

WHO approves Sinopharm vaccine

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday approved China's Sinopharm's Covid-19 vaccine for Emergency Use, easing the way for poorer nations to get access to another much-needed shot to help end the pandemic. Sinopharm is the first Chinese shot to be classified as safe and effective by the W.H.O.

The approval allows the Sinopharm vaccine to be included in Covax, the World Health Organization's global initiative that is designed to promote equitable vaccine distribution around the world.

Reliable vaccine access could improve further next week when the W.H.O. considers another Chinese shot, made by the company Sinovac. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Sri Lanka approves Pfizer-BioNTech COVID vaccine for Emergency Use

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Advisory Board of the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) has authorized the COVID-19 vaccine designed and developed by Pfizer and its partner BioNTech for Emergency Use in Sri Lanka and vaccine roll-out is planned to begin soon, State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemic and COVID Disease Control Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle said yesterday. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

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IN ZOOM CALL WITH PRESIDENT

WHO CHIEF COMMENDS COVID MITIGATION EFFORTS

WHO ASSISTANCE SOUGHT TO MEET VACCINE SHORTFALL FURTHER SUPPORT PLEDGED

In a Zoom call with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa yesterday, World Health Organization (WHO) Chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has commended the Government for its efforts to control the spread of COVID-19, adding that his Organization is willing to extend its fullest support to the Government's initiatives in this regard.

The fruitful Zoom discussion was held from the Presidential Secretariat.

Dr Tedros commended President Rajapaksa for his leadership in controlling COVID-19 by successfully controlling the first wave of the pandemic. The WHO Director General said that Sri Lanka's success was discussed many times at conferences

held under the patronage of the WHO. The WHO Chief expressed the hope that the current surge in affected persons would soon be brought under control through effective measures.

Globally, there is a need for 20 million doses of the Oxford AstraZeneca/Covishield vaccine for the second dose.

Sri Lanka is facing a shortage of 600,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to complete the second dose for those who received the first dose in April. The second dose has to be given in 12 weeks.

The President said he hoped that the WHO would assist in meeting that urgent

need. At the meeting it transpired that WHO approval for the China-made Sinopharm vaccine for Emergency Use would be given soon after the completion of evaluations.

A WHO Emergency Use listing is a signal to national regulators on a product's safety and efficacy.

With that approval, Sri Lanka will be able to start vaccinating people with the Sinopharm vaccine as well. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



President instructs

Expedite import procedures and administering COVID-19 vaccines to public

During a discussion held with the COVID-19 Committee yesterday (07), which meets daily at the Presidential Secretariat, the President emphasized that the maximum number of COVID-19 jobs should be given within a short period of time.

It is important to pay special attention to the Western Province, which is largely responsible for the spread of the virus, he noted.

The administering of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine started from Thursday (06). The health sector has 600,000 Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines received from China. Sinopharm vaccines have been successfully administered to more than 55 million people in 51 countries.

The President further instructed the officials to hold discussions with the health authorities of those countries to explore the possibility of administering the vaccine expeditiously. The second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine is being given to those who received the first shot. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Rs.2,480 m squandered on two EPZs during Yahapalana regime

DHANUSHKA GODAKUMBURA

It has been revealed that Rs.2,480 million has been paid without entering into written agreements to provide infrastructure facilities in the Millaniya and Bingiriya Export Processing Zones which were started during the tenure of Good Governance regime.

An audit report has revealed that the money was paid to the Water Supply and Drainage Board, the Road Development Authority, the Provincial Road Development Authority and the Ceylon Electricity Board without any agreement. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

PM AT RUWANPURA EXPRESSWAY PROJECT INAUGURATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WILL CONTINUE DESPITE OBSTACLES, CHALLENGES



Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa launching work on the country's seventh Expressway, the Ruwanpura Expressway yesterday. The inauguration ceremony of the first phase from Kahatuduwa to Ingiriya was held via new technology from Temple Trees, with the participation of a limited number of participants as per health regulations in place in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Picture courtesy Prime Minister's Media Division*

Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday stated that irrespective of obstacles, challenges and difficulties, the Government will always remain committed to policies and development pro-

grammes it has put forward until they become realities.

