

KONE
Elevators Escalators
SCAN 0 777 777 426
Dedicated to People Flow™ KONE

Daily News

100 PLUS YEARS
LAKE HOUSE
f dailynews.lk @dailynews.lk

SRI LANKA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER | SINCE 1918
THURSDAY MAY 6, 2021 | 32 PAGES | VOLUME - 103 - NO 106 RS. 30.00 | REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN SRI LANKA | LATE CITY ★

GET READY TO WIN LAPTOPS
STAND A CHANCE TO WIN LAPTOPS FOR EVERY RELOAD OR BILL PAYMENT OF RS. 50/-
For SLTMobitel Mobile and Home customers.
WEEKLY WINNERS!
www.sltmobitel.lk

TOUGH MEASURES MULLED TO CONTAIN CONTAGION

MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS CONTEMPLATED

100 GN/POLICE DIVISIONS ISOLATED

RECOVERIES EXCEED 100,000 MARK

BHAKTHI DHARMAPRIYA MENDIS and RAKSHANA SHIVANTHA



Restrictions of movement among Provinces will have to be imposed if the COVID-19 cases increase unabated, Health Services Director General Dr. Asela Gunawardena said.

Close to 100 Grama Niladhari Divisions and Police areas have been isolated as at yesterday due to the rapid spread of COVID-19. Public Health Inspectors' Association President Upul Rohana pointed out that there is a risk of the pandemic getting out of hand of the health authorities if

people continue to break the health guidelines and instructions. He pointed out that the daily cases were rising sharply and hospitals and care centres were stretched to the limit. In the last seven days, an average of 1,699 new COVID-19 cases had been reported daily in the country according to the statistics. The average number of daily PCR tests conducted during the same period stood at 23,651.

SLBC to air *Rathana Sutta* to bless India

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) will broadcast a chanting of the *Rathana Sutta* (Jewel Discourse) aimed at listeners in India with the aim of invoking blessings on the leaders and people of India who have been affected greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic. This broadcast, which begins today, will be aired for seven days. The *Rathana Sutta* will be chanted by leading Bhikkus in Sri Lanka. The programme is being coordinated by the Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.

PM elected ADB Chair

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who, as the Minister of Finance, serves as the Governor for Sri Lanka Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), was elected Chair of the ADB Board of Governors for the year 2021/2022 during the 54th Annual Meeting held virtually yesterday.

SL ranked 69th in National Cyber Security Index

Sri Lanka has advanced in the National Cyber Security Index from 98th place in 2020 to 69th place in 2021, the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) said.



Police arrest 75 in WP for quarantine violations

The Police arrested 75 people following a special operation in the Western Province on Tuesday night for keeping nightclubs, spas, and betting centres open violating the new quarantine regulations, Police Spokesperson DIG Ajith Rohana said.

Will remove misinformation around COVID-19, false claims about vaccine: Facebook

Facebook on Tuesday said that disinformation with the deliberate intent to mislead the public as part of a manipulation campaign using fake accounts



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa visited Parliament yesterday and was warmly welcomed by Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando at the main Parliament entrance. Here, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa seated in the Chamber next to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Leader of the House Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena. Picture courtesy President's Media Division

Minister requests Speaker: Do not allow Rishad to attend Parliament until investigations completed

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera yesterday (05) requested the Speaker not to allow MP Rishad Bathiudeen, who is detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) to attend Parliament until the investigations relating to his arrest are completed.

the relevant investigations are over. Any statement made by MP Bathiudeen following his attendance in Parliament may hinder the investigations. It may even allow other persons who should be investigated later on, to evade arrest or flee the country. Weerasekera made this statement as the Opposition yesterday (05) raised concerns on not allowing MP Rishad Bathiudeen to attend Parliament.

No legal obstacles for Rishad attending Parliament - AG

DILSHAN THARAKA

The Attorney General yesterday informed the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) that there is no legal impediment in facilitating MP Rishad Bathiudeen to attend Parliament sessions.

State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said that the Attorney General informed this following a request made by the Director of the CID. The CID has arrested MP Rishad Bathiudeen and his brother Riyaj Bathiudeen on the charges of aiding and abetting the suicide bombers

responsible for the 2019 April 21 attacks, on April 24, 2021. Following their initial interrogation for 72 hours, MP Bathiudeen and his brother have been detained by the CID for another three months under detention orders from the Secretary to Defence.

Opt for a partial lockdown - MP Kiriella

CAMELIA NATHANIEL and AMALI MALLAWARACHCHI



The Chief Organiser of the Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) MP Lakshman Kiriella yesterday (05) requested the government to partially lockdown the country to control the

spike in the COVID-19 pandemic. MP Kiriella urged the Government that if it cannot opt for a total lockdown, it should isolate areas or regions which are greatly affected by the pandemic. MP Kiriella made these observations

joining the second day of the debate held in Parliament on the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic in the country. MP Kiriella also said the government has failed to curtail the spread of the pandemic and it should take swift decisions to stop any escalation.

Dambulla Economic Centre re-opens

SIGIRIYA SPECIAL CORR.

The Dambulla Special Economic Centre was re-opened yesterday under strict health guidelines, and within the first hour of its opening the health authorities ordered to close down five shops which did not follow health instructions.



Vehicles waiting to enter the Dambulla Special Economic Centre after it was re-opened yesterday. Picture by Sigiriya Special Corr.

The Centre was closed for the public on April 25 after identifying 48 COVID-19 patients in it. After re-opening, four employees were allowed in each shop. They were selected after conducting PCR tests.

The Police constantly instructed the people to maintain a two-metre

First Bond Scam Case postponed for June 7

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The case filed against former Central Bank Governor Arjun Mahendran and nine others in connection with the first Central Bank Bond Scam that took place in February 2015 was yesterday postponed for June 7 in the face of prevailing COVID-19 situation.

The Permanent Trial-at-Bar Bench comprising High Court Judges Champa Janaki Rajaratna, Damith Thotawatta and Namal Balalle decided to fix the case for June 7, adhering to the circular issued by Judicial Service Commission taking into consideration the present COVID-19 related situa-

tion. The Permanent Trial-at-Bar bench has already issued a warrant written in English through the Interpol for the arrest of former Central Bank Governor Arjun Mahendran who is currently evading Courts by residing overseas in connection with the Central Bank Bond Scam case.

UNP urged to nominate MP

R.M.WIJERATHNA - HALIELA GROUP CORR

The Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) writing to the United National Party (UNP) has underlined that the Party has violated the people's democratic rights by not appointing a Member to its National List Seat in Parliament.

It has urged the UNP to immediately fill its solitary Parliamentary Seat that has been vacant for seven months since the General Election.

CaFFE Executive Director Ahamad Makeen Manas writing

RAMADAN Prayer Time

DATE	04-08
Sahar End	04-22
Subah	04-37
Sun Rise	05-57
Luhar	12-09
Asar	03-27
Mahgrib	06-19
Isha	07-39

SINCE 1930
ALLIED TRADING INTERNATIONAL (PVT) LTD
SRI LANKA'S NO.1 PIPELINE MATERIALS COMPANY

SURF THE INTERNET ANYTIME OF THE DAY WITH

Dialog POWER PLAN
FOR MOBILE POSTPAID

Up to 50GB Anytime Data

Unlimited D2D Calls and SMS

Unlimited plans starting from Rs. 1,000/-*

Get a new connection from www.dialog.lk or visit any authorised dealer island wide

Dialog Postpaid - Power To You

Dialog
The Future.Today.

COVID-19 recoveries top 100,000

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The total number of COVID 19 positive patients detected in the country remained at 115,590 as at yesterday morning, the Epidemiology Unit of the Health Ministry stated.

At present, 100,075 of them have recovered

while 14,795 are remain in hospitals. The Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) urged the people to avoid crowded places, closed spaces and close-contact settings to stop the spread of COVID 19.

The Bureau further urged people to continue to practice COVID-19 prevention

guidelines including handwashing, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and avoiding crowded gatherings, and staying home if one experiences symptoms such as cold, cough, fever and sore throat.

The HPB has singled out indoor spaces with poor ventilation as potential infection

hotspots and conversations in close - contact settings could spread the virus through droplets.

"One of the most contagious and high risk areas for COVID-19 are crowded places. Because some people can be asymptomatic and may show mild to no symptoms,

so it is difficult to detect the infection and prevent contracting.

At a time when COVID 19 is spreading rapidly across the country, be sure to avoid the above risk factors as much as possible for the safety of everyone," the Bureau urged.

Alleged environmental pollution within Muthurajawela Sanctuary; Wildlife Dept. files report

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Wildlife Department in a report submitted to the Court of Appeal has revealed that many privately owned lands can be found within the Muthurajawela Sanctuary. The Wildlife Department submitted to the Court that fillings of lands and waste disposal have taken place as this area has become more densely populated through illegal acquisition of lands.

In its report, the Wildlife Department has revealed a number of illegal constructions and filling of lands within the Muthurajawela Sanctuary and feared that this situation could bring adverse effects to both animal and human community as a whole. The Wildlife Department had

filed this report in connection with the writ petitions filed by Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith and Centre for Environmental Justice.

According to the report, it includes an incident in which a village consisting of 15 houses (Kindigoda Village) had been constructed within the Muthurajawela Sanctuary.

The Wildlife Department further informed that Seeduwa-Katunayake Municipal Council is dumping garbage to a private land located within the Muthurajawela Sanctuary and a case had been filed in this regard at Negombo Magistrate's Court.

The Wildlife Department further said removal

of notice board of Muthurajawela Sanctuary had occurred in 2017. Referring to a 700-acre land which brought attention to the society, the Wildlife Department said that a private owner is claiming his rights for the land. The report further revealed that a massive wall had been built in a private land located within Muthurajawela Sanctuary at Kindigoda area.

Meanwhile, taking into consideration the prevailing security situation, the Wildlife Range Officer in Charge of Muthurajawela Sanctuary has highlighted the necessity of having an official firearm in order to discharge their duties.

The Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Arjuna Obeyesekere

and Justice Mayadunna Corea fixed two petitions for July 12.

In their petition, Centre for Environmental Justice and its Executive Director Withanage Don Hemantha Ranjith Sisira Kumara named Central Environmental Authority, Minister of Environment, Minister of Wild Life and Forest Conservation and nine others as respondents.

The petitioners are seeking an interim order directing the respondents to stay any further dumping of waste and the filling of lands within the Muthurajawela Sanctuary.

Filing this petition through counsel Ravindranath Dabare, the petitioners alleged that a land filling racket has been going on for years

mainly due to the fact that the said sanctuary is situated at a prime location, in the close vicinity to Port City, highway, other development projects and Colombo.

The Petitioners state that Muthurajawela and Negombo lagoon wetland complex is located 10 km North of Colombo in the Gampaha District, of the Western Province.

President's Counsel Shamil Perera with counsel Duthika Perera under the instructions of counsel Sandun Nagahawatta appeared for Colombo Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. Counsel Ravindranath Dabare appeared for the CEJ.

PM elected... From page 01

The annual meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, but took place online due to the current pandemic. The 55th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors is scheduled to be held in Colombo next year.

Addressing the delegates, Prime Minister Rajapaksa said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented loss of human life and has disrupted almost all aspects of our lives, our

societies, our economies, our value systems, and our cultural practices. In that background, I believe the time is now right to reflect and regroup. After all, this century is the Asian Century.

Our region has faced many crises, but Asia is also known for its resilience. Therefore, it is not surprising that our region is leading the growth story of the world, even during the current pandemic.

Fellow Governors, emerging Asia has a responsibility to lead the world. We must ensure sustainable practices that will make our environment resilient to climate change. Our policy solutions must be environmentally and socially sustainable.

The need now is to collectively cooperate in addressing our common issues. Towards this goal, we must be ready to adopt practices



and technologies that help us make use of natural resources more efficiently.

In that regard, Sri Lanka has already identified the importance of digitalization to facilitate the delivery of services within a "green economy." Our Government has also accelerated the drive to digitize public sector services as well.

We must, in addition, reduce our reliance on fossil

fuels. We believe the ADB must lead the way in supporting member countries to make the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The ADB must extend support to emerging Asia to have smarter, eco-sustainable cities.

Another important area of focus is Women's Empowerment. We must recognize the crucial role that women play in creating a just and equitable society. While the Asian region has made sig-

nificant strides in this regard, this is still an area that requires more work as well as the allocation of more resources.

Let us also acknowledge the support extended by the ADB during the pandemic, which included the quick disbursement of a 20-billion dollar package. The 9-billion dollar Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility has also assisted Sri Lanka and many other countries to gain access to much-needed vac-

cines, and we are thankful to the ADB for this support.

The challenges ahead of us are daunting. However, I am certain that, together, we will be able to address these challenges efficiently and effectively, and that the ADB will provide the necessary leadership for that effort.

Finally, as the incoming Chair, it is my great pleasure to invite you to Colombo next year to attend the 55th Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors."

Tough measures... From page 01

A considerable number of health personnel, Divisional Secretaries, Police personnel, Grama Niladhari Officers and Military personnel are also infected with the virus leading to a problem of continuing public services in some areas.

In the meantime, the number of COVID-19 recoveries surpassed the mark of 100,000 yesterday as 922 more patients were discharged from hospitals after full recovery.

The total number of recoveries stood at 100,075 with yesterday's figures.

About 14,700 patients were still receiving treatment at hospitals and intermediate care centres.

As at 6pm yesterday 1,259 new COVID-19 cases were reported increasing the total number of cases in the country to 116,849.

About 928,100 individuals had received the first dose of COVID-

19 vaccine and 140,700 frontline workers had also received the second dose as at yesterday.

Meanwhile, State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana assured parliament yesterday that by December 31 this year 10.3 million of the population



of the country would be vaccinated.

He also denied claims made by certain factions that Indians are being quarantined in Sri Lanka, adding that there are no Indians under any quarantine procedures in the country.

"We have a plan for the vaccination programme and we are working according to that plan. However, due to the situation in India we

have faced certain difficulties in obtaining the vaccine supplies from India. By the end of the year, we will receive 13 million doses of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine for which we have already signed agreements," he said.

He also noted that 2,500 Chinese nationals in Sri Lanka have been given the Chinese Sinopharm vaccine and they have not shown any complications.

SLBC to... From page 01

It is believed that the Buddha first chanted the Rathana Sutta to invoke blessings on the denizens of the city of Vaishali in ancient India who faced evil forces, famine and pestilence.

To this day, it is chanted to ward off such calamities.

Minister requests... From page 01



The Leader of the Opposition Sajith Premadasa requested the Speaker to allow MP Bathiudeen to attend Parliament.

Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Lakshman Kiriella pointed out to the House that there is no clear rea-

son presented as to why MP Bathiudeen was not present in parliament yesterday (05) and the day before (04).

"Within the last 24 hours, I heard three rumoured reasons as to why MP Bathiudeen was not brought to

Parliament. One said MP Bathiudeen had close contacts with a COVID-19 patient. According to the family of MP Bathiudeen, the signature of the Speaker allowing the MP to attend Parliament was not available. Now these are three

stories and we do not know which is which. We request the Speaker to ensure the privileges of Parliamentarians," MP Kiriella said.

TNA MP M.A. Sumanthiran pointed out that such a move, as suggested by Minister Weerasekara,

has never happened in the history of Parliament. Sumanthiran pointed out that it would be very easy to hunt down political opponents if this proposal is accepted, as any MP could be taken into custody under the PTA and investigations

carried out for three months which will automatically cancel their seat in Parliament. He also observed that there could possibly be no legal restrictions in facilitating MP Bathiudeen from attending Parliament sessions.

Dambulla Economic... From page 01

distance from each other. Only the products of the farmers in the Matale district were purchased yesterday. The farmers in other districts will be allowed in from tomorrow.

The employees who broke the health guidelines were removed from the premises by the authorities. A canteen which was opened without permission was also instructed to close immediately.

SL ranked 69th... From page 01

The National Cyber Security Index (NCSI) is a global index which measures the preparedness of countries to prevent cyber threats and manage cyber incidents.

Sri Lanka has secured the 69th place this year out of 160 countries. This is an improvement of 29 positions compared to last year.

"Accordingly, Sri Lanka has developed its capacity in Cyber security policy development, Education and professional development, fight against cybercrime and Military cyber operations capacities," the SLCERT said.

The above were the indications considered for the Index.

"Sri Lanka is currently in the process of implementing the Nation's first Information and Cyber security Strategy (2019-2023) and it is expected that the successful implementation of the Strategy will shoot up country's position not only in NCSI but also in all the other global Information Security related indexes," it added.

The Index report said that Sri Lanka had recorded the 83rd position when it comes to the Global Cyber security Index, 117th position in the ICT Development Index and the 63rd ranks in the Networked Readiness Index.

Greece recorded first place in the Index and South Sudan ranked the last. India recorded 37th place while the United States recorded the 16th place.

Police arrest... From page 01

The DIG said Night Clubs, Gaming Centres and spas could not operate according to the health instructions issued on May 1.

Among the arrested are seven managers and 19 employees of such institutions.

The remaining 50 are those who visited those places in violation of quarantine regulations. The arrested persons were to be produced before the Magistrate Courts yesterday. The DIG said they would be dealt under the Quarantine Law and the Penal Code.

During the special operation conducted from 4 pm on Tuesday till 1 am on Wednesday, 47 nightclubs, 105



gaming centres, and 133 spas were inspected by the Police.

The DIG also said that the Police on Tuesday arrested another 173 persons for not wearing face masks and not maintaining social distance. He added that nine suspects were arrested for illegal gambling in Welipenna and Kalutara North Police areas.

The Police have arrested a total of 5,248 people since October 30, 2020 for violating quarantine regulations.

"Everyone, every institution, and the public, should be mindful of the new guidelines. If they violate those, they could be charged under sections 4 and 5 of the Quarantine and Pre-

Will remove... From page 01

will not be tolerated and their contents will be taken down immediately.

According to Facebook Product Policy Manager Misinformation Alice Budisatrijo, the company has a viable mechanism to deal with false information which could cause violence or imminent harm.

She was addressing a virtual briefing on fighting Misinformation at "Facebook: Keeping our Community Safe and Informed" via Zoom yesterday morning.

"Facebook has built a strong partnership with Sri Lanka's Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) to help build capacity, raise awareness about COVID-19-related health measures and support the vaccine roll-out".



She added that the company succeeded in launching a public health education campaign to tackle misinformation and will continue to direct people to the Health Promotion Bureau's website for latest information.

Budisatrijo while stressing that the people should have access to credible information said misinformation around COVID-19 and false claims related to vaccines will be removed from the platform.

"For example, if content in the Facebook suggests

that COVID-19 vaccine causes autism or miscarriage, such content will be removed because the WHO has said that there is no scientific evidence to prove the claim," she said.

She said that the company is always gathering information from health authorities and the World Health Organization in particular when dealing with misinformation with COVID-19.

However, Budisatrijo emphasized information with regard to the efficacy of vaccines and experiences of those who were vaccinated based on their experience or evidence will not be removed.

"We know how essential it is for the people to have access to credible information and for us to

remove harmful content," she said. She also said that the users can always report, if their information is removed by Facebook or when they disagree with the decision made by Facebook.

We have three pillars of strategy: We don't want to remove all of them, we will not remove all, we will remove the content that could mislead the public in the context of COVID-19 pandemic.

She said that the company has a three pronged strategy to deal with misinformation on Facebook.

"We have a three-part strategy for addressing misinformation on Facebook - Remove, Reduce and Inform. A part of this strategy is our third party fact checking programme," she said.

President visits Parliament

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in Parliament yesterday at around 10.05 a.m. The President was warmly welcomed by Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando along with State Ministers Kanaka Herath and D. V. Chanaka at the main Parliament entrance.

The President entered the Chamber accompanied by the MPs and Ministers and took his seat next to Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa. Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardana was addressing Parliament while the President



President Gotabaya Rajapaksa being welcomed by Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando on arrival in Parliament yesterday.

arrived in the Chamber. After leaving the Chamber, the President went to his office in

Parliament and stayed there for a while. This is the fifth time the President came to the

main Chamber after making the Policy Statement of the Ninth Parliament.

Bamboo and Kumbuk planting project covering Mahaweli River Basin

First ever MoU to be signed today

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the first ever Bamboo and Kumbuk planting project in Sri Lanka covering the Mahaweli River Basin, the longest river in the country, will be signed today, the Environment Ministry said in a press release.

The Ministry has taken steps to name each river a "River Conservation Zone" for the protection of Sri Lanka's 103 rivers. Plans are afoot to plant bamboo (*Bambusoideae*) and Kumbuk (*Terminalia Arjuna*) saplings in the river basin.

The Mahaweli River, which originates at the sacred Samanala Mountain flows into the ocean from Trincomalee Bay. It is one of the highest natural resources in the river system like the Ganga river in India.

The total river basin of the Mahaweli River is 10,448 square kilometres. The largest irrigation projects and agricultural zones in the country are being implemented under the Mahaweli River Development Project. Under this, there are several major irrigation dams which include Victoria, Randenigala, Rantambe, Polgolla, Bowatenna, Kotmale and Moragahakanda. Accordingly, the Environment Ministry has decided to commence a programme to plant bamboo and Kumbuk saplings covering both banks of the 335 km long Mahaweli River to conserve its river basin. It is estimated that 167,500 bamboo and Kumbuk plants will be needed for the purpose. Of these, 20 percent will be

bamboo plants and 80 percent will be Kumbuk plants.

"The most important thing about this project is that not a single rupee of government money is spent on it. Tokyo Cement Company is the full sponsor of this project," the release said. Launched under the name "Iwuru Rakina Pawuru", this tree planting programme will be the first large scale tree planting project in the history of our country. The Ministry and the Tokyo Cement Company will sign an agreement for this purpose today at the Ministry premises.

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera, Ministry Secretary Dr. Anil Jasinghe and Tokyo Cement Managing Director S. R. Gnanam will participate in this event.

Sri Lanka prays for health and well-being of Indian people

Indian HC, officials express gratitude

The High Commission of India on behalf of the Government and people of India, expresses his sincere gratitude to the clergy and people of Sri Lanka for their continuing prayers and well wishes for their brethren in India as a pandemic of epic proportions is being valiantly fought.

High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and officials serving at the High Commission of India are overwhelmed by numerous calls and messages they have received, in addition to the special ceremonies that are being organised in different parts of Sri Lanka, for the health and well-being of people of India.

Prayers and ceremonies for the people of India have been held in different parts of Sri Lanka. The chanting of 'Ratana Sutta' was held on several occasions in various temples. This includes the Kapilavastu Buddha Relics Chamber of Waskaduwa Rajaguru Sri Subhuthi Maha Viharaya under the auspices of Most Ven. Dr. Waskaduwa Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thera on April 29; Bharatha Ashirvada Puja led by Most Ven. Dr. Omalpe Sobhitha Nayake Thera at the Chamber of holy Buddha Relics at Sri Bodhiraja Monastery in Embilipitiya on May 1; at different places including the Agra Sravaka Viharaya, Maligakanda under the auspices of the Mahabodhi society on the same day; at Thiriyaya Raja Maha Viharaya in Trincomalee organised by Anuradha Yahampath, Governor of Eastern Province on May 2; Bharatha Ashirvada Puja at Gangaramaya Temple on May 3; at Sri Naga Vihara in Jaffna on May 5, 2021 etc. Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and Ministry of Budhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs are jointly organising a 7-day recital from May 6, 2021.

Hindu Religious Forum organised a special prayer at Kandarmadam Nataraj Temple in Jaffna on April 30, 2021. Ved Paarayan and Thirumurai recitals were also held as a part of these special prayers. Another prayer was organised by the Shirdi Sai Center in Colombo on May 2. Another special Puja dedicated to Goddess Dhanvantari for the health of people of India shall be conducted at Mayurpathy Temple in Colombo on May 7. In addition, Mahamritunjaya Yagya will be held at all five Eshwarams in Sri Lanka on May 8.

Prayers were held for India during the Sunday Service at the Anglican Church on May 2. Sri Lankan nationals from various walks of life who received their education in India came together to express their solidarity with India on April 27, 2021. Hashtags, such as 'thinkingofindia', 'PrayForIndia', are trending on social media in Sri Lanka. There are also public calls for various other unique solidarity gestures by several organisations and business enterprises.

It may be recalled that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had expressed deep empathy and concern in his letter to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 28.

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa conveyed his sentiments and solidarity to Prime Minister Modi during the meeting with High Commissioner Gopal Baglay on April 29.

The High Commission is touched and humbled by these prayers and well wishes, which is a true reflection of the deep people to people connect and the millennia-old bonds between India and Sri Lanka.

Fourteen GN Divisions isolated

Fourteen Grama Niladari (GN) Divisions in the Colombo, Gampaha, Ratnapura and Vavuniya Districts were isolated with effect from yesterday to control the spread of COVID-19, Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) General Shavendra Silva said.

Accordingly, about 100 GN and Police areas were under lockdown as at yesterday.

The newly isolated areas include Pamunawa Grama Niladhari Division (528) in Maharagama, where a large crowd was seen during the traditional New Year season for shopping.

Honnaththara North Grama Niladhari Division (585), Honnaththara South Grama

Niladhari Division (585 A), Delthara West Grama Niladhari Division (564) and Delthara East Grama Niladhari Division (564 A) in Piliyandala, Kuttivila Grama Niladhari Division (377 B) in Kirindiwela, Pallegama Grama Niladhari Division (214 A), Udagama Grama Niladhari Division (214) and New Town Grama Niladhari Division (214 G) in Embilipitiya, Walalgoda Grama Niladhari Division (213), Sudugala Grama Niladhari Division (212 A), and Panamurra Grama Niladhari Division (213 B) in Panamurra, Rathgama Grama Niladhari Division (162 F) in Wewelwatta and Kurukalputhukkulam Grama Niladhari Division (208 A) in Poovarankulam were newly isolated yesterday.



A three-member team of executives working in a private clothing company gifted preparatory needs for new COVID-19 Care Centres being set up by the Army. Sensitive to the COVID-19 emergency preparations, they gifted 7,800 metres of white cotton fabric used for bed sheets, bedspreads and pillow cases in newly-improvised Care Centres for COVID-19 patients. Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) General Shavendra Silva symbolically received the items. General Shavendra Silva awarded a memento to those young entrepreneurs as a symbol of appreciation and commendation of their timely gesture and thoughtfulness. Picture courtesy www.army.lk



Presents





UNION ASSURANCE

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

OF THE YEAR

YOUR LIFE, OUR STRENGTH.



UNION ASSURANCE
A JOHN KEELLS COMPANY

The Colombo Port City Economic Commission is the second of its kind that is similar to the GCEC to encourage foreign direct investments to the country in a bid to boost its economic prospects. The main objective of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) Bill is to showcase Sri Lanka to the entire world as a potential investment destination and an economic hub in the Indian Ocean with incentives.

Artist's impression of Port City interior



Port City under construction



COLOMBO PORT CITY: Key to greater FDI and development

Part 1

SHAMINDA WATTEGEDARA

The miracle of "Shenzhen" inspired governments globally to find ways and means out of adverse situations that plague countries in terms of their economic performance, especially in the post-second world war era.

Shenzhen was well-regarded the world over as the most judicious and prudent way of experimenting with fundamental economic reforms the Chinese leaders wanted to introduce to the country's economic structure.

It was more of a litmus test of how market reforms such as liberalisation of the economy works within the global economic context.

The man behind the Shenzhen success story was Chairman Deng Xiaoping. The story of Shenzhen began in May 1980 and spread its wings rapidly across various parts of China, making dramatic and dynamic changes in that country's economic growth story.

There was a similar success story in respect of economic growth in our own country when President J.R. Jayewardene strategically placed Sri Lanka in the global open market by introducing the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC) through a Parliamentary Act even before China embraced the market economy in a more phased out manner. Sri Lanka gradually lost its clout as a pioneering nation in the region to introduce market reforms, perhaps due to unforeseen and unknown reasons and internal political squabbles that led to economic instability.

At one stage former President Jiang Zemin, as a young engineer and a Vice Minister of China, visited Sri Lanka to study the pros and cons of a liberalised economy taking President Jayewardene's model as a case study before launching Shenzhen in 1980.

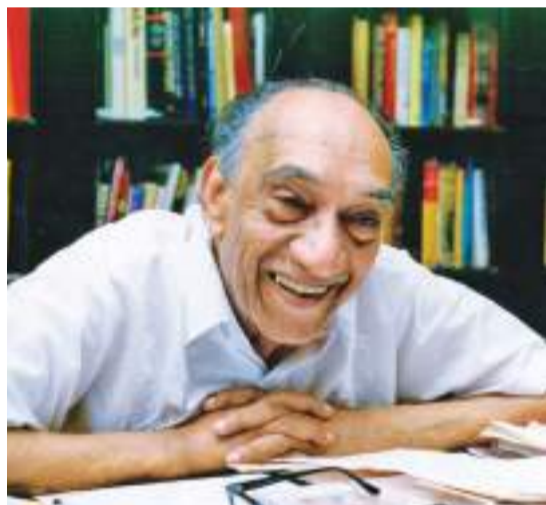
Former Foreign Secretary Bernard Goonetilleke who was assigned to Beijing as our ambassador had a personal tete-a-tete with Chairman Jiang Zemin when he presented his credentials some years ago.

Goonetilleke had this interesting story to relate on Chairman Jiang's visit to Sri Lanka.

"I presented credentials as Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the People's Republic of China to President Jiang Zemin in early 2000 as the successor of Ambassador R.C.A. Vandergert. Usually, several newly appointed ambassadors present their credentials to the Head of State at the same time. The usual practice is that the Chinese President makes use of the opportunity to have a short discussion with the newly appointed ambassadors.

When the opportunity came for me to present my credentials to the President, he took approximately 40 minutes to engage in a discussion with me which was unusual. The intimate discussion demonstrated not only China's interest in Sri Lanka as a friendly nation but also his affection towards our country.

The backdrop to the discussion was twofold. The first was the security situation in Sri Lanka resulting from the separatist war which was quite intense around that time. He wanted to get an overall picture of the security situation and how the Security Forces were managing it, in particular who was



Former President J.R. Jayewardene

President Jayewardene by all means was acting contrary to the assertions of the closed economic concept of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike and cracked open the economy to compete with external market forces.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, former Chinese President Deng Xiaoping, former Chinese President Jiang Zemin and former Ambassador Bernard Goonetilleke

responsible for supporting the LTTE. His interest was justifiable on two counts. One was that China was among the few countries that were supporting Sri Lanka against the LTTE, supplying arms, ammunition and heavy artillery weapons to fight the guerrilla group. The second was that China itself was facing a similar security situation in the Xinjiang autonomous region which was getting intense at that time.

The second area of discussion related to Sri Lanka's experience with the open economy introduced by the Government of the late President J.R. Jayewardene. As you would recall, China itself was moving in the direction of an open market economy and welcoming foreign investments during the latter part of the 1970s. The new administration in Sri

Lanka wanted to open up the economy and sought the assistance of the UNDP to get it moving in a new direction. For this, in 1978, the Government sought the support of the UNDP and through it obtained consulting services from Shannon Free Airport Development Company Ltd. Phase I of the GCEC project started in June 1979 and lasted till April 1980 whereupon phase II started in mid-1982 and lasted till 1983. Phase III of the project started in August 1984.

Around this time young Jiang, with a degree in electrical engineering and having worked as an engineer in several factories, had become Vice Minister of the State Commission on Imports and Exports (1980) and became a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (1982).

During the conversation, President Jiang said that in the early 1980s China was looking for a suitable model to open up its economy and sought the help of the UN (I presume it was UNDP) and decided to dispatch a team of experts for a study. For this purpose, they had selected two countries viz. Malaysia, which already had an open economy and Sri Lanka, which was moving from a closed to a free market economy with the establishment of the GCEC assisted by the UNDP.

During the discussion, he said that the Chinese team first went to Malaysia and later visited Sri Lanka. He said that the Government accorded them with all facilities and the GCEC officials were very cordial and helpful and requested the Chinese team to ask any question they wished to ask. After a successful visit, the Chinese team had returned home.

As an afterthought, President Jiang inquired from me whether I knew who was in the Chinese delegation and who headed it. While I knew of the visit, I was not privy to the details of the visit and I told

him so. What followed was a burst of loud laughter and thumping of the chest by President Jiang, loudly saying "I", meaning that that delegation was led by none other than him.

While I do not recall when this visit had taken place, it would have taken place around 1980 or 1981, in between Phase I and Phase II of the GCEC project. The rise of the Chinese economy commenced with the opening up of foreign trade and investment and the implementation of free-market reforms in 1979 which coincides with the establishment of the GCEC. There was no looking back so far as China was concerned, returning a real annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth averaging 9.5 percent through 2018, a pace described by the World Bank as "the fastest sustained expansion by a major economy in history".

Not even President Jayewardene would have thought that the young Vice Minister would become the President of China at a later stage.

President Jayewardene by all means was acting contrary to the assertions of the closed economic concept of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike and cracked open the economy to compete with external market forces.

He was aware of the intricacies that would crop up with controversial legislation where the Commission was empowered to amend or suspend certain laws stipulated in a Schedule of the Act.

President Jayewardene was mindful to enact the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC) Act when the 1972 first Republican Constitution was still in force and the National State Assembly, which was later replaced and named as the Sri Lanka Parliament under the constitutional reforms introduced by him in September 1978, was in existence.

The GCEC Act came into being in March 1978 under which Sri Lanka's first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was established.

Through the 1978 Constitution, among other things, the then UNP Government in power added an entrenched provision which stipulates that the 'Sovereignty of the People' that included the legislative power of the people is exercised through Parliament. Article 3 of the 1978 Constitution makes the Sovereignty of the People inalienable and Parliament in that context is unable to abdicate its power of suspending or amending Acts of Parliament and delegating the legislative power to another institution. Therefore, where the Colombo Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) Bill is concerned, the Government must take a fresh look at some of the provisions which would enable the Commission to exercise legislative power and which may fall outside its ambit. Legal experts are of the view that to make it workable, the Government may have to go before the people for approval unless it finds another way out to surmount this difficulty.

With the GCEC Act, President Jayewardene nevertheless circumvented a foreseeable difficult situation by passing it when the 1972 Constitution was in force. A two-thirds majority was sufficient to bring or introduce any reform necessary to make the GCEC workable. In the absence of the referendum clause linked to sovereignty in the Constitution, President Jayewardene fulfilled the required tenets of granting the Commission the power to make necessary amendments to the Parliamentary Acts specified in the Schedule. However, in the present context the Government has to exercise caution in dealing with this specific situation.

The Colombo Port City Economic Commission is the second of its kind that is similar to the GCEC to encourage foreign direct investments to the country in a bid to boost its economic prospects. The main objective of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) Bill is to showcase Sri Lanka to the entire world as a potential investment destination and an economic hub in the Indian Ocean with incentives. There are many arguments that it will be a separate entity and a pseudo-Chinese colony, but this argument does not hold any water.



Shenzhen

CEA to probe companies violating Gazette on plastic, polythene ban

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has instructed the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) to carry out immediate inspections on companies that have violated the Gazette Notification banning several products made of plastics and polythene. The Ministry has decided to take legal

action against companies that have violated the gazette notification issued on March 31 on disposable single-use plastics and polythene. The CEA has received a complaint regarding a company that issued 24 gramme sachet packets to the market in violation of several matters mentioned in the Gazette Notification.

Since March 31, five polythene and plastic-based products, (without pharmaceuticals and food sachets) weighing less than 20 grammes, have been banned. A discussion in this regard was held at the Ministry on Tuesday under the patronage of Minister Amaraweera. Ministry Secretary Dr.

Anil Jasinghe, CEA Chairman S. Amarasinghe also participated. The Minister instructed the CEA to immediately carry out inspections and enforce the law against companies violating regulations regarding the management of disposable plastic and polythene waste.

The Minister said that he was not ready to act as required by the multinational companies. The Minister also stated that it is the responsibility of all parties to implement the decisions taken by the Government for the environmental protection of the country.

Intermediate COVID-19 Care Centre established at Boossa Naval Base



Navy personnel putting the finishing touches on one of the wards.

One of the wards at the High Dependency Unit.

Working in line with the Government's efforts to expand facilities required to treat COVID-19 positive individuals, the Navy established an Intermediate Care Centre for COVID-19 with 162 beds, at the Boossa Naval Base in Galle on Tuesday.

Considering the need of the hour, the Navy converted a four storied building used for recruit training at the Boossa Naval Base, to an Intermediate Care Centre for COVID-19.

The Intermediate Care Centre consists of 12 wards with 150 beds as well as a High Dependency Unit (HDU) with 12 beds. Further, the Navy has attached medical staff including two doctors for this care centre to which COVID patients were admitted from Tuesday.



The four storied building which was converted into an Intermediate Care Centre for COVID-19 at the Boossa Naval Base

30 COVID cases detected after unauthorized wedding

A.A.L. DIAS Matale District Group Corr. Thirty guests at a wedding ceremony tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday after undergoing Antigen tests conducted at Diggala, Galewela, health officials said.

The wedding had been organised without obtaining permission from the health authorities.

Officials warned that it would be very difficult to control the spread of COVID-19 if people do not follow the health guidelines.

Free cremations of COVID-19 bodies

A.A.L. DIAS Matale District Group Corr. All cremations of COVID-19 bodies would be done free at divisional crematoriums which are managed under the Local Government institutions, Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Janaka Bandara Tennakoon said.

He was speaking at the District COVID-19 Control Committee Meeting held at the Matale District Secretariat recently.

Minister Tennakoon further said that COVID-19 treatment centres with 1,000 beds should be set up in the district immediately.

He pointed out that the newly constructed Government hospital at Ambana could accommodate 100 more beds.

Parliamentarians Nalaka Kottegoda, Rohana Dissanayaka, Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon, COVID Committee Coordinator U.M.M. Manage and District Health Director Chaminda Weerakoon also participated.

Anfas shines at A/Ls in Bio Science Stream

Text and Pictures by **A. B. ABDUL GAFOOR** Ampara District Group Corr.

Ibraheem Anfas Ahamed, a student of Kalmunai Zahira College in the Ampara District secured the third (3) Island Rank and first (1) District Rank in the Bio Science Stream according to the results of G.C.E. Advanced Level 2020 released on Tuesday.

Anfas Ahamed obtained 3.0710 Z-score along with 80 marks for the General Knowledge Test and 'A' pass for General English. Km/Zahira College Kalmunai Principal M. I. Jabir told the Daily news that this was the first such achievement of a student in the history of that college. "I congratulate Ibraheem Anfas Ahamed and his parents. I also thank all the stakeholders who were behind this historical achievement for this college, including



school staff, School Development Executive Committee and the Past Pupils' Association. We wish him a bright future," Principal Jabir said.

COVID-19 patients transported to Kandakadu SIGIRIYA SPECIAL CORR.

Dambulla Mayor Jaliya Opatha said measures were taken to transport about 60 COVID-19 infected persons to the Kandakadu Treatment Centre.

These patients are currently at homes as there was a delay in providing them transport. Two buses were deployed to take these patients to Kandakadu with the help of 53 Brigade of the Army in Dambulla.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Thursday
 Draw No.: 1269 Colour: Dark Blue
 Date: 04.05.2021
Today's Jackpot
Rs. 132,944,637/-
 Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
 Development Lotteries Board
 398, Gt. Colvin Rd. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 333 548-47 Fax: 0112 333 548-48
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776
 For Results: www.dlb.lk

English Letter & Winning Numbers
 Draw No.: 721 Colour: PINK
 Date: 04.05.2021 Tuesday
19 20 42 45

Total Value of Prizes Rs. 3,036,420/-
Next Super Jackpot Rs. 81,151,710/-
 Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

TUESDAY Draw No.: 3597
 Date: 04.05.2021 Colour: LIGHT BLUE
Total Value of Prizes Rs. 3,740,700/-
Winning Numbers 17 40 54 63
 English Letter **H**
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

TUESDAY Draw No.: 1267
 Date: 04.05.2021 Colour: LIGHT BLUE
Total Value of Prizes Rs. 4,468,960/-
Winning Numbers 18 33 48 67
 English Letter **P**
 Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL Draw Number: 1441 Colour: Light Blue
 Draw Date: 04.05.2021 Date: Tuesday
Winning English Letter and Numbers J 14 45 59 77
Total Value of Prizes Rs. 3,769,880/-
 The winning tickets will be valid for 6 months.
 Development Lotteries Board
 398, Gt. Colvin Rd. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 333 548-47 Fax: 0112 333 548-48
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776
 For Results: www.dlb.lk

Super Jackpot Date: 04-05-2021 Draw Number: 3148 Colour: Red
Rs. 2,000,000/-
 The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.
Winning Numbers 14 25 27 49
 Gemini
TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES Rs. 9,126,740/-
 Development Lotteries Board
 398, Gt. Colvin Rd. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
 Tel: 0112 333 548-47 Fax: 0112 333 548-48
 Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 776
 For Results: www.dlb.lk

THALAPATHPITIYA
 222/3, Temple Road
 Nugegoda, Maharagama

Near Japura hospital Completed Homes

Near Highway
 Nugegoda Maharagama Thalawathugoda City Limit
 Madiwela Walking Track Vicinity

4 & 5 Bed Rooms
Tow / Three Stories

A Category - from 22 Million Upward
B Category - from 16.5 Million Upward
C Category - from 18 Million Upward

Public Service Co-Operative Credit & Thrift Society Ltd
 No 19, Sounders Place, Colombo 12.
0717-931533/ 0778-207859/ 0112-327643

Tender Forms could be obtained from Public Service Co-Operative Credit and Thrift Society Limited Office upon payment of Rs. 5,000/-
 Last date of applications 19th May 2021

Opposition should support Government in battle against COVID-19 - Amaraweera



Camelia Nathaniel and Amali Mallawaarachchi

The Opposition should not try to take political advantages from the COVID-19 pandemic prevailing in the country and instead should support the government in the fight against it, Minister Mahinda Amaraweera stated in Parliament

yesterday. He was speaking during the second day of the COVID-19 debate. Amaraweera reminded how the same Opposition tried to hinder the former government led by then President Mahinda Rajapaksa during the

final stages of the war against the LTTE. "Many of the Opposition MPs raised their concerns regarding the monetary allocations done to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Cabinet Minister, I can assure that the government has enough financial strength to purchase medical equipment, PCR test kits, vaccines, and other supplies needed to mitigate the pandemic; there is no shortage of money to buy vaccines. We initially purchased vaccines from India, but now India itself is facing a shortage. Therefore, it is not possible to purchase vaccines from India," he said. "We have now opted for Russia, and the first stock is already in the country. We have received another stock

from China, but we have not gotten the necessary approval yet. Over 200 million people, including those in Middle-Eastern countries, have used this Chinese vaccine. Therefore, we should inquire as to why we are yet to receive the approval. Some people ask as to why the private sector is not allowed in the vaccination project," he added. "The problem here is that countries do not provide vaccines to private companies. Moreover, the government does not have to charge people money to give this vaccine either. We have enough financial strength to carry out this project. Around 52 countries have not even started a vaccination project. At the initial stage of the third wave, there was a shortage of ICU beds.

However, this matter is now resolved," the minister said. Minister Amaraweera said, "Many Opposition MPs request to lock down the country. However, when lockdown was imposed before, the Opposition was going around questioning that move as well. We should not politicise this matter. If any lockdown is needed, our health and defence authorities will reach that decision. If we go for a total lockdown, how can people sell their products? How will people purchase the necessary supplies?" "Countries that have faced the worst stages of the pandemic have not gone for total lockdowns. Therefore, it is obvious that the Opposition is looking forward to take advantage of the situation. The government shall

not hesitate to take crucial decisions to save the country from this pandemic, with or without the support of the Opposition. However, we strongly believe that the responsibility of an Opposition is to support the government when it is on the correct path," he added. Amaraweera said, "It is good to point out our shortcomings; we can accept criticism. However, it is the responsibility of the Opposition to support the government in times of need. This pandemic affects everybody; the Opposition should realise that."

Government not using COVID-19 funds for other projects - Namal

The government will not use COVID-19 budgetary allocations for any other purposes, Minister Namal Rajapaksa said in Parliament yesterday. He was replying to question raised by Opposition Leader

Sajith Premadasa. Premadasa said, "Our sources say that the government has allotted large sums to repair Kfir aircraft that were used in the war. We do agree that these aircraft should be properly maintained. However, considering the pandemic, I would like to request the President and the Prime Minister to use this allocation to purchase equipment necessary to fight it. It has also been revealed that the government has decided to establish gymnasiums across the



island to improve the lifestyle of our people. However, if we can use these allocations to fight the pandemic, it would be more worthwhile." Rajapaksa said that neither of the projects would be using money from the allocations done to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. "Both these budgetary allocations were done separately. We are not using money that is allocated to stop the pandemic. The government will not reduce any funds set aside for it."

'Cabinet Paper tabled to keep essential commodity prices stable'

Trade Minister Dr. Bandula Gunawardena stated in Parliament yesterday that a Cabinet Paper has been tabled to keep the prices of several essential commodities stable for the next three months (May, June, and July). The minister pointed out that during the months of February, March, and April, prices of several essential commodities, such as lentils and sprats, were kept stable without any shortage. He pointed out that the CWE

was distributing goods island-wide at low prices, and that the daily income of the CWE exceeded Rs.100 million, earning between Rs.300 and Rs. 400 million per day for the first time in its history from April 1 to 13. He said that for the first time in history, due to lockdowns over the COVID-19 pandemic, the country's economic growth dropped to -3.6, adding that if the country is locked down any further, those engaged in daily-wage employment would face



grave hardships. He added that with the closure of the Dambulla Economic Centre last week,

farmers were distressed as they were unable to supply their produce. Dr. Gunawardena also pointed out that there is a risk of commodity prices rising in the country due to the reduction in the supply chain in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. He called on the Opposition to put aside political differences and help save the country from the plague, and to help move the economy forward without any more lockdowns.

Parliament appoints Select Committee for Election Law Reforms

Parliament appointed a Select Committee yesterday to identify appropriate reforms for Election Law and the Electoral System, and to recommend necessary amendments.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena announced that the Select Committee would be chaired by Leader of the House and Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

The 14 Members of the Committee include Nimal Siripala de Silva, Prof. G.L. Peiris, Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Douglas Devananda, Wimal Weerawansa, M.U.M. Ali Sabry PC,

Jeevan Thondaman, Anura Disanayake, Kabir Hashim, R.M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara, Mano Ganesan, M.A. Sumanthiran, Madhura Withanage, and Sagara Kariyawasam.

'Police, Military working tirelessly to prevent spread of COVID-19'

Public Security Minister Rear Admiral (Rtd.) Dr. Sarath Weerasekera told Parliament yesterday that Police and the Security Forces are working tirelessly for the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, just as they did during the war. However, referring to Field Marshal MP Sarath Fonseka, he said it was sad to note that a former military commander was

making statements against the military. MP Fonseka, raising a Point of Order, said that if anyone, be it military or otherwise, have committed murder, they should be punished. Minister Weerasekera asked MP Fonseka "not to be a hero" by making such statements "without knowing the whole issue". He accused Fonseka of making false statements without

any provocation, because "he is under the diaspora dollars". Weerasekera also noted that the majority of the hard work pertaining to the COVID-19 operations are being carried out by the police and the military. "Moreover, the military is engaged in maintaining quarantine facilities and preventing Indian fishermen from entering Sri Lankan waters," he added.



'Health sector toiling to curb COVID-19'

Pharmaceutical Regulation State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana told Parliament yesterday that the health sector has worked tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that the Opposition only found fault with the government and blamed them during the two-day debate regarding the matter. "According to MP Dr. Harsha de Silva, the government has been negligent about the recent developments regarding the pandemic. I disagree with his statement. We tested all the samples and did everything we had to do with regard to the cases detected on April 8." He said that currently, the highest number of infections are attributed to the British strain of the virus. "The British strain is responsible for a worldwide spike in COVID-19 cases. Moreover, we are doing our best to prevent the Indian variant from entering the country. Former Health Minister Dr. Rajitha Senarathne has levelled false allegations against us, claiming that there was a shortage of medicine in the country. I challenge him to prove his statement. There is no such shortage." Responding to Dr. Senarathne's allegations that all citizens of the country would not receive the vaccine, Prof. Jayasumana said that there are certain age groups that are recommended to receive the vaccine. Meanwhile, health sources said vaccinations with the Sputnik V vaccine will begin from Gothatuwa today.

Long-term plan needed to prevent COVID-19 - Dr. Amarasuriya

A scientific and structured long-term plan is necessary to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic, NPP MP Dr. Harini Amarasuriya stated in Parliament yesterday. Joining the debate on the pandemic, Dr. Amarasuriya said that the government should not adopt *ad hoc* plans to reduce the virus' spread. She said, "This is not a war, but a health crisis. We need to address it as that. Even the way we speak about the topic should not

have a military tone into it." "We need to improve and enhance our research sector to carry out more research regarding COVID-19. It is important to provide correct information to the public, and that credible sources provide information to them. We cannot go that far by manipulating the number of PCR tests carried out in the country," she added. "We cannot increase or decrease the number of tests according to our whims. We need a long-term plan to



curtail this pandemic. It should be a scientifically-approved, structured mitigation plan. We cannot curtail the pandemic just with vaccination alone. We need to have multiple methods to stay safe from this virus," Dr. Amarasuriya said.

Government handling pandemic in responsible manner - Kanaka



Company Estate Reforms State Minister Kanaka Herath said that the government has taken on the responsibility of dealing with the third wave of the pandemic just as they handled the first and second waves. Joining the Parliamentary debate on the current situation in the country, he said, "As a responsible government, we have taken steps

to order the required vaccines from the manufacturing countries to ensure we don't face any shortage." Moreover, he said that the Opposition is requesting the government to go for a lockdown, rather than raising issues about farmers and their plight. The state minister said there are around 800 to 1,000 patients at a number of hospitals.

OBITUARY NOTICE



LOURDES NAMUNAKULADEVI THEVANAYAGAM
(D.O.B 30th June 1959)
Research Associate (Pharmaceutical) - Bristol Myers-Squibb
Past pupil of Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Beloved daughter of late Mr B.A. Thevanayagam & late Mrs R.P Thevanayagam
Beloved sister of Michael Thevanayagam (UK), Florence Thevanayagam (UK),
Mrs Regina Perera (UK), late Pearl Thevanayagam, Mrs Anne Hopkins (Australia) and Timothy Thevanayagam (USA) Beloved Aunt of Dr Jonarthan Thevanayagam, Mrs Lydia Holmes, Nadia Thevanayagam, Dr Andrea Perera
Called to Rest on 28th April 2021 Viewing: 9.00 AM-10.15 AM (5th May 2021)
Lima & Champagne Sunnyvale Mortuary, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 Funeral Service: 11.00 AM-12.00 PM (5th May 2021) St Lawrence Catholic Church, Santa Clara, CA 95051 Burial: 12.30 PM (5th May 2021) Gates of Heaven Catholic Cemetery Los Altos, CA 94024.

Obituaries

ANTHONY WILLIAM FRANKLIN EBERT - Called to Rest in God's precious arms on the 5th of May 2021. Beloved husband of Olivia, much loved father of Joanne, Rozanne & Janine, beloved father-in-law of Chinthaka, Gagana and Maheel, darling grandfather of Shenal, Kavya, Richard, Mahiru and Sahiru and loving uncle of Marlon, Leroy, Calvin, Julian, Shannon, Wayne, and Jordan. His mortal remains will be placed at the **AF Raymond Funeral Parlour, Borella** from 10 a.m. onwards on Thursday, the 6th of May. This will be followed by a private burial on the same day at 4 p.m. at the Anglican Section of the Borella Cemetery. Contact : 0770638264 - Shenal, 0773171453 - Janine. 03729

JAYATUNGA - MR CYRIL of No. 14, Hospital Road, Maharagama. Proprietor of High Level Motors (Former President of the Maharagama United Traders Association), passed away. Funeral will take place on Thursday the 6th of May (evening) at the Godigamuwa General Cemetery, Maharagama. Bereaved, son - Lalith, daughters - Chandrika and Shrini - Maharagama. 0777181302. 03591

Daily News



The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited,
LAKE HOUSE
P. O. Box 1217 No. 35, D.R. Wijewardene Mawatha,
Colombo 10, Sri Lanka
Telephone : (011) 242 9211 Fax: (011) 234 3694
E-mail : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk
news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk
Thursday, May 6, 2021

Respect the health measures

The Government is duty bound to probe the abrupt lifting of the lockdown clamped in the Piliyandala Police area on May Day, exposing its residents to the runaway pandemic. This is all the more serious since the Piliyandala area was highly congested during the recent Avurudu shopping spree, with a large number of positive cases emerging in the post-festive season.

Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena had received inputs of the situation in the area from provincial health authorities and acting on this advice decided to communicate with Army Commander General Shavendra Silva who heads the anti-COVID drive, to clamp the lockdown in the Piliyandala Police area, on May Day commencing at 6 a.m. However, a few hours later, the lockdown was lifted arbitrarily, endangering the whole area.

No doubt the intention of lifting the lockdown was permitting the people to go about the daily chores without let or hindrance particularly business activities that would suffer as a result of the lockdown or isolation. If this logic was to be applied across the board then it will be open sesame to give the welfare of their people pride of place ensuring that they will not be constrained in whatever way and particularly not making businesses suffer as a result of cumbersome lockdowns.

Will this also not give the public the license to do as they please, acting with disdain with regard to an authoritative Health Ministry edict? Why are the health authorities exhorting the public over the media to follow health guidelines and the police pouncing down on violators if lockdowns are lifted in an arbitrary manner? This at a time when the daily count of positive cases has topped the 1,000 mark for one week running and the cumulative death toll has exceeded 700. The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed capacity in hospitals is also fast running out and health staff driven to the wall.

What is the whole point in the authorities clamping lockdowns and imposing movement restrictions when such rash decisions are taken? The WHO has sounded the alarm over the surge in Sri Lanka with a warning that our public is likely to face their most challenging chapter and that vaccination alone will not help in the short term.

The lockdown in Piliyandala has obviously been imposed following a close study of virus trends in the area by health experts and PHIs and the risk of even one individual getting infected would be sufficient to trigger a domino effect that could spread over an entire electorate given the potency and virulent nature of the new variant. Acts such as these could lead to major catastrophes.

It is time that a line is drawn here. It is only the health authorities who should decide if a lockdown in a certain area is to be lifted or not. Others should not interfere. The country is paying dearly for going against health advice and giving a free rein to the public to celebrate the festive season, failing to learn the lessons of the past when partial lockdowns were lifted during the Christmas festivities only to see a huge surge in the pandemic. True, lockdowns and restrictions suffocate the lives of people and it is only natural that some decision makers take the side of the people in such instances and act to ease their misery. Difficulties such as poor access to essential goods, life in confined spaces etc. naturally evoke resentment and the wrath of the public is directed at the decision makers. Their intentions could be genuine, but the results could be disastrous.

Therefore, under the circumstances there is no alternative but to grin and bear. The situation in India is all too stark for even a semblance of a chance to be taken. This, we should know by now. In fact our decision makers should be seen in the vanguard in the fight against the pandemic and not be a party to the spread of the virus. In India it is such personalities who were largely responsible for the sorry pass that country has come to, holding mass election rallies and staging roadshows during the just concluded elections. Let it not be said that community and civic leaders in this country were to blame if a similar catastrophe were to befall this country, which certain health experts have not ruled out.

Regardless of stature, all must adhere to health guidelines. Partial lockdowns are imposed for the greatest good of the greatest number and they should be implemented to the letter and also respected to the letter. It is in everyone's interest to do so. No lives can be saved by going against a lockdown or the prevailing health guidelines. From wearing a face mask to complying with a strict lockdown, it is our duty to cooperate with the health authorities and the Security Forces/Police to keep the virus at bay. That is the only way to fight the raging contagion, at least until we manage to vaccinate around 65%-70% of the population and achieve herd immunity.

An all-out battle against the Third Wave

The 'third wave' of the COVID-19 pandemic remains a threat to Sri Lanka this week as the number of infections continues to rise exponentially, even as the Government enacted a series of measures to avoid a catastrophe of epic proportions such as the tragedy presently unfolding in neighbouring India.

At the time of writing, over 1,900 infections were being recorded in a single day and all indications are that the daily number of infections would surpass 2,000 for the first time shortly. The total number of persons infected in Sri Lanka now stands at 114,000 with 709 persons succumbing to the virus.

This time last year, Sri Lanka was in a strict lockdown. That was after the first Coronavirus infection was detected in March last year. That lockdown helped curb the spread of infections spectacularly and the country was hailed as a model of managing the pandemic with limited resources.

The lockdown measures which were in place until late last year kept Sri Lankans safe from the coronavirus while countries with more advanced health systems such as the United Kingdom and the United States suffered thousands of deaths. However, it damaged the nation's economy considerably.

More developed countries which enforced long term lockdowns were able to sustain their populations through benefits, subsidies and financial handouts to those who became unemployed as a result. Being a developing nation, Sri Lanka is not in a position to do so for a lengthy period of time.

That was why the Government decided that a long-term lockdown was not sustainable for a country such as Sri Lanka. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said that, given Sri Lanka's economic structure and its preponderance of daily wage earners, long-term lockdowns are not viable.

With the gradual re-opening of the country, a second wave emerged, initially in two clusters at a garment factory in Minuwangoda and at the wholesale fish market in Peliyagoda. While the second wave continued for several months, it did not reach the proportions seen in the current third wave.

Challenging task

Now, with the third wave of the virus very much established, the government has to perform the delicate act of balancing economic sustainability with the health needs of its population, a difficult and challenging task. This is what it is trying to do, but public co-operation is vital in this effort.

The warnings from health experts have been unequivocal. They believe the third wave of the pandemic is due to the British variant of the virus which is known as 'B.1.1.7'. The virulence of this particular type of the virus is much greater, resulting in a higher number of infections in a short time.

"The B.1.1.7 variant spreads much faster, causes more severe disease, causes re-infection in those who previously had infection and can escape vaccine induced immunity. Its transmission is 50 per cent higher than other variants," Prof. Neelika Malavige of the University of Sri Jayawardenepura said.

"Several studies have also shown that the British variant of the virus may cause illness in younger individuals as well. As a result, they can be more susceptible to this variant than the 'original' coronavirus," Prof. Malavige cautioned, urging the public to practice social distancing whenever possible.

The President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) Dr. Padma Gunaratne echoed these thoughts. "When 1,800 plus COVID patients are detected daily, there are three to four times that number undetected in the community," Dr. Gunaratne said, noting that the health system is under strain.

"As the number of COVID patients increases, the capacity in hospitals is gradually reduced. They have now almost reached their full capacity and consequently, some COVID-19 patients have to remain at home due to delays in taking them to hospitals," the SLMA President observed.

Workforce to remain productive

The Government has responded with a series of measures. Although a countrywide national lockdown is not being enforced at this time, several restrictions are in place. This strategy is aimed at allowing the workforce to remain productive while at the same time minimising the spread of the pandemic.

These controls include a ban on all public functions and gatherings and restrictions imposed on selected localities such as Police divisions. Schools which were due to re-open on May 3, have been kept closed until further



Russian Embassy officials hand over the Sputnik V vaccine consignment to State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana at the BIA

Hindsight

LAKDEV LIYANAGAMA



Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi



State Minister Dr. Sudarshani Fernandopulle



State Minister Prof. Channa Jayasumana



Prof. Neelika Malavige

notice. Travel in public transport is also subject to restrictions.

The Government aims to combat the virus by enhancing its vaccination drive against the Coronavirus. Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said it is planned to vaccinate over 60 per cent of the population by the end of the year. Currently about 900,000 persons have been vaccinated (first dose).

"The Government has ordered 13 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine of which 15,000 have already arrived. The balance will be received within this year in stages. Sri Lanka will also receive 8.4 million vaccine doses from the COVAX facility and five million Pfizer vaccine doses within this year," the Minister said.

Minister Wanniarachchi also said the Government was in discussion with India's Bharat Biotech (Covaxin) and Johnson & Johnson (single dose Janssen vaccine) to purchase more vaccines. China has agreed to provide Sri Lanka with more doses of Sinopharm vaccine, soon after World Health Organisation (WHO) grants its approval, the Minister said. This approval is expected as soon as next week.

Minister Wanniarachchi, who herself recovered from being infected with the coronavirus some time back, said that sufficient beds were being made available to treat COVID-19 patients island-wide. "About 13,800 beds have been allocated already and 10,000 additional beds would be allocated during the next two weeks," she said.

The minister also dispelled fears of a shortage of oxygen for hospitals as being seen in India. "The requirement for oxygen in our hospitals is 25 tonnes. It can be increased up to 80 tonnes. The issue is the shortage of cylinders. We have ordered 7,000 more jumbo cylinders," Minister Wanniarachchi noted.

Meanwhile, State Minister of Production, Supply and Regulations of Pharmaceuticals Prof. Channa Jayasumana has responded to speculation that pressure was being brought on the Government to use the Chinese manufactured Sinopharm vaccine in Sri Lanka. Minister Jayasumana has denied this. It has already been given to around 4,000 Chinese nationals residing in Sri Lanka, but it has not been given to Sri Lankans.

"As a responsible State Minister, I can assure you that there is no pressure from the Chinese Government to use

also exploring the possibility of combining different vaccines in the same person (Mix and Match option) to meet the current demand, she said.

Minister Fernandopulle acknowledged there was a shortage of 600,000 doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca Covishield vaccine to be given as a second dose. "There is nothing to hide. It is not related to the Government. The issue has arisen due to the manufacturer's (Serum Institute of India) inability to supply stocks to other countries," the Minister said.

"Research is in progress on the possibility of vaccinating for the second dose with another brand of vaccine for those who were vaccinated with AstraZeneca for the first dose. We cannot decide on that. However, based on the results of research, we may be able to do so," Minister Fernandopulle noted.

Health experts agree that Sri Lanka is also likely to see a further spike in COVID-19 infections in the month of May and possibly in June when the pandemic is expected to reach its peak. This could result in a rush of hospital admissions and the distinct possibility of more fatalities in the coming few weeks.

Selective lockdowns

The Government is taking all possible measures such as increasing PCR testing to 20,000 per day, purchasing more vaccines, enhancing hospital bed numbers and enforcing selective lockdowns in a bid to curb the epidemic. However, the ultimate responsibility of adhering to these health measures lies with the general public, medical experts say.

Previously Sri Lanka has demonstrated that it is a highly health literate nation. Its free health system is a frequently cited model of care not only in South Asia but also internationally. These factors are in the country's favour as it gears to face the full brunt of the third wave of the pandemic.

The next few weeks will be extremely critical for the health of the nation and its citizens as Sri Lanka faces arguably its greatest health crisis since the malaria epidemic in 1935 which cost some 80,000 lives (Today, the country has eliminated malaria). The country waits both in hope and in trepidation for these weeks to pass.

With the third wave of the virus very much established, the government has to perform the delicate act of balancing economic sustainability with the health needs of its population, a difficult and challenging task. This is what it is trying to do, but public co-operation is vital in this effort.



The second round of vaccination in progress

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There's nothing more important than our good health - that's our principal capital asset.

- Arlen Specter

Australians blast Government for "racist" Indian flight ban

KALINGA SENEVIRATNE

A controversial ban on flights from COVID-hit India landing in Australia, has blocked around 9,000 Australians from returning home. Most of them are Australians of Indian origin, while there are also a handful of Australian elite cricketers, coaches, and other officials currently taking part in the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket extravaganza.

This unprecedented move of banning its own citizens from returning home has angered many Australians, who have also branded this move by Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Government as "racist" because no such bans were imposed on flights from the UK and US during the peak of the pandemic there.

The ban came into effect on May 3 and will be in force at least until May 15. Those who ignore the ban and come to Australia through other routes such as via Doha, face a five-year jail sentence or a fine of AUD 66,600 (USD 51,500).

Prime Minister Morrison said in a radio interview on May 3 that the ban is only a temporary measure, and it is to "ensure that we don't get a third wave here in Australia and that our quarantine system could remain strong".

While supporting the travel ban, Australia's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Paul Kelly has admitted that these restrictions may result in the death of some Australians who are stranded in India. These comments have attracted fierce criticisms from Australians from both sides of the political spectrum.

Former Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone from Morrison's own Liberal Party speaking on ABC TV's Drum on May 3 defended the Government arguing it is not a racist policy. "It's not a ban on people of Indian origin", she argued, pointing out that Australians currently in India, went on their own accord. "Australians will not forgive them if they bring the virus back. They have no right to bring virus here."

Western allies

But, disability advocate, Nicole Lee appearing on the same programme pointed out to Vanstone, "we didn't



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison



Former Labour Party Leader Bill Shorten



Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne



Former Australian cricketer Michael Slater

The ban came into effect on May 3 and will be in force at least until May 15. Those who ignore the ban and come to Australia through other routes such as via Doha, face a five-year jail sentence or a fine of AUD 66,600 (USD 51,500).

stop our citizens from the UK and the US coming back (at the peak of the pandemic there) and spreading the virus here—and they did. Now we are blocking the lifting of patents on vaccines". This is a reference to Australia supporting its Western allies at the WTO in blocking the Indian and South African resolution to lift patents on COVID-19 vaccines.

Fellow panelist, Pawan Luthra, CEO of India Link Media Group, pointed out that when Indians like himself took up Australian citizenship they had to renounce Indian citizenship. He argued this is a morality issue and "we have no rights to live in India as citizens" and Australia is their home now. He pointed out that in the Australian passport it says in its first page to other governments "to allow the bearer, an Australian citizen, to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford him or her every assistance and protection of which he or she may stand in need".

"Protection is what Australians in India need now. The health system is crumbling there," argues Luthra.

"This virus is not going to go away by May 15, it's going to be there for a long time."

Human rights

The Australian Human Rights Commission has issued a statement saying the decision to use the Bio-security Act to impose a temporary ban on citizens returning home "raises serious human rights concerns". In a statement, it said, "the need for such restrictions should be publicly justified (and) the Government must show that these measures are not discriminatory".

Dr. Kylie Moore Gilbert, an Australian who was held in an Iranian jail for two years and released late last year said in a Tweet: "I know what it means to be rescued from a COVID-riddled overseas hellhole and brought back to Australia (yes into quarantine). This outrageous policy is immoral, unjustified, and completely un-Australian."

Foreign Minister Marise Payne rejected such accusations. She said that the "temporary" ban was put in place because of high rates of infections among Australians returning from India, and arguing it was placing a "significant burden" on the quarantine system.

The Australian Guardian refuted this claim, pointing out that India has far fewer cases per capita than the UK and US at their peak in December last year, and the Australian Government did not stop flights from there at the time. It also noted that the variant found in India is not as serious as the one that came out from the UK into Australia.

"The UK and US were responsible for a greater share of the overseas

acquired cases in Australia at the height of their outbreaks," said Guardian Australia, adding, "significantly more residents returned from the UK and US in the three months to January than from India."

Melbourne General Practitioner and health commentator Vyom Sharma told ABC TV that the move appears inconsistent with Australia's response to peaks of the virus in the US and Europe. "What strikes me as bizarre is that the US in January was returning to us Australians, in much higher quantities of people, who were testing positive, yet there was no talk of a plan to ban those flights then."

Former Australian cricketer Michael Slater, who was commenting in India for the IPL savaged Mor-

risson for banning Australians from returning to their homeland from India, saying he will have "blood on his hands". In a social media post, Slater, who has been blocked from returning to Australia and threatened with a jail sentence said: "How dare you treat us like this? How about you sort out (your) quarantine system? I had Government permission to work on the IPL but I now have government neglect. It's a disgrace".

Responding to Slater's comments in a TV interview today, Morrison argued that the rapid escalation of cases arriving from India has put enormous pressure on the quarantine regime but denied it showed the system's weakness. "Every system is going to face its stresses and I'm not going to break the system," Morrison said. "What I'm going to do is take proportionate action to protect the system so I can bring more Australians home and keep Australians safe for the longer term."

Slater meanwhile has gone to the Maldives, to spend time there until Australia lifts the ban on those flying back from India. He may be able to fly back to Australia in 14 days' time, with a negative PCR test for COVID-19. Meanwhile, there are 9,000 other Australians in India waiting to return home, with about 650 of them considered vulnerable according to the Government's own estimates.

Quarantine facilities

With Morrison trying to tone down his rhetoric to jail or fine returning Australians, former Labour Party leader Bill Shorten told Channel Nine TV that what Slater is saying is what a lot of people in Australia are thinking. "Morrison should have created special quarantine facilities here. He's had 16 months. Michael Slater is just telling the truth," Shorten told Nine Network.

Meanwhile Amnesty International (AI) has slammed the Morrison Government for the treatment of stranded Australians in India. "It's not just breaching human rights, but, it is just an utter disregard and contempt for the way they are working with stranded Australians," AI's Australian spokesman Joel MacKay said in a media interview over the weekend.

[IDN-InDepthNews]



Flights from India to Australia will be barred.

Central Asia's Afghan route to prosperity

DJOMART OTORBAEV

For the first time in centuries, there is an opportunity to connect Central and South Asia via modern transport and energy corridors through Afghanistan. Once completed, these projects would transform Eurasian security, significantly increase regional economic activity, and potentially bring peace at last to Afghanistan. They may even revive the Great Silk Road.

Progress on the planned schemes should therefore interest the region's influential neighbours — Russia, China, and India — and the United States, which has spent at least US\$ 2 trillion in Afghanistan over the last 20 years. But most of the world regards Central Asia as *terra incognita*, and has so far paid little attention to significant recent developments.

In February, for example, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov visited three Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan — to secure their support for transport projects with Afghanistan and South Asian countries. Kamilov was travelling at the behest of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who, in his December 29 message to the country's Parliament, highlighted cooperation with South Asia and promotion of peace in Afghanistan as his main regional priorities.

Specifically, the talks were about construction of the Kabul Corridor railway from Termez in Uzbekistan to the Pakistani city of Peshawar via Mazar-i-Sharif and Kabul in Afghanistan. The railway could transport up to 20 million tons of cargo per year, and the section from Termez to Mazar-i-Sharif, built by Uzbekistan, is already operational. The remaining 573-kilometre (356-mile) stretch to Peshawar will have to cross the Hindu Kush mountain range, where the passes are more than 3,500 metres above sea level, making it one of the world's highest mountain railways.

International financial institutions

The section of the railway from Mazar-i-Sharif to Kabul, at a preliminary estimated cost of US\$ 5 billion, will be built mainly with borrowed funds. In late December, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan jointly appealed to international financial institutions to support the project. Subject to financing, construction could begin in September this year.

The existing highway between Mazar-i-



Construction work of the TAPI project on the Afghan section.

Sharif and Kabul will ensure the delivery of equipment and construction materials, while Uzbekistan and Tajikistan's power lines to the Afghan capital run along the same route, making it possible to electrify the rail link.

In Peshawar, the railway will connect arriving trains with the Pakistani transport system, thereby linking the Central Asian and Eurasian railway networks to those of South Asia and providing access to the Pakistani ports of Karachi, Qasim, and Gwadar. It is estimated that the new railway will reduce goods transportation times from Central Asia to Pakistan from 30 days to 15 and cut transportation costs by 30% to 35%.

The apparent reason for giving access to

Central Asia has always been a politically sensitive region, part of what former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski called the "grand chessboard." It appears that everyone has an interest in Central Asia and Afghanistan being economically dynamic and politically stable, rather than poor and a source of conflict.

Pakistani ports priority over other options is that the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar route is the shortest one. But there is a more important one: the Kabul Corridor, together with the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan transport corridor, will connect four economically powerful Eurasian regions — Europe, China, Russia, and South Asia — via Central Asia.

Today, the main transport route from Central Asia to the southern seas, through the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, is no longer considered the most attractive. Economists calculate that transporting a container from Tashkent, the Uzbek capital, to Karachi would cost approximately US\$ 1,400-1,600, about half the price of transporting it from Tashkent



The proposed TAPI gas pipeline

The Nation

to Bandar Abbas (US\$ 2,600-3,000). Besides, international economic sanctions against Iran will complicate any projects there.

At the end of 2020, construction began on the Afghan section of another mega-project linking Central and South Asia: the TAPI gas pipeline, named after the four countries through which it will pass — Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The 1,814-kilometre pipeline will run from the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan to the Indian city of Fazilka via Herat and Kandahar in Afghanistan and the Pakistani cities of Quetta and Multan. It will have a capacity of 33 billion cubic metres of gas per year and cost an estimated US\$ 8 billion to US\$ 10 billion.

Although security concerns have long cast doubt on the TAPI pipeline's viability, completion is now scheduled for December 2023. Crucially, a high-ranking Taliban delegation visited Turkmenistan on February 6, promising to support the project. There are indications that the U.S., which has long backed the pipeline, may have facilitated the trip.

Geopolitical positions

Central Asia has always been a politically sensitive region, part of what former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzez-

inski called the "grand chessboard." When implementing such large projects, therefore, one should consider the geopolitical positions of major regional players such as America, Russia, and China.

But for now at least, it appears that everyone has an interest in Central Asia and Afghanistan being economically dynamic and politically stable, rather than poor and a source of conflict.

For all the importance of new landmark projects, further Central Asian cooperation is essential. Historically, the region has prospered most when it acts as a "crossroads civilization," channeling and transforming Eurasian trade and economic and cultural forces.

In fact, Central Asia became a world leader in economic development, trade, technology, manufacturing, and intellectual life during the period referred to as its golden age, when it was open, dynamic, and willing and able to learn and adapt from others.

There is no reason why Central Asia cannot succeed again. Practicing a form of open regionalism, Central Asians found many reasons to cooperate over several centuries. A return to that role would be good news for the entire world — and deserving of its leaders' attention.

- Japan Times



How China Eradicated Extreme Poverty

(PART II)

QI ZHENHONG
Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka

China's experience in poverty alleviation indicates that poverty is not predestined, nor is it unconquerable. With strong will and determination, as well as practical action, one can make steady progress towards overcoming poverty and realising common prosperity. I would like to focus on the practices of China in reducing poverty and try to sum up a few experiences for Sri Lankan friends.

I. Key Strategy of Targeted Poverty Alleviation

Identifying those truly in need is a universal problem in countries with a large population in poverty. In its poverty elimination effort, China has actively learned from international experience, fully considered its actual conditions, and launched a series of guidelines and measures to increase efficiency, summarised as accomplishing "Targeted Efforts in Six Areas" (This refers to efforts to identify the poor accurately, arrange targeted programmes, utilise capital efficiently, take household-based measures, dispatch first Party secretaries based on village conditions, and achieve the set goals.), taking "Five Measures for Poverty Eradication" (The measures include: boosting the economy to provide more job opportunities, relocating poor people from inhospitable areas, compensating for economic losses associated with reducing ecological damage, improving education in impoverished areas, and providing subsistence allowances for those unable to shake off poverty through their own efforts alone.), and addressing "Five Questions in Poverty Alleviation" (This refers to these questions: who should help, who should be helped, how to help, how to evaluate whether someone has emerged from poverty, and how to ensure those people stay free from poverty.).

Firstly, identifying people in need to know whom to help. China has developed a set of standards and procedures to accurately identify the poor. Grassroots officials have spent time in villages analysing the distribution of the poor population, the causes of their poverty, and their needs. The individuals and villages confirmed as poor are then registered and a file is created in the national poverty alleviation information system. Every poor household has the causes of their poverty and their needs registered with the government. With dynamic management, the national information platform provides powerful IT support for targeted measures to realise the set goals.

Secondly, strengthening lead-

The root cause of poverty is inadequate development. Development is the most effective way to eradicate poverty. Only development can lead to economic growth, social progress and higher living standards. Only development can better guarantee people's basic rights and meet their desire for a better life.



Primary school students take computer lessons in Banmu Village of Wa Autonomous County of Ximeng, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Dec. 7, 2018. Ximeng County in southwest China's Yunnan Province used to be a national-level poor region. (Xinhua/Yang Zongyou)

ership and team-building to know how to offer help. China has established a poverty eradication management network with the central government acting as coordinator, provincial governments taking overall responsibility, and city and county governments overseeing implementation, and has strengthened its team of grassroots officials working in poverty alleviation. As of the end of 2020, 255,000 resident teams and more than three million officials had been dispatched as first secretaries and resident officials to poor villages, fighting on the front line of poverty alleviation.

Thirdly, applying targeted measures for different groups to know how to help. In practice, China has adopted categorised "Five Measures for Poverty Eradication" to reduce poverty, based on the situation of individual households, local conditions, and the causes for and types of poverty. China has also implemented many other forms of support for poverty alleviation that are consistent with local conditions, including through boosting employment, improving healthcare service, and introducing "internet +" model, etc. Fourthly, adopting strict criteria to know when and how to deregister those who have emerged from poverty. A poverty exit mechanism has been established, with clear provisions on the standards and procedures for deregistering from the list of poor



Aerial photo shows a villager drying chrysanthemum flowers in Jinxi Village of Xima Township, Longli County of southwest China's Guizhou Province, October 27, 2020. (Xinhua/Yang Wenbin)

counties, villages, and individuals. The government has worked out a poverty deregistration plan and an annual poverty alleviation plan to ensure procedure-based, rational and orderly exit from the registers. The criteria and procedures have been strictly enforced, for example, by conducting a public review in the case of individuals and government examination in the case of villages and counties, and the results of poverty exit have been disclosed for public evaluation and review. Supervision and inspection have been strengthened to ensure accurate results.

Fifthly, conducting follow-up monitoring to help people stay out of poverty. Counties have been given a five-year period of grace from the day they emerged from poverty. During this period, they will continue to enjoy the main support policies, which will be adjusted and optimised by category. China will improve its dynamic monitoring of any trends indicating a return to poverty, and improve associated support measures so that these people do not fall back into poverty. Efforts will be intensified to help those who have emerged from poverty build up self-belief and have access to education, so that they can create a better life through their own hard work.

II. Exploring a New Path of Poverty Alleviation

Countries subject to different national conditions and at different stages of development adopt different poverty reduction criteria, methods and approaches. Bearing in mind its prevailing reality and understanding the nature of poverty and the status of poverty alleviation, China has embarked on a path of poverty alleviation and designed an approach with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, China has accumulated some valuable experience that might offer enlightenment to the international community in their battle to reduce poverty.

Firstly, sticking to people-centred philosophy. The problem of poverty, in essence, is how the people should be treated: the people-centred philosophy is the fundamental driving force behind this cause. Only with this philosophy, can a country identify those who are poor, adopt concrete measures, and deliver genuine outcomes; only with this philosophy, can it draw on inexhaustible motivation, set a clear direction, and find the right approach.

Secondly, highlighting poverty alleviation as top agenda of governance. Poor conditions for development in impoverished areas and a lack of capacity for self-improvement among the poor population determine that poverty cannot be eliminated by relying solely on the efforts of individuals, local governments, or non-governmental forces. Poverty elimination must be taken on as a responsibility of the ruling party and the country; it requires will and action at national level, and it must be elevated to a national strategy. It is of utmost importance that the leadership have devotion, strong will and determination, and the ruling party and government assume their responsibilities to the people, play a leading role, mobi-



Villagers work in a bee farm in Banmu Village of Wa Autonomous County of Ximeng, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Dec. 7, 2018. Ximeng County in southwest China's Yunnan Province used to be a national-level poor region. Inspired by the country's targeted poverty alleviation drive, the county has developed cattle farming and tourism over the past five years, bringing the poverty rate drastically down. (Xinhua/Yang Zongyou)

lise forces from all quarters, and ensure policies are consistent and stable.

Thirdly, eradicating poverty through development. The root cause of poverty is inadequate development. Development is the most effective way to eradicate poverty. Only development can lead to economic growth, social progress and higher living standards. Only development can better guarantee people's basic rights and meet their desire for a better life.

Fourthly, pressing ahead with poverty alleviation based on reality. The occurrence and evolution of poverty has its own features and trends. To achieve success in reducing poverty, a country must follow a path in line with its national conditions, identify and remove obstacles to poverty alleviation, find driving forces for this cause, and constantly adjust and reform its strategies and policies as circumstances and local conditions change.

Last but not least, pooling all resources

to create synergy. Poverty alleviation is an arduous, complex, and systematic endeavour, requiring the active participation of all parties. China's experience has proven that only when a country mobilises all sectors of society to unite with common purpose and act in unison, can poverty be finally defeated.

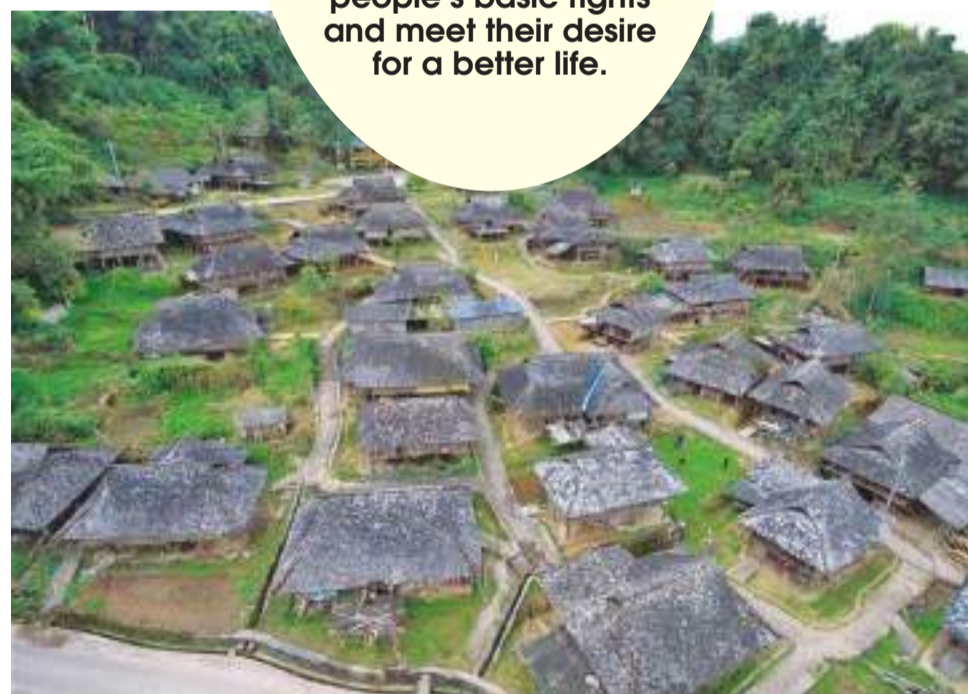
The world today is experiencing a scale of change unseen in a century. The COVID-19 pandemic is still spreading around the world, and poverty, hunger and disease are undermining people's pursuit for a better life. We believe that everyone has the right to a decent life and all countries need to shoulder their responsibilities and work on poverty reduction for a future of prosperity and development.

Sri Lanka, as a pearl of the Indian Ocean, possesses great advantages for development and prosperity, with its prominent strategic position, abundant natural resources, and the hard-working and gifted people. With the end of domestic conflicts in 2009, people of all ethnic groups in Sri Lanka are looking forward to speeding up the country's economic and social development, eliminating poverty and living a better life. The Government of Sri Lanka under the strong leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, is leading the Sri Lankan people to a prosperous and splendid future. China has full confidence in Sri Lanka's pursuit of poverty reduction.

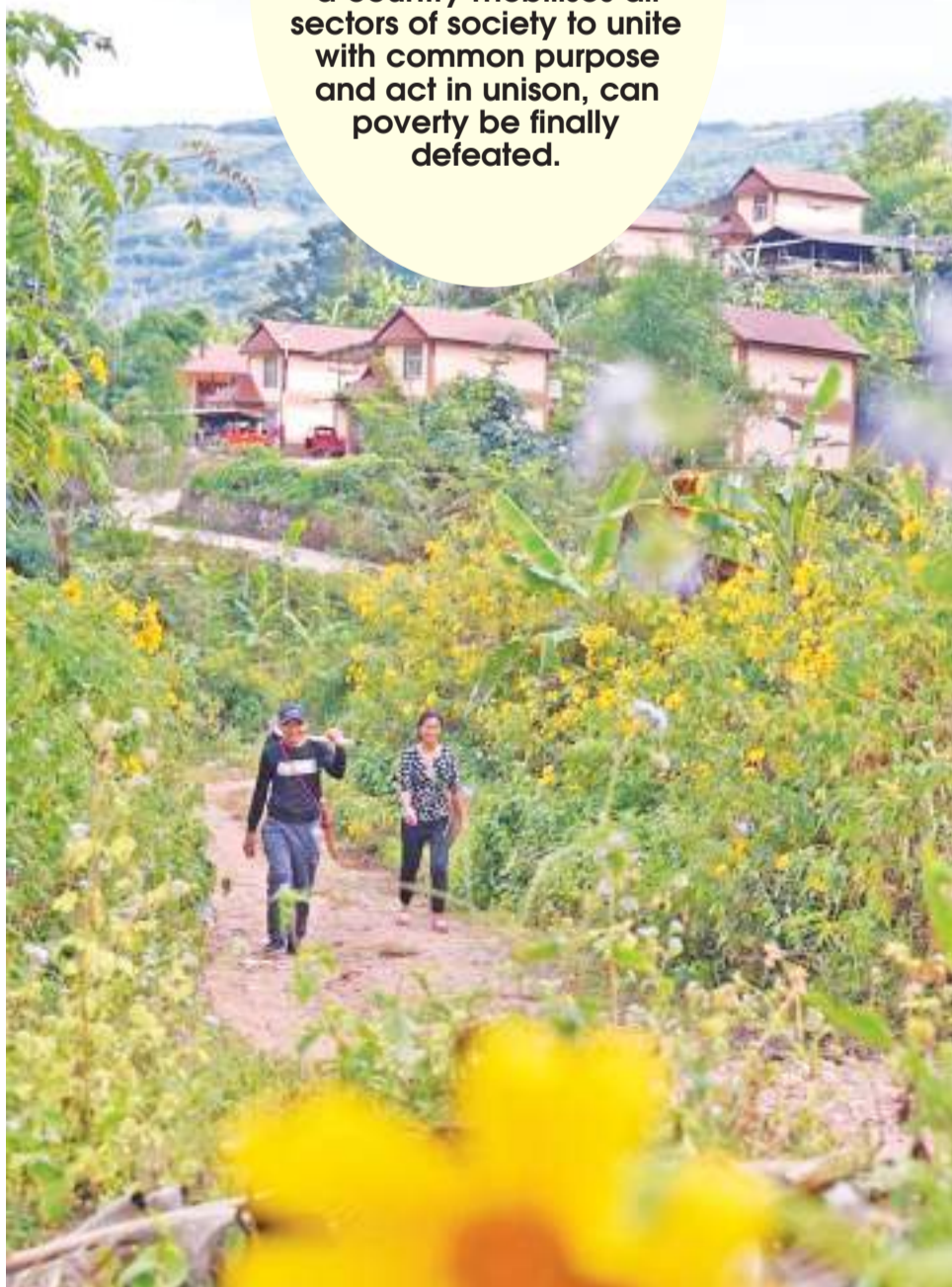
We are also willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Sri Lanka and other countries on poverty alleviation, and make a greater contribution to building a global community of a shared future that is free from poverty and blessed with common prosperity.

Concluded

Poverty alleviation is an arduous, complex, and systematic endeavour, requiring the active participation of all parties. China's experience has proven that only when a country mobilises all sectors of society to unite with common purpose and act in unison, can poverty be finally defeated.



Aerial photo taken on Dec. 7, 2018 shows the old village (up) and the relocated village (down) of the 10th villager group of Banmu Village in Wa Autonomous County of Ximeng, southwest China's Yunnan Province. Ximeng County in southwest China's Yunnan Province used to be a national-level poor region. (Xinhua/Yang Zongyou)



Villagers return from work in Yangluo Village of Wa Autonomous County of Ximeng, southwest China's Yunnan Province, Dec. 6, 2018. (Xinhua/Zhang Ruiqi)



Vibrant vintage vendors

The services of the bakery did adapt as they sent a tri-cycle with a large red plastic box. We did patronize this, but somehow the young rider did not have the aura or sales competency of our beloved old baker, who probably retired afflicted with varicose veins after all those years of walking. The vendors of that era always engaged in humour filled carefree conversation. They did not mind the heat of the evening. Somehow, they mildly influenced our childhood with splendid memories.

DISHAN JOSEPH

Time has a way of enforcing change. The human life is a journey, where we collect pleasant memories. On a rainy night two weeks ago I was having tea with David Ariyaratnam, a retired banker and Terry Genorge, a retired engineer. This was during the stillness of the avurudu holidays, when Colombo was temporarily quiet as her citizens went to their ancestral villages.

With most of the bakeries and fast food outlets closed, we were reminded to recollect the days when vendors used to come down our lane selling both sweet and spicy delights. To my memory, this unfolded 30 years ago, when Colombo still had the beautiful mild stains of old Ceylon. I am sure all our senior citizens reading this would recall your favourite vendors. With mass production, extended spending power, convenience and online food delivery, today these amiable old vendors are no more: at least in Colombo city.

The first who came to my mind was the bakery uncle. We never knew his name, strangely with all that interaction. He used to come daily between 4 pm and 5 pm with the enticing declaration of "paan paan". He faithfully carried his large basket, woven together, which had a metal lid. Within this *kooday* (basket), was a three-layered domain of taste. The first had my personal favourites. All the sugary sensations - cream buns, tea buns (studded with raisins), kimbulu bunnis (a local variant of a croissant), pol cake (again a local confectionery loaded with caramelized sugar and coconut), and gnana katha. Terry added some humour and asked if we can translate this in English to imply as the bun of wisdom. There were doughnuts and soft sponge cake as well. Every evening my mind was subject to some serious decision making, as I decided which one to buy.

Uncle David endorsed that all of this would go down well with a steaming cup of tea. In the second tier were the spicy goods - maalu paan (fish buns stuffed with fish), cutlets, seeni sambol buns and egg rolls. At the bottom layer was the housewives' favourite - "roast paan" baked to perfection with a dark brown crust. This had such culinary appeal that it went down perfectly with chicken curry, black pepper pork or chicken stew at dinner. Such dinners were once enjoyed by my uncle Justin Alwis, now domiciled in Canada. As Terry reminisced, we never had a dull evening with such choices for our tea. There was no Instagram then to upload these foodie moments.

The vendor coming second on our list was a woman who claimed she travelled from Ragama by train. She carried a box, which was immaculately padded with a soft cloth. Within its chamber rested some traditional delights. Halape (baked

in a folded leaf), kalu dodol (the prince among Southern sweets), lalaria (string hoppers steamed with coconut and oozing with caramelized sugar). This box redefined temptation, well at least in the culinary sense. Another delight that would not be known by children of this digital generation, is called "wandu appa" which is a local variant to a muffin, steamed in a leaf. The type of leaf remains a mystery to me even after three decades.

Modestly taking the third slot on our topic was an old man, perhaps of Indian origin. As a child I gazed at him as a captivating magician, not fully understanding his culinary skills. He accentuated his image by wearing a cloth turban. He used to push a steel cart with wheels, after sunset. The cart had a burning lamp. The cart was modified to hold a kerosene oil stove (a safety hazard by today's standards). When stopped the mobile cook would take stacks of kneaded rotli and heat it on the stove using a black iron skillet. He also sold boiled gram garnished with fiery red chillies, which was relished by some retired seniors who would attain realms of joy, aided by their distilled delights under the branches of a massive tree. In a way, the rotli cart was an 'action station' that brought the older folk for an extended pre-dinner chat.

On the weekends there was a short soul who sold his alluring "Bombay mitai". I think the origins of this sweet candy has its roots in India. Again, this worthy enticed us by ringing a small brass bell. The strands of finely shredded cotton candy were wrapped in newspaper or between two soft thin wafers. My

mother used to warn me that this man's fingernails were not that clean. However, the innocent desires of childhood often yield fully to such temptations. Many of these vendors walked about ringing their bells. Even tourists ate from them. Another vendor who came also pushed a cart. His signature dish was the godamba rotli, which he made with effortless dexterity. Again this item went well with any curry, including tempered potatoes dusted with chilli flakes. I recall another old woman coming down the lane once in a while. She used to sell achcharu. This complex combination had boiled olives (veralu), chopped green mangoes and ambarella. Today this combination is sold by some vendors at Galle Face Green.

It rained incessantly that night. The wheels of time kept turning. As the years rolled by our choices for tea were redirected towards other forms of food. I never counted my calories. The services of the bakery did adapt as they sent a tri-cycle with a large red plastic box. We did patronize this, but somehow the young rider did not have the aura or sales competency of our beloved old baker, who probably retired afflicted with varicose veins after all those years of walking. The vendors of that era always engaged in humour filled carefree conversation. They did not mind the heat of the evening. Somehow, they mildly influenced our childhood with splendid memories.

Today I have had all sorts of cuisine, including high tea. Every form of cuisine is indeed a reflection of its present timeline. In retrospect, as we travelled life's highway these vintage vendors came along and made our journey enchanting, even as they faded into the sunset.



Baked delights to your doorstep



Display of dexterity - kneading the dough



Taking baked goods on bicycle



Every evening my mind was subject to some serious decision making, as I decided which one to buy. In the second tier were the spicy goods - maalu paan (fish buns stuffed with fish), cutlets, seeni sambol buns and egg rolls. At the bottom layer was the housewives' favourite - "roast paan" baked to perfection with a dark brown crust. This had such culinary appeal that it went down perfectly with chicken curry, black pepper pork or chicken stew at dinner. There was no Instagram then to upload these foodie moments.



Ten States account for over 73% of new COVID-19 cases

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are among 10 states that account for 73.78 per cent of the new 3,68,147 COVID-19 cases registered in a day, while the daily positivity rate has increased to 21.19 per cent, the Union Health Ministry said today.

Maharashtra has reported the highest daily new cases at 56,647. It is followed by Karnataka with 37,733 while Kerala reported 31,959 new cases, the ministry said.

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are the other states on the list of 10.

India's total active caseload has reached 34,13,642 and now comprises 17.13 per cent of the country's total infections. A net increase of 63,998 cases has been recorded in the total active caseload in a day.

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh,



Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Bihar and Haryana cumulatively account for 81.46 per cent of India's total active cases.

"The National Mortality Rate has been falling and currently stands at 1.10 per cent and is continuously declining," the ministry said.

Besides, 3,417 deaths were reported in a span of 24 hours.

Ten states account for 74.54 per cent of the new deaths.

Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (669) followed by Delhi (407) and Uttar Pradesh with 288 daily deaths. The number of COVID-19

tests conducted across the country has crossed 29.16 crore today. India's cumulative recoveries have surged to 1,62,93,003 with 3,00,732 recoveries being reported in a span of 24 hours.

Ten states account for 73.49 per cent of the new recoveries. - NDTV

Indian Government introduces new rules for COVID testing

The Indian Government has revised the country's coronavirus-testing rules to reduce pressure on diagnostic labs amid a spurt of coronavirus cases. "Healthy" inter-state travellers and COVID patients being discharged from hospitals after recovery must not be tested, it said.

The centre said the over 2,500 labs in the country are working under tremendous pressure because of the rapidly growing caseloads.

"The need for RT-PCR test in healthy individuals undertaking inter-state domestic travel may be completely removed to reduce the load on laboratories," the centre said in a circular to states.

"No testing is required for COVID-19-recovered individuals at the time of hospital discharge," it added.

The centre said people who tested positive once - either by rapid tests or the gold standard RT-PCR - must not be tested again.

Non-essential travel of people with COVID symptoms should be avoided to reduce the risk of infection, the government added.

All asymptomatic individuals undertaking essential travel must follow Covid-appropriate behaviour.

India has been reporting over 3 lakh daily coronavirus cases for over a week. On Tuesday, the country's single-day Covid numbers were 3.35 lakh cases and 3,449 deaths in 24 hours.

Several badly affected states have reported shortages of medical oxygen, life-saving drugs and hospital beds.

Horror stories of people dying outside hospitals in the



All asymptomatic individuals undertaking essential travel must follow COVID rules.



A COVID-19 patient receives treatment inside the casualty ward at a hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday.

absence of medical care and oxygen support have shocked the world. Many countries have rushed in medical supplies to augment India's efforts in controlling the surge. Meanwhile, reports of RT-PCR test results getting delayed by several days have emerged from many Covid-hit states.

More and more people are now opting for expensive CT-scans that can detect signs of the infection in lungs.

AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria on Monday warned against "misuse" of CT-scans.

Experts say early diagnosis and treatment is critical to patients' chances of recovery. - NDTV

COVID disaster in India 'could well happen in other countries,' warns UK scientist

The COVID disaster in India "could well happen in other countries," a top UK scientist has warned.

India's infection rates have skyrocketed since February with the official coronavirus infection count surpassing 20 million on Tuesday after the health ministry reported 357,229 new cases.

The true number of cases is far higher due to limited testing.

COVID-19 deaths have also risen at an alarming speed with the country reporting 3,449 deaths on Tuesday, bringing the total toll to more than 220,000 - although the true

figures are believed to be considerably higher.

The crisis in India has seen oxygen supplies depleted, hospitals overwhelmed and mass cremations unfold as bodies pile up.

Dr Adam Kucharski, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has warned that the situation in India could be seen in other countries if the world doesn't adopt a "global view" on vaccines.

He told BBC Radio 4's World at One programme: "Unfortunately we could well see the situation in India unfold elsewhere because we have a num-

ber of countries that have these characteristics, like relatively low vaccine coverage, circulation of concerning variants, rising cases that combine to create this kind of situation."

He added: "Places like Cambodia, Fiji and Mongolia are now struggling with outbreaks and lockdowns, so I think there's some concerning signs really now and then there's more potentially to come for a number of countries."

Kucharski said that a "massive concern" is the limited capacity of healthcare because even just a small outbreak can put "huge stress on their systems." "I think really we need to be thinking proactively about how to avoid these situations emerging in other places," he added.

Kucharski said the world needs to be thinking about vaccine equity to avoid a situation where there are "rich countries selectively choosing vaccines or vaccinating younger groups while humanitarian crises are unfolding in other countries."



Relatives of patients have been refilling oxygen cylinders themselves.

He said: "We can have vaccines that are working well domestically, but if you have variants emerging globally that's going to be an ongoing threat."

His warning comes after repeated pleas from the World Health Organization (WHO), who have urged wealthier countries to share their vaccines with poorer countries.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO's chief scientist, last week warned that the outbreak in India is a global crisis. - YAHOO NEWS

India announces \$6.7 bn in cheap loans for vaccine, health firms

India's Central Bank released \$6.7 billion in cheap financing for vaccine makers, hospitals and other health firms on Wednesday, to counter the devastating coronavirus surge gripping the country.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said cheap loans would be available until March 31 next year, and vowed to deploy "unconventional" measures if the crisis worsens.

He spoke as India announced a record 3,780



Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das

deaths in 24 hours as well as 382,000 cases.

"The devastating speed with

which the virus affects different regions of the country has to be matched by swift and wide-ranging actions," he said.

With hospitals complaining of critical shortages of oxygen, beds and vaccines, the new measures aim to improve access to emergency health care during the pandemic, he said. It will be easier for banks to give cheap loans to hospitals, oxygen manufacturers and even patients.

"The immediate objective is to preserve human life and restore livelihoods through all means possible," Das added.

India's underfunded health care system has struggled to cope with the latest COVID-19 onslaught, with patients dying in hospital parking lots due to a lack of beds and oxygen.

The country has tried to claw back lost ground after a stringent, months-long lockdown caused the labour market to collapse and the economy to contract by nearly a quarter between April and June last year. - NDTV



India has so far administered over 160 million COVID-19 jabs.

India likely to see COVID Second Wave peak by May 7-Medical expert

India could see the peak of the second wave of coronavirus cases by May 7, suggested Prof. M. Vidyasagar, the Government's mathematical modelling expert on COVID-19 case predictions.

"If you take the nation as a whole, our prediction is that we may see a decline coming by the end of this week, which is by about May 7. Cases should start declining, but different states will peak at different times. The nationwide and cumulative total is at the peak now or is very, very close to it," he said in an interview with India Today TV.

If the predictions hold true, it would be a

huge relief for the country to cross the national peak of the second wave by this weekend.

"We take the seven-day rolling average because the daily numbers keep fluctuating. As a result, we should not just look at the raw numbers but also at a daily moving average. That number will begin to decline by the end of the present week," Prof. Vidyasagar said.

Speaking about the situation in various states and the trend therein, Prof Vidyasagar explained that different states would attain their peak at different times, and see a decline in their cases, as is currently being seen in the case of Maharashtra.

"The second wave basically started in Maharashtra. States that are located far away from Maharashtra will see a slow peak and the decline will be slower. States that are closer to Maharashtra will attain their peaks soon and their graph will start declining sooner," he said.

Asked if there could be states that would reach their peaks after May, Prof Vidyasagar said that's unlikely.

"We are expecting the all-India total to peak by this week. Maximum by another 10-15 days, we expect every Indian state to peak and begin a downturn. There could be outliers as well. But by and large, that is what we expect,"

he said. Prof Vidyasagar said if one compares curves of the first and second wave, one would find that in the first wave the rise in cases was very gentle.

"It took about 3.5 months to reach the peak and the drop was equally gentle. In the second wave, on April 1 we had 75,000 cases and exactly a month later, we breached the 4-lakh mark. We expect that the decline will be more or less as rapid as the rise was. The nationwide caseload by the end of May should be something around 1.2 lakh per day."

EXPERTS DIFFER ON 2nd WAVE PEAK ANALYSIS

Prof Gautam Menon, Prof of Biology at Ashoka University, on the other hand, anticipates the peak will come towards the second week of May or around mid-May.

Dr Ashish Jha, Dean at the Brown University School of Public Health, disagrees with Prof Vidyasagar's idea that the number of cases will drop as quickly as they rose in the second wave in India.

"That depends on policy. If the policy is effective in bringing cases to control, then they could decline quickly. If it is not, then the experience of many countries is that you peak, but very slowly meander down which could take months. I am not confident that we could see a dramatic decline in cases. We may end up being at a very high peak for a long period of time," he said.

Dr Ashish Jha suggested the end of the sec-

ond wave would depend on how well we do in regard to testing and vaccination, along with preventing further spread of the virus.

"My take is that it is going to take through the month of May. Probably through a large part of June. We could end up getting into July too. Sometime in June, we could get into the figure of 1 lakh cases per day," he said.

PROJECTION OF A POTENTIAL 3rd WAVE

While India is still grappling with the second COVID-19 wave, there have been concerns about the possibility of a third wave hitting the country.

Prof Vidyasagar said even though in the second wave a large number of people tested positive for Covid-19, there could be those who were infected and were asymptomatic, but have not been tested.

"These are the people who are going to remain immune for at least six months. They will begin to lose immunity towards the end of that period. So, that is when we need to have our vaccination programme well-underway."

Even if they begin to lose their immunity, they should not remain susceptible to catch the virus. If we vaccinate a substantial part of the at-risk population in about six months, then the third wave could end up being a third bump instead of the horrific wave that we are seeing at present," he said.

- INDIA TODAY



People praying for their loved ones.



A Policeman tells people who came to receive a dose of a coronavirus vaccine to leave as they stand outside the gate of a vaccination centre which was closed due to lack of supply in Mumbai.



Some charitable organisations are helping those who can't get a bed and can't afford to buy a cylinder.

As Americans continue to take steps toward normal life, India and several other countries are dealing with an explosion of new coronavirus infections likely to delay the world's recovery from the deadly crisis, health authorities warned Monday.

The number of COVID-19 cases reported around the world in the last two weeks was higher than the total of confirmed infections in the first six months of the pandemic, according to the World Health Organization. India and Brazil, which are

going through their worst days since the pandemic began, account for more than half of last week's cases, the agency said.

WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said many other countries also face "a very fragile situation" and are running out of basic hospital supplies.

"What is happening in India and Brazil could happen elsewhere unless we all take these public health precautions that WHO has been calling for since the beginning of the pandem-

More people diagnosed with COVID-19 in past two weeks than in first 6 months of pandemic - WHO



Scramble at an oxygen refilling centre in Kanpur - PTI

ic," he told reporters during a news briefing in Geneva.

Ghebreyesus said vaccines are "part of the answer," but he called on the world's richest countries to lead a global effort to help nations with limited vaccine supplies.

"We face a shared threat that we can only overcome with shared solutions," he said. "Sharing financial resources, sharing vaccine doses and production capacity and sharing technology, know-how and waiving intellectual property."



This woman wanted to record the moment of her COVID-19 vaccination in Bangalore.

India's coronavirus outbreak has reached catastrophic levels in recent days, with places of worship turning into makeshift hospitals and crematoriums becoming overcrowded, especially in densely populated cities like Mumbai and New Delhi. On Saturday, Indian officials

reported more than 400,000 new cases for the first time. It was part of a 10-day stretch of more than 300,000 daily cases across the country.

The nation of 1.3 billion people has the second highest number of confirmed cases, with nearly 20 million infec-

tions so far. The U.S. still has the highest, with more than 32 million.

India's death toll of over 222,000 is the third worst in the world. The U.S. also leads the global death toll with more than 577,000 deaths, followed by Brazil with 407,000.

Other countries reporting alarming numbers of new infections include France, Iran and Turkey.

A top official with the Biden administration said Sunday that the federal government has sent multiple military transport planes loaded with supplies, including oxygen, to help India with its battle against the fast-moving virus.

The outbreak in India and Brazil has raised fears of new variants popping up across the world that could potentially spread and resist current vaccines. - YAHOO NEWS

President Joe Biden wants 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated by July 4



US President Joe Biden discusses the national response to COVID-19 on April 21. Vice President Kamala Harris is on the left.

US President Joe Biden wants 70% of U.S. adults to have at least one COVID-19 shot by July 4, a goal he announced Tuesday along with steps to vaccinate harder-to-reach populations and preparations for vaccinating teenagers.

About 56% of adults have received at least one shot.

The pace of vaccinations required to reach 70% is much slower than the speed with which the nation got to its current levels.

Vaccinators are moving beyond the most vulnerable populations and those most eager to get vaccinated.

"There are millions of Americans who just need a little bit of encouragement to get the shot," Biden

said. "We need you. We need you to bring it home."

Biden said the next phase could be more challenging than initial efforts, which required purchasing enough doses for every American and setting up a massive distribution system.

"It's harder. It's beyond my personal control," Biden said of the need to convince more people to get vaccinated.

Most states are at or near the point where supply is outstripping demand, according to an analysis released Tuesday by the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonpartisan health research organization.

That's despite the fact that in

about 1 in 4 states, fewer than 50% of adults have received at least one shot. That's well below the level needed to drive down the risk of outbreaks. The lowest rate, as of April 29, was Alabama's 41%. New Hampshire's 74% was the highest.

Of the dozen states where 60% or more of adults have received at least one dose, eight are in the Northeast. Nine of the 13 states where less than 50% of adults have gotten a shot are in the South.

As the Food and Drug Administration considers whether to approve the Pfizer vaccine for those ages 12-15, the administration is getting ready to act.

- USA TODAY



COVID cases at Everest base camp raise fears of serious outbreak

NEPAL: Mountaineers and authorities at Everest base camp in Nepal have told the BBC they are seeing rising numbers of climbers with Covid-19 symptoms and rising numbers of positive tests, raising fears of a serious outbreak.

Base camp officials said they had received reports of 17 confirmed cases from hospitals in the capital Kathmandu, where a number of climbers have been sent from the base camp and higher camps to be treated.

And staff at a private hospital in Kathmandu, the CIWEC clinic, confirmed to the BBC that patients had tested positive for coronavirus after arriving from Everest base camp.

The Nepalese government has so far denied having any knowledge of positive cases at Everest base camp, raising concerns that officials are downplaying the extent of the situation out of fear it will bring more pressure to close the mountain to expeditions.

Foreign climbers are a major source of revenue for the Nepalese government, which shut Everest last year during the pandemic.

Authorities are mandating that visiting climbers quarantine in Nepal before proceeding to base camp, but concerns have been raised within the climbing community that a serious outbreak at the mountain would be devastating.

The number of coronavirus cases has risen sharply in Nepal in recent weeks, and the

country has the highest rate of infection among the countries neighbouring India, where a second wave has sparked a full-blown crisis.

Officials from Nepal's Department of Tourism, which directly oversees expeditions, could not be reached for comment, but Prem Subedi, the under-secretary at Nepal's Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, told the BBC the ministry was not aware of any coronavirus cases at base camp.

"None of the Covid cases at Everest base camp have been reported so far to the Ministry of Tourism," he said.

The Himalayan Rescue Association, which runs a government-authorised medical clinic at the base camp, told the BBC it had

received confirmation of positive cases in some climbers flown out to Kathmandu by expedition teams.

"We have just received from Kathmandu confirmation of 17 positive cases [in climbers flown out of Everest]," said Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa, an official with the Himalayan Rescue Association.

"We have now asked expedition teams to first let us know before they fly out their members [to Kathmandu] who fall ill so that we know what is going on," he said.

Lhakpa Nuru Sherpa's colleague at the Everest base camp clinic, Dr Prakash Kharel, said the number of people showing coronavirus-like symptoms, such as a persistent cough and fever, was rising daily.

- BBC



Health officials have warned of rising numbers of COVID-19 cases at base camp.

Fear pervades Mexico City metro after deadly crash

MEXICO: Commuters riding Mexico City's metro just a day after one of its worst ever accidents said they worried for their safety but had little choice other than to use the network.

"We were already afraid when traveling, but now even more so," said 30-year-old Brenda Gonzalez.

"They say they do maintenance, but it doesn't seem like it to me. They steal the five pesos (\$0.24) that we pay" per trip, she added indignantly at the Candelaria station near the historic district.

The shoe factory worker said she was shocked by the images of rescuers trying to free people from the train carriages left hanging from an overpass on Monday night.

"Everything happens to this metro, but there's no other choice," she said.

Line 12 of the metro where the accident struck had already suffered problems in the design, operation and maintenance of the tracks, according to a 2014 study commissioned by the city mayor's office.

The wider network has also been plagued by safety issues. In March 2020, two subway trains collided in Mexico City, leaving one dead and around 40 injured as panicked passengers fled through thick smoke.



The damage caused after a railway overpass and train collapsed onto a road in Mexico City.

In January of this year, one person died and 29 suffered smoke inhalation injuries in a fire in the metro's control center. Standing next to a window of a carriage on Line 4, which is also elevated in some sections, 42-year-old security guard Fernando Dominguez said he too feared an accident.

"I've used this same line to go to work for more than 10 years and I've never seen anyone doing maintenance on anything," he said.

"And right in this section everything

shakes as if it's going to fall," he added, sweating forming on his brow.

The other passengers on the same metro train with Fernando were silent and exchanged nervous glances when the train braked gently.

"It's one thing taking the metro down below, but when it comes up here after what happened yesterday it scares you more," said Agustin Suarez, a 70-year-old retired accountant.

Almost 80 people were hospitalized after Monday's accident, including

28-year-old Daniel Hernandez, who was admitted to the Belisario Dominguez Hospital in the east of the city near the scene of the disaster.

"He's in a very delicate condition. They operated on him at night," said his uncle, Jorge Hernandez.

"The blood went to his lungs - that's what they told my sister," he said.

His nephew was transferred by helicopter to another hospital and the family was waiting for more information about his condition, the uncle said. At the Tlahuac General Hospital, a couple was looking for their neighbor who was feared to have been crushed in his car when the concrete columns collapsed.

"We don't know if he's dead or alive. His stepfather told us that he had already died, but a reporter filmed a video where he is trapped and asks for help," Jose Luis Vigil told AFP.

"The car is still under the column. We know that she (the wife) is alive," he added. The metro is the main means of public transport in Mexico City and the surrounding suburbs - home to 20 million people - and complaints about its lack of maintenance have been common among users for years.

- BBC

George Floyd killer Derek Chauvin asks for new trial

US: The white former Minneapolis police officer convicted last month of the murder of the black man George Floyd has requested a new trial.

Derek Chauvin's legal team have filed court documents alleging misconduct by both prosecutors and jurors.

Chauvin, who was captured on video kneeling on Mr Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes, was found guilty of murder and manslaughter.

His lawyer says his client was deprived of a fair trial.

In court documents Eric Nelson argues that the process was not impartial because of pre-trial publicity.

He writes that it was "so pervasive and so prejudicial" before and during the trial, that it amounted

to a "structural defect in the proceedings".

The motion also alleges that errors were made by the judge and that there was prosecutorial misconduct and witness intimidation.

US media report that the request for a new trial was expected and is a common move following a conviction.

The New York Times quoted experts as saying it was unlikely that the jury's decision would be overturned because of the evidence in the case.

The rare verdict against a police officer was considered a milestone in the racial history of the US and was widely applauded by Americans. Chauvin faces up to 40 years in prison.

He will be sentenced next month. - BBC



George Floyd and his killer Derek Chauvin (R).

Amandi of Sangamitta Galle emerges all-island first in GCE (A/L) Commerce Stream

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

Amandi Imasha Madanayake of Sangamitta College, Galle has secured all island first place in the Commerce Stream at the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination held in 2020 under the New Syllabus.

She has excelled in the Commerce Stream subjects of Accounting, Business Studies and Information Technology to secure the first place in the island.

Amandi hails from Imaduwa in Ahangama. Her father is a retired Administrative Grama Niladhari and her mother serves as a Grama Niladhari attached to the Imaduwa Divisional Secretariat. Amandi also has an elder brother who is currently pursuing higher education.

"I'm really happy. That's it. First of all I thank my parents. And then

to my alma mater. I dedicate this victory to all those who taught me throughout my schooling including the principal of my College. I also offer my gratitude to my tuition teachers. I was also able to earn a remarkable victory at the school in the GCE Ordinary Level Examination. I'm really happy about that. I did extracurricular activities at the school. While doing all that work, I work hard on my studies. If you take inspiration not only from books but also from other external activities and work with firm determination upon your target, you will succeed".

Commenting on Amandi's extraordinary academic performance, Sangamitta College Principal Chandani Udakumbura said, "Our school has been able to achieve national level results



Amandi Madanayake with her mother, father, Sangamitta College Principal Chandani Udakumbura and the Sectional Head of the Commerce Section.

throughout the past. The student who obtained 200 marks in the last scholarship examination was also a Sangamittian.

I am also proud of the school's achievement in the Commerce section of this year's G.C.E. Advanced

Level Examination. I would like to thank all the staff, the School Development Society and the alumni for their support in this endeavour. I wish good luck for our Amandi who brought great honour to the college".

New WFP Country Director reaffirms commitment to improving nutrition and food security

The newly-appointed Country Director and Representative of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Sri Lanka, Abdur Rahim Siddiqui, reiterated the WFP's commitment to supporting the Government in enhancing food security, improving nutrition, and strengthening resilience of smallholder farmers through sustainable agriculture.

He was speaking after formally presenting his letter of credentials to Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena at the Ministry premises.

Siddiqui said, "I am pleased to see the socio economic progress Sri Lanka has made since the end of its decades-long civil conflict," said Country Director Siddiqui. "My colleagues and I remain committed to working with the Government and other partners in addressing and overcoming on-going challenges related to nutrition and food security. Our aim is to develop a better future for vulnerable communities through sustainable solutions."

The Country Director and Minister Gunawardena discussed the WFP's Country Strategic Plan which comprises a set of objectives in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2 of achieving Zero Hunger. They also discussed the progress Sri Lanka has made in reducing hunger and malnutrition and building resilience of communities against the effects of climate change. WFP established its presence in the country in 1968.



WFP Sri Lanka Country Director Abdur Rahim Siddiqui hands over his letter of credentials to Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

Siddiqui has over 30 years' experience in WFP with a strong background in the fields of nutrition and food security. He was previously based in Nigeria as the Head of Area Office of the Northern States, where he led the organization's emergency operations. An experienced humanitarian, Country Director Siddiqui has held various positions throughout his WFP career, many of which were in large-scale, complex emergency situations. He will now lead WFP to further develop and enhance its existing programmes in Sri Lanka.



THE DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR

Procurement of Supplying Envelopes and Brown Papers for the Year of 2021

Contract No.: 4/10/1/2021

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Commissioner General of Examinations, Department of Examinations now invites sealed bids for the Procurement of supplying Envelopes and Brown Papers for the Year of 2021 described in the table below, from eligible and qualified bidders who possess minimum experience mentioned below. Complete details are included in the bidding document.

Lot No.	Type	No. of Items in the Lot
1.	8" x 5" Sackcraft Window envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	275 Packets (275,000 Envelopes)
2.	9" x 5" Sackcraft Window envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	80 Packets (80,000 Envelopes)
3.	9.5" x 4.5" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	25 Packets (25,000 Envelopes)
4.	10.5" x 7.5" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	200 Packets (200,000 Envelopes)
5.	15" x 10" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	750 Packets (750,000 Envelopes)
6.	16" x 13" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 100 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	400 Packets (400,000 Envelopes)
7.	17" x 14" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	100 Packets (100,000 Envelopes)
8.	18.5" x 14.5" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	250 Packets (250,000 Envelopes)
9.	19" x 14" Sackcraft Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	150 Packets (150,000 Envelopes)
10.	19.5" x 16.5" Sackcraft Double envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	250 Packets (250,000 Envelopes)
11.	15" x 10" White Bond Envelopes Printed (GSM 80 ± 2) (1000 Envelopes Nos) Machine Direction - 35 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 20 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	75 Packets (75,000 Envelopes)
12.	30" x 40" Sackcraft Brown Papers (GSM 80 ± 2) (250 Papers Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	400 Packets (100,000 Papers)
13.	30" x 40" Sackcraft Brown Papers (GSM 100 ± 2) (250 Papers Nos) Machine Direction - 70 ± 5 Nm/g (Minimum) Cross Direction - 30 ± 2 Nm/g (Minimum)	160 Packets (40,000 Papers)

- Bidding will be conducted following the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedures.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and have three years' experience in selling / supplying relevant item(s).
- The Bidder should possess a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in accordance with the section 6 of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Supplies Division, 3rd Floor, Department of Examinations (Telephone: 011-2786200-238 or 0112785219) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from 09.00 am to 02.30 pm on working days until 25/05/2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Supplies Division upon submission of a written application with business registration letter's copy on or before 2.30 pm, on 25/05/2021 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 7,775.00 for each document. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bid shall be valid up to 90 days. (26/08/2021).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of Sri Lankan Rupees 290,000.00 (Sri Lankan Rupees two hundred & ninety thousand) unconditional bank guarantee from a reputed commercial bank operated in Sri Lanka on the format attached to the bidding documents and should be valid up to 120 days from the date of closing of the bid. (Up to 25/09/2021).
- Bids must be delivered to the Supplies Division, 03rd Floor, Department of Examinations, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 28/05/2021 at 2.30 pm. Late bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given above after closing of bids.
- Duly filled and sealed Bids marked "Procurement of supplying of Envelopes and Brown papers for the Year of 2021", Contract No.: 4/10/1/2021 on top left hand corner of the envelope should be submitted.
- The Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Department Procurement Committee's action.

The Commissioner General of Examinations,
Department of Examinations,
Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.
06/05/2021

She passes A/Ls with flying colours after undergoing 27 surgeries

ASELA KURULUWANSA

Wathsala Yasanthi Kumari Muthukude, a student who had undergone 27 surgeries passed the GCE Advanced Level Examination with two 'A' Passes and a 'B' Pass in the Bio Science stream.

She is a student of Kandy Girls' High School. She studied at Kandy Swarnamali Balika Vidyalaya until the Ordinary Level and she obtained 8 'A' Passes and a 'B' Pass at the Ordinary Level Examination.

She had born with complications in mouth, nose and hands and had undergone the first surgery at the age of three months. She faced her 27th surgery two months before the start of the Advanced Level examination. From birth, her right hand ended at the elbow and the left hand had no fingers except the thumb. Since it is difficult for her to do her own work with the remaining hand, Plastic



Wathsala Yasanthi Kumari Muthukude

Surgery Consultant Dr. Kanakathapille had done about 20 operations on her from time to time. She had undergone seven operations in the mouth.

Kandy Girls' High School Principal Malkanthi Abeygunasekara praised Wathsala's commitment and dedication, adding she is a glowing example to other students. Wathsala's teachers and fellow students are very proud of her achievement.



W.V.Chamalka Sewmini

Sewmini secures all-island first place in Arts Stream

ASHRAFF.A.SAMAD

W.V.Chamalka Sewmini from Presbyterian Girls' School, Dehiwala secured all-island first place in the Arts Stream,

at the 2020 G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination.

Sewmini studied Home Economics, Political Science and Mass

Media hopes to be a university lecturer. She thanked her School Principal, teachers and parents for her success. Presbyterian Girls' School Princi-

pal S.K.C. Muthunayake said it was the first time that a student from that school had secured an all-island first place in the Arts Stream.

Top scorers at GCE A/L's



Kugaraja Sajeev



K. Pavisek



Thambipillai Thinojan

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN
Batticaloa Special Corr.

Kugaraja Sajeev of St. Michael's College has come first in the Batticaloa district in the Maths stream, according to the GCE (A/L) results released on Tuesday.

Thambipillai Thinojan who has come first in the Batticaloa district from Paddiruppu Maha Vidyalaya, Kaluwanchikudy. He is

from a remote village called Mahiloor in the Paddiruppu Educational Zone.

K. Pavisek who has come first in the Batticaloa district in the Technology stream is from Batticaloa, Chenkalady Central College. Thivesha Kirubairaja of St. Cecilia Central College has come first in Batticaloa district in the Arts stream.



Thivesha Kirubairaja

AG concludes action on 27,206 criminal cases within two years

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dapula de Livera has so far concluded action in 27,206 criminal cases during his

tenure, Coordinating Officer to the Attorney General State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said yesterday.

She added that this was done during the two year term of the Attorney General from May 2019 to May 2021.

Landmark tree in Sammanthurai cut down

Picture and story by **M.A. PHAKURDEEN**
Addalalchenai Group Corr.

A tree which was described as a landmark in Sammanthurai was cut down on Tuesday by the relevant authorities under Police protection due to protests by the people.

It was brought to the notice of the Sammanthurai Divisional Secretary that the tree has begun to lean towards residents' houses and was in danger of falling on them at any time if there is strong wind. It was suspected that its roots had begun to rot in a number of places. Hence, the relevant authorities took action after inspection and to cut the tree on an earlier occasion. But, due to protests by some persons and the absence of the Police on that day they abandoned it.

The history of this tree was that it was planted by a popular personality of that era, Meeralebbe Podi Vanniari popularly known to the people as Neerpacha Vanniari somewhere during the 1870's after his marriage in Sammanthurai. This Vanniari was from Ninthavur and his father too was a Vanniayar. He was the one and only Neerpacha (Irrigation) Vanniari appointed by the British Government and was in charge of all irrigation matters in this very large area. The age of this large tree is estimated at around 150 years.

This tree was planted in a junction and to this day this junction is known as Poomarathadi Junction.



The stump of the landmark tree in Sammanthurai.

MONLAR appreciates Cabinet Decision to ban chemical fertiliser

DINULI FRANCISCO

The Movement for Land and Agricultural Reforms (MONLAR) appreciates the Cabinet Decision to ban chemical fertilisers and has requested the President to establish a mechanism to face the practical issues that will occur with the usage of organic fertiliser.

MONLAR in a letter addressed to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, has requested to prepare short term, mid-term and long-term strategies to face practical issues and challenges with the usage of organic fertiliser and arrange a programme addressing attitudinal changes to use organic fertiliser.

"The Agricultural Department and the Agrarian Development Department are opposing the decision of promoting Organic fertiliser. These are the two main departments that are responsible for taking agricul-

ture forward. Therefore, their disagreements will hinder the promotion of organic fertiliser," the letter read.

The letter further said that the move to organic fertiliser must not be a mere political move as the past Government too did not continue to take the organic fertiliser programme further. "18,000 metric tons of chemical fertiliser that contained heavy metals was released by the previous government. Sustainable farming must be promoted with proper strategies and long-term plans if not the farmers will be dragged into a difficult situation", the letter added.

The letter also added that for sustainable farming, proper technology, knowledge and training are a must, but programmes are not yet developed to meet those expectations.

Sri Lanka cricket and bringing back its past glory

Rev. Bro.
NIMAL GURUSINGHE F.S.C.

It is evident that our standard of cricket is very low. Those in authority do not know how to bring back or regain our past glory. If office bearers are constantly being changed then Sri Lanka Cricket will automatically suffer and deteriorate. What is the point of having experts in the Cricket Board if players cannot deliver the goods? It is very pathetic to see the way our players play the game. Consequently, certain issues regarding Sri Lanka Cricket need to be addressed and tackled. In this article I intend to highlight some of those issues that require immediate attention. I sincerely hope that something will happen.

1. A committees of individuals, who love both country and cricket, should be in charge of

Sri Lanka Cricket. They must be free of any 'hidden agendas'. Their primary purpose ought to be the uplifting of Sri Lanka Cricket to a very high standard. If, however, they are first and foremost motivated by money or self honour, then Sri Lanka Cricket will go from bad to worse. Such people ruin the game. We need men of high calibre who will be willing to do everything in their power to put our country on the Cricket World Map once again.

2. Only those players who are prepared to give their best for the glory of Sri Lanka Cricket should be selected. How can a player commit himself wholeheartedly to our National Team and its ideals if his primary focus is predominantly financial rewards? At present, money is a major component of cricket and it has a big influence on



players and their attitudes. Many of them are 'in the game' only for the money! So, how can you expect anything extraordinary from them? When things are not 'rosy' they readily cave in and lose the will to fight.

3. Most of our players are not mentally fit to play the game. Before entering the field of play they need to be prepared psychologically to handle any situation or pressure they encounter during the game, especially when things are not going their

way. Therefore, some psychologists should be employed to ensure that the proper 'frame of mind' is nurtured within our players' psyche prior to any encounter with foreign teams.

4. A pre-condition for selecting about 15 players is that each one of them must be able to put runs on the scoreboard! Even the Number 11 player should contribute to the team's overall score with his bat. For example, if Sri Lanka's score is 110 for 8, then the last three batsmen should have the cour-

age and backbone to bring the team's score to at least 300. They must not 'throw' their wickets and, in so doing, surrender the match to their opponents. Gone are the days when only Numbers 1 to 7 scored runs for the team!

5. It is essential that every player is a very good fielder. During practice sessions cricketers must be serious, determined and consistent about their fielding skills and techniques. They must not underestimate the importance of fielding in a cricket game.

A catch missed or a run not taken can cost the match. Good fielding can cause panic in the opposition team and make the players 'throw' their wickets. Therefore, fielding practice sessions must not be taken lightly by our cricketers.

6. It is unpardonable for any

batsman to be run out. Consequently, it is vital that our cricketers practice running between wickets. Failure to understand this can lead to the loss of a game. Indeed, a team can lose a match if two of its batsmen are run out! Some of our National players do not practice running between wickets and, as a result, they are worse than schoolboy cricketers. If they do not give due importance and seriousness to this fundamental cricket skill then they will not go far in the game. Good running between wickets can destroy a bowler's length.

7. Our cricketers must be trained to play in any conditions. If a team only wins on its home soil then it is wrong to say that the team is a 'good' side. International players must be prepared to 'show their colours' in foreign countries, irrespective of the pitch or climate. Consequently, those in authority must ensure that our players are given the opportunity to travel abroad and become accustomed to a wide range of playing and climate conditions before they undertake a tour. Prior to leaving the country they should be exposed to fast bouncy pitches, in cold climates. Also, they should become familiar with pitches where the ball swings a lot. If not, then they will be 'fish out of water' on foreign soil and will be forced to 'eat humble pie' on the World Cricket Stage.

I am sure that the men in authority will give serious consideration to points I have made in this article and earnestly try their best to bring back or regain our past glory as a World Class Cricket Nation!

GSTC prize money tournament

Yasitha, Sankha and Janali, Savini win doubles titles

Yasitha de Silva and Sankha Atukorale won the men's doubles title of the Government Servants' Tennis Club championship, popularly known as GSTC tourney, a mega prize money ranking tournament recently. The tournament was held at GSTC courts and successfully concluded at this hard time strictly following all Covid 19 protocols.

Yasitha de Silva and Sankha Atukorale beat Savit Weerasinghe and Archana Lokuge to take the title. Meanwhile Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya beat Amritha Muttiah and Kemali Herath 6-3, 6-0 to win the women's doubles final. The men's as well as the women's doubles champions were given an attractive cash prize of Rs 100,000.00 each while the runner-up pairs in both categories got Rs 50,000.00 each. They were also awarded trophies and a gift pack from YETI.

The GSTC Prestige prize money all island doubles tournament witnessed 29 pairs battling out in the men's category.

GSTC has three regularly maintained clay courts and has recently flooded all the courts too. Government Servants' Tennis Club is nearly a century old tennis club and attracts



Women's doubles champions Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya

juniors, veterans and the budding youngsters too into its membership (D.R)

The results

Men's doubles final:

Yasitha de Silva and Sankha Atukorale beat



Men's double champions Yasitha de Silva and Sankha Atukorale

Savit Weerasinghe and Archana Lokuge 6/2,6/1

Women's doubles final

Janali Manamperi and Savini Jayasuriya beat Amritha Muttiah and Kemali Herath 6/3,6/0.

Gold Star Youth Club, Maha Gonaduwa emerges overall champs

H.L.SUNIL SHANTHA
Kalutara central special correspondent.

Gold Star Youth Club, Maha Gonaduwa, in the Kalutara Division with a total of 171 points and Sura Bilindu Youth Club (138 points) won the Overall Championship and runner up positions at the 33rd Kalutara Provincial Inter Youth Club Athletic meet organized by the National Youth Services Council (NYSC), and held at the Holy Cross College playground recently.

Kalutara Damnada Youth Club, Moronhuduwa was placed third with 125.

This Annual Athletic Meet, mainly organized by the Kalutara Divisional Youth Service Officer, K. Ruwantha Malinga, under the directions of Kalutara District Youth Service Officer Lalith Wanniarachchi and



Victorious Gold Star Youth Club players celebrating their victory.

Kalutara DS Mr. Shamika Thrimanna.

The event was very successfully concluded amidst a big, gathering of supporters of the winning clubs, Youth Clubs, Gold Star and Sura Bilindu.

Cups, certificates and prizes were distributed by the chief guest Mr. Jayathilaka

Adikaari, the Kalutara District Director of the NYSC, with the participation of veteran Asian Silver Medalist Athlete Mr. Nayana Prasad Dharmarathna, Kalutara Divisional Secretariate's Youth Service Officer K. Ruwantha Malinga and several Youth Service Officers attached to the Kalutara DS.

Soccer star Naina Mohamed felicitated

RUZAIK FAROOK

Zahira Veterans felicitated Ex National Football Player Naina Mohamed for his appointment as a Member of the Sri Lanka National Football Selection Committee at the Sausha Banquets Hall, Colombo recently.

The President of the Zahira Veterans Saharan Lafir presented memento to the Naina Mohamed along with Project Chairman Nazly Nizam and Irfan Alavi at the ceremony.

Naina Mohamed is a 'B' Licensed coach of Asia Football Confederation (AFC) and Ex National football Player in Sri Lanka.

He coached Zahira College Junior Football Team from 1993 to 1997 during that period the junior team



The President of the Zahira Veterans Saharan Lafir presenting memento to the Naina Mohamed along with Project Chairman Nazly Nizam and Irfan Alavi.

Picture by: Ruzaik Farook

became all Island champions twice.

He played for Zahira College senior football team and thereafter he represented the York Sports Club in the Sri Lanka Premier League Division 1 from 1981 to 1997. Also he played

in the Sri Lanka National team from 1983 to 1990.

Naina was a Former President of the Zahira College Old Boys Association and presently is the Chairman Sports Zahira College and Board of Governors of Zahira College Colombo.

Talented veterans' soccer team seeks sponsorship

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA-
Kandy Sports Special corr.

Over 40 Kandy City Veterans Soccer team, has been playing Matches since 2009 and they have played soccer matches all over the Island, including Kandy, Colombo, Jaffna, Hatton, Kurunegala, Kegalle, Puttalam, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Gampola. According to the senior team Member C. Kumarasingham, they have played over 150 matches and have won 50 matches so far.

It is sad to note that the players have to bear the all the cost of matches, for traveling and other expenses on their own as they do not have any sponsors for the poor-man's game of soccer. The soccer players of Kandy are much interested in improving the game in Sri Lanka as there are so many soccer loving fans and players in the Country. Due to the Covid epidemic the Soccer team had to cancel a few matches.



The Veterans Soccer team of Kandy City - M.A. Kumarasingham, R.O.Ebert, R. Jeyaraj, D.M.T.Priyankara, D.M.Asoka, R.Samuel, M.Ajmar, H.A.R.R.de Alwis, Gamunu Sapugoda, U.W.N.D.Fernando, G.N.Danushka Pushpakumara, Champika Kadanarachchi, M.Rizman, C.Kumarasingham, M.Prasad.M.Alex. (Anura Ranasinghe-Head coach not in the picture.)

Akkaraipattu Walkers Union initiates walking for health

Text and Picture by: I.L.RIZAN,
Addalaichenai Central Correspondent

The Walkers Union, Akkaraipattu the first of this nature in the region held its Annual Walking Competition - 2021 under theme 'Let's do physical exercise and maintain good healthy life' during the weekend. Akkaraipattu Walkers Union President M.H.Jainudeen organized the pro-

gramme while Akkaraipattu Municipality Mayor Athaullah Ahmed Zackie was the chief guest. The competitions began with the hosting of the National Flag by Mayor Athaullah Ahmed Zackie in the presence of Akkaraipattu Divisional Secretary M.S.M.Razzan at the Water Park premises, Akkaraipattu.

The highlights of the competitions were walk-

ing competition for senior citizen and ladies. The senior citizens thank the Walkers Union for giving them an opportunity of such an exciting event. Winners were awarded certificates and cash prize by the Guests at the event.

Winners of the Senior category -

1st place - P.T.Alawdeen. 2nd place - H.L.A.Kuthoos. 3rd place - M.I.M.Marzook.

Trinity - Antonian postponed due to Covid-19



HAFIZ MARIKAR

This year's 103rd Trinity-Antonian cricket encounter known as The Hill Country Battle of the Blues which is one of the most looked Big Match in the hill country which is played since 1914 and the sixth oldest Big Match in Sri Lanka, which was scheduled to be played on May 15th and 16th at Katugastota, has been postponed. Out of the 102 games played, the Trinitians have won 23 with 11 ending in favour of the Antonians and 68 draws. Due to a disagreement between the two schools, regarding the age rule resulted in the cancellation of the match in 1956 and 1957. Also, in 2001 the match did not play as

the Trinity stopped playing mid way during that season due to disciplinary reasons and also last year Corono halted the match. The last outright win for the Antonians was in 1992 and Trinity won last under Niroshan Dickwella in 2012 after the 1986 win under Thushara Weerasinghe. The victory came after 36 years. St. Anthony's College, Kandy are the current holders of the trophy after their 1st innings win in 2019 as they managed to restrict Trinity College to 173 after posting 298 for the loss of 8 wickets.

This encounter is playing for the John Halangoda Memorial Trophy. But a first innings win will not go into the records as a win to the relevant team. And the one day winners get the Sir Rich-

ard Aluwihare Trophy. The first encounter was played at the Bogambara Grounds in March 1914; where the Antonians won. Trinity won the next match, and a long-contested series has followed. 1918 to 1929, during the World War I, St. Anthony's College premises (the present St. Sylvester's College premises including the practice pitches and the playing field (Bracksnaw called Police Grounds) were occupied by the British Army. As a result, Antonian cricket deprived and they had lost to Trinity for 11 times consecutively. Without a playground of their own, The Antonians were no match for the Trinitians even with the like of legendary Jack Anderson in the team.

The post-war period (1929-1947) was inauspicious for the Antoni-

ans, as they had a poor run in the field. Trinity during that time had C. Dharmalingam, a left-arm bowler who for two consecutive years naged the Antonians with his left-arm spin. In 1938 he took 9 for 14 and in 1939 had the figures of 6 for 17 and 6 for 31 inclusive of a double hat-trick, a record.

Some of the past records and notable performances: Jack Anderson (St. Anthony's) in 1918 scored 111 runs which was the first century in the series; Antonian A.C.M. Lafir made 176, the highest individual score and then A.C.M. Lafir and Ronnie Stevens had an opening stand of 266 runs - Lafir 176 and Stevens 120. Lowest total - Trinity 37 in 1951. St. Anthony's 44 in 1938. In bowling C. Dharmalingam Trinity in 1939 took a double

hat-trick. Lalith Ramanyake scored the fastest 100, in 72 minutes in 1970. Antonian Merrill Dunuwille scored the first 100 at Katugastota after the laying of the turf wicket.

Recalling memories of the Trinity-Antonian game of 1986, which the Trinitians won by seven wickets to break a 35-year hoodoo. That year the Trinitians were led by T. P. Weerasinghe and the Antonians by Rienzie Perera. This great win for the Trinitians would not have been possible if not for the sporty and challenging declaration made by the Antonian skipper Rienzie Perera. He threw the game wide open and the Trinitians who accepted the challenge found the going easy during the last stages as the Antonians were a tired lot and ran short of bowlers after

the start of the 20 mandatory overs. The winning run a boundary to the long-on fence was hit by burly left hander Romesh Jayawardene in the 14th mandatory over.

Trinity skipper failed to call correctly and St. Anthony's elected to take first turn of a placid Katugastota wicket. The Katugastota boys topped the 50 mark for the loss of just one wicket but with the introduction of the spinners C. I. Fernando and Selvaratnam Ratnakumar the Antonians found themselves in trouble and were dismissed for a paltry 126. The Trinitians fielded well with stumper Mevan Ballale performing well holding three good catches and also stumping skipper Rienzie Perera. The ever agile Ballale set an example to the rest of his teammates. This

was one of the lowest score made by an Antonian side against Trinity for quite some time. The Antonians 126 came in 240 minutes after 67.4 overs.

The Asgiriya boys in reply were off to a sound start but with the score at 28, A. K. Premasinghe foolishly ran himself out. Wickets fell at regular intervals and Trinity ended the first day at 86 for 6. Rienzie Perera returned 4 for 34 in 15 overs, in which three of them were maidens.

Continuing from 86 for 6, Trinity found themselves in trouble as their overnight batsmen failed and the last four wickets fell for 12 runs within the space of 15 minutes. Trinity were bowled out for 98 in 161 minutes off 41 overs.

St. Anthony's enjoying a first innings lead of 28 runs, were expected to make quick runs

and consolidate their position, instead they batted without purpose and were 55 for 3 at lunch having batted for 105 minutes and faced 28 overs. At 2.35 p.m. St. Anthony's declared with a score of 160 for 7. Sixteen-year-old Ruwan Kalpage chipped in with an unbeaten 24 which included four hits to the fence and a well-timed six which landed on the tiers accommodating the Antonian tent. Ratnakumaran who had a match bag of 6 for 100 was presented with the best bowler's award.

The Trinitians set to make 190 to win in 90 minutes and 20 mandatory overs, were given a sound start by Mevan Ballale and S. K. Premasinghe who put on 93 runs in 100 minutes. Premasinghe was dismissed for 39. Ballale joined by Sujewa Jaya-

wardene took the score to 144 before Jaya-wardene was run out for 14. Chaminda Unnan-tenne joined Ballale who was batting at his best, tried to force the pace and was adjudged run out with his individual score at 81. Ballale's match winning innings was studied with ten fours and a glorious six which landed on a roof erected behind the Old Antonians SC. Unnan-tenne normally an aggressive bat made 29 which had three fours and 2 sixes and Romesh Jayawardene 20 saw Trinity achieving their target without further loss. Trinity's 191 for 3 came in 150 minutes off 35.1 overs. The happiest man on this day was Trinity coach J.A. Shaw Wilson, a product of Royal College who helped the Trinitians to break the 35-year-old hoodoo.

WORLD OF SPORTS

(May 6)
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
TENNIS
(ATP, Outdoor, Clay):
Madrid Open
at La Caja Magica, Madrid
GOLF (USPGA Tour, Stroke Play)
Wells Fargo Championship
at Quail Hollow Club
FOOTBALL
(Europa League semi-finals):
Arsenal vs Villarreal
Roma vs Manchester United



Binura Fernando



Shrian Fernando

Two uncapped players named in Sri Lanka ODI Squad

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
Two uncapped fast bowlers Shrian Fernando and Binura Fernando were named in the Sri Lanka 18-member One Day International (ODI) Squad for the tour of Bangladesh, which begins on May 16.
The team will most probably be captained by dashing opening batsman Kusal Janith Perera, an official close to the Sri Lanka Team told the Daily News yesterday.
“We are focusing on the 2023 World Cup and this is a good learning experience for the players.”
“We want to groom a new captain and

most probably Kusal Mendis is tipped to be the new Vice-Captain. We want to give him that confidence by naming him as the Vice-Captain.”
Sri Lanka are scheduled to play three ODI's in Dhaka from May 23.
Shiran Fernando, who turned 28 years last Tuesday, is a member of the Tamil Union Club. The right-arm medium pacer was recently tested positive for COVID-19 and is now quarantined in a hotel in Colombo and is expected to be discharged on May 8.
Promising players like Dhananjaya Lakshan, Janith Liyanage and Kamil Mishara are also in line to join the squad.

“The selectors want to give opportunities to the young players, so it's likely that several senior players will get dropped from the side.”
“Our aim is to set up shadow players for the national team and especially to focus on the 2023 World Cup,” the source added further.
The probable squad: Kusal Janith Perera (Captain), Dhanushka Gunathilaka, Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Ashen Bandara, Wanidu Hasaranga, Niroshan Dickwella, Dasun Shanaka, Oshada Fernando, Dushmantha Chameera, Binura Fer-

nando, Shiran Fernando, Chamika Karunaratne, Asitha Fernando, Ramesh Mendis and Akila Dhananjaya.
The schedule:
May 16: Sri Lanka Team Departs to Bangladesh
May 21: One-Day Practice Game – Intra-Squad at BKSP – Savar
May 23: 1st ODI at Dhaka (Day/Night)
May 25: 2nd ODI at Dhaka (Day/Night)
May 28: 3rd ODI at Dhaka (Day/Night)
May 29: Departure

Praveen bursts into top 50; Dimuth closes in on top 10 of ICC Rankings



Praveen Jayawickrama
Pic courtesy SLC

Dimuth Karunaratne

FIVE WICKETS IN BOTH INNINGS OF A DEBUT TEST	
1901	FREDERICK MARTIN
1902	TOM NICHARSON
1903	CLARRIE GRIMMETT
1904	CHARLES MARRIOTT
1905	KEN FAHNEB
1906	HINES JOHNSON
1907	SYDNEY BURKE
1908	BOB MASSIE
1909	HARENDRA HIRWANI
2021	PRABVEEN JAYAWICKRAMA

Left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama's 11 for 178 in Sri Lanka's 209-run win over Bangladesh in their second Test in Pallekele, Kandy has helped him enter the ICC Test bowlers' rankings at No. 48.
Sri Lanka Captain Dimuth Karunaratne, who scored 118 and 66 in that game, moved up from No. 15 to No. 11.
Niroshan Dickwella (up four places to 31st), Oshada Fernando (up 10 places to 58th) and Lahiru Thirimanne (up 13 places to 60th) are the other Sri Lanka batsmen to advance in the rankings. Meanwhile, twenty-two-year-old Jayawickrama's match haul was the best by a Sri Lankan on Test debut.
He took six for 92 in the first innings as Bangladesh were bowled out for 251 in response to the home side's 493 for seven declared.
And then, when Bangladesh were chasing 437 for an unlikely victory, Jayawickrama chipped in with five for 86.
Karunaratne, meanwhile, is well off his career-best sixth

position, reached in August 2019, and finished just outside the top 10 in the list headed by Kane Williamson with Steven Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Joe Root and Virat Kohli bringing off the top five.
Just below them, Rishabh Pant, Henry Nicholls and Rohit Sharma all moved up a spot as Babar Azam slipped to ninth, above David Warner, following a first-ball duck in his only dig in Pakistan's innings-and-

116-run win over Zimbabwe in their first Test in Harare.
From Bangladesh's point of view, Tamim Iqbal's 92 and 24 took him three places up to No. 27 while Mushfiqur Rahim (40 and 40) and Mominul Haque (49 and 32) moved up a slot apiece to 21st and 30th respectively.
After the Harare win, Hasan Ali, who has been in the middle of a remarkable comeback to international cricket rose

15 slots to a career-best 20th spot among bowlers.
He picked up four for 53 and five for 36 as Zimbabwe put up only 176 and 134 while Pakistan put up 426 in their only hit.
Fawad Alam, another comeback man for Pakistan, was their best batter in the game with 140 in close to five hours.
That took him up 31 places to a career-best 47th position. It was his third century in seven Test matches since returning to the side in August 2020. (Agencies)

IPL's Australians to return home via Sri Lanka

Australians at the Indian Premier League (IPL) will have to spend time in Sri Lanka or the Maldives before returning home after the tournament was suspended.

Australia has closed its borders to travellers from India until May 15 after a surge in COVID-19 cases.
The Indian Cricket Board has committed to flying all 38 Australians home on a charter flight when they are able.
Chennai Super Kings Barring Coach Mike Hussey has since tested positive. Hussey will remain in a 10-day quarantine in India when the group departs within the next two or three days.
The Australians involved at the IPL - which includes players, coaches and commentators - will have to quarantine for 14 days



Delhi Capitals Head Coach Ricky Ponting (left) with Delhi Capitals star Steve Smith

when they return home. Former Test batsman Hussey is the only Australian to have tested positive for the virus so far.
“His symptoms are relatively mild,” said Australian Cricketers' Association boss Todd Greenberg.
“He has good support systems around him and he is in pretty good spirits.”

The Australian government has said it will fine or jail any individual returning home from India while the travel ban is in place.
Nick Hockley, Cricket Australia's Interim Chief Executive, reiterated that they were not seeking 'any kind of special exemptions' from the government, with Australia restrict-

ing the number of international arrivals allowed in each week.
“Any kind of quarantine arrangements would be over and above the cap,” Hockley said.
“Our main priority is we would work with the Australian government and the relevant state governments to make sure that we're not taking spaces of anyone else that's available.”
Australian trio Adam Zampa, Kane Richardson and Andrew Tye flew home in late April to avoid the ban.
Pace bowler Pat Cummins said the travel ban had added 'a bit of anxiety' for the players.
“We knew we'd signed up for 14 days quarantine but when the hard border shut no-one has ever experienced that before,” Cummins told Fox Sports. (BBC)

Change of bowling action helped me a lot - Mendis

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA
Off-spinner Ramesh Mendis believes that his association with Bowling Coach Sajeeva Weerakoon made a huge impact in his performances during the second Test against Bangladesh.
“I really worked hard with Spin Bowling Coach Sajeeva Weerakoon even during the COVID-19 period and I made few changes to my bowling action,” Mendis said after his heroics at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy.
“I use to have a chat with Sajeeva Weerakoon everyday and dis-

cussed on how I could correct my mistakes and to develop my bowling skills,” the 25-year-old said after claiming four wickets in the second innings.
“Weerakoon always gave me good tips to improve my skills and his advice was very helpful to me,” said the former Captain of the Sri Lanka Under-19 Team.
“I always tried to bowl a good line and length and during the net practice I really worked hard to spot the ball and the seniors always gave me good support to move forward.”



Ramesh Mendis celebrates a dismissal
Pic courtesy SLC

Mendis came into the limelight during the last Lanka Premier League (LPL) where he represented Dambulla Viiking and finally he was named in the Sri Lanka Test Squad and had the opportunity to play in the second Test against England at Galle.
“When I was playing for the Sri Lanka 'A' Team I had the chance to play against the Bangladesh 'A' Team and most of those players were in this Test Team and so, I had some idea how to bowl against them,” he added

MacGill kidnapped and released in Sydney

Former Australian star cricketer Stuart MacGill was abducted and released in an alleged kidnapping in Sydney last month, police said yesterday.
Four people have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place on April 14.
Police said MacGill knew one of the

men and the plot had been financially motivated.
He sustained minor injuries in the incident but didn't require medical care, police said.
MacGill, 50, was a Test spinner for the national team between 1998 and 2008.

At one point, he was ranked the world's second-best bowler behind his team-mate Shane Warne.
New South Wales Police said the arrests, which took place after raids were conducted across Sydney yesterday, were the result of a two-week long investigation. (BBC)



Stuart MacGill

BCCI ACU nabs three bookies from Mumbai

The Mumbai Police arrested three bookies - Parvesh Bafna, Ayushi Kesarkar and Chetan Salecha - for running a betting syndicate from a team hotel following a tip off from the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit.
The three were staying in a plush South Mumbai hotel in April where Rajasthan Royals was camped during the Mumbai leg of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
The police seized Indian Rs. 97,000, eight mobile phones, a laptop and an expensive car from them.
Officers at NM Joshi Marg Police Station reached the hotel and caught the accused, who were running a betting racket.
“All of them are from Rajasthan. Our records showed that



The IPL Trophy

two of the three had previously attempted to approach players in domestic and local tournaments.”
While the BCCI ACU Chief reached out to the Mumbai police commissioner, efforts were taken to ensure that no one knew about the 'search.'
“The team staying in the hotel had no idea about this. Since they were in the same hotel, they were always going to be under scanner. So, we ensured that things were handed with caution.” (Agencies)

Mahrez double sends Man City into first Champions League final

Manchester City reached their first Champions League final as they overcame Paris St-Germain (PSG) 2-0 at Etihad Stadium to secure a commanding victory over two legs.

In a game played in unseasonal snow, the brilliant Riyad Mahrez capped a sweeping move started by goal-keeper Ederson's 60-yard pass to extend their 2-1 advantage from the first leg in Paris.
PSG suffered a serious blow before kick-off when world-class forward Kylian Mbappe was restricted to the bench because of injury.
They did not lack endeavour or intent and had early hope when a penalty was awarded for a handball by Aleksandr Zinchenko before it was correctly overturned, but with Neymar subdued and City throwing bodies on the line in defence, Mauricio Pochettino's side could not find a way through.
Mahrez punished them



Riyad Mahrez in action

again just after the hour when he turned in Phil Foden's cross at the far post to effectively end the contest.
PSG, as they did when Idrissa Gueye was sent off late in the first leg, lost their discipline and Angel di Maria was shown a red card for a senseless stamp on Fernand-

inho following a touchline tangle.
City were in full control, avoiding further mishap to set up the Champions League final they and manager Pep Guardiola have craved, against either Chelsea or Real Madrid in Istanbul on 29 May. (BBC)

Daily News Business

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

Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminal posts Rs. 2.1 bn profit

Turnover reaches Rs. 15.3 bn

SHIRAJIV SIRIMANE

Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminal Ltd.(CPSTL) posted a record Rs. 2.1 billion profit despite 19% dip in Sale Volume due to COVID-19 pandemic. CPSTL also paid Rs. 205 million as taxes. The turnover for 2019 was Rs. 15.3 billion.

Chairman, Managing Director, CPSTL, M.Uvais Mohamed said that this feat was achieved by resorting to a series of prudent economic cost cutting measures that were implemented since last year with the blessings of the subject Minister Udaya Gammanpila, staff and unions.

For the first time in the history of the institution fuel distribution trucks were encouraged to use the highway and the toll for these trucks were paid by the CPSTL. "There routes were rearranged(Back Tracked) so that fuel was offered travelling the minimum distances." There were around 102 abandoned fuel transportation bowlers in our yard and we have repaired them and 90 are now plying on the roads." He said that in a bid to offer a more productive fuel distribution system, the use of railway transport was increased from 5% to 38% also helping

Sri Lankan Railway to gain additional revenue. "These two environmental initiatives not only brought down the cost of transport but also reduced congestion and accidents on the roads, reduced pilferage and had many other advantages."

The Chairman said that they also renegotiated with insurance providers and brought in a Rs. 40 cost saving from this segment last year. Purchase of material such as motor spare parts, stationery, uniforms and other essentials in bulk also saw



Chairman/MD Uvais Mohamed
Pictures by Sudath Malawera



the CPSTL Laboratory) which were not only offered free of charge to the staff but to the health sector, tri forces, election officials and AL centres. "We have a demand to 'go commercial' with this product but would not move out of our core business. "We also provide state-of-the-art petroleum industry specific laboratory tests to guarantee quality of the products."

rol storage tanks to reduce their evaporation from .5% to .3%. These were made locally and 80% of this project is now complete and we expect the ROI from this in four months. "We will implement this to our 11

bulk storage depots from the end of the year."

While having several motivation projects for their 200 plus staff the CPSTL also was among the first local manufacturers of hand and floor sanitizers (from

LB Finance raises USD 15 mn to support SME sector

LB Finance PLC (LBF) has succeeded in raising USD 15 million on a 4-year tenure from FMO, the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank. TSW Capital Services, a financial advisory firm based in India was the lead arranger of the deal.

The loan marks a number of historical milestones for LBF not only does it coincide with the Company's 50th anniversary, it also signals a new chapter in LBF's commitment to the nation. The loan would be used to create a dedicated funding line for the SME segment. Often overlooked by the formal banking channel, Sri Lanka's SME sector has long been handicapped by the lack of adequate funding. LBF's new funding line will help bridge this gap by enabling SME's to access much needed financial assistance, in turn empowering the SME sector as a whole to play a more decisive role in national progress.

Sumith Adhithetty, Managing Director of LB Finance PLC said, "For a private sector organization to be able to secure a long term funding of this nature at a time when Sri Lanka too is shopping for foreign funds, is a laudable achievement that testifies to LBF's credentials and proven track record for excellence in all



spheres of the business. More importantly, I believe the new loan paves the way for LBF to achieve its ambitions of playing a broader and more dynamic role in promoting financial inclusion within Sri Lanka's SME sector over the next few years. Huib-Jan de Ruijter, Chief Investment Officer a.i. at FMO stated: "Supporting LB Finance is supporting financial inclusion. The company

is able to provide loans to micro- and SME clients who are often perceived as too risky by larger banks. Furthermore, the loan will be specifically dedicated to agri- and youth clients, contributing to reducing inequalities within Sri Lanka.

The accompanying Capacity Development program will – among others – focus on best practices of Client Protection Principles. "In recent years, LBF has strategically expanded its operations beyond the shores of Sri Lanka to Myanmar, where the Company has setup seven branches in the Bago and Migway regions with a view to promoting financial inclusion and bringing prosperity to the people of Myanmar as well. FMO is the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank.

DFCC Group records Rs. 1.6 bn PAT

DFCC Bank PLC, the largest entity within the Group, reported a profit before tax (PBT) of Rs. 1,915 million and a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs. 1,479 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2021.

This compares with a PBT of Rs. 1,295 million and a PAT of Rs. 925 million in the comparative period. The Group recorded a PBT of Rs. 2,036 million and PAT of Rs. 1,583 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2021 as compared to Rs. 1,408 million and Rs. 1,014 million respectively in the comparative period of year 2020.

The DFCC Group comprises of DFCC Bank PLC (DFCC), and its subsidiaries – Lanka Industrial Estates Limited (LINDEL), DFCC Consulting (Pvt) Limited (DCPL) and Synapsys Limited (SL), the joint venture company – Acuity Partners (Pvt) Limited (APL) and associate company – National Asset Management Limited



J. Durairatnam, Chairman and Lakshman Silva, Chief Executive Officer

(NAMAL). The basic earnings per ordinary share (EPS) of the Bank improved to Rs. 4.80 for the quarter ended March 31, 2021 from Rs. 3.04 for the comparative period in year 2020 recording an increase of 58%.

The Bank recorded a Rs. 2,679 million in net interest income (NII) which is a 10% decline year on year primarily due to the drop in AWPLR more than 370 bps over the past 12 months and due to the business implications that arose with the pandemic situation.

During the quarter ended March 31, 2021, operating expenses increased from Rs. 1,751 million to Rs. 2,031 million compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. Staff related provisions for year 2019 which were not utilized were reversed during the period ended March 31, 2020 and if not for such reversal the increase in total operating expenses would have been only 6% during the quarter ended March 31, 2021 compared with the comparative period of year 2020.

Despite the challenging business environment, the Bank continued its growth strategy by increasing both deposit and loan portfolio as at March 31, 2021. The loan portfolio grew by Rs. 12,652 million to record Rs. 314,562 million compared to Rs. 301,909 million as at December 31 2020 recording an increase of 4%. The Bank's deposit base also experienced a growth of 1% recording an increase of Rs. 2,059 million to Rs. 312,086 million from Rs. 310,027 million as at December 31, 2020.

"Given the ongoing uncertainties we will pursue growth. Our focus will be to engage with our customers and ensure that we will be their pillar of strength to help them achieve success during these unprecedented times. We will also continue to expand our digital footprint to offer ease and convenience to our customers in the new normal," Lakshman Silva – Chief Executive Officer said.

Over 29% growth of turnover volumes in April



Rajeeva Bandaranaike

Total Market Turnover of the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) demonstrated a positive growth of 29.43% in the month of April compared to the previous month. Market turnover was recorded at Rs. 53 billion while Domestic Turnover has seen a growth of 64% indicating the sustained interest among Sri Lankan investors.

Further highlights of the month

included the growth in the benchmark All Share Price Index (ASPI) closing at 7,208.20, S&P SL20 index closing at 2,869.25. The average number of trades closing at 22,037 while Market Capitalization stood at Rs. 3.2 trillion.

The primary market has also seen a growth in Capital Raising, with the Debt issuance of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and Initial Public Offering (IPO)

of Chrissworld Ltd on the Empower Board. Both issuances were oversubscribed on the first day itself and raised Rs. 20 Billion and Rs. 56.25 million respectively.

WindForce Ltd was listed at the CSE in April and the company attracted a Total Foreign Investment of Rs. 531 million on the very first day of trading. YTD Foreign Purchases of equity stands at Rs.

17.1 billion as at end of April 2021. Commenting on the growth, the CEO of CSE, Rajeeva Bandaranaike remarked, "We are happy to see Investor and Issuer confidence in the capital market in equal measure. This is a positive sentiment recorded at the beginning of the second quarter of the year and a continuation of the momentum demonstrated in the first quarter."

An alternative to Savings Accounts

NDB | WEALTH MONEY PLUS FUND

* Current Yield as at 29th April 2021

5.50%

WITHDRAW ANYTIME

It's time for more than banking!

Disclaimer: * Current yield is variable and subject to change. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Exploratory Memorandum before investing. Among others, investors should consider the fees and charges involved.

071 9 788 788

HELP KEEP COLOMBO CITY CLEAN

SEGREGATE YOUR WASTE AS GIVEN BELOW

Degradable Waste

If you are not in a position to compost your degradable waste, please handover to CMC.

- Kitchen waste vegetable and fruit waste, leftover food, coconut extract, used tea leaves / bags, protein wastage, egg shells
- Dry leaves, flowers, and garden waste
- Empty king coconut cut into pieces



Recyclable Waste

Following materials must be clean:

- Glass
- Paper / cardboard
- Cleaned polythene / plastic
- Metal
- Cleaned coconut shells
- Cleaned tin
- Cleaned yoghurt cups and plastic cups
- Recyclable kitchen appliances



Non – Recyclable Waste

- Soiled polythene / papers
- Sanitary ware
- Soiled yoghurt cups
- Milk packets
- Used sachets / packets (shampoo, sauce, milo, etc.)
- Fallen hair
- Shavers with blades
- Soiled tins
- Ceramic pots
- Rubber
- Clay pots
- Drugs



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
COLOMBO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
W: www.colombo.mc.gov.lk
T: 011 236 4473

District D5

141, Kirula Road, Colombo 5
E: info@cleantech.lk
T: 011 236 8768



Licensed by the Securities & Exchange Commission

SHARES - COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with 10 columns: Security, Volume, **V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, **V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Includes Main Board and Second Board sections.

Market Statistics on 05.05.2021

Table with 10 columns: Security, Volume, **V.W.A. Previous Close, Open, High, Low, **V.W.A. Yesterday's Close, Change (Rs.). Includes sections for PEOPLE'S MERCH, DIRI SAVI BOARD, WATCH LIST, and COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE - STOCK MARKET STATISTICS.

COCONUTS

Table with 3 columns: Product Name, Price, and Quantity. Includes sections for Coconuts - Prices on 05.05.2021, Exchange Rates, and Financial News.

CIPM Sri Lanka relaunches Kandy Chapter



Executive Council at the Kandy Chapter

IPM Sri Lanka – the Nation's leader in human resource management successfully relaunched its Kandy Chapter recently. To commemorate this special milestone, a novel awareness programme was held at the Mahaweli Reach Hotel, Kandy with over 200 individuals in attendance representing diverse institutions and sectors.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Table with 4 columns: Currency, Bid, Ask, Bid, Ask. Includes sections for International Operations Department, Interest Rates, and Gold Fixing (USD PER OUNCE).

NEWS/FEATURE

Strong stakeholder confidence on People's Merchant Finance's journey

People's Merchant Finance PLC continues achieving strategic milestones in its transformational journey. The latest being the oversubscribed rights issue aimed at strengthening its core capital requirements to fully meet CBSL compliance requirements by March 31, 2021.

Post the rights issue, 78.55% shares of the Company are held by Sterling Capital Investments (Private) Limited (SCIPL), its major investor. The balance shares are held by People's Bank (10.36%), People's Leasing and Finance PLC (7.65%), and the public (3.44%).

The Company recording Rs. 22.3 million as profit after taxation in the second quarter of the FY2020/21 after an extended 10-year period of losses followed by a second profitable and successful quarter ended December 31, 2020 which recorded Rs. 31 million as profits after taxation showcases the Company's resilience and true grit.

Following the chartered course of its planned transformation journey, PMF proceeded with, and successfully concluded, a rights issue in March 2021 as a measure to meet the minimum core capital requirements of Rs. 2 billion as stipulated by the Monetary



Chandula Abeywickrema, Chairman and Nalin Wijekoon, CEO

Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) under the Finance Business Act Direction No. 02 of 2017 issued on 23rd February 2017. The rights issue which was delayed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic was announced earlier this year and raised Rs. 811.87 million in funds with the issue of 115 million shares for Rs. 7.00 per share at its conclusion. It also successfully improved the Company's governance and compliance frameworks thereby safeguarding the interests of all the stakeholders.

The rights issue, which was mainly pursued to satisfy the CBSL core capital requirements, also improved the

Company's internal funds position. The new funds will also create value for PMF's stakeholders in the long term while enabling the Company to offer new in-demand products to the market and support the Sri Lankan Government's Economic Development Agenda.

"PMF's rights issue was oversubscribed", says Chandula Abeywickrema, the Company's Chairman. "For us, this was a fundamental insight to how stakeholders perceive our Company and the changes we have made to date", he continued.

According to Abeywickrema, the

rights issue oversubscription also points towards the improving financial stability and reliability of PMF as well as the Company's ability to move steadily forward with its five-year transformational strategic plan.

The success of the Company's recent rights issue is expected to build the future confidence of existing and prospective stakeholders.

As Nalin Wijekoon, PMF's Chief Executive Officer reiterated, "we are on a steady and stable path of growth and prosperity. The Company made profits for the first time in a year where many organisations were negatively impacted. It gives me great pleasure to lead a team of dedicated professionals who have given their all even as they faced personal challenges." The future of PMF remains uncharted with myriad emerging opportunities and possibilities for evolution within a changing business landscape.

PMF also aims to increase the financial inclusion of rural communities, women, and youth by supporting and empowering them to achieve financial independence and prosper to become economically viable individuals.

Seylan Bank reaffirms position at LMD 100

Seylan Bank reaffirmed its position as one of the strongest business entities in the country by securing the 20th place in the latest edition of the LMD 100 ranking of Sri Lanka's leading listed companies. Seylan Bank moved up three places from last year's ranking of 23rd place, after a solid performance in 2019/2020.

LMD's Top 100 rankings of 2020 has been compiled following a stringent evaluation of listed companies in Sri Lanka, based on information contained in the annual reports of the companies and the Colombo Stock Exchange Daily Report.

The LMD 100 recognises entities for ranking based on profitability together with assets, shareholders' funds and market capitalisation.

Commenting on this recognition, Kapila Ariyaratne, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Seylan Bank said, "In this challenging economic environment, the banking sector faces a number of challenges and the ever-quickening pace of technological change demands continuous innovation.

Moving up the coveted LMD 100 rankings is a convincing reminder of our ability to perform even in difficult times. As we emerge stronger than ever in the post-pandemic new normal, our main focus will remain to be customer centric, we will continue to provide our customers a service that revolves around convenience and safety despite the uncertain times ahead."

Despite the challenging rollercoaster ride corporates have travelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Bank with a Heart" has managed to stay ahead ensuring its presence among the elite with its unwavering effort and stability. Seylan Bank's



Director/CEO Kapila Ariyaratne

strong financial performance and ability to introduce novel technology-enabled capabilities, products and services contributed in securing top ranking in the most recent edition of the LMD 100.

Seylan Bank, the Bank with a Heart, operates with a vision to offer the ultimate banking experience to its valued customers through cutting-edge technology, innovative products, and best-in-class service. The Bank has a growing clientele of SMEs, Retail and Corporate Customers and has expanded its footprint with 172 branches across the country and an ATM network of 216 units.

Seylan Bank has been endorsed as a financially stable organisation with performance excellence across the board by Fitch Ratings, with the bank's national long-term rating revised upward, from 'A-(lka)' to 'A (lka)'.

DHL Express uncovers next wave of E-commerce growth

Whitepaper predicts online B2B sales to increase by more than 70% to US\$ 20.9 trillion by 2027



A DHL study predicts strong growth for the B2B E-commerce market in the coming years - by 2025, 80% of all B2B sales between suppliers and professional buyers will take place in digital channels. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the pace of digitalization and the purchasing behavior of technology-savvy millennials are the main drivers of this global E-commerce growth.

"Even in times of worldwide shutdowns, globalization has shown its resilience, fuelled by digitalization and the power of global trade", says John Pearson, CEO of DHL Express.

"These trends have led to an ever growing number of consumers shifting their shopping activities online. The pandemic has accelerated this development like never before, with a sharp rise in businesses selling goods in the global marketplace. E-commerce and global logistics has provided the key to unlock local shutdowns, keep economies running and mitigating the impact of Covid-19 for many of our customers."

The Whitepaper, compiled by DHL Express, uncovers factors driving the growth of the global B2B E-commerce market where a new technology-oriented generation of millennials is starting to make its mark. Millennials, who are also digital natives account for 73% of B2B purchasing decisions, thereby pushing companies to invest in digital solutions, such as selling platforms.

Acceleration of E-commerce growth through Covid-19

"Specifically in Asia Pacific excluding China, we have witnessed a 17.3% year-on-year rise in shipment volume during the peak months of November and December 2020 driven by more active shippers and a 21% higher spend per customer," said Ken Lee, CEO of DHL Express Asia Pacific. "This surge in volume further underscores the growth in online shopping and demand for cross-border shipping, making it critical that logistics providers remain agile to continuously adapt and respond to consumer needs."

DHL Express is investing to continue to meet high customer demands

In 2020, DHL Express delivered 484 million shipments for its B2C and B2B customers worldwide, around 9% more per day compared to 2019. To adapt to this significant growth, DHL Express continues to invest annually more than €1 billion in new state-of-the-art facilities around the world.

With its worldwide network and breadth of industries served, DHL Express was able to accommodate fast-changing trade flows. Furthermore, its presence in more than 220 countries and territories have helped consumers and businesses to stay connected especially during the Covid-19.

HOW SHOULD SRI LANKA FINANCE COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLLOUT?



HARINI WEERASEKERA and KITHMINA HEWAGE

An effective vaccination strategy is a necessity for countries to move beyond COVID-19. However, it also requires careful policy-making to balance the financial cost of purchasing and delivering vaccines while stimulating economic growth. This article, based on a recent IPS analysis, provides an overview of the approximate costs associated with the COVID-19 vaccination rollout in Sri Lanka and evaluates policy options to finance the initiative.

Assessing Costs While there is no universally agreed level, considering the emergence of new variants, many experts agree that a country should vaccinate around 80% of its population to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19. This translates to 17.5 million Sri Lankans. Thus far, Sri Lanka has received or is expected to receive vaccine donations and other financial assistance from the likes of the World Health Organization's COVAX Facility to cover approximately 20% of the population.

Based on publicly available proxy data, as detailed in Table 1 below, assuming that 20% of the population will be financed through the WHO COVAX scheme, the total cost of self-financing another 60% of the population is USD 139.1 million. These costs include both the cost of purchasing the cheapest vaccine (AstraZeneca-Oxford) and the immunisation delivery costs.

Table 1: Cost of Self-Financing Vaccine Deployment

Type of Cost	Cost Item	Cost to cover 60% (USD)
Vaccine cost	Two doses of AstraZeneca	138,600,000
Immunisation delivery costs (IDCs)	Management and Organisation of Vaccine Deployment	8,337
	Communication and Information	176,261
	Human Resources	100,040
	Public Information	144,701
	Supply Chain Logistics	88,845
	Collection and Disposal of Medical Waste	n/a
	Total Vaccine Deployment Cost	139,118,184
	% of Total Government Expenditure in 2020	0.6

Note: Adjusted for inflation and reported at 2021 prices. The cost per dose of AstraZeneca is taken to be USD 5.25, which is the per dose vaccine and airfare cost for Sri Lanka. **Source:** Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition (2010) 'Deployment Plan for the Distribution of Pandemic Influenza Vaccine in Sri Lanka 2010'

In recent study, the World Bank estimates that for the South Asian region, the average per person vaccination cost amounts to USD 12 to receive one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, under certain assumptions. This costing consists of the full vaccine deployment cost per person, which includes the vaccine dosage cost along with the international airfare and other delivery costs.

Using this basis of costing, financing two doses of the vaccine for 60% of Sri Lanka's population would amount to USD 336 million. This is over double the minimum estimate made earlier using local proxy data. As such, a range of USD 140-336 million (LKR 27-66 billion) can be treated as a minimum and maximum estimate range for financing the long-term vaccination strategy in Sri Lanka. This amounts to 0.6-1.4% of total

government expenditure for 2020, which is a relatively small proportion of the country's total government expenditure. For context, the health sector was allocated 4.8% of total government expenditure in 2020. That said, the estimated costs range between 12 and 29.5% of the Ministry of Health's total expenditure for 2021.

Furthermore, given difficulties in securing all necessary vaccines from a single producer (e.g. AstraZeneca) due to supply shortages, Sri Lanka has already moved towards purchasing Sputnik V and Pfizer vaccines, which are more expensive than AstraZeneca, and therefore will increase costs. The cost increase will be significant given that other vaccines are two to six times more expensive than a dose of AstraZeneca (Table 2).

Table 2: Cost of Globally Available COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccine Producer	Cost per Dose (USD)	Doses Required	Max Storage Period in Regular Refrigerator
Moderna	32.37	2	30 days
Pfizer-BioNTech	20	2	5 days
AstraZeneca-Oxford	3-4	2	No restriction
Johnson & Johnson	10	1	No restriction
Sinopharm	30.62	2	No restriction
Sinovac	30.62	2	No restriction
Sputnik V	10	2	No restriction

Given these realities, Sri Lanka will need to cover these costs through one or a combination of: (a) reallocating existing budgetary commitments; (b) receiving more bilateral and multilateral vaccine donations or financial assistance; or (c) self-financing through targeted tax policies and future borrowings. Reallocating Budgetary Commitments

Notably, the government did not budget for a vaccination strategy in its National Budget for 2021. As such, any spending would have to be allocated through an emergency budgetary allocation. The government could potentially reallocate funding from other sectors or even reallocate from within the health sector. These reallocations, for example, could occur through built-in fiscal space for public investments in the budget, postponements or revisions to non-essential government spending initiatives such as non-essential small-scale infrastructure projects.

However, the extent to which such revisions can be incorporated is greatly limited by the economic conditions under which this vaccination initiative is taking place. Some of these small-scale infrastructure projects, for instance, are geared towards stimulating the economy.

Sri Lanka's post-COVID-19 economic recovery is dependent on adequate government spending to stimulate growth, and there has already been a significant amount of spending rationalisation that has taken place. Furthermore, the government will be required to ensure that the broader public health sector is not compromised in any form simply to fund the COVID-19 vaccination initiative as that may have further severe long-term repercussions.

Self-Financing

Given the current economic climate, the government is unlikely to increase direct taxes in the immediate future. Increasing indirect taxes such as import tariffs are also likely to be counter-productive since imports are restricted. Rather, a tax rationalisation on luxury goods and a sin-tax rationalisation on alcohol and cigarettes could generate a significant amount of revenue that can be directed towards the vaccination drive.

For instance, a recent study by IPS estimated that government revenue could be increased by LKR 17 billion by 2021, and LKR 37 billion by 2023, if taxes on cigarettes are streamlined and raised in line with inflation. This additional revenue can finance the vaccination strategy such that it reaches the midpoint of the study's cost estimation range of LKR 20-67 billion.

A targeted tax intervention achieves the dual aim of raising the required funds to vaccinate the public while simultaneously ensuring that the government's broader macroeconomic stimulus initiatives can continue unimpeded. If the government is unwilling to finance the entire cost through a targeted tax intervention, even a partial self-financing measure would reduce the necessity for the government to depend on further loans to cover the cost.

Best Option

A basic economic impact analysis by IPS found that the vaccination rollout would generate an additional 30.6 billion in national output, and an extra value addition of LKR 26 billion. Besides, the country's economy will benefit additionally due to the indirect impacts associated with the public health benefits of a vaccinated populace.

Considering these factors, the government is best off pursuing a medium-term self-financing option through targeted tax interventions and if required, through external financing. The challenge for Sri Lanka is to secure adequate funding without compromising on its investments in broader public health and social welfare initiatives as weaknesses on those fronts can undermine the success of vaccinating the public from COVID-19.

From a budgetary perspective, the cost of vaccinating the public fast will also be



cheaper than the cost of continuous PCR testing, managing quarantine centres and cluster associated lockdowns over a prolonged period. In addition to securing funding, receiving an adequate supply of vaccine doses for the country to reach its vaccination coverage targets remains uncertain as we progress further into 2021.

To learn more, read IPS' Policy Discussion Brief (PDB) 'Fiscal Implications of Vaccinating Sri Lanka Against COVID-19'. The PDB is based on a conference paper presented at the World Bank's 7th South Asia Economic Policy Network Virtual Conference on Vaccinating South Asia held on 4th March 2021.

Link to Original Talking Economics Blog is at: <https://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/2021/05/05/how-should-sri-lanka-finance-the-covid-19-vaccination-rollout/>

Harini Weerasekera is a Research Economist at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) with research interests in the areas of taxation, labour and migration, and econometrics and economic modelling. She holds a BSc in Economics from University of London International Programmes and a BA in Economics from the University of Colombo, with First Class Honours, also graduated with an MSc in Economics from the University of Warwick where she authored a thesis on border tax evasion in Sri Lanka.

Kithmina Hewage is a Research Economist at the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) and a member of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network. Her research interests include international political economics, foreign direct investment, international trade policy, and private sector development, with a focus on regulatory reforms. He is a member of government taskforces in relation to domestic economic policy reforms and is a national consultant to the International Trade Centre (ITC).



ComBank increases interest rate on 'FC Plus' foreign currency accounts

The Commercial Bank of Ceylon has announced a significant increase in the interest rate offered to Sri Lankan Personal Foreign Currency (PFC) account holders, via the Bank's 'FC Plus' account.

Individuals who open an FC Plus foreign currency account at Commercial Bank will be eligible to receive an interest rate of 4.5% per annum for US Dollar deposits, the Bank said. Interest will be calculated on the daily balance and credited to customers' accounts monthly, enabling them to earn interest on interest, resulting in their foreign

currency savings growing faster than other foreign currency accounts and earning a higher return than overseas deposit rates.

The Bank said the interest rate for FC Plus accounts is linked to the LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) – the internationally-accepted benchmark for foreign currency interest rates – and is structured so that the higher the balance, the higher the rate of interest earned. The rates are reviewed monthly.

Customers can now deposit foreign currency notes too to this account, after vali-

dating the source of funds according to the stipulated criteria, and funds can be withdrawn at any time, the Bank said.

Commercial Bank's FC Plus account holders are saved the hassle of maintaining a passbook, and receive periodic account statements for added flexibility and convenience. They also enjoy fast, and convenient 24 x 7 unlimited access to their accounts from anywhere in the world through online banking or through millions of ATMs belonging to the Cirrus or Visa networks.

The first Sri Lankan Bank to be listed

among the Top 1000 Banks of the World and the only Sri Lankan bank to be so listed for 10 years consecutively, Commercial Bank operates a network of 268 branches and 932 automated machines in Sri Lanka.

The first and the only Bank in Sri Lanka to achieve carbon neutral status, Commercial Bank's overseas operations encompass Bangladesh, where the Bank operates 19 outlets; Myanmar, where it has a Microfinance company in Nay Pyi Taw; and the Maldives, where the Bank has a fully-fledged Tier I Bank with a majority stake.

NDB Wealth offers financial stability for Mother's Day

"Securing the future of your family is very critical at this time and age and that is exactly what we focus on through the NDB Wealth plans.

Every mother aspires and dreams to safeguard the future of her family. In the face of the current challenges and uncertainties, it has become a more urgent and critical need. At NDB Wealth we understand the efforts and dreams of mothers and aim to help them realize their aspirations. Take that first step towards financial growth and our team of experts will help make your dreams a reality. Our portfolio of flexible Wealth plans will serve you in planning for your future," said Amali Pathirana, Manager of Investment Operations at NDB Wealth.

NDB Wealth's Money Plus is one of the best way to provide for those you love. The account is exclusively dedicated to keep your savings growing while realizing you and your family's dreams and aspirations.

The Money Plus Fund is designed to fulfil your dreams and efforts of providing your family with a bright and promising tomorrow while functioning like a savings account. NDB Wealth Money Plus with a current yield of 5.50% as at April 29, is a great alternative to savings that provides flexibility of being able to withdraw money, to meet any emergency, while earning attractive returns.

The Growth and Income Fund, a share market fund is the ideal account for bold mothers who are moderately inclined towards risks. The fund allows investors to take calculated risks and gives returns from both the Stock and Bond markets. The income generated from stocks as dividends and interest from the Bonds and Capital gains can be withdrawn anytime without a penalty.

"At NDB Wealth Management, we offer mothers financial independence through high yielding investment plans that are more flexible and rewarding than other conventional methods. Talk to our team of experts and discover the joy you can enjoy through financial independence," elaborated Amali.

NDB Wealth is fully owned subsidiary of the NDB Bank, one of the fastest growing financial services conglomerates in Sri Lanka, with the strategic mission to be the leader in the financial services sector.



Swadeshi receives Covid-19 Safety Management System Certification

The Swadeshi Industrial Works PLC is the first soap and personal care products manufacturing company in Sri Lanka to receive the Covid-19 Safety Management System Certification awarded by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI).

Covid-19 safety management system certification is a testament to Swadeshi's proactive initiatives in effectively managing the risk of Covid-19 from the very beginning of the pandemic in early 2020. The certification also demonstrates Swadeshi's commitment to prioritize safety of employees, visitors, products and services, distribution processes at all costs.

Commenting on the Covid-19 safety management certification, Ms. Chulodhara Samarasinghe – Deputy Chairperson and Managing Director of Swadeshi stated, "We



A.I. Udawatte Chief Executive Officer, C.S.M. Samarasinghe Deputy Chairperson and Managing Director and the senior management of The Swadeshi Industrial Works and the Covid Task Force of Swadeshi

are indeed proud to receive this certification in appreciation of our risk management efforts to ensure a safer working environment to

continue operations. In the fight against Covid-19, we have taken necessary steps from the very beginning to implement safety pro-

ocols and to uplift the morale of employees, so that they could work without any fear. Today, we are happy of the progress we have made amidst the challenging times whilst protecting our employees. We believe that challenges can be overcome with proper control methods and hygiene standards."

The certification has been awarded after thorough inspection and auditing of the entire processes from implementing necessary prevention measures, maintaining the expected standards to continuous improvement of the safety standards, and taking utmost care of employees, production and distribution processes and more.

"We encourage all employees at Swadeshi to practice wearing masks, keeping distance, washing and sanitizing hands, disinfection of the factory premises to safe-

guard the employees and to operate without any risk," Samarasinghe further added.

All common areas were separated by shields, transport was provided, handwashing & sanitization, temperature checks, PCR testing, visitor records, frequent awareness with training and many other necessary requirements were carried out. We also have taken steps and allocated resources for frequent disinfection.

During the pandemic, Swadeshi made sure that all its products were available to consumers, which was critical to keep consumers' hygiene levels in the fight against Covid 19. The SLSI standard is very useful for companies and organisations, including Swadeshi to use correct safety methods for a Covid 19 free environment.

Avant Media expands service in evolving digital sphere

Avant Media, a leading full service digital marketing agency in Sri Lanka has expanded its service offerings by innovatively integrating creativity, strategies, industry's best practices, experience, high quality content and unwavering passion in the constantly evolving digital sphere.

Established in 2018, Avant Media soon propelled as the fastest growing Digital agency of Sri Lanka and was recently incorporated as a privately held company in the name of Avanux based in Nugegoda, Avanux group consists of Avant Media serving as the digital arm and Avant Studio serving as the creative arm.

During the year 2020, Avant Media has recorded an impressive growth and expanded its service offerings to cater to the rising needs of digital natives. Home to a wide range of digital services from digital



Supun Tharanga Co-Founder and Director, Chinthaka Nuwan Co-Founder and Director of Avanux

strategy, website development, advertising to Social media marketing, digital analytics, content creation, digital media planning and buying and more, Avant Media spearheads full scope digital solutions whilst constantly upgrading them to be on par with the industry trends.

Behind the success story

of Avant Media are Chinthaka Nuwan Co-Founder and Director and Supun Tharanga Co-Founder and Director whose sheer passion and commitment have helped Avant Media reach steep heights.

Chinthaka heads the Avant Media Digital arm on the back of his 8+ years of experience in the Digital

media field, having previously worked as a Digital Media Senior Manager for one of the premier digital agencies in Sri Lanka. His expertise in the fields of digital marketing and advertising has helped Avant Media's upward trajectory and he continues to lead his team by example.

Supun heads the Avant Studio- creative arm who brings with him more than 6 years of experience in the fields of digital marketing, Social media and digital production. He shares, "We are in a vastly evolving field and to stay ahead of the curve, we need to be both innovative and creative in our service offerings."

Avant Media provides digital solutions to some of the largest corporates and organizations in Sri Lanka and also to leading international brands and organizations.

APIIT launches scholarship scheme for undergraduates

The Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (APIIT), one of the largest providers of foreign degrees in Sri Lanka, recently kicked off a new scholarship scheme for undergraduate students in need of financial aid.

The newly introduced merit scholarships and sports scholarships will be awarded to deserving school students and high-performance athletes, who will begin their first year of undergraduate studies at APIIT.

The scholarship schemes were designed to enable and support students with outstanding academic records and/or who are gifted in sports, seeking to enhance their potential through their higher education.

To qualify, the student must be a Sri Lankan citizen and possess outstanding GCE A/L results (either Local or London), have strong leadership qualities, a good extra-curricular activity record and have demonstrated their potential in a sport if applying for the sports scholarship. In addition, they must be

eligible for admission as an undergraduate student to one of the undergraduate degree programmes delivered at APIIT.

The merit scholarships available at APIIT are: One scholarship per APIIT School, covers 100% of the tuition fees for an academically outstanding new student entering the first year of any full-time undergraduate programme at APIIT. The student must maintain a 65% semester average throughout to continue receiving the scholarship.

Two scholarships per APIIT school covers 50% of the tuition fees of the entire study period. The student who receives this scholarship must also maintain a semester average of 65% throughout to continue receiving the scholarship.

APIIT offers 10 non-renewable one-time scholarships of Rs. 100,000. The student must have obtained a minimum z-score of 1.5 in the GCE A/L Local curriculum or 3 A* passes

in the GCE A/L London curriculum in order to be eligible for this scholarship.

Applicants for this scholarship must meet the entry requirements for the programme of study they intend to enroll in and continue to obtain satisfactory grades or GPA in order to retain the scholarship.

Applicants should have exhibited outstanding achievements in their chosen sport and be currently competing or have previously competed at a national or international level.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of their achievements in the chosen sport, their academic performance and likelihood of success in the chosen programme at APIIT, as well as their ambassadorial qualities in terms of representing APIIT publicly.

All applicants must submit a designated scholarship application form with relevant documentation to determine their eligibility. The deadline for applications is May by 31.

Seqrite partners Ezoref Technologies, launch cyber security solutions in SL

Seqrite, a specialist provider of enterprise cyber security products and solutions has partnered with Ezoref Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of South Asian Technologies (Pvt) Ltd, the master distributor of ICT Technologies to launch world class cyber security solutions in Sri Lanka.

The partnership enables strategic alignment for Seqrite and Ezoref Technologies to deliver the best-in-class protection against the most complex and sophisticated cyber threats to businesses in Sri Lanka.

Seqrite is the enterprise arm of Quick Heal Technologies, the leading cyber security company in India with international presence in more than 45 countries and over 25 years of proven track record of developing the finest security solutions for consumers, enterprises and government establishments.

Seqrite offers a host of solutions in endpoint, network, mobility and data protection space that are backed by AI, Cloud and patented technologies like Anti-Ransomware and Signatureless detection.



Kuldeep Raina, Head of Global Sales, Seqrite and Chetiya Wijeratne, CEO and Director of Ezoref Technologies

This combination of advanced technologies makes Seqrite a formidable force in the enterprise cyber security segment and its growing customer base of millions of endpoints is a testament to its ability to deliver innovative, highly effective and scalable security solutions.

Head of Global Sales, Seqrite Kuldeep Raina, said, "With the evolving threat landscape, Seqrite has always remained at forefront of developing world class cyber security solutions to protect enterprises and government

establishments from the scale and sophistication of cyber-attacks. Over the years, we have grown and expanded with international presence in more than 45 countries."

Ezoref Technologies CEO and Director Chetiya Wijeratne said, "We are delighted to partner with a leading cybersecurity brand like Seqrite.

"This association will help us strengthen our existing product portfolio and innovate further in terms of serving our customers more seamlessly."

Huawei launches innovative products at HDC.Cloud 2021

At the Huawei Developer Conference (HDC.Cloud) 2021, Huawei launched six innovative products and services.

HUAWEI CLOUD CCE Turbo cloud container cluster, CloudIDE intelligent programming assistant, GaussDB (for openGauss) database, Trusted Intelligent Computing Service (TICS), Pangu Model (including the world's largest Chinese NLP model and CV model), and infrastructure software for diversified computing.

These six products deliver new levels of efficiency and quality to help developers push new frontiers. Huawei also announced a US\$220 million investment into its Huawei Developer Program 2.0 this year. The Huawei Developer Program 2.0 will include the newly announced HUAWEI CLOUD Partner Innovation Program, Kunpeng Open Mind Project and Ascend OpenMind Project. This rich package of support will help to continuously foster a robust ecosystem around HUAWEI CLOUD, Kunpeng, and Ascend.

HDC.Cloud 2021 takes place in the University Town in Shenzhen, China. The three-day event will feature keynote speeches, technical summits, training camps, codelabs, developer carnivals, and a variety of forums featuring teachers, young talents, and Huawei luminaries.

This event brings together the industry's top minds, talent from the academia, as well as leaders from the developer ecosystem, together to discuss the latest trends in cloud, AI, computing, and open source.

Richard Yu, Executive Director of Huawei, and CEO of Huawei's Cloud BU and Consumer Business Group, opened the event with a keynote speech. Yu said, "By 2025, 100% of enterprises around the globe will be utilizing cloud technology. Cloud is the future of the ICT industry and the foundation for enterprises' digital transformation. Developers are the soul of the industry. Huawei will continue to open its technological innovation capabilities and work with developers and partners to



Richard Yu, Executive Director of Huawei, CEO of Huawei's Cloud BU and Consumer Business Group, announces the launch of six new products

accelerate the cloud and intelligent transformation of business."

Since the release of the Huawei Developer Program in 2015, Huawei has been committed to a philosophy of open hardware, open source software, partner enablement, and talent development, as

it works to build a constantly prosperous industry ecosystem.

Huawei has worked with the Ministry of Education of China to build an intelligent foundation for collaborative education of talent. To date, Huawei has worked with 72 universities in China, offering more than 1,000 courses, training more than 1,500 teachers, and the company plans to provide software development training to 3 million university developers over the next five years.

The annual event of Huawei's ICT infrastructure business for global developers, the Huawei Developer Conference (HDC.Cloud) 2021 are held from April 24 to 26, in Shenzhen, a city on the South coast of China.

Themed "You make all the difference", this event brings together industry leaders, Huawei scientists, top experts, young talent and developers to discuss the innovation and application of the latest ICT technologies, such as cloud, computing, and AI, across industries.

T' n G

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

FEATURES EDITOR : (011) 242 9216 Fax : (011) 234 3694 E mail : features.dailynews@lakehouse.lk

TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY TOWN & COUNTRY



Taking part in Manhunt International 2011

RUWINI JAYAWARDANA

Breaking through the clutter of star kids Amila Karunanayake is the flavour of the moment. The actor dabbled with modeling and fashion designing before he made it to the movies. Good-looks mixed with talent and a humble persona add to his charisma, when it came to swooning the ladies with his charm.

His latest film, Harsha Udakanda's 'Kabadi', has hit the wide screen. Amila portrays the role of Manuranga, a kabadi player, who faces an unexpected incident which turns his life inside down.

"As an actor I am always looking out for different and challenging roles. After reading the script, I felt that I must have come across one of the most challenging roles I will get to do in my acting career. Therefore, I did not hesitate to tackle the role. I am grateful to the director and the producer Nishantha Jayawardane who had faith in me and trusted me to give life to this character," Amila said.

'Kabadi' encompasses romance, comedy, action, sports, family values, friendship, sports and little bit of politics. Amila stresses that it is

a production that is guaranteed to keep the viewers entertained.

"It was a 'dream come true' situation for me as the feedback and the love of my fans poured in. However, the pandemic has also taught me to wait patiently. We are at risk in the professional front as we have to carry on regular shooting. At times it is difficult to follow the basic guidelines in our profession. Hence, we are also suffering from financial difficulties. However, we get more time to spend with our families. That is an invaluable benefit," he pointed out.

He believes that his experience in modeling, fashion designing, and at International pageants moulded his path as an actor. He took part in the Mr International 2008 pageant in Malaysia and competed against contestants from 32 countries across the world.

"One of the most memorable incidents at this event was that I lost my wallet at the airport. I was really troubled over the matter but the national director, Rosita Wickramasinghe, kept sending me money for my expenses throughout the pageant," he said.

Next came Manhunt International 2011. Amila flew to South Korea to compete with contestants from 75 countries at the event. Some of the best memories of his stint in the glamour scene are connected with this pageant.

"I made some lifelong friends at the event. We also faced some tough times there since we were taken to temples far away from the city. We had to wear their traditional clothes and eat veggies cooked in the traditional Korean manner for two weeks. That didn't go down well with me," he recalled with a smile adding that he is immensely proud of the way he handled those matters alone while he was still a novice in the field.

Queried on what he learnt from his pageant experiences and Amila is quick to say that it is the fact that one might be good, but there is always someone more prepared.

"I don't take criticism seriously because my responsibility is to do



With a few other contestants from Mr International 2008



In 'Porisadaya'



With his wife and son



Hosting the interschool 'Band the Band' competition on ITN



WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE...

SHORT QUESTIONS

- Amila in a few words – Actor, model, small business owner, a husband, a father, a son and a good friend.
- Style mantra – Classic and simple
- Your favourite actor and actress - These days it is Dulquer Salmaan and Emma Stone.
- Favourite comfort food – Milk rice.
- Biggest strength and weakness – My strength is getting better with time. My biggest weakness is that I am not good at remembering names and roads.
- Best grooming tip you would give to another guy – Stand up straight.
- First celebrity crush – Diane Lane
- An international beauty title holder that you admire – Aishwarya Rai
- How you would like to be remembered some day – I would love to be remembered for my talents in the arts field.

my work the best way I can and always be honest with what I do. But I think twice as if I feel that there is something in it that I can use to improve my work," he explained.

For him each and every role he had taken on in films and teledramas have been challenging. However, he adds that the character he played in his first movie, 'Rupantharana' was the most demanding especially since he was new to the sector.

"Taking on Manuranga's role too was quite a trial, especially because the role had been played by Indian superstars in six different languages! I had to meet their standards amid the tight budget allocated for the project in Sri Lanka. I did things my way and I hope the viewers are satisfied," he said.

For Amila the greatest joy of being a public figure lies in the excitement and smiles of the people when they encounter each other. The biggest disadvantage is being constantly under the spotlight so that he cannot live a normal and relaxed lifestyle with his family.

"Now I can't just walk out without being prepared," he sighed.

Amila has an impressive list of productions to his name. Starting off with Nalaka Vithanage's 'Rupantharana', Amila played significant roles in 'Porisadaya', 'Sikuru Yogaya', and 'Face to Face'. He played the character of an obsessive lover in award winning Maldivian director, Seaxan Ali's horror film, 'Kaushi' in 2018. Ali roped him again for a second movie, 'Soul', which he made for the SAARC Film Awards 2020.

Amila also played a triple role in Bennet Ratnayake's teledrama 'Palingu Piyapath'. He took on the lead roles in two historical dramas directed by Sanath Abeysakera titled 'Urumayaka Aragalaya' and 'Mahaviru Pandu'. He is also part of the cast in 'Sansara Sihine' which is telecasting on ITN these days.

Hailing from Kaluthara, Amila is a past pupil of Nalanda College, Colombo. His father, Ariya Karunanayake, is a businessman. His mother, Suneetha Bandara, is a retired school vice principal. His brother, Tharaka, is a software engineer who is occupied in Australia. Tharaka is also into music and is part of the 6th Lane team that sang the song 'Amma'.

Amila is married to Mihiruni Jayawardane, an engineer by profession.

The couple have two children, a son, Abeeth, and a daughter, Aadhya.

Amila is currently shooting for two teledramas while preparing for a movie role. He says his dream is to play the role of an athlete because he used to engage in the sport from a young age. He vies to play diverse roles and win public affection. He also plans to develop his clothing brand 'ADETAIL'. His message to Sri Lankan youth who are looking forward to stepping into diverse fields and excel in their skills is to believe in yourself and work towards achieving your goals.



In 'Kabadi'



Shooting for 'Soul' in Maldives

Glit Chat



My favourite writer

My favourite writer is Dr. Maya Angelou. She is a black American lady. She is a poet, novelist, educator, dramatist, actress, film maker and civil rights activist. Dr. Angelou is considered as a spokesperson of black people and specially black women for their civil rights. She is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which describe her childhood and early adult experiences. Her first autobiography is named 'I know why the caged bird sings.' It discusses her life up to the age of seventeen. The poem 'I know why the caged bird sings' was first published in her book 'Shaker, why don't you sing' in 1983. The poem is a metaphor illustrating social discrimination she faced during her life.

Yasodara Thilakarathna, Grade 11, Sumana Balika Vidyalaya, Ratnapura



My aunt

My aunt's name is Madushani. She is my father's younger sister. She lives in Thulhiriya. She is a doctor. She is married to Udesh uncle. She has lots of friends and some are my friends also. She can play piano and violin very well. I love to sing with her when she plays the piano. She makes us delicious food like cookies, cakes, rolls, buns and puddings. I love her food. She has a pet dog and its name is Bruno. She loves Bruno and I love Bruno too. I play badminton with her. I love my aunt very much and she loves me too.

Nethumini Jayasinghe, Grade 6, Musaeus College, Colombo



My home garden

I have a lovely home garden. It is small. There are lots of flowers in my garden. There are Bouganvillea, Rathmal, Anthurium, Temple trees and Jasmine in my garden. Butterflies come to suck nectar. There is a lawn too. I water the plants daily. I love my home garden very much.

Ama Hitiarachchi, Grade 4, Sujatha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda



Live a healthy life



Living a healthy life is important for everybody. We have to eat healthy food and we have to drink a lot of water. We have to exercise regularly. Healthy people do not get ill often. We have to be healthy in body and mind both. Healthy people are always in a happy mood. We can work well if we are healthy. Everybody should try to live happily.

Nethupama Wijeratne, Grade 3, Holy Cross College, Gampaha

Harry Potter



Harry Potter is a famous book series written by J K Rowling. It is a very imaginative story. In this story the main character is Harry. He has two best friends called Ron and Hermione. The first book in the series is called 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. In this story we are introduced to Lord Voldemort who was one of the most evil wizard in the magical world. He killed Harry's parents when he was a baby. Harry uses magic to fight his nemesis, Draco Malfoy. Harry Potter and his two friends learn magic at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. They are in the Gryffindore house. Harry Potter has a scar on his forehead. He got this after being attacked by Lord Voldemort.

S.N. Meleesha, Grade 9, St. John Paul II English Medium College, Kolinjadiya



Magic

*Swish, swish the magic flies around the wonder tree,
It made my heart, sadness free,
And then the magic swirls around me,
Puff! I'm in the air, look at me!*

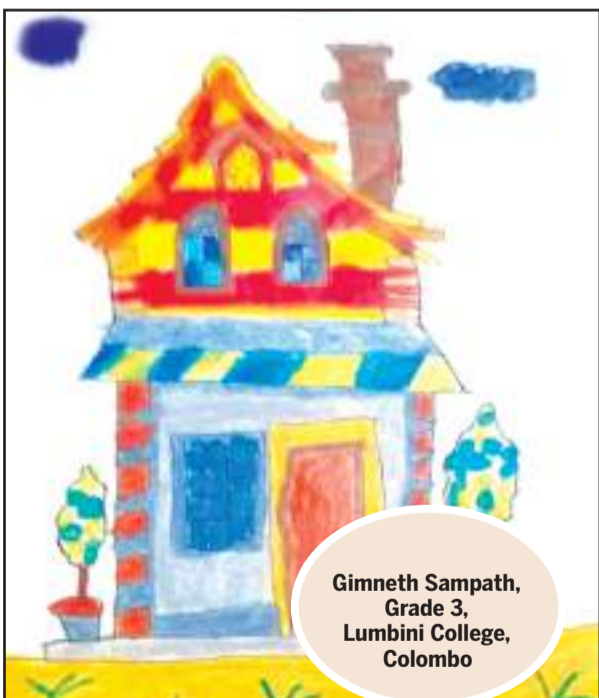
*When I was in the air,
I saw the whole world, I swear,
Oh no! I was lost in the air,
I didn't know where...*

*Then I saw a fairy,
She was lovely and merry,
She said, "don't worry,"
And she brought me home safely.*

Chiara Francisco, Grade 9, Holy Family Convent, Colombo 4

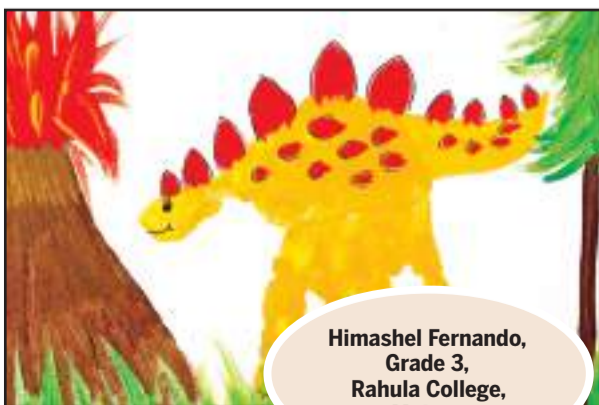


MY HOME



Gimneth Sampath, Grade 3, Lumbini College, Colombo

A DINOSAUR



Himashel Fernando, Grade 3, Rahula College, Matara

A BIRD



Senudi Alahakoon, Grade 4, Colombo International School, Kandy

AWARDS and ACCOLADES



Text and pictures by
B M MUKTHAR,
Beruwala Special Corr

The annual awards ceremony of Geniuspark Institute, Henamulla, Panadura, was held at the Wisdom International School hall recently. It was held under the patronage of teacher in-charge and Director Himaya Ibrahim. Capt Shaahid Amjad Airline Pilot was the Chief Guest Sub Inspector, Kodithuwakku, O I C Women and Children Unit police station, Moratuwa, Mohamad Salman Director Wisdom International School, Panadura, Senior Journalist B M Mukthar, Senior Journalist A L M Sathar were the Guests of Honours. Students and parents were also present.



THE KINGSBURY'S INDULGENCE

Celebrate your Mother's unconditional love



Amma, Ammi, Mama, Mummy ... we call her by many endearing names and hold her dear to our hearts. Our mother holds the heartstrings of the family together with her unconditional love and care. This Mother's Day, The Kingsbury Colombo offers you the opportunity to show your mother how much you adore and appreciate her, by celebrating in the comfort and safety of your home.

Choose from the wide variety available on The Kingsbury's Indulgence platform and select something special as a much-deserved treat. Order her favourite Chinese meal or see her light up with joy when a delectable Mother's Day High Tea is safely delivered home. Additionally,

this indulgent High Tea spread will include a special Mother's Day mini-cake.

You can also express your love and gratitude with a deluxe bouquet of flowers and luxury chocolates.

The scrumptious offerings available for this Mother's Day include Mother's Day cakes, cupcakes and a variety of chocolates too. There are up to three options on all the above offerings, and many price ranges to choose from. Another special offer, available on the Indulgence platform, are e-vouchers, to the value of Rs. 1,000 - 10,000. This allows you to send a gift - where your mother can choose to either order goodies online, or dine with a friend at any of the Hotel's restaurants.



Enjoy a safe and secure celebration in the safety of your home. Visit www.indulgence.thekingsburyhotel.com to place your delivery orders.

The Kingsbury Colombo received the 'Safe and Secure Tourism' Compliance Certificate from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority.

-AK

Hilton Colombo's Café Kai gears up for Mother's Day



Discover a delicious assortment of homemade treats specially made for your mum at Café Kai, Hilton Colombo from May 5 to 9. Choose from the special range of Mother's Day goodies including special cakes, cupcakes, chocolates, gift ideas and special Mother's Day set menus to treat mom right! Visit www.shop.hiltoncolombo1.com to place your orders. Contactless free delivery within Colombo 1 to 15 and *selected areas. *Terms & conditions apply. - GDeS

French Embassy launches 'Rendez-Vous with Yasmin and Kumar'

The Embassy of France in Sri Lanka and the Maldives last Friday (April 30) proudly launched 'Rendez-Vous with Yasmin and Kumar', a Franco-Sri Lankan talk show, on its YouTube channel.

Hosted monthly, this show, as its name suggests, will be a 'meeting place' and highlight Franco-Sri Lankan bilateral ties across the spheres of language, culture, literature, diplomacy, music, art and travel etc through Francophone personalities.

The maiden edition, last Friday, featured the current Ambassador for France in Sri Lanka H.E. Eric Lavertu who explored Franco-Sri Lankan bilateral ties over three centuries from Lieutenant Delanelle, the French Ambassador to



Ambassador Eric Lavertu with former Ambassador Sumitra Peries, Yasmin and Kumar

the Court of King Rajasinghe the second, down the years to the French Vice Consul Monsieur Paul Grimblot in 1859, to the present day.

In the pipeline are chats with celebrated film maker and Sri Lanka's former Ambassador to

France the francophone Sumitra Peries who goes down Memory Lane and recalls watching Roger Vadim shooting 'And God Created Woman' on the streets of St Tropez in the late 1950s with an

"unknown actress" named Brigitte Bardot. She also recalls how, years later, on one of her many visits to France with husband Lester James, the couple were hosted at the family 'chateau' in Lyon, owned by the

Lumiere Brothers, Auguste and Louis, the inventors of the Cinematograph.

A former teacher at the Alliance Francaise Sri Lanka in the 1980s, Bruno Duparc who returns to Colombo after more than three decades as the new Director General of the Alliance Francaise, recalls life in Colombo in the good old days and the current place of the French language in Sri Lanka.

Commenting on the show, Ambassador Lavertu said, "The Bonsoir French television programme, hosted by our Embassy, very successfully took France to all corners of Sri Lanka, both in English and in Sinhala, from the mid-1980s, the pre-internet era, to 2010. I'm surprised that even to this day, many people still talk

about Bonsoir with great nostalgia. In fact the French can-can music is still popular in Sri Lankan minds and evokes memories of great "visits" to France through this programme. Rendez-Vous is a continuation of that journey but in a different form and in a different space. I'm happy to see Yasmin and Kumar continue on that journey. Long live Franco-Sri Lankan bilateral relations".

Yasmin Rajapakse and Kumar de Silva need no introduction to the public of Sri Lanka. They first appeared together thirty five years ago, in 1986, on 'Bonsoir' which they co-hosted for fifteen unbroken years on ITN.

The Government of France has decorated the both of them as 'Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters' (Chevalier

dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres') in recognition of their longstanding contribution to the propagation of the French language and culture in Sri Lanka.

"We are delighted to be back together all over again after a lapse of twenty years. We never actually left the French circuit. In fact we were also very happy to be a part of the Board of Directors of the Alliance Francaise de Kotte in Colombo. This show is yet another exciting avatar in our journey in the Franco-Sri Lankan landscape. Technology has changed dramatically, as have lifestyles and viewer tastes. Here we are back, older and greyer, and perhaps wiser, to bring France a little bit more close to Sri Lanka", the duo chorus.

MARMADUKE



"That's the last time we let Marmaduke into our blanket fort."



MUTT AND JEFF



ARCHIE



FISH TALES



UP & RUNNING





Crazy for Cantaloupe!

Muskmelon, cantaloupe or kharbuja is not only an extremely refreshing snack for the summer, but also a great fruit to make your skin soft and glowing. Along with helping the skin to stay hydrated, the fruit is packed with nutrients such as vitamin A, B and C, which help it to stay healthy, young and supple.

Nutritional ingredients

Calories: 61.
Carbs: 15 grams.
Fiber: 1.5 grams.
Protein: 1 gram.
Vitamin C: 34 percent of the RDI.
Vitamin A: 2 percent of the RDI.
Potassium: 8 percent of the RDI.
Folate: 8 percent of the RDI.

Maintaining beauty

Cantaloupe, or muskmelon, can do wonders for your skin too. It is packed with skin-friendly collagen that helps keep the skin tissues tight and prevents it from withering. The vitamin C rich fruit also helps induce natural glow. So, make sure you add melons to your diet.

Beauty benefits

* Rejuvenates and hydrates skin: Using muskmelon on dry and dull skin is an excellent idea, as it helps to rejuvenate the skin and keep it fresh. Loaded with a high amount of dietary fibre and vitamin A, muskmelon plays a major role in rejuvenating your skin. Besides, muskmelon also contains high amount of water that promises to keep your skin hydrated.

* Helps in skin regeneration: Muskmelon is rich in vitamin A and C which helps in skin regeneration. The vitamin C content in the fruit helps in the formation of collagen in your body, thus giving it a youthful glow. You can make a home-made face pack using muskmelon and orange pulp for flawless skin.



* Prevents premature ageing: Loaded with folic acid, muskmelon facilitates smooth regeneration of cells, making your skin healthy and glowing. It also protects your skin from free radicals and keeps wrinkles and fine lines at bay. Moreover, muskmelon also maintains the elasticity of your skin, thus proving to be an effective anti-ageing agent.

* Treats eczema and other skin conditions: Muskmelon is one of the most commonly used and effective remedies for treating eczema and other skin conditions.

It is also useful in removing freckles. Besides, it can also be used as a first aid for burns and abrasions.

You can combine it with lemon as it contains antibacterial and antifungal properties which help in treating a number of skin conditions.

* Treats chapped lips: Due to natural skin-lightening properties of muskmelons, they can help lighten your skin. Also, due to exfoliating properties of this seasonal fruit, they can help to treat dry and chapped lips.



Using muskmelon can help to keep your lips soft, supple and hydrated.

Health benefits

Cantaloupe is the most nutrient dense melon; a single serving provides around half of your daily vitamin C and A needs. Vitamin A is known to promote healthy vision, and also reduces inflammation. Vitamin C on the other hand is famous for boosting skin health, immunity and cellular health. Vitamin C could help ward off DNA damage as well.

Select muskmelon as a part of a beauty treatment

The best way to pick a musk melon is

by the smell. The fruit should have a sweet, slightly musky scent. A good cantaloupe feels heavy for its size, has a rind that resembles raised netting, and has a stem end that yields slightly when pressed with your thumb

Beauty treatments

Muskmelon is rich in Vitamin C that aids in boosting immunity. Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant which fights against free radicals and helps in maintaining skin's youthfulness. So, add this wonderful fruit to your platter to bypass those early signs of ageing.

It contains Vitamin E and K that helps in keeping the skin healthy and glowing. High water content hydrates your skin from within. If you apply muskmelon juice on your skin, it makes it soft and moisturized.

Side effects

Use of muskmelon is better avoided during pregnancy and breast feeding.

Growing muskmelon

Cantaloupe and honeydew melons thrive in warm soil. Don't plant until the ground temperature is above 70 degrees F. Prior to planting the seeds, cover soil with plastic film to hasten soil warming. Cantaloupes, musk melon and honeydew are heavy feeders, prepare your planting bed well. The quick way is to plant in soil amended with several inches of compost or well-rotted manure.

COMPILED BY
 RUWINI JAYAWARDANA



Muskmelon home remedies

* REJUVENATE AND HYDRATE

Ingredients
 1 tbsp muskmelon pulp
 1 tbsp rosewater

How to do:
 Combine both the ingredients to make a semi-thick paste. Apply the paste to your face. Leave it on for about 20 minutes and then wash it off with lukewarm water. Repeat this once a day for the desired result.

Ingredient
 2 TBSP MUSKMELON JUICE

How to do
 Dip a cotton ball in some muskmelon juice and apply it to your entire face. Massage it for a few minutes. Allow it to air dry. Wash your face with lukewarm water and pat it dry. Repeat this once or twice a week for the desired result.

* COMBAT'S HAIR LOSS

Muskmelon contains inositol which is an important compound that can combat hair loss and promote hair growth. It is found in most of the citrus-based fruits, including muskmelons, which is why it is an essential ingredient used to fight hair loss. Moreover, coconut oil too helps in combating hair loss and promoting hair growth

Ingredients
 2 tbsp muskmelon pulp
 3 to 4 strawberries
 1 tbsp coconut oil

How to do
 Mix all the ingredients in a bowl. Take a generous amount of the mixture and gently apply it to your scalp and hair from roots to tips. Put on a shower cap and leave it on for about an hour. Wash it off with your regular shampoo and conditioner. Repeat this once a week for the desired result.

* MUSKMELON TONER

The juice of muskmelons can be straightaway used by dipping in a cotton pad and applied to your face. Leave it till it dries and then wash off with cold water.

* MUSKMELON SCRUB

Take 1 spoon of Oatmeal, add 2 spoons of muskmelon pulp and a pinch of turmeric. Gently massage this scrub in circular motion on your skin for 5 to 7 minutes and then wash with normal water.



CHEITNA PATTNAIK

Extracted from the Santalum album tree, sandalwood oil is used as a key ingredient in beauty products throughout the world. In fact, most of us have grown up listening to our grandmothers raving about the benefits of sandalwood paste and oil for the skin, especially if you have acne. But did

you know that the uses of sandalwood go beyond just curing your zits?

Sandalwood oil and extracts can be a magical elixir for your skin as they can fix almost any problem. Don't believe us? Read on...

1. It has anti-ageing properties

Sandalwood oil can keep the skin from sagging. Rich in antioxidants,

Six fantastic things sandalwood can do for your skin

sandalwood helps fight the damage that is caused by free radicals and thus prevents the formation of wrinkles. All you have to do is apply a mixture of sandalwood oil with honey and egg yolk, keep it on for 20 minutes, and gently rinse it off.

2. A cure for pimples and acne
 Sandalwood has a soothing effect on inflammation caused by pimples and acne. Add sandalwood oil to some turmeric powder and camphor to achieve this effect. Apply it to your zits and leave it on overnight and wash it off the next morning, with just plain water.

3. It removes scars and softens the skin

Sandalwood reduces the appearance of bruises and scars, and softens the skin. If you can't find sandalwood oil to get the job done, take pure sandalwood powder and add it to a carrier oil that suits your skin and let it sit for around 12 hours. Massage it on your face, leave it on for a few minutes, and wash it off with water.

4. It has anti-tanning properties

Sandalwood oil is a great way to get rid of skin tanning. Make a paste with sandalwood oil (or powder), honey, lemon juice, and curd.

Apply it on your face and leave it on for 15 minutes. Et voila! You're done.

5. It can save your skin from prickly heat

The soothing and calming effect of sandalwood on the skin acts as a cure for prickly heat. It is safe to use for all age groups, including babies.

6. Sandalwood can treat eczema

All you have to do is apply 1-2 drops of sandalwood oil over the area of concern every day to treat your eczema issues.

Health Shots



Daily News

TENDER AND OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS

VEHICLE SALE

MOTOR CAR	YEAR	YARD
CBG-5089 SUZUKI	2018	RAGAMA

The above vehicle can be inspected at the yard and that will be on Auction basis

RAGAMA 0113 288 893

LB FINANCE

L B Finance PLC
No 275/75, Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 7

Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB)
No. 415, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

Rent / Lease a House

A house meeting the following requirements is required on Rent / Lease basis for a period of 12 months.

- The house should be located within 15 km of the CECB Head Office and with pipe water, electricity, quality sanitation and sewerage system.
- Must have 04 or 05 bedrooms and 02 bathrooms
- Must have kitchen with pantry cupboards
- Parking facilities for 02 vehicles
- The relevant monthly rent quoted should include all government taxes

Your Bids should reach the Chairman, Senior Procurement Committee, Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau, No. 415, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 **before 14.00 hrs on 17th May 2021**. The top left-hand corner of the envelope should state "Prices for Rent / Lease a House" and "CB/PO/NCB/2021/03".

For additional information, please call the Procurement Officer on 011-2668821 between 08.30 hrs. and 16.15 hrs. on working days.



SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

Amendment Notice

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority has amended the Number Two (02) of the Instructions for the Bidders as undermentioned tender initially appeared on 25th April 2021 of Sunday Observer & 28th April 2021 of the Ceylon Daily News, Dinamina & Thinakaran which is to be opened on 30th June 2021.

Tender Number :	CES/FP/04/PT/6200(MP)
Name of the Tender :	Procurement of Container Handling Equipment to ECT
Number Two (02) of the Instructions for the Bidders published as :	The Bidder should have been in the business of supplying similar equipment required above at least during the last Five (05) years.
Number Two (02) of the Instructions for the Bidders amended shall be :	The Bidder should have been in the business of supplying similar equipment required above at least during the last Ten (10) years.

Other conditions remain unchanged.

Chairman - Cabinet appointed Procurement Committee (CAPC)
Ministry of Ports and Shipping,
No. 19, Chaithya Road,
Colombo 01.

OBSERVER JOBS



www.observerjobs.lk



University of Ruhuna - Matara

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB : RUH/ENG/SUP/2021/02 : Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of Laboratory Equipment (CEE), Laboratory Equipment (EIE), Laboratory Equipment (MME), Computer & Network Accessories , Multimedia & Office Equipment & Furniture

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of the following goods for Faculty of Engineering, University of Ruhuna.

Item No.	Goods/Description	Quantity	Bid Security (Rs.)	Non Refundable Tender Fee	Item No.	Goods/Description	Quantity	Bid Security (Rs.)	Non Refundable Tender Fee		
Package No. 01 : Laboratory Equipment (CEE)					Package No 05: Multimedia & Office Equipment						
1.1	pH Meter/Thermometer/EC Meter/ORP Meter	3	14,000.00	3,500.00	4.9	RJ11 Surge Protectors for Telephones	10	5,000.00	2,000.00		
1.2	Turbidity Meter	3	14,000.00		4.10	Analog Telephones	50				
1.3	DO Meter	3	12,000.00		4.11	24 Ports Gigabit Ethernet Network Switches	7	16,000.00			
1.4	Steel Band Tape	10	6,000.00		4.12	Wire Tracker, Line Finder and LAN Cable Tester for Network and Telephone Cable Collation	1	3,000.00			
1.5	Linen Tape	10				4.13	RJ45 to SC Gigabit Ethernet Media Converter, Single Mode Fiber			6	
1.6	Ranging Pole	20				4.14	USB 3.0, 2TB Portable HDD	1			
1.7	Mallet	10				4.15	Simulink Desktop Realtime capable DAQ card (8A -IN 14bit, 8A-OUT 14bit, 8D-IN,8D-OUT,2-QEI,4-PWM minimum) (Eg-HUMUSOFT MF634) with computer (i9,32GB,512GB SSD + 2TB HDD,21 inch LCD,GTX3090 GPU,1200W power supply), a geared DC motor and accessories, 1.2KVA UPS	2		45,000.00	
1.8	Compass	10				4.16	GTX3080 OC or better GPU card with 1200W power supply	2		7,500.00	
1.9	Arrows	20				4.17	Image Processing and Machine Learning Capable Mini-Computers(NVIDIA JETSON NANO - 6) with power supply units, SD memory card (64GB), cameras and HDMI cables	5		7,500.00	
1.10	Spring Balance	12				4.18	Computer	2		6,000.00	
1.11	Thermometer	1				4.19	Network Printer	1			
1.12	Auto Level Machine 24 Magnification	8			6,000.00	Package No 06: Furniture					
1.13	Metacentric Height	1			6,000.00	6.1	Steel cupboard	2		13,200.00	1,000.00
1.14	Deflection of Beams & Cantilevers and Ancillaries	1	15,000.00		6.2	Executive Table	1				
1.15	Bending moments in a beam and Ancillaries	1	14,000.00		6.3	Executive chair	1				
Package No. 02 : Laboratory Equipment (EIE)					6.4	Table	15				
2.1	Rectifier and a Controllable Inverter	1	12,000.00	6.5	Chair	75					
2.2	Variable Frequency Drive to Study the Induction Motor Speed Control	1	9,000.00	Package No 03: Laboratory Equipment (MME)							
2.3	Insulation Tester	1	22,500.00	3.1	Universal tool and cutter grinder (with all standard and optional accessories)	1	2,000.00				
2.4	RF Signal Generator (1 MHz - 3 GHz)	1			3.2	Industrial flue gas analyzer-portable		1	7,500.00		
2.5	PC based Portable Logic Analyzer	1	6,000.00	Package No 04: Computer & Network Accessories							
2.6	Portable Digital Multimeter	5	4,000.00	4.1	Computer Laptop i7	2	6,000.00	3,500.00			
2.7	FPGA Development Board	1		4.2	High Performance Workstation	1	30,000.00				
Package No 04: Computer & Network Accessories					4.3	Online UPS - 1 kVA	8		13,000.00		
4.4	Online UPS - 2 kVA	3		4.5	Online Ups - 3kVA	2					
4.5	Online Ups - 3kVA	2		4.6	Internationally Branded Wireless Access Points	8	18,000.00				
4.6	Internationally Branded Wireless Access Points	8		4.7	Internationally Branded Wireless Access Point range Extenders	2					
4.7	Internationally Branded Wireless Access Point range Extenders	2		4.8	Internationally Branded 24-Port FXS IP Gateway	3					
4.8	Internationally Branded 24-Port FXS IP Gateway	3		Package No 05: Multimedia & Office Equipment							
Package No 05: Multimedia & Office Equipment					5.1	Touch Screen Smart Interactive Whiteboard	1	7,500.00	2,000.00		
Package No 06: Furniture					5.2	Photocopy Machine	1	7,500.00			
Package No 06: Furniture					5.3	Public addressing system	1	4,500.00			
Package No 06: Furniture					5.4	FM Microphone	1	12,000.00			
Package No 06: Furniture					5.5	Multimedia projector	1				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.6	Projector Screen	1				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.7	Headset	75				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.8	Pen Drivers	10				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.9	Voice Recorder	5				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.10	3.5mm Stereo female socket	75				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.11	Camcorder with tripod	1				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.12	White board with stand	1				
Package No 06: Furniture					5.13	Air Conditioner 18000 BTU	1				

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.

3. A complete set of bidding documents (in English) can be obtained from Supplies Division, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama up to 14.00 hours on 31.05.2021 by making a non-refundable tender fee as given in the above table to the Shroff counter, University of Ruhuna or by handing over the bank slip of non-refundable tender fee deposited to the A/C No 032100112477589 (People's Bank, Uyanwatta, Matara), University of Ruhuna through any branch of the People's Bank.

4. Bid shall be valid up to 30.08.2021.

5. Evaluation shall be done item by item basis.

6. Bid shall be accompanied by a bid security (unconditional) as relevant to the applicable bidding items, issued by an acceptable commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka.

7. Bid security should be addressed to "Vice Chancellor, University of Ruhuna" and shall be valid up to 27.09.2021

8. Deadline for submission of bids shall be 13.00 hours on 01.06.2021.

9. Duly completed sealed bids in duplicate shall be sent under registered cover to be received on or before above closing time to the **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara** or deposited in the Tender Box 01 placed at the Office of Registrar, University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara before above closing time. Late bids shall be rejected. Name, Tender Number and Package Number should be indicated in the left hand top corner of envelope.

10. Bids shall be opened immediately after closing of bids at the above address.

11. Bidders or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of the bids.

12. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Senior Assistant Bursar (Supplies), University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara (041-2227027) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge at the above address during the office hours.

The Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee,
University of Ruhuna,
Wellamadama, Matara.

06th May 2021



Invitation for Bids

Ministry of Irrigation IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

National Competitive Bidding

01. The Director General of Irrigation invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following Procurements. Table - 01 below.

Bid No.	Description of Procurement	Qty. (Nos.)	Non Refundable Deposit (Rs.)	Bid shall be Valid up to	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)	Bid Security shall be valid up to
Procurement of Computers						
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/007	Lot 01 - Procurement of Desktop Computers i3	12	5,000.00	09.09.2021	20,000.00	07th October 2021
	Lot 02 - Procurement of Desktop Computers i5	20			50,000.00	
	Lot 03 - Procurement of Desktop Computers i7	18			80,000.00	
	Lot 04 - Procurement of Workstation Computers	08			40,000.00	
	Lot 05 - Procurement of Notebook Computers i5	51			160,000.00	
	Lot 06 - Procurement of Notebook Computers i7	02			10,000.00	
Procurement of Computer Peripherals & Office Equipment						
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/010	Lot 01 - Procurement of UPS	26	2,000.00	09.09.2021	3,000.00	07th October 2021
	Lot 02 - Procurement of A4 Laser Printers (Black)	19			15,000.00	
	Lot 03 - Procurement of A4 Colour Laser Printers	03			5,000.00	
	Lot 04 - Procurement of A3 Digital Photocopier (LED Colour)	01			10,000.00	
	Lot 05 - Procurement of A3 Colour Image Scanners	03			2,000.00	
	Lot 06 - Procurement of Multimedia Projectors	09			20,000.00	
	Lot 07 - Procurement of Fax Machines	08			10,000.00	
	Lot 08 - Procurement of A3 Photocopy Machines	12			30,000.00	
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/011	Supply & Installation of Gap - Bed Lathe Machines	02	4,000.00	09.09.2021	150,000.00	07th October 2021
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/012	Procurement of Vis Spectrophotometer	01	1,000.00	09.09.2021	40,000.00	07th October 2021

02. Due to Covid-19 pandemic situation Bidding documents can be purchased after paying non-refundable fee as stated in Table 01 to following bank account and submission to **bank slip with written request made on a company letterhead (original) via email (idprocurement1@gmail.com) / Fax : (011-2582677)** to Director of Irrigation (Contracts & Procurement), Irrigation Department, No. 230, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 from **07th May 2021 to 09th June 2021** on working days from 09.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs.

Table - 02

Bank Details		Bank Slip & Request Letter Send to		Issuing Bidding Document	
Bank	A/C No.	Email Address	Fax No.	Time	Location
BOC Taprobane Branch	7042385	idprocurement1@gmail.com	011-2582677	Next day 10.00 - 11.00 with original request letter	Please contact over the Phone 011-2582677 011-2581162 - Icom-217

03. Details of Pre-Bid Meeting are given in the Table - 03 below.

Table-03

Bid No.	Description of Procurement	Venue	Date	Time
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/007	Procurement of Computers	Auditorium, Irrigation Department, No. 230, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colomb 07 OR Zoom Meeting	13.05.2021	10:00
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/010	Procurement of Computer Peripherals & Office Equipment			
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/011	Supply & Installation of Gap - bed Lathe Machines			
IFB/ID/GOSL/NCB/2021/012	Procurement of Vis Spectrophotometer			

04. Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (as prescribed format in the Bidding Document) for the value mentioned in Bidding Document. Any Bid without a valid Bid Security will be considered as non-responsive and rejected without any query.

05. Manufacturer's Authorization letter on prescribed format shall be submitted together with the Bid, if not the Bid will be rejected as considering as a non-responsive Bid.

06. All pages of the Bidding Documents shall be signed by the Bidder and affixed his seal.

07. Completed Bids shall either be deposited in the **Tender Box** kept for this purpose in the **Room No. 311 (Room of Chief Financial Officer), 3rd Floor, Irrigation Department, No. 230, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07** or sent under **Registered Post to The Chairman, Departmental Procurement Committee of the above address** to reach him on or before **14.00 hrs (02.00 p.m.) on 10th June 2021**. Bids shall be closed at 14.00 hrs (02.00 p.m.) on 10th June 2021 and opened immediately. Late Bids will be rejected. Please write the **Description of Procurement and Bid No. (IFB No.)** on top of left hand corner of the envelope.

08. The Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the bid closing date specified above, the bid closing date will be the immediate next working day and will be opened at the same time and venue.

09. The decision of the Department Procurement Committee is final and conclusive. The Department Procurement Committee is empowered to reject single, any or all Bids at its own discretion.

10. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **Director of Irrigation (Contracts and Procurement), T.P. 011-2582897 / 011-2582677**.

Eng. K.D.N. Siriwardana
Director General of Irrigation
Irrigation Department,
No. 230, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07.

Date : 06.05.2021

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, LAND & LAND DEVELOPMENT, HIGHWAYS, INFORMATION – SOUTHERN PROVINCE

SOUTHERN PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Sealed bids are now invited from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of following works, on behalf of the SPRDA.

Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding procedure.

The selected bidder should possess the required grade of (CIDA) registration within Southern Province.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the General Manager, Southern Provincial Road Development Authority, No. 19, Lower Dickson Road, Galle. (Telephone Nos. 091-2226440/ 091-4936371) during the office hours and may inspect the bidding document.

A complete set of Bidding Documents can be purchased by interested bidders from **06.05.2021 to 3.00 p.m on 24.05.2021** on the submission of a written application to the address below by payment of a non refundable fee of Rs. 2,000/- made by depositing cash to the following Account

- Account Name - General Manager, Southern Provincial Road Development Authority
- Account Number - 1587418
- Bank Name - Bank of Ceylon (Galle Fort)

Bids enveloped sealed and marked with the relevant road name on top left hand corner of the envelope should either be sent by registered post to reach the **General Manager, Southern Provincial Road Development Authority, No. 19, Lower Dickson Road, Galle** or deposited in the Tender Box provided at the same premises for the purpose.

Bids shall be delivered to the address below up to **10.00 a.m on 25.05.2021** and the late bids will be rejected. The bids received will be opened at **10.00 a.m on 25.05.2021** at the address below in the presence of the bidders' or their representatives.

All pages of the tender document shall be initialed by the bidder with his official seal.

No.	Divisional Engineer's Office	Description of Works	CIDA Grade	Bid bond Amount
01	Baddegama	Construction of Retaining wall at Yatalamatta Udugama Road (0+700 Km) RHS	C-09	11,000/-
02	Baddegama	Package No : BA 03 I. Construction of side Drain at Labuduwa Narawala Road (2+100 Km) II. Construction of Cross Drain at Thotagoda Ganegoda Road (1+100 Km)	C-09	12,000/-
03	Baddegama	Package No: BA 04 I. Construction of Cross Drain at Bopegoda Pinkanda Road II. Construction of Side Drain at Thiranagama Pinkanda Road (120m)	C-08	44,000/-
04	Elpitiya	Construction of Box Culvert at Dedduwa Gonagala Kaikawala Raod (5+450 Km)	C-07	55,000/-
05	Elpitiya	Widening Box Culvert at Thalagaswala Pitigala Road (9+900 Km)	C-08	38,000/-
06	Elpitiya	Construction of Concrete Drain at Elpitiya Pituwala Road (1+240) RHS	C-08	36,000/-
07	Elpitiya	Construction of Drains at Thanabaddegama Elpitiya Road (4+100 - 4+400 RHS, 3+800 - 4+000 RHS)	C-07	72,000/-
08	Elpitiya	Package No: EL 02 I. Shoulder construction of Thanabaddegama Hammaliya Road (7.2mM) II. Construction of Drain at Athkandura Ampegama Road (3+200Km) LHS	C-07	54,000/-
09	Thawalama	Construction of Box Culvert at Mattaka Bambarawana Road (1+900 Km)	C-07	75,000/-
10	Thawalama	Package No: TW 02 I. Construction of Structures at Udugama Bangama Road II. Construction of Side Drain at Batahena Dunhena Road (11+600Km)	C-08	24,000/-
11	Makandura	Package No: MK 03 I. Construction of Retaining wall at at Athuela Derangala Road (0+950 Km) RHS II. Construction of Retaining wall at at Athuela Derangala Road (1+300 Km) RHS III. Widening of Culvert at Derangala Kolaniya Road (2+250 Km)	C-07	54,000/-
12	Makandura	Package No: MK 04 I. Construction of Retaining wall at Ihalavitiyala Pahalavitiyala Road (1+500 Km) LHS II. Construction of Concrete Drain at Deiyardara Kirama Road (5+000 Km) III. Construction of Structures at Sapugoda Gathara Ransegoda Road	C-08	45,000/-
13	Makandura	Construction of Box culvert at Deniyaya Pallegama Road (0+500Km)	C-09	12,000/-
14	Weligama	Package No: WE 03 I. Construction of Retaining wall at Welihinda Malimbada Road (7+050 Km) II. Construction of Concrete Drain at Hallala Horagoda Wellana Road (87M) III. Construction of Box culvert at Kadduwa Dampella Road (1+020, 1+982 Km) IV. Construction of Concrete Drain at Kapparathota Circular Road (1+200 - 1+280 Km) V. Construction of Concrete Drain at Kapparathota Circular Road (1+600 - 1+700 Km)	C-07	81,000/-
15	Weligama	Package No: WE 04 I. Construction of Box culvert at Batawala Pathagama Road (2+000 Km) II. Construction of Hume pipe culvert at Devinuwara Thalpapwala Road (3+250 Km) III. Construction of Structures at Kotawila Nidangala Warakapitiya Road (0+000 - 0+500 Km) IV. Construction of Concrete drain at Kamburugamuwa Mirissa Road (4+400 - 4+500 Km)	C-07	87,000/-
16	Weligama	Package No: WE 05 I. Construction of Box Culvert at Walgama Kanaththagoda Road (1+000 Km) II. Construction of Concrete Drain at Kapuduwa Uduwa Kadawedduwa Road ((3+300 Km) III. Construction of Concrete Drain at Kapuduwa Uduwa Kadawedduwa Road (0+140 - 0+280 Km) IV. Construction of Box Culverts at Udukawa Hallala Road (0+300, 3+500 Km) V. Construction of Drain at Walgama Kanaththagoda Road (0+080 - 1+050 Km)	C-07	87,000/-
17	Weligama	Package No: WE 06 I. Construction of Box Culvert at Wehelgoda Malagoda Road (0+300 Km) II. Construction of Concrete Drain at Kadduwa Dampella Road (0+051 - 0+163 Km) III. Construction of Concrete Drain at Kekanadura Rathmale Dikwella Road IV. Construction of Cross Drain at Midigama Ibbawala Road (2+500 Km)	C-07	52,000/-
18	Tangalle	Package No: TA 01 I. Construction of Retaining wall at Godigamuwa Pattiyapola Road (2+099Km) LHS II. Construction of Retaining wall Godigamuwa Pattiyapola Road (2+465Km) LHS III. Construction of Culvert & Retaining wall at Godigamuwa Pattiyapola Road (2+850Km, 2+450 Km)	C-07	60,000/-
19	Tangalle	Package No: TA 02 I. Construction of Hand Rail at Udayala Aluthwewa Road (8+150 Km) II. Construction of Concrete Drain at Palathuduwa Marakolliya Road (1st Km)	C-09	18,000/-
20	Tangalle	Construction of Retaining wall at Katuwana Urubokka Road (5+600 Km)	C-08	34,000/-
21	Tissa	Package No: TI 03 I. Construction of Concrete Drain at Ambalanthota to Waduruppa Road (0+480 Km - 0+560 Km) II. Concreting of Weligaththe Bundala Road (2+100 - 2+300 Km)	C-07	56,000/-

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security with validity period up to 90 days for the amount mentioned as above. Payment of a Bid Bond fee can be paid by depositing cash to the following Account

- Account Name - General Manager, Southern Provincial Road Development Authority
- Account Number - 1587467
- Bank Name - Bank of Ceylon (Galle Fort)

Chairman, Procurement Committee
Southern Provincial Road Development Authority

General Manager
Southern Provincial Road Dev. Authority,
No. 19, Lower Dickson Road,
Galle.

04.05.2021

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

PEOPLE'S BANK

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed Local Suppliers in Sri Lanka for Supply, Delivery, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of equipment of the following projects given below.

Tender No.	Description of the Project	Value of Bid Security	Last Date & Time of Issuing Documents	Date & Time of Closing Tender
P/0041/2021	Purchasing of New 1000 POS Terminals (850 Wireless and 150 PSTN Terminals with EMV/Contactless (NFC)/QR Acceptance Facility	2% of the Total Estimated Cost	20.05.2021 at 2.00 p.m.	21.05.2021 at 2.00 p.m.
P/032/2021	50 Nos. ATMs			

- Tender Documents could be obtained from People's Bank, Supplies Department, 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02 depositing Rs. **Rs. 1,500/=** for each Tender Document to the Account No. 204100120011913 maintained at Headquarters Branch. Deposits could be made from any People's Bank branch to the named account. Issuance of Tender Documents will be made on producing the duplicate of the cash paying in slip between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. from **06.05.2021 to 20.05.2021** as indicated above on working days of the Bank.
- Perfected Tender Document should be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee / Bid Bond from a commercial bank (other than People's Bank) acceptable to the People's Bank for 2% of the Total Estimated Cost, valid for a minimum period of 180 calendar days from the day of opening the Tender. Bank Pay Orders / Bank Drafts (Valid for 180 calendar dates from the date of opening the Tender) are also acceptable in lieu of Bid Bonds. Cheques drawn by the Tenderer will not be accepted.
- Sealed Tenders may be sent by Registered Post or deposited in the Tender Box kept at this Department at No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02. Tenders will be opened at 2.00 p.m. on the closing date (**21.05.2021**) mentioned above. Tenders received after 2.00 p.m. will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The Bank reserves to itself the right of rejecting any or all Bids or cancelling the whole tender and the right of accepting any portion of a Tender without assigning any reasons.
- Further details could be obtained from Chief Manager (Supplies), People's Bank, Supplies Department, on the Telephone Nos. given below.

Chief Manager (Supplies)
People's Bank, Supplies Dept.,
No. 30/101, Kew Road, Colombo 02.

Telephone Nos. : 2439577/8, 2307326
Fax No. : 2439576
Web : www.peoplesbank.lk



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Tender Notice

SALE OF UNUSABLE VEHICLES

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited up to 1000 Hrs on **17.05.2021**, by the Chairman, Defence Ministry Tender Board, at No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, for the sale of the undermentioned vehicles.

S/ No.	Model	Registered No.	Present Condition	Refundable Deposit (Rs)
1.	Isuzu Pick-up Cab	(53-9858)	Road Unworthy	25,000.00
2.	Mitsubishi L200 Cab	(253-6924)		25,000.00

Details and conditions for tenderers are stated below:-

- Relevant Tender Forms can be obtained from **06.05.2021** up to **13.05.2021**, on working days, between 09.00 Hrs and 14.00 Hrs, from the Accountant (Revenue and Asset Management) of the Ministry of Defence at No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03, on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000.00 per each vehicle separately.
- The above stated vehicles can be inspected from **06.05.2021** up to **13.05.2021**, between 09.00 Hrs and 14.00 Hrs, at the Defence Ministry Premises at No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03.
- A refundable deposit of Rs. 25,000.00 separately for each vehicle, should also be paid by cash to the Accounts Section of the Ministry of Defence and the receipt thus received should be attached with the Tender.
- Tenders will be accepted up to 10.00 Hrs on **17.05.2021** and thereafter will be opened at 10.00 Hrs, same day, at the Ministry of Defence at No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha, Colombo 03. Tenders received late will be rejected.
- Immediately, after granting of tender, qualified tenderers should pay an amount of 25% of the tender value to this Ministry. The refundable deposit amount will not be refunded if the tenderer fails to pay this 25% advance amount or fails to remove the vehicle within the specified time frame or fails to be present by himself or by a nominated representative at the tender opening.
- Further details relevant to this can be obtained from the Accountant - Revenue and Asset Management. Tel. No.: 011-2430860-9 (Ext. - 310, 403).

Chairman,
Ministry Tender Committee,
Ministry of Defence,
No. 15/5, Baladaksha Mawatha,
Colombo 03.

NOTICE

We hereby inform that Samastha Lanka Kidney Patients Association at No. 218, Cotta Road, Borella has moved to No. 155A, Sarwodaya Building, Dr Danister De Silva Mawatha, Colombo 8 from 15th February 2021.

Samastha Lanka Kidney Patients Association,
The Secretary,
Tele : 0112 680051

ACQUISITION

We are keen to purchase non-operative Educational Institution or Academy (International School).

Please reply to the following email with pertinent details.

Email ID :
deborah.thevamani@gmail.com
Contact No. 0771087358

REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, AQUA VILLA PROPERTIES (PRIVATE) LIMITED Company Registration No. PV122492 having its registered office at No. 34C, Gregory's Place, Dehiwala hereby inform Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka & the public that we have revoked and cancelled Power of Attorney granted by us to BARBARA JEAN SEGAL British Passport Number GBR 508405824 of Daladawatta, Pubudu Mawatha, Matara, Sri Lanka by Power of Attorney No. 468 dated 13.06.2019 attested by P.H.K.H. Thilakarathna, Notary Public of Colombo.

On this 29th April 2021.
Aqua Villa Properties (Private) Limited

VEHICLE SALE

MOTOR CYCLE	YEAR	YARD
BFP-0787 HONDA	2017	AMPARA
THREE WHEELER	YEAR	YARD
ABK -7485 BAJAJ	2016	RAGAMA
ABM-4914 BAJAJ	2016	EMBILIPITTYA
ABC-3857 BAJAJ	2015	PANADURA
AAQ-8411 BAJAJ	2014	RAGAMA
AAI-3956 BAJAJ	2013	RAGAMA
YL-6753 BAJAJ	2011	MATARA
YM-7588 BAJAJ	2011	AMPARA
YB-0619 BAJAJ	2010	RAGAMA
YA-4010 BAJAJ	2010	RAGAMA
QU-7550 BAJAJ	2009	RATHNAPURA
QK-8284 BAJAJ	2007	EMBILIPITTYA
MOTOR CAR	YEAR	YARD
CAF-5678 SUZUKI / ALTO	2015	EMBILIPITTYA
CAC-4166 TOYOTA / HARRIER	2014	RAGAMA
DUAL PURPOSE	YEAR	YARD
PR-4478 TATA / ACE	2011	RAGAMA
54-9875 NISSAN	1990	KURUNEGALA
MOTOR LORRY	YEAR	YARD
48-9097 ISUZU	1992	KURUNEGALA

The above vehicles can be inspected at the yards and that will be on Auction basis

RAGAMA 0113 288 893	KURUNEGALA 0374 943 738	MATARA 0414 935 734
AMPARA 0634 925 696	RATHNAPURA 0454 928 635	PANADURA 0773 610 142 Cint
EMBILIPITTYA 0773 038 137 Hiran		



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



INVITATION FOR BIDS

for
Supply of Aggregate Base Course required for Rehabilitation/ Improvements of roads under the implementation of 100,000 km alternative road system under the government's policy statement of "VISTAS OF PROSPERITY AND SPLENDOUR"

- The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Highways on behalf of Road Development Authority (RDA), invites sealed bids from suppliers, who own or lease approved operating crusher plants for the supply of Aggregate Base Course required for selected roads under 100,000km Programme for all district.

No.	Description of Projects	Non Refundable Fee (Rs) /per contract	Contract Duration (Months)
01.	Supply of Aggregate Base Course required for Rehabilitation/ Improvements of roads under the implementation of 100,000 km for all Executive Engineers region in Road Development Authority.	3,500.00	12

- The work consists of Supply of Aggregate Base Course required for Rehabilitation/ Improvements of roads under the implementation of 100,000 km. **as instructed by the Engineer.**
- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
- Interested bidders may obtain further information from the following office.

Project Director
Local Banks and Rural Roads Project
No 24/A, Asoka Circle, Gemunu Mawatha, Subhuthipura,
Battaramulla.
Tel.: 011-2187172 Fax.: 011-2187173 E mail: lbprural@gmail.com

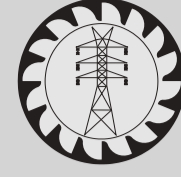
- The interested bidders should be obtained a original/valid deposit slip by depositing non-refundable tender fee of **Rs. 3,500.00** to the following account and original slip should be submitted with the Bidding Document for each executive engineer region. The bidding documents without the original deposit slip will not be accepted.

Account Name : Secretary, Ministry of Highways
Account Number : 7040370
Bank Name : Bank of Ceylon, Battaramulla Branch

- Interested bidder can be obtained a complete set of Bidding Documents in English language through your e mail from **9.00 hrs on 07.05.2021 to 24.05.2021** by sending a request letter to the lbprural@gmail.com
- Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid- Security value of **Rs. 375,000.00** and valid up to **19.10.2021**
- Bids with original deposit slip shall be delivered with duplicate to the **Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee of Ministry of Highways, 7th Floor, "Maganevuma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha, Battaramulla** on or before **11:00 hrs on 25th May 2021**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after the closing, and informed through ZOOM Technology. ZOOM connection details will be informed before the opening date.
- Bids shall be valid up to **21.09.2021**.

The Chairman,
Ministry Procurement Committee
Ministry of Highways,
8th Floor, "Maganevuma Mahamedura", Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha,
Battaramulla.

INVITATION FOR BIDS



ලංකා විදුලිබල මණ්ඩලය
இலங்கை மின்சார சபை
CEYLON ELECTRICITY BOARD

1	2	3	4	5	6
Division and Branch Province	Bid No. / Item Description & Quantity	Bid closing date & Time	Place of Purchase of Bidding Documents & Contact TP. Nos.	Price of Bid Document (LKR)	Type of Bid ICB/ NCB
Materials					
Generation (Lakvijaya Power Plant)	LV/S/2021/004 Selling of Empty Plastic Chemical Cans (30 L) – (Lakvijaya Power Plant – 2021)	2021/06/02 14.00 hrs	Procurement Division, 4th Floor, Admin Building, Lakvijaya Power Plant, Ceylon Electricity Board, Narakkaliya, Norochcholai 61342. TP : 032 226 8972 / 071-5777171 Fax: 032 226 8975	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2020/086/D Supply and Delivery of Insulator Tension Set Raccoon 36kV with Hardware	16/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	DGM (P&D-DD2), Ground Floor, Ceylon Electricity Board, No 205/3, Kandy Road, Pahala Biyanwila, Kadawatha. +94- 11- 2348470, +94- 11- 2433117	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2021/004/D Supply & Delivery of 33kV Tower and Accessories.	16/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2021/006/D Supply & Delivery of Tower and Accessories. Tower Double Circuit	16/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 02 (P & D)	DD2/P&D/ICB/2021/007/D Supply & Delivery of Galvanized Tower and Accessories. Tower Double Circuit Heavy Angle w/o Stubs	16/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	12,500.00	ICB
DD 03 (P & D)	DD3/P&D/ICB/2020/001/D Bid for Supply & Delivery of, 33kV/ 11kV, Outdoor 3 Phase 10MVA Power Transformer with On Load Tap Changer and Remote Tap Changer Control Panel - 01 No.	16/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM (P&D – DD3) ,CEB DD 3 Head Office, 3rd Floor, No. 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw , Ethul Kotte. T.P No. 011-2880601, 2880610	12,500.00	ICB
DD 03 (Uva)	DGM(UVA)/CE(COM)/C1/2K21/033 Supply and Delivery of 1300 Nos. of G.I. Pipes for service connections 5.8M / 76.1MM	02/06/2021 15.00 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Uva), Chief Engineer (Commercial) Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, No 04, Spring Valley Road, Hindagoda, Badulla. Tel : 0552222474	500.00	NCB
DD 03 (Uva)	DGM(UVA)/CE(COM)/C1/ 2K21/038 Supply & Delivery of 21 Industrial routers for Uva Provincial DCC	02/06/2021 15.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/53 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles - R.C. L.T. 9m 115kg 100 Nos	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of DGM (WPS-1), 3rd Floor, Distribution Division 4 Head Quarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala. 011-2638852	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/54 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles - Concrete Pre-Stressed 10m 225kg 100 Nos	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/55 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles - Concrete Pre-Stressed 11m 500kg 200 Nos.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/56 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles - Concrete Pre-Stressed 11m 850kg 100 Nos.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/57 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles Concrete Pre-Stressed 13m 500kg 100 Nos.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/58 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles - Concrete Pre-Stressed Spun Type 6m 50kg 500 Nos.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/2021/59 Manufacture, Supply & Delivery of Poles - Concrete Pre-Stressed Spun Type 8.3m 100kg 500 Nos.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,500.00	NCB
Send a SMS with Tender Number, Company Name, Business Reg. No. & Address to 0702516069 in advance to collect the tender documents of DD4 (WPS-1)					
DD 04 (SP1)	SP1/DGM/C5/66/21(N) Supply and Delivery of 500 Nos. of 8.3m/100kg Reinforced Concrete poles	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	DGM (SP-1)'s Office, CEB, 167, Matara Road, Galle. T.P.091-2232095	3,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP1)	SP1/DGM/C5/67/21(N) Supply and Delivery of 500 Nos. of 8.3m/100kg Reinforced Concrete poles	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	3,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP1)	SP1/DGM/C5/68/21(N) Supply and Delivery of 1800 Mtrs. of CABLE CU.PVC INSULATED - SINGLE (7/1.70) 16sqmm	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP1)	SP1/DGM/C5/69/21(N) Supply and Delivery of 1000 Nos. of 6m/50kg Reinforced Concrete poles	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	4,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP1)	SP1/DGM/C5/70/21(N) Supply and Delivery of 500 Nos. of 9m/500kg Pre Stressed Concrete poles	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	6,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP1)	SP1/DGM/C5/71/21(N) Supply and Delivery of 30 Nos. of Mould & Accessories for Exothermic Earth Connection	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP2)	SP2/M/C3/T/2021/02 Renting a Building for Sub Depot Mulatiyana	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of Area Electrical Engineer, Ceylon Electricity Board, No.120, Rahula Rd, Matara. Tel. No. 041-2222322-95 Fax: 041-2222322	500.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP2)	SP2/CE(C&CS)/T/2021/13 Supply & Delivery of 1 No. Portable Three Phase Meter Testing Equipment and 1 No. Portable Single Phase Meter Testing Equipment	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of Deputy General Manager (Southern Province 2), Ceylon Electricity Board, No.61/1A, Sea Avenue, Tangalle. Tel. No. 047-2200888 Fax: 047-2241806	1000.00	NCB
DD 04 (SP2)	SP2/CE(C&CS)/T/2021/14 Printing, Supply & Delivery of 5,000,000 Nos. Consumer Electricity Bill Forms (Merged)	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	2000.00	NCB
Projects (TCP)	CEB/TCP/DGM/CWGS/2021/02 Supply of PVC Pipes & Accessories for Construction of Wagawatta Grid Substation	20/05/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM (Transmission Construction Projects), No. 55/1-1, Thalapatthiya Road, Embuldeniya, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. TP: +94 (11) 2836051/2 Fax: +94 (11) 2836053	Rs. 500.00	NA
Construction					
Generation (Lakvijaya Power Plant)	LV/T/2020/0456 Construction of Water Treatment Plant at Daluwa Housing Complex	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Procurement Division, 4th Floor, Admin Building, Lakvijaya Power Plant, Ceylon Electricity Board, Narakkaliya, Norochcholai 61342. TP : 032 226 8972 071-5777171 Fax: 032 226 8975	LKR 12,500.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/024 Access road at Walapane ECSC	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial)-CP2, CEB, Quarry Road, Eriyagama, Peradeniya. T.P 081-4949160	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/043 Site preparation for proposed Pole Yard & Stores Complex at Nillambe (CP 02)	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/047 Proposed partition work in DGM(CP2) Office at Pilimathalawa - First Floor CE(Com), CE(EM), Acct(Rev) Units.	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Uva)	DGM(UVA)/CE(COM)/C1/S05/2K21/003 Renovation of Engineer' Quarters at Lower Kings Street - Badulla	02/06/2021 15.00 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Uva), Chief Engineer (Commercial) Unit, Ceylon Electricity Board, No 04, Spring Valley Road, Hindagoda, Badulla. Tel : 0552222474	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Uva)	DGM(UVA)/CE(COM)/C1/S05/2K21/036 Renovation of the Area Electrical Engineer' office - Diyatalawa	02/06/2021 15.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
Services					
Generation (Lakvijaya Power Plant)	LV/T/2021/0124 Providing Janitorial Service to Lakvijaya Power Plant, Housing Complex at Karamba and Housing Complex at Daluwa for a Period of One Year.	26/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Procurement Division, 4th Floor, Admin Building, Lakvijaya Power Plant, Ceylon Electricity Board, Narakkaliya, Norochcholai 61342. TP : 032 226 8972 071-5777171 Fax: 032 226 8975	10,000.00	NCB
Generation (Mahaweli Complex)	MC / UKU / BIDS / 2021 / 006 Hiring of a 12-seater passenger van for Ukuwela Power Station for a period of one year.	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer, Ukuwela Power Station, C.E.B, Ukuwela. T.P. 066 224 3054 066 224 4229 Fax: 066 224 4351	1,000.00	NCB
Generation (Thermal Complex)	SPS/CE/LP/MEM2(P)/20/16 Supply and Planting of Suitable Trees along the Boundary Fence and Creating of Forest Patches Within the Land of Sapugaskanda Power Station as a means of Noise Mitigation	02/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (Thermal Complex), Ceylon Electricity Board, Generation Head Quarters, New Kelani Bridge Road, Kolonnawa. TP : 0112432897	1,000.00	NCB
Transmission	TR/O&M/N/NCB/2021/005/D Obtaining Security Services through Private Security Companies for Kilinochchi and Mannar Grid Substations in Transmission Operation & Maintenance – North Central	02/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the Chief Engineer (Tr. O&M) - North Central, Ceylon Electricity Board, Bandaranayake Mawatha, Anuradhapura. Tel: 094 25 223 5269 Fax: 094 25 223 5269	2,000.00	NCB*
DD 01 (NCP)	DGM/NCP/COM/C1/HV/2021/006 Hiring of a Van for Electrical Superintendent (Commercial) of Electrical Engineer (Anuradhapura) for 02 Years Period.	20/05/2021 15.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM (NCP), Ceylon Electricity Board, Maitreepala Senanayaka Mawatha, Anuradhapura. TP. 025 - 2222552	500.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/VH/T/2021/76 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for Chief Engineer (Construction) – NP On Wet Lease Basis	20/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Deputy General Manager (NP) office, Ceylon Electricity Board, Old Park Road, Jaffna. T.P No: 021 222 2496	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/VH/T/2021/77 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for ECSC Velanai On Wet Lease Basis	03/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/VH/T/2021/78 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for Island Small Generation – NP On Wet Lease Basis	03/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/VH/T/2021/79 Hiring of a Dual Purpose Van for Electrical Superintendent (System Planning) - NP On Wet Lease Basis	03/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 01 (NP)	DGM/NP/CE (Com)/VH/T/2021/80 Information Technology Unit- NP On Wet Lease Basis	03/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/054 Provision of Security Service for Pole Yard belonging to ECSC Yatinuwara in Peradeniya Area for a Period of 01 Year.	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Chief Engineer (Commercial)-CP2, CEB, Quarry Road, Eriyagama, Peradeniya. T.P 081-4949160	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/055 Provision of Security Service for Sub ECSC at Galaha in Peradeniya Area for a Period of 01 Year.	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/060 Hiring of a Motor Car for Chief Engineer (EM - CP2) for a Period of 02 Years.	12/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB

Division and Branch Province	Division and Branch Province	Bid closing date & Time	Place of Purchase of Bidding Documents & Contact TP. Nos.	Price of Bid Document (LKR)	Type of Bid ICB/ NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/064 Hiring of a Motor Car for Electrical Engineer (Commercial - CP 02) for a Period of 02 Years.	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/065 Hiring of a Van for ECSC at Maskeliya in Ginigathena Area for a Period of 02 Years	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (Central 2)	CP2/CE(COM)/PPC/2021/066 Hiring of a Three Wheeler for ECSC at Daulagala in Peradeniya Area for a Period of 02 Years.	02/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/CE(CON)/TC1/Cleaning/2021/03 Obtaining cleaning service on one year for the Chief Engineer (Construction)'s office.	20/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the C.E. Construction (WPN), No 280, Nawa Jeewana Pedasa Kiribathgoda. +94-11-2910183 / +94-11-2908250	500.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/DGM-V144/2021/89 Hiring of a Van for Chief Engineer (Energy Management)	19/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	DGM(WPN)'s Office, CEB, No.280, Kandy Road, Kiribathgoda. Tel.011-2911071/72	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/DGM-V12/2021/175 Hiring of a Van for Chief Engineer (Energy Management)	19/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/CON-V04/2021/176 Hiring of a Motor Car for Site Engineer II (Construction)	19/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 02 (WPN)	WPN/NCB/2021/131 Calling Bid for Shifting of Provincial Stores Building (Pre-fabricated) from Kiribathgoda to Kotugoda	19/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Same as above	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (Sab)	SAB/RC14/Cleaning Service/2021 Cleaning Service for Ratnapura Area office, Ratnapura (Town) CSC, Nivithigala CSC, Malwala CSC, Elapatha CSC, Kalawana CSC	20/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Electrical Engineer (Rathnapura) Unit, P.O. Box 269, 3 rd Floor, Main Street Rathnapura. 045-222 2137	1,000.00	NCB
DD 03 (WPS II)	WPSII/T/2021/021 Construction of Manhole Type Pump House, Supply & Installation of Wet Well Submersible Sewerage Pumping Set, Electrical Panels, DI Pipes, Specials and All Other Accessories for Distribution Control Center and Call Center Building of CEB - Ethulkotte	19/05/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of DGM (WPSII), CEB, 1 st Floor, 644, Sri Jayawardanapura Mw, Ethulkotte.	3,500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/V/2021/06 Hiring of a Van for office of the HRO Branch, Western Province South - I.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of DGM (WPS-1), 3rd Floor, Distribution Division 4 Head Quarters, Ceylon Electricity Board, No. 25, Council Lane, Dehiwala. 011-2638852	500.00	NCB
DD 04 (WPS-1)	WPS-1/PPC/T/V/2021/07 Hiring of a Van for office of the CE(Com) Branch, Western Province South - I.	03/06/2021 10.00 hrs.	Same as above	500.00	NCB
Projects (TCP)	CEB/TCP/DGM/CTFKGS/2021/04 Leasing of accommodation for Project Staff of Transmission Construction Projects near Kotugoda Grid Substation.	03/07/2021 10.00 hrs.	Office of the DGM (Transmission Construction Projects), No. 55-1/1, Thalapatthiya Road, Embuldeniya, Negogoda 10250, Sri Lanka. Tel : 011-2 836 051/2 Fax 011-2 836 053	N/A	NCB
AM (C. W. & B.)	CW&B/DGM/HO/09/2020 Cleaning & Sanitary up Keep of the CEB Head Office and its premises.	25/05/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Civil Works and Buildings), Ceylon Electricity Board, 4th Floor, G.C.S.U. Building, No.90, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02. 0112-447567 / 0112-447568	1,000.00	NCB
AM (C. W. & B.)	CW&B/DGM/JS/06/2020 Janitorial Services to the CEB Branch offices at G.C.S.U Building for a period of one year.	03/06/2021 14.00 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Civil Works and Buildings), Ceylon Electricity Board, 4th Floor, G.C.S.U. Building, No.90, Sir Chittampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, Colombo 02. 0112-447567 / 0112-447568	500.00	NCB
AM (Training)	DGM(Tr)/Services/T/2020-08 Providing Canteen Services to CEB Training Centre, Piliyandala	20/05/2021 10.30 hrs.	Office of the Deputy General Manager (Training), Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Devananda Road, Piliyandala. 0112-614468	1,000.00	NCB

Chairman of the above Procurement Committees, on behalf of the Ceylon Electricity Board, now invites sealed Bids from potential Suppliers for the above-mentioned items on the basis of International /National Competitive Bidding. Bids should be submitted only on the bid documents purchased from the CEB.

Bidding Documents will be issued only to the prospective Bidders or their accredited Agents. Wherever necessary, they should get registered in terms of the Public Contracts Act No.3 of 1987.

Bidding Documents could be purchased by any prospective bidder or their accredited Agents on submission of a written request to the respective Deputy General Manager/Chief Engineer of the CEB upon payment of the amount indicated in Column 6 of the above table for each set of Bid Documents, between 0900 hrs. and 1500 hrs. on any working day till the day prior to the bid closing date. Payment shall be made in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of the General Manager, CEB.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions / Trade Commissions may obtain information copies of the Bidding Documents, free of charge on submission of a written request. Bidding Documents may be inspected by the prospective bidders or their Agents at the office of the respective DGM/CE free of charge.

Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time of the bidding in the presence of Bidders or their authorized representatives at the locations indicated in Column 9. Late Bids shall be rejected.

All clarifications shall be sought two weeks before the Bid closing date, from the respective DGM/CE of the CEB who issued the Bidding Documents.

* ICB – International Competitive Bidding, NCB – National Competitive Bidding.

General Manager

Enrich Life through Power



The Information copy of the Bid document may be downloaded from the CEB Corporate website www.ceb.lk

INVITATION FOR BIDS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

PROVINCIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, BADULLA.

Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Provincial General Hospital, Badulla, invites Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the Supply of undermentioned items.

Serial No.	Bid No.	Supply	Quantity	Non-Refundable Bidding Document Fee (Rs.)	Refundable Bid Security (Rs.)
01	PGHB/FV/01/21	Supply & Installation of Real Time PCR Machine	01	1,900.00	100,000.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- Further details in this regard, could be had during office hours upon contacting the Accountant (Ext. 1103) on working days of the week or from the undermentioned website of the Hospital.
- Bidding Documents could be obtained by the interested, eligible qualified Bidders from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 05.05.2021 to 19.05.2021 on working days of the week upon payment of the non-refundable Bidding Document Fee as indicated above, to the Shroff's Division of the Hospital per set of Bids.
- To obtain Bidding Documents a written request letter, a copy of valid NMRA (CDDA) Registration Certificate for each equipment, separately and a copy of the Business Registration Certificate, should be compulsorily submitted and it is a mandatory requirement.
- Duly completed sealed Bids should either be sent by Registered Post to the following address, Provincial General Hospital, Badulla or if hand delivered, deposited in Tender Box kept at this Office to receive before 2.30 p.m. on 20.05.2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened at 2.30 p.m. on the same day in the presence of the Bidder or one of his authorized Agents who chooses to attend.
- Regional Procurement Committee of the Provincial General Hospital, Badulla, reserves the right to take the final decision with regard to matters, pertaining to the Bids.

Chairman
Regional Procurement Committee,
Provincial General Hospital, Badulla.
Telephone : 055-2222261 Fax : 055-2231205
E-mail : info@badullapgh.org
Website : www.badullapgh.org



SRI LANKA COMPUTER EMERGENCY READINESS TEAM|COORDINATION CENTRE (SRI LANKA CERT|CC)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**Project Title : Requirement Gathering
and Risk Assessment of Government
Organizations Maintaining Critical Information Infrastructure**

Contract No: CERT/GOSL/CON/QCBS/2021/01

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

This is with reference to the Expressions of Interest notice published in the Daily Newspaper on April 23, 2021 and April 28, 2021.

All interested Consultancy Firms are hereby notified that the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest on the above Assignment has been extended up to **1500 hrs. May 13, 2021.**

Chief Executive Officer
Sri Lanka CERT|CC
Room: 4-112, BMICH, Colombo 7.
Phone: +94 11 269 1692, Fax: +94 11 269 1064, Web: www.cert.gov.lk

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

Hotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzso@gmail.com



PLACE YOUR AD ON **ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD** ON WEBSITE



THE DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Procurement for Supplying Stationery

(For a period of one year - 01.06.2021 to 31.05.2022)

Contract No: EX/SB/04/04/2021

- The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Commissioner General of Examinations, invites sealed bids for the Procurement of supplying stationery (For a period of one year - 01.06.2021 to 31.05.2022) from eligible and qualified bidders possessing a minimum laid down experience. Complete details are available in the bidding document.
- Bidding will be conducted following the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and have three years' experience in supplying stationery.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Supplies Division, 03rd Floor, Department of Examinations (Telephone: 011-2786200 or 011-2785219) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from 09.00 am to 03.00 pm on working days until 25.05.2021
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the Supplies Division upon submission of a written application with a copy of the business registration on or before 3.00 pm, on 25.05.2021 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2500/= for each document (The payment method will be cash).
- Bid shall be valid up to 90 days (until 26.08.2021) from the date of bid opening.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security as follows, unconditional bank guarantee from a reputed commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka on the format attached to the bidding documents and should be valid up to 120 days (until 25.09.2021) from the date of closing of the bid.

Bid Value	Bid security
Up to Rs.500,000.00	Rs.5,000.00
Rs.500,001.00 – Rs. 1,000,000.00	Rs.10,000.00
Over Rs.1,000,000.00	Rs.15,000.00

- Bids must be delivered to the Supplies Division, 03rd Floor, Department of Examinations, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 28.05.2021 at 2.30 pm. Late bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given above after closing of bids.
- Duly filled and sealed Bids marked "Procurement for supplying Stationery", Contract No: EX/SB/04/04/2021 on top left hand corner of the envelope should be submitted.
- The Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and reject all Bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders or any obligation to inform the affected Bidder or Bidders of the grounds for the Department procurement Committee's action.

**The Commissioner General of Examinations,
Department of Examinations,
Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.
06.05.2021**



**STATE PHARMACEUTICALS CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA
PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

The Central Purchasing Unit of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka invites quotations from Local Agents who are registered with Central Purchasing Unit for the supply of surgical items for 1 year requirement of the Rajya Osusala outlets.

Tender No.	Closing Date	Item	Pack size	Quantity
LP/CPU/OSU/URG/MAY/84/12/05/2021	12.05.2021	KN-95 FACE MASK	1's	5,000 Nos.
LP/CPU/OSU/SUR 1 YEAR/520*/12/05/2021	12.05.2021	DISPOSABLE 3 PLY SURGICAL FACE MASK-EAR LOOP	1's	1,000,000 Nos.

You are requested to indicate the lowest price in Sri Lankan Rupees that could be offered. A certified copy of the National Medicinal Regulatory Authority (NMRA) Registration should be forwarded along with the quotation if available.

Tenders shall be submitted in **one Original and One Duplicate** sealed separately and marked as "Original" and "Duplicate" respectively. Both Envelopes shall together be enclosed in one Envelope sealed and addressed to The Chairman/ Procurement Committee, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka, No. 75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

In addition, the following information should also be included in your quotation.

- Emergency tender- ex-stock basis.
- Ex-stock availability (ex-stocks are expected to be supplied within 03 working days after placing the order)
- Delivery schedule / date will be informed accordingly.

Tenders will be closed on **12.05.2021 at 10.00 a.m.** The above quotations should be placed in the Tender Box at the Internal Audit Department of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation Head Office. **The tender number & the item description should be placed on the left hand corner of the envelope.**

- The tender is awarded by Procurement Committee depending on the quality, availability marketability & the price after evaluation by the Technical Evaluation Committee.
- One sample should be submitted to Central Purchasing Unit**, when the quotation is submitted.
- The quantity of this tender is subject to change according to the requirements of the Osusala outlets. Central Purchasing Unit will inform the relevant details.
- Once the tender is awarded, you should be able to supply the goods within three working days. If goods are not supplied as per our requirement SPC may award the tender to next acceptable bidders. You have to maintain the stock position throughout one year period.
- Offers from unregistered suppliers will not be considered.**
- Please attach the receipt received from the "Registrar of Public Contracts" for the bids over rupees 5 million.**
- BONDS/GUARANTEES**

(a) Bid Bond

- Bidders should furnish an unconditional Bid Bond encashable on first written demand to the value stated against each item in the **Annex i** of the Bidding Document. Bid Bond should be submitted together with the Bid or to reach SPC on or before the closing date & time of Bids. Bids submitted without Bid Bonds, will not be considered.
- The Bid Bond should be valid for at least 30 days beyond the validity of the Bid. The amount of bid bond should be 2% of the total bid value.
- The Bid Bond shall be as per specimen at **Annex iii** and shall be issued by one of the following institutions:
 - A Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
 - A Bank based in another country but the security or guarantee "Confirmed" by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka.
 - A Letter of Credit issued by a Foreign Bank, but "Confirmed" by a Commercial Bank operating in Sri Lanka.
 - Any other Agency approved by the Treasury from time to time.

Or

 - A cash deposit

**Manager – Central Purchasing Unit
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation of Sri Lanka
75, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha
Colombo 01.
Telephone : 2439667/2582454**

Classifieds



M/Cycles & T/Wheelers
For sale

SP BIG-8303 TVS Scooty, 2019, motor cycle for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 033498

WP AAO-6139 Bajaj, 2014, WP ABA-3466 Bajaj, 2015, three-wheeler for highest offer. Vallibel Finance PLC. No. 310, Galle Road, Colombo-03. Tel: 0711-210810. 033305

Change of Name

I, SIYAGUNA KAOSGODAGE ANTANY KRISHANTHA FERNANDO 75A/72/A, E/ Dalupotha of Negombo Secretary, Division, 537/9 Pallanchena watta, Dalupotha, Negombo in the District of Gampaha do hereby notify the government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the General Public that I have changed my name as SIYAGUNA KAOSGODAGE ANTANY KRISHANTHA FERNANDO and henceforth I shall sign all documents accordingly.
SIYAGUNA KAOSGODAGE ANTANY KRISHANTHA FERNANDO

Replies to Classifieds & Casual Advertisements published C/o the

Daily News

should only be sent by ordinary post. Replies sent under registered cover will not be accepted.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (2021/02)

**PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICE,
NORTHERN PROVINCE**

- The Chairmen, Provincial Ministry & Department Procurement Committees (PMPC & DPC), on behalf of the Department of Health Services, Northern Province 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 (NCB) Procedure.
- 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** (Section 5) for SBD 1. Qualification requirements are indicated in Bidding Data (Section 2) & Additional details are provided in the **Contract Data** (Section 4) for SBD 2.
- 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 submission of a written application to the **Provincial Director, Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna. (T.P: 021-222 0819, Fax: 021-222 0818)** from 9.00 a.m. 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, Provincial Ministry Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna for Category 1**
 - Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Provincial Department of Health Services, Northern Province, Health Village, Pannai, Jaffna for Category 2**

at or before 10.30 A.M on the date mentioned in the table below. Bid number must be written on the left-hand upper corner of the envelope. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Conference will be held at **respective address as mentioned above in 6**, commencing at **10.30 a.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 below:

CATEGORY 1: PMPC work	Document Issuing/Purchasing Period		From 07.05.2021 until 31.05.2021				
	Pre-Bid Conference		at 10.30 a.m. on 20.05.2021				
Closing and Opening of Bids		at 10.30 a.m. on 01.06.2021					
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/B/ KI/11(2021)	Construction of OPD Block with Laboratory, Radiology and Admin Unit at BH, Mulankavil	115.98	294 Days	C4 or C3 (Buildings)	25,000.00	1,160,000.00	Till 27.09.2021
CATEGORY 2: DPC works		Document Issuing/Purchasing Period		From 07.05.2021 until 31.05.2021			
Pre-Bid Conference		at 10.30 a.m. on 20.05.2021					
Closing and Opening of Bids		at 10.30 a.m. on 01.06.2021					
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/B/ KI/12(2021)	Construction of RMSD at Kilinochchi	40.10	231 Days	C5 or C4 (Buildings)	10,000.00	401,000.00	Till 27.09.2021
NP/B/ KI/13(2021)	Construction of Two Storied Office Building for Karachchi MOH Office at Kilinochchi	68.14	252 Days	C4 or C3 (Buildings)	15,000.00	682,000.00	Till 27.09.2021
NP/B/ KI/14(2021)	Construction of Two Storied Store Complex (General & Drugs) at DGH, Kilinochchi	83.50	266 Days	C4 or C3 (Buildings)	15,000.00	835,000.00	Till 27.09.2021
NP/B/ JA/22(2021)	Construction of Four Storied MO's Quarters at Base Hospital Thellipalai (Stage 1)	73.00	259 Days	C4 or C3 (Buildings)	15,000.00	730,000.00	Till 27.09.2021

For all works: Public Finance Circulars No 03/2020 and 03/2020(i) dated 09.10.2020 and 11.01.2021 respectively will be adopted.

For the work of having Bid No. NP/B/KI/12(2021): In addition to the above mentioned circulars, "Since the Estimated Value of Work to be performed under this procurement (excluding VAT and other taxes) is below Rs. 50 Mn, regional preference and CIDA grade preference shall apply as stipulated in Public Finance Circular No. 04/2016 (iii)"

**Chairmen
Provincial Ministry & Department Procurement Committees
Department of Health Services, Northern Province**

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES

STATE MINISTRY OF ORNAMENTAL FISH, INLAND FISH AND PRAWN FARMING, FISHERY HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT, MULTIDAY FISHING ACTIVITIES AND FISH EXPORTS



NATIONAL AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) is a body corporate established under National Aquaculture Development Authority Act No. 53 of 1998 for the development and management of aquatic resources and aquaculture industry.

The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (Major), National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the execution and completion of the following works.

Name of the Contract, Contract No. & Construction Period	Source of Funds	Minimum CIDA Grade	Bid Security & Validity (Rs.)	Bid Security Validity period (Up to)	Non Refundable Fees (Rs.)	Amount of Engineer's Estimate excluding contingencies & VAT (Rs. Million)
Improvement Works for Fresh Water Prawn Hatchery Complex At Kallarawa in Trincomalee District 2021/FB/FR/KAR/01 (6 Months)	GOSL	C5 or C6 Only Building Construction	400,000.00 121 Days	28-09-2021	10,000/-	22.19
Improvement Works for Fin Fish Hatchery at Dharmapuram in Batticaloa District 2021/FB/FF/01 (6 Months)	GOSL	C5 or C6 Only Building Construction	400,000.00 121 Days	28-09-2021	10,000/-	22.42

For further Details please visit www.naqda.gov.lk

**Chairman,
Department Procurement Committee (Major),
National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka,
41/1, New Parliament Rd, Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.**

විවරණය

Promotional Rates for Classified Advertisements (Only 15 Words)

Any Single Newspaper	Two Newspapers	Three Newspapers
රු. 300/- (Except Thirukaravannan)	රු. 500/- (Except Thirukaravannan)	රු. 650/-

- COLOMBO DISTRICT**
- AVISSAWELLA** 036-2230446
Famous Bake House, No. 31, Seethawakapura
- ANGODA** 011 3069404
Kotikawatte Junction, Kudabuthgama,
- ATHURUGIRIYA** 011 2760479, 011 4876968
267, Godagama Road,
- BATHTHARAMULLA** 011 2866705, 077 0736770
West Town, Bake House, Sweet House,
- BORALESGAMUWA** 071 6505533, 011 2519954
No. 17, Wewa Rd,
- HANWELLA** 011 4967962, 011 4967960
Sithumina Newspaper Agency, 144, High Level Rd, Pahathgama,
- HOKANDARA** 071 8685437
No. 501, North Hokandara,
- HOMAGAMA** 011 2892262, 077 7304046
"Aradanas", Sonanayake Shopping Complex, Station Road,
- KADUWELA** 011 2579609
Nayana Bake House
- KADUWELA** 011 2412291, 011 4443566
375/1, Pahala Bominiya, Yakkala,
- KALUBOWILA** 077 3551145, 011 2767259
No 195, Hospital Road,
- KESBEWA** 011 2703415
Seedevi Newspaper Office, 19, Horana Rd,
- KIRULAPONE** 071 5439396, 011 2514166
Ramani Book Shop, 27-A High Level Rd,
- KOTTAWA** 011 2842569, 071 2510950
Srisara Groceries, No. 101/2,
- MAHARAGAMA** 077 7686683, 011 2896373
Supermarket Complex, 88, High Level Rd,
- MALABE** 011 2791782
Kumudu Stores,
- NEEGODA** 011 2858290, 011 2831120
Mandana Stores, No. 635/3, Padukka Rd,
- MORATUWA** 011 2647410, 077 5486719
Wijesekara Stores,
- MORATUWA** 0112 657326, 0114 212989
S.J.M. Fareed, 222, Egoda Uyana, Modera
- MT. LAVINIA** 011 2724820
Dayal Stores, Galle Rd,
- NUGEGODA** 077 3458785, 011 2811833
Ekawaththa Rd, Minihana,
- NUGEGODA** 011 2846100, 077 1652800
No. 4, High Level Plaza, Deikanda,
- PADUKKA** 011 2859186, 011 5638677
No. 03, Hanwella Road,
- PILIJANDALA** 011 2619967, 072 8069487
No. 05, Seeko Gardens, Gedabuwana,
- PITAKOTTE** 011 2823960, 077 0858585
No. 435, Pothgala,
- RAJAGIRIYA** 011 2861338
No. 51/2A, Rajahewawitharana Road,
- RATHMALANA** 011 2626106, 011 2632006
Thrusitha Newspaper Agency, Galle Rd,
- RAWATHAWATTE** 011 2655153, 071 4274689
No. 3, Soysa Road, Galle Road
- UDAHAMULLA** 077 6859780, 011 2810042
No 138, Station Rd,

classified@lakehouse.lk
011 2 429 342 | 011 2 429 343
Fax - 011 2 429 375 / 011 2 429 380

DEPARTMENT OF EXAMINATIONS

INVITATION OF BIDS

for
Procurement of Supplying Printed and Non-Printed Computer Papers for the Year 2021

Contract No.: 4/10/2/2021

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee on behalf of the Commissioner General of Examinations, invites sealed bids for the Procurement of supplying Printed and Non-Printed Computer Sheets described in the table below from eligible and qualified bidders who possess minimum experience mentioned below. Details are included in the bidding document.

Lot No.	Type	No. of Items in the Lot
1.	9.5" x 12" I PLY White Bond Two sides with holes Continues Computer Sheets (80±2 GSM)	288 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
2.	10.5" x 8" Two Sides with Holes Printed Continues (4 colours) Certificates Paper (5Grade scholarship) (100± 2 GSM)	300 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
3.	12" x 10" III PLY White Bond Two sides with holes Continues Computer Sheets (60±2 GSM)	50 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
4.	15" x 12" I PLY White Bond Two sides with holes Continues Computer Sheets (80±2 GSM)	500 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
5.	13" x 10" White Bond Two sides with holes Continues Certificates Paper (Daham Pasel) (100±2 GSM)	70 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
6.	15" x 12" White Bond with Red Line Two Sides with Holes Printed Continues Sheets (80±2 GSM)	20 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
7.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes Printed Continues Admission Sheets - A/L (80±2 GSM)	225 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
8.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Results Sheets - A /L (80±2 GSM)	150 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
9.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Attendent Sheets - A/L (80±2 GSM)	70 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
10.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes Printed Continues Results Sheets - Schools - A/L (80±2 GSM)	120 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
11.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Attendent Sheets - O/L (80±2 GSM)	80 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
12.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Results Sheets - O/L (80±2 GSM)	205 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
13.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Admission Sheets - O/L (80±2 GSM)	380 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
14.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Results Sheets - Schools - O/L (80±2 GSM)	100 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)
15.	15" x 12" White Bond Two sides with holes and Printed Continues Admission Sheets - (5 Grade scholarship) (80±2 GSM)	180 Packets (1000 Sheets Per Packet)

- Bidding will be conducted following the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure.
- To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted and three years' experience in selling / supplying relevant item(s).
- Bidder should possess a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in accordance with Section 6 of Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Department of Examinations (Telephone: 011-2786200-238 or 0112785219) and inspect the bidding documents free of charge from 9.00 am to 2.30 pm on working days until 25/05/2021.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from the Supply Division upon submission of a written application with business registration letter's copy at or before 2.30 pm on 25/05/2021 and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.2,600.00 for each document. The method of payment will be by cash.
- Bid shall be valid up to 90 days. (Up to 26/08/2021).
- All bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of Sri Lankan Rs. 69,000.00 (Sixty Nine Thousand Rupees) unconditional bank guarantee from a reputed commercial bank operated in Sri Lanka on the format attached to the bidding documents and should be valid up to 120 days from the date of closing of bids. (Up to 25/09/2021).
- Bids must be delivered to the Supply Division, 03rd Floor, Department of Examinations, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 28/05/2021 at 2.30 pm. Late bids will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address given above after closing of bids.
- Duly filled and sealed Bids marked "Procurement of Supplying Printed and Non Printed Computer Papers for the Year - 2021", Contract No:4/10/2/2021 on top left hand corner of the envelope should be submitted.
- The Department Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the Department Procurement Committee's action.

The Commissioner General of Examinations,
Department of Examinations,
Pelawatta,
Battaramulla.
06/05/2021

The Housewives' companion
Classifieds on
Daily News

For classified advertisements and for replies
received in response to advertisements published under Lake House box numbers

Please Contact → **MANAGER FRONT OFFICE** → Hotline 1949

LAKE HOUSE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

STATE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COAST CONSERVATION, WASTE DISPOSAL AND COMMUNITY CLEANLINESS
SRI LANKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CONSTRUCTION OF PEPILIYANA CAR PARK & BALANCE ASPHALT WORKS (ZONE 01: PACKAGE 42) WERAS GANGA STORM WATER DRAINAGE AND ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Chairman of Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLDC) invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the following contract.

Procurement No.	Item Description	Closing Date & Time	Bid Security	CIDA Registration
S/052/21	Construction of Pepiliyana Car Park & Balance Asphalt Works (Zone 01 : Package 42) Weras Ganga Storm Water Drainage & Environment Improvement Project	31 st May, 2021 13.30 hrs	Rs. 350,000.00	Grade C5 or above in Highway Construction / Irrigation & Drainage Canals/ Storm Water Disposal & Land Drainage

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language could be inspected and purchased upon submission of a written request to the Deputy General Manager (Supplies & Stores) during 9.00 Hrs. to 15.30 Hrs. from **06th May, 2021** up to **28th May, 2021** (working days) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Rs.5,000.00 The method of payment will be only by cash to the cashier at Accounts Division (3rd Floor, New Building).
- Procurement No. and the subject should be clearly mentioned on the top left hand corner of the envelope and should be sent under registered post or deposited to the specified Tender Box kept in Supplies Division (1st Floor, New Building).
- Bid shall be delivered to the address given below on or before **31st May, 2021 at 13:30 hrs.** Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing time, in the presence of Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend.
- Pre-Bid Meeting will be conducted on **18th May, 2021** at 10.00 a.m at SLDC Board Room.
- Interested bidders may obtain further clarifications from Deputy Project Director – Weras Ganga Project of SLDC Tel: +94 11 2872877 Fax: +94 11 2074421, Email : wgsdelp@gmail.com

Chairman
Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation
No.03, Sri Jayewardenepura Mawatha, Welikada, Rajagiriya.
Head office Tel: 0112 889485-7 Web: www.landdevelopment.lk

State Ministry of Home Affairs

Procurement Notice

Invitation for Bids for Provision of Security Services for the Year 2021/2022

Bids are invited by the State Ministry of Home Affairs for Provision of Security Services to the State Ministry of Home Affairs, District Secretariat, Colombo, Divisional Secretariat, Thimbirigasyaya, and to "Nila Medura" Administration Complex located at Colombo District Elections Office.

- Bid documents could be obtained from 06.05.2021 up to 20.05.2021 between 9.00 a.m and 3.00 p.m. from the Procurement Division by submitting a letter of request written in favour of the Secretary, State Ministry of Home Affairs and the receipt obtained after paying a non-refundable fee of Rs. 3500/= to the Shroff at the Finance Division located on the 16th Floor of the State Ministry of Home Affairs. Bidders are permitted to inspect Bid Documents free of charge during the time period mentioned above.
- Bids prepared in two copies and enclosed in separate envelopes as original and duplicate should be sealed and marked with the words "Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Services 2021/2022" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope containing bids and sent by registered post to be received before 2.00 p.m. on 20.05.2021 or could be inserted in the Tender Box kept at the Procurement Unit in the Finance Division on the 16th Floor of the State Ministry of Home Affairs located at "Nila Medura", Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05". Bids submitted by you should be valid up to 05.08.2021. Bids should be sent to the address below, if submitting by registered post. (Bids received late will be rejected).

Accountant (Procurement),
State Ministry of Home Affairs,
Finance Division (16th Floor),
"Nila Medura",
Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of Bids at 2.00 p.m. at the Finance Division, 16th Floor, State Ministry of Home Affairs, Nila Medura Building. Bidder or a representative with written approval could be present on this occasion.

Contact on Tel. No. 011-2050420 for further details.

Chairman, Procurement Committee
State Ministry of Home Affairs
"Nila Medura",
Elvitigala Mawatha,
Narahenpita,
Colombo 05.

ලෝකභවුස වෙතින් අධ්‍යාපන ප්‍රකාශන රැසක්



- 1 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 2 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 3 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 4 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 5 ශ්‍රේණිය



- 6 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 7 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 8 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 9 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 10 ශ්‍රේණිය
- 11 ශ්‍රේණිය

සෑම මසකම | වැනිදා නිකුත් වේ

**රජයේ ප්‍රචිතයන් ආයතනයකින්
නිකුත් කරන එකම
අධ්‍යාපන ප්‍රකාශන පෙළ**

PEOPLE'S BANK

AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED PAWNED ARTICLES

Articles pawned up to 31.03.2020 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	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Kandy Branch Premises
	Court Premises S.C.			
	Kundasale S.C.			
	Lawyers Complex S.C.			
	Pallekele S.C.			
2	Kandy City Centre			
3	Senkadagala	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Senkadagala Branch Premises
	Thalatuoya S.C.			
	Marassana S.C.			
4	Gampola	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Gampola Branch Premises
	Geliyoa S.C.			
	Gampola S.C.			
	Kurunduwatta S.C.			
5	Teldeniya	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Teldeniya Branch Premises
	Meda Mahanuwara S.C.			
	Udadumbara S.C.			
6	Panwila	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Panwila Branch Premises
	Huluganga S.C.			
7	Peradeniya	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Peradeniya Branch Premises
	Muruthalawa S.C.			
	University S.C.			
8	Daulagala	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Daulagala Branch Premises
	Welamboda S.C.			
9	Nawalapitiya	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Nawalapitiya Branch Premises
10	Wattegama	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Wattegama Branch Premises
	Madawala Bazaar S.C.			
11	Hasalaka	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Hasalaka Branch Premises
	Kolongoda S.C.			
12	Deltota	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Deltota Branch Premises
	Galaha S.C.			
	Pattiyagama - Pallegama S.C.			
13	Pussellawa	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Pussellawa Branch Premises
14	Katugastota	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Katugastota Branch Premises
	Hedeniya S.C.			
	Polgolla S.C.			
15	Menikhinna	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Menikhinna Branch Premises
	Digana S.C.			
16	Galagedera	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Galagedera Branch Premises
17	Ankumbura	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Ankumbura Branch Premises
18	Poojapitiya	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Poojapitiya Branch Premises
	Bokkawala S.C.			
19	Alawatugoda	11.06.2021	12.06.2021 13.06.2021	Alawatugoda Branch Premises
20	Hataraliyadda	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Hataraliyadda Branch Premises
21	Pilimalalawa	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Pilimalalawa Branch Premises
	Poththapitiya S.C.			
22	Kadugannawa	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Kadugannawa Branch Premises
23	Akurana	04.06.2021	05.06.2021 06.06.2021	Akurana Branch Premises
	Ambatenna S.C.			

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

www.peoplesbank.lk

it's what you want

www.adz.lk

Hotline: 0112 429 369 | Email: adzsuo@gmail.com



PLACE YOUR AD ON **ADZ MAGAZINE & GET FREE AD** ON WEBSITE