liquid assets and/or credit facilities (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract shall be not less than LKR 25 million.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Assistant Secretary (Procurement), State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5 and inspect the Bidding documents free of charge at the same address from 05/05/2021 until 07/06/2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to The Secretary, State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5 from 05/05/2021 until 07/06/2021 from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs during a working day upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees thirty five thousand (LKR 35,000.00).The method of payment will be in cash.

7. Bids shall be delivered to The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5 or shall be deposited in the tender box placed in the Procurement Division, Ground floor, State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 5 on or before 1400 hrs on 08/06/2021. Late Bids will not be accepted. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

8. All bids shall be accompanied by a "Bid Security" of two million Sri Lanka Rupees (LKR 2,000, 000.00) issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. This Bid-Security shall be in the form of an unconditional, on demand bond and shall be obtained in favour of Secretary, State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation, and shall be valid up to 05/10/2021.

9. Pre Bid meeting will be held at Technical College – Kurunegala at 1100 Hrs on 12/05/2021.

**The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),
State Ministry of Skills Development, Vocational Education,
Research and Innovation,
No. 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha,
Colombo 5.**

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNEED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.03.2020 at the undermentioned branches and service centres of the Hambantota Region of People's Bank and unredeemed up to dates indicated below will be sold by public auction at 9.00 a.m. each day at places as stated below.

Branches / Service Centres	Articles Unredeemed Up To	Date of Auction	Place of the Auction Bank premises of
Tangalle - 067 Tangalle S.C. Witharandeniya SC. Walasmulla - 120 Angunakolapelessa - 205 Beliatta - 244 Middeniya - 265 Katuwana S.C. Kudawella - 288 Ranna - 345 Weeraketiya - 350	03.06.2021	04.06.2021	Tangalle Branch Premises (Auditorium)
Hambantota - 007 Weerawila S.C. Administrative Complex Sayurupaya S.C. Tissamaharama - 061 Lunugamwehera S.C. Sooriyawewa - 264 Ambalantota - 072 Hungama S.C.	02.06.2021	03.06.2021	Ambalantota Branch Premises

The Bank reserves the right to cancel, amalgamate, re-auction or postpone these auctions.

**Regional Manager,
Peoples' Bank,
Regional Head Office,
Tangalle Branch (2nd Floor),
No. 146A, Matara Road,
Tangalle.**



STATE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL DANGEROUS DRUGS CONTROL BOARD

PURCHASING OF RAPID ON-SITE DRUG SCREENING TEST KITS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR THE PILOT STUDY ON DRUG SCREENING FOR IDENTIFICATION OF DRUGS/ SUBSTANCES OF ABUSE AMONG DRIVERS

IFB No.: 2021/NDDCB/NNL/SVC/OTH/RSD/REC/NCB/01

The Chairman, Procurement Committee invites sealed Bids from the Registered and Reputed Suppliers for the Purchasing of Rapid on-site Drug Screening Test Kits and Other Equipments for the Pilot Study on Drug Screening for Identification of Drugs/Substances of Abuse Among Drivers for the National Narcotics Laboratory of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board for efficient Laboratory Operations and Scientific Services.

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- The successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and shall have Business Registration with 3 years of experience in the relevant field.
- In addition, the bidder should submit a certificate of registration of the contract issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in Sri Lanka according to the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987 of the Government of Sri Lanka and subsequent gazette notifications (PCA3).
- The prospective bidders will have to collect the Bidding Document from the Procurement Unit at the 1st floor, Finance Division, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Scientific Officer, The National Narcotic Laboratory, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya. Contact No. 0112868794-6 and obtain the bidding documents at the 1st Floor, Procurement Division, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written request to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of LKR 1,000.00 on normal working days from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 06.05.2021 onwards from the Finance Division.
- Sealed Bids in duplicate may be dispatched either by Registered Post or hand delivered to Chairman, Procurement Committee, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya on or before 2.15 pm. on 25.05.2021. It should be written as Purchasing of Rapid on-site Drug Screening Test Kits and Other Equipments for the Pilot Study on Drug Screening for Identification of Drugs/Substances of Abuse Among Drivers at the left-hand corner of the envelope.
- Late Bids will be rejected and Bids will be opened soon after closing at the Auditorium, 3rd Floor, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 383, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya in the presence of bidders or their representatives.
- Bids shall be valid up to 77 days from the date of closing of bids.
- Bids shall be submitted with a Bid Security equivalent 1.5% of the estimated amount. The Bid Security should be issued from a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- The Procurement Committee decision will be the final decision. Further, NDDCB has the right to accept or reject any Bid without adducing any reasons and NDDCB will not be responsible for any costs or any expenses incurred by the prospective bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

**Chairman
Procurement Committee
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board
383, Kotte Road
Rajagiriya.**



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SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

KEGALLE. 035-5677210, 035-2222427
M.M. Saigado & Sons, Saigado Bakery & Hotel

KEGALLE. 035-4926489, 035-2231716
Red Rose Book Shop, Royal Shopping Complex, Main St,

RATNAPURA. 045-2223883, 0777-221939
Lake House Advertising Centre, No. 88, Main Street,

RATNAPURA. 045-2230730
G.G. Karunaratne, No. 16, Church Road

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

AMBALANGODA. 091-2255744 / 4382034
H.D. Mendis, 96 B 1/1, Galle Road,

AMBALANGODA. 091-2258483, 0779639214
"Royal Book Shop", No. 152, Main Street,

BADDEGAMA. 091 2292263, 091 3926084
Garage Book Shop,

BENTOTA 034-2270090, 034 2270572
Sumudu News Papers, No. 117, Galle Rd,

ELPITIYA. 091-2290746, 077-2609456
Chandima Groceries,

GALLE. 091-2232733, 091-5627646
New Aradhana Traders, 81, Maha Veediya,

GALLE. 0914-385548/0914-924261
Paranagama Traders, No. 28, P & J City, Gamini Mw,

HAMBANTOTA. 047-2220808, 0716-370337
Misiriya Stores, No. 37, Mahajana Poia,

HIKKADUWA. 091-2277792, 091-2277285
Galage News Agencies, No. 270A, Galle Rd,

MATARA. 041-2222185, 0414921530
Nimiriya Stores, 89, Dharmapala Mawatha,

TANGALLE 047-2240402
No. 158, Matara Road,

WALAHANDUWA 091-2222915
Madola Velendasela, Italgoda

UVA PROVINCE

BADULLA 055 2225616, 0777-444678
Lake House Advertising Office, No. 14, Opp. Muthiyangana Clock Tower,

BANDARAWELA. 057-2232145, 071 8269555
Nayana Book Shop, No. 34B,,

MONARAGALA. 055-2276397, 055-2276108
No. 19, Siri Ramya Stores,

CENTRAL PROVINCE

KANDY 081-4476362, 081-2222780
Jayakody Agencies, No. 229/A, Peradeniya Road,

GAMPOLA 081-2352379, 081-4485628
No. 24, Nuwara Eliya Road,

GAMPOLA 081-2352346, 081-2354547
Dawasa Centre, No. 14, Station Road,

MATALE 066-2222126
Malaka Traders (Pvt) Ltd. 55-57, Main Street

RATTOTA 066-2255292
S.J. Enterprises, No. 6, T.D. Jayarathne Mw,

UKUWELA 066-2244225
Coronation Hotel & Bakery, No. 09, Kalpitaya Rd,

EASTERN PROVINCE

TRINCOMALEE. 026-2225558
Trincomalee Lake House, 447, Dockyard Road,

TRINCOMALEE. 026-2222962, 071-8175933
A.S. Abdul Hameed, No. 333, Kandy Rd, Andamkulam.

BATTICALOA 065-2226034
Priya Stores, No. 01, Market Road,

KATHANKUDY 065-2246983, 0777-435566
A.L.M. Uwais, Old Post Office Building

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

ANURADHAPURA
Swarna Stores, No. 6, Kadapanaha, Anuradhapura.

KURUNDANKULAMA 025-2221411
Matale Junction, Mihintale Road,

POLONNARUWA 027-2222145, 077 1067968
Galle City Stores, Kaduruwela,

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

KURUNEGALA. 037222133, 037-2223790
Sampath Advertising Office, No. 15/6, Mihindu Mw,




CHILAW. 032-2221400, 077 3539397
Sathara Book Shop, Aluthwatta Road,

WAIKKALA. 0714-878252
Kithsiri Stores, Walaawa Junction,

classified@lakehouse.lk

011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343

Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

  		
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SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

KEGALLE. 035-5677210, 035-222427
M.M. Salgado & Sons, Salgado Bakery & Hotel

KEGALLE. 035-4926489, 035-2231716
Red Rose Book Shop, Royal Shopping Complex, Main St.

RATNAPURA. 045-2223883, 0777-221939
Lake House Advertising Centre, No. 88, Main Street,

RATNAPURA. 045-2230730
G.G. Karunaratne, No. 16, Church Road

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AMBALANGODA. 091-2258483, 0779639214
"Royal Book Shop", No. 152, Main Street,

BADDEGAMA. 091 2292263, 091 3926084
Garage Book Shop,

BENTOTA 034-2270090, 034 2270572
Sumudu News Papers, No. 117, Galle Rd,

ELPITIYA. 091-2290746, 077-2609456
Chandima Groceries,

GALLE. 091-2232733, 091-5627646
New Anadhana Traders, 81, Maha Veetiya,

GALLE. 0914-385548/0914-924261
Paranagama Traders, No. 28, P & J City, Gamini Mw.

HAMBANTOTA. 047-2220808, 0716-370337
Misiriya Stores, No. 37, Mahajana Pola,

HIKKADUWA. 091-2277792, 091-2277285
Galle News Agencies, No. 270A, Galle Rd,

MATARA. 041-2222185, 0414921530
Nilmini Stores, 69, Dharmapala Mawatha,

TANGALLE 047-2240402
No. 158, Matara Road,

WALAHANDUWA 091-2222915
Madola Velendaseela, Ihalgoda

UVA PROVINCE

BADULLA 055 2225616, 0777-444678
Lake House Advertising Office, No. 14, Opp. Muthiyangana Clock Tower,

BANDARAWELA. 057-2232145, 071 8269555
Nayana Book Shop, No. 34B,,

MONARAGALA. 055-2276397, 055-2276108
No. 19, Siri Ramya Stores,

CENTRAL PROVINCE

KANDY 081-4476362, 081-2222780
Jayakody Agencies, No. 229/A, Peradeniya Road,

GAMPOLA 081-2352379, 081-4485628
No. 24, Nuwara Eliya Road,

GAMPOLA 081-2352346, 081-2354547
Dawasa Centre, No. 14, Station Road,

MATALE 066-2222126
Malaka Traders (Pvt) Ltd. 55-57, Main Street

RAITOTA 066-2255292
S.J. Enterprises, No. 6, T.D. Jayarathne Mw,

UKUWELA 066-2244225
Coronation Hotel & Bakery, No. 09, Kalpitiya Rd,

EASTERN PROVINCE

TRINCOMALEE. 026-2225558
Trincomalee Lake House, 447, Dockyard Road,

TRINCOMALEE. 026-2222962, 071-8175933
A.S. Abdul Hameed, No. 333, Kandy Rd, Andamkulam.

BATTICALOA 065-2226034
Priya Stores, No. 01, Market Road,

KATHANKUDY 065-2246983, 0777-435566
A.L.M. Uwais, Old Post Office Building

NORTH CENTRAL PROVINCE

ANURADHAPURA
Swarna Stores, No. 6, Kadapanaha, Anuradhapura.

KURUNDANKULAMA 025-2221411
Matale Junction, Mihintale Road,

POLONNARUWA 027-2222145, 077 1067968
Galle City Stores, Kaduruwela,

NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE

KURUNEGALA. 0372222133, 037-2223790
Sampath Advertising Office, No. 15/6, Mihindu Mw,

CHILAW. 032-2221400, 077 3539397
Sathara Book Shop, Akuthwatta Road,

WAIKKALA. 0714-878252
Kithsiri Stores, Walaauwa Junction,




classified@lakehouse.lk
011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343
Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

Invitation for Bids

Invitation for Initial Selection Works (Design and Build Contract)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Invitation for Initial Selection

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA
NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
SANITATION AND HYGIENE INITIATIVE FOR TOWNS (SHIFT-1)
IN SOUTH WEST SRI LANKA

AFD CREDIT FACILITIES AGREEMENT NO: CLK 1013 01K

**PACKAGE 2: PLANT AND DESIGN-BUILD CONSTRUCTION OF
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND EFFLUENT DISPOSAL
SYSTEM FOR NEGOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AREA**

CONTRACT No.: NWSDB/AFD/SHIFT-1/DB/PACKAGE-2/2019-02

Reference to the advertisement dated 2021.03.17.
Please note that the closing date of this tender has been extended up to 17th May 2021 at 02.00 p.m.

Chairman
National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWSDB)

GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

STATE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY EDUCATION, SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND EDUCATION SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

TO ENHANCE QUITABLE ACCESS TO AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF ECD SERVICES IN SRI LANKA (USD 50Mn)

ASSISTED BY THE WORLD BANK

VACANCIES

The world Bank funded Early Childhood Development Project established under the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-school & Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services invites applications from individuals for the following positions.

1. PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST

A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in relevant field offered by a university recognized by the University Grants Commission

or

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as equivalent to a degree in the relevant field

or

An Associate membership / similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the above field with at least 7 years post qualification in relevant experience.

An officer of the Government Accountancy Service class 111/11 with at least 7 years experience in class 111/11 post experience in procurement in foreign funded projects is preferable and be familiar with World Bank Procurement procedure and STEP (Systematic Tracking of Exchange in Procurement)

Age limit should be below 65 at the date of closing of applications.

2. PROJECT OFFICERS

Bachelor's Degree in Finance /Management/Sociology/Quantity Surveying/Civil Engineering field offered by a university recognized by the University Grants Commission

A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as equivalent to a degree in the above areas

or

An Associate membership a similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the above fields

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than NVQ level 7 issued by Technical/Vocational training Institute, accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to the technical field.

And

At least 2 years experiences in the required area of specialization.

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than NVQ level 6 issued by Technical/Vocational training Institute, accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical/Educational and Training field, and at least 7 years experience in the required area of specialization.

or

Having obtained a certificate of proficiency not below than NVQ level 5 issued by Technical/Vocational training Institute, accepted by Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission for a post related to Technical/Educational and Training field and at least 12 years experience in the required area of specialization.

Preference will be given to candidates with Finance/QS/Engineering/training qualification/ and experience in foreign-funded projects

Age limit should be below 60 years at the date of closing application.

3. MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

Candidate should have passed G.C.E Ordinary Level in six subjects and having Credit passes for Sinhala/Tamil/English with mathematics and two other subjects at one sitting and should have passed G.C.E Advanced level three subjects except for General paper (shall pass 3 subjects in the old syllabus)

And should have 2 years experiences in Accounts/office routine with computer literacy

Age limit should be below 35 years at the date of closing application.

Remuneration

For the position 1, Salary and other conditions will be as per Management Services Circular No 01/2019 (PS4)

For the position 2, PS6 as per Management Services Circular 1/2019

For the position 3, the salary scales will be MN2 as per the Public Administration Circular No. 3/2016

EPF and ETF contribution by the Employer will be 12% and 3% respectively.

Eligible candidates are requested to apply with complete curriculum vitae including the name and addresses of two non-related referees with copies of Educational, Professional and Experience Certificates to reach the Secretary, State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-school & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services, 5th Floor Sethsiripaya, Stage 2, Battaramulla on or before 15.05.2021.(Please mark the post applied for on the top of left-hand corner of the envelope)

Employees of Statutory and government organizations are requested to submit their applications through the Heads of Organizations.

Short-listed candidates will be requested to be present for an interview with the originals of all relevant Certificates.

Secretary
**State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Pre-school & Primary Education,
School Infrastructure & Education Services**
Sethsiripaya Stage II
Battaramulla.

FINTREX

finance

PUBLIC NOTICE


We are happy to announce to all our customers and agents that the Kiribathgoda branch of Fintrex Finance Limited, located at No 107, First Floor, Makola Road, Kiribathgoda will be moving to new office premises as of May 6, Thursday 2021. The new premises will open with a new look and be closer to our customers, making their everyday financial dealings with the company seamless and prompt.

No 67/3/B, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda
We would like to inform that whilst all our email addresses and phone numbers would remain unchanged, please visit us at No 67/3/B, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda if you need to access our services and to attend to all your inquiries from the Kiribathgoda branch.



Fintrex Finance Limited
Kiribathgoda Branch
No 67/3/B, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda.
Telephone no: 0117 977 400 Fax: 0115 200 503
Email: info@fintrexfinance.com
Website: www.fintrexfinance.com

Employment Opportunities



Ministry of Agriculture

AGRICULTURE SECTOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT

RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT STAFF - (Colombo)

The Ministry of Agriculture with the financial assistance of the International Development Agency (IDA) of the World Bank is implementing the Agriculture Sector Modernization Project in line with the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) to support smallholder farmers to produce competitive and marketable commodities, improve their ability to market requirements and move towards increased commercialization. The remaining period for the project implementation period is about 2 years and the the estimated cost of the project is US\$ 64.23 million.

Applications are invited from the citizens of Sri Lanka with the below mentioned qualifications and experience to fill the following position of the Project Management Unit (PMU) in Colombo as per the Management Services Circular No.01/2019 of 05.03.2019

01. Internal Auditor (PS 4) - 01 Post

- **Required Qualification**
 1. A successfully completed Bachelor's Degree in the relevant field, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

Or
 - I. A qualification recognized by the University Grants Commission as an equivalent qualification to the degree in the relevant field

Or
 - II. An Associate membership / A similar professional qualification obtained from a recognized professional institution in the relevant field

With

At least 07 years post qualifying experience in the relevant field.
- 2. An officer of the Government All Island Services Class III/II or above or similar status in the relevant field.

With

At least 07 years of experience in Class III / II post

 - Shall not be more than 64 years of age on the closing date of application.
 - Experience in auditing is given high priority.
 - Knowledge/experience in procurement will be highly relevant for the above position and given high priority.

Method of Selection : Shortlisted applicants based on qualifications and experience will be called for an interview.

Salary Scale : Salary is based on the Management Services Circular No.01/2019 of 05.03.2019.

Conditions of Employment

Officers belonging to Government Services will be recruited on secondment basis and persons outside the Government Service will be recruited on contract basis. All appointments will be initially for on year period and extension of service will be based on successful performance.

Applications :

All Applicants are requested to forward their applications together with Curriculum Vitae along with two non - related referees and copies of the certificates under registered post on or before 19th May 2021 to reach the address given below. Applicants currently in government / semi-government services should forward their applications through the Heads of Departments.

(Applicants who have already applied as per the paper advertisement dated 09.10.2020 are not required to reapply please)

 - **Applied post and the project name should be clearly stated on the top left hand corner of the envelope containing application.**

Project Director
Agriculture Sector Modernization Project
(Ministry of Agriculture)
No. 123/2, Pannipitiya Road,
Battaramulla.

Employment Opportunities



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION VACANCIES

The University Grants Commission being the apex body of the University System will entertain applications from suitably qualified persons for the following two (02) posts in the University Grants Commission Secretariat ;

- (A) POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY (LEGAL & DOCUMENTATION)
- (B) POST OF ASSISTANT NET WORK MANAGER, GRADE II

(1) **Qualifications:**

- (A) POST OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY (LEGAL & DOCUMENTATION)

(a) An Attorney-at-Law with a Degree in Law/Legal Studies with not less than two (02) years of experience gained in Court work, legal work and drafting legal documentation in a State/ Corporation or reputed private sector organization or official bar after obtaining the above qualifications.

OR

(b) An Attorney-at-Law with not less than three (03) years of experience gained in court work, legal work and drafting legal documentation in a State/Corporation or reputed private sector organization or official bar after obtaining the above qualifications.

Salary Scale: U-EX 1(II), Rs. 50,625 - 3 x 1,125 - 54,000 (EB) 55,335 ; 12 x 1,335-71,355 p.m. (In addition, the Government approved allowances are payable.)

Selection Criteria: Selection will be made by a structured interview.

- (B) POST OF ASSISTANT NET WORK MANAGER, GRADE II

(i) A First or Second Class in the B.Sc Special Degree in Computer Science/Computer Engineering from a recognized University.

OR

(ii). (a) A pass in the B.Sc. Special Degree in Computer Science/ Computer Engineering from a recognized University.

or

A First or Second class in the B.Sc. General Degree with Computing as a subject component from a recognized University.

and

(b) One year experience in the field of Computing/ Networking.

OR

(iii) (a) A pass in the B.Sc. General Degree with Computing as a subject component from a recognized University.

or

A First or Second class in the B.Sc. General Degree (where computing is not a subject component) from a recognized University.

and

(b) Two years experience in the field of Computing/Networking.

OR

(iv) A pass in the B.Sc. General Degree (where Computing is not a subject Component) from a recognized University.

and

Three years experience in the field of Computing/Networking.

OR

(v) Any other Degree.

and

A Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science/Computer Technology from a recognized University.

and

One year experience in the field of Computing/Networking.

OR

(vi) 15 years experience as a Computer Programmer in the University Service.

Salary Scale : U-AS 2 (II) - Rs. 50,625 - 3x1,335 - 54,630 (EB) 55,965 - 14x1,335-74,655 p.m. (In addition, the Government approved allowances are payable.)

Selection Criteria: Selection will be made by aptitude test and interview.

(2) **Other benefits applicable to the posts :**

(i). **Provident Fund and Contributory Pension Scheme**
10% and 7% of the salary by the employee and employer respectively, will be credited to the Universities Provident Fund. 8% of the salary will be credited to the Pension Fund by the employer.

(ii). **Employees Trust Fund**
3% of the salary by the employer.

(iii). **Gratuity**
Payment of Gratuity will be in accordance with the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act. No. 12 of 1983.

(3) **Application Procedure:**

(i). Duly filled specimen application form should be sent to Senior Assistant Secretary/Personnel, University Grants Commission, No:20, Ward Place, Colombo 07 under registered cover along with copies of the relevant certificates to reach on or before 21.05.2021 (Specimen application form is available in the UGC website, i.e. www.ugc.ac.lk). Applications sent in the prescribed form will only be accepted.

(ii). The name of the post applied for, should be stated on the top left hand corner of the envelope.

(iii). Candidates in the service of the University Grants Commission and Higher Educational Institutions/ Institutes, Government Departments, State Corporations and Statutory Boards should channel their applications through the Heads of their respective Institutions. Applications which are not forwarded through the respective Heads of Departments will be rejected.

(iv). Applications received after the closing date and incomplete applications will not be entertained.

(v). University Grants Commission reserves the right to shortlist the candidates.

Secretary
University Grants Commission
No: 20, Ward Place
Colombo-07.

THE ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF CEYLON LIMITED VACANCY

POSTS OF ELECTRONICS MAINTENANCE EXECUTIVE

Applications are invited for the Posts of Electronics Maintenance Executives of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited from suitably qualified Sri Lankan citizens who possess the following qualifications and requirements.

Qualifications:

- National Diploma in Technology (NDT) or
- Higher National Diploma in Engineering (HNDE) or
- National Diploma in Engineering Science (NDES) or
- Diploma in Engineering in Open University Sri Lanka or equivalent or higher in Electronics and/or Telecommunication Engineering

Requirements:

- Thorough knowledge in Electronics, Communication and Electrical Engineering concepts
- Experience in Digital and Analog Control Electronics including Microprocessor controlled systems
- Acquaintance in PC Hardware and Networking
- Hands on experience in any of the above would be advantageous.

Age: Below 35 years

Salary : Negotiable

If you possess the above qualifications, please forward your Curriculum Vitae with copies of the certificates and names and contact details of two non-related referees to the under-mentioned address or send to the following e-mail address within 14 days of this advertisement. Please state the position applied for, on the top left corner of the envelope or in the subject line of the e-mails.



Head of Human Capital
The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited
No. 35, D.R.Wijewardene Mawatha, Colombo 10.
E-mail : dgm.hc@lakehouse.lk



State Ministry of Solar, Wind and Hydro Power Generation Projects Development

Vacancy Notice

Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Applications are invited from suitably qualified citizens of Sri Lanka, for the following posts. The appointments will be made to the permanent cadre, at salary scales approved by the government to such posts.

Director (Finance)

Qualifications & Experience (1 or 2 below)

1. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting / Financial Management / Commerce / Business Administration / Business Management recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.

WITH

Master's Degree in the relevant field of Accounting / Financial Management / Commerce / Business Administration / Business Management which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka or Associate membership or equivalent qualifications of a professional chartered institute. (ACA/ACMA/ACCA).

AND

Minimum of fifteen (15) years' experience at a "Managerial Level" in a Corporation, Statutory Board/Institution or a reputed private institution.

2. Full membership of a recognized professional Chartered Institution in the field of finance/accounting (ACA/ACMA/ACCA).

AND

Minimum of fifteen (15) years' experience at a "Managerial Level" in a Corporation, Statutory Board/ institution or a reputed private institution.

Salary Scale : HM 1-1-2016 Rs. [80,295-15 x 2,270 -114,345]
(Government approved other applicable allowances will be paid)

Assistant Director (Engineering) - 07 Posts

Qualifications & Experience

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering in the fields of Electrical or Mechanical related to Energy which is recognized by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka or Associate Membership of institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka.

Salary Scale: MM 1-1 - 2016 Rs. [53,175 - 10 x 1,375 - 15 x 1,910 - 95,575]
(Government approved other applicable allowances will be paid)

Age Limit for all positions:

Not more than 45 years of age at the closing date of Applications. (This upper age limit will not apply to Employees of government corporations / statutory boards / public sector institutions.)

How to apply:

Applications giving curriculum vitae with name, address and telephone numbers of two non-related referees with certified copies of all relevant certificates should be sent under registered cover to reach Director General, Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority, No.72, Ananda Coomarswamy Mawatha, Colombo 07, on or before **19th May 2021**.

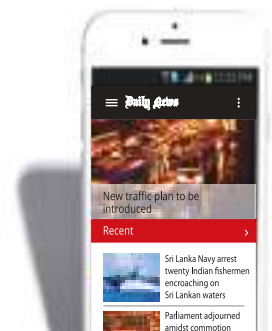
The post applied for shall be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Applications from employees in government corporations/ statutory boards/ public sector institution should be forwarded through their respective heads of institutions, if such applications are to be considered.

Director General
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority
No.72, Ananda Coomarswamy Mawatha,
Colombo 07.

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