"We started the Southern Expressway as the first Expressway in Sri Lanka in 2006 with a war in the country. Today, we

are embarking on the Ruwanpura Expressway at a challenging time when not only the country but the whole world is gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic," the Prime Minister said. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

ASG Sanjay Rajaratnam tipped to become next AG

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

Acting Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Rajaratnam is most likely to be considered for the post of Attorney General (AG) replacing current AG Dappula de Livera.

Rajaratnam's name has been nominated to replace outgoing AG Dappula de Livera. Sources confirmed that the Speaker had received the nomination of Rajaratnam.

His name will be considered when the Parliamentary Council convenes next week. In 2019 he was appointed as the Acting Solicitor General by the Public Service Commission (PSC). **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Schools, educational institutions closed until further notice

SHAVINI MADHARA

Education Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris stated that all schools, pre-schools, Pirivenas, tuition classes and universities will remain closed until further notice due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Speaking to the media yesterday, he stated that the decision was taken due to the enhanced spread of the virus in Sri Lanka. **▶ TO PAGE 02**



Cook dies after falling into cooking pot

RASULA DILHARA, North Special Corr.

A 41-year-old Cook employed at a hotel in Jaffna has died after falling into a large cooking pot filled with boiling Salmon curry, which he was preparing.

Rasihah Theepankumar who was suffering from epilepsy had died after he suffered a seizure and fell into the boiling pot filled with the salmon curry.

The incident had taken place at a hotel in Point Pedro, Jaffna on Thursday where Theepankumar was working as a cook.

He had died while undergoing treatment at the Manthei Hospital, Point Pedro. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Two die in Nugegoda collision

and BHAKTHI MENDIS

Two persons were killed and another seriously injured in a head-on collision between a private bus and a three-wheeler near the Weli Park Junction in Nugegoda on Thursday night (06).

A private bus heading towards Colombo Mawatha had first collided with a car at Sarasavi Udyana Mawatha at the

Weli Park Junction in the Mirihana Police Division.

The bus then had moved to the opposite lane of the road and collided with an oncoming three-wheeler and afterwards hit a wall. The driver of the three-wheeler and two passengers were injured in the accident and admitted to the Colombo National Hospital. **▶ TO PAGE 02**

Gangster arrested with drugs, cash

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

A 23-year-old accomplice of a notorious criminal gang member was arrested by the Police Special Task Force (STF) on Thursday.

The suspect, identified as Thavasidevan Pradeep Kumar, was arrested on Thursday (May 06) at the

Aluth Mawatha Road in Colombo 15.

The arrest was made based on a tip-off received by the Organized Crimes Prevention Unit of the STF.

Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said, "The Special Task Force has conducted a special **▶ TO PAGE 02**



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Step 2
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Step 3
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Step 4
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Step 5
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Step 6
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Step 7
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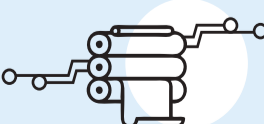
Step 8
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Special COVID-19 wards set up countrywide - Chief Epidemiologist

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA and BAKTHI MENDIS

Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera says that the new diagnosis of nearly

2,000 COVID-19 infections daily has become unbearable for the health system in Sri Lanka.

"Due to this situation special

wards have been set up for COVID-19 patients in every hospital throughout the country," said Dr. Samaraweera. Dr. Samaraweera points out

that the number of patients in hospitals and treatment centres is over 17,000 at present which is a difficult situation for the country's hospital system to

cope with. Health officials, meanwhile, point out that it is difficult to contact some COVID-19 patients after their infection is confirmed through

PCR tests and they can be considered as a high risk group to spread the disease in society. Meanwhile, the Welisara Economic Centre will be closed

for 14 days. The decision was taken due to the increase in the number of reported cases of corona infection through this economic center.

Ranjan's suicide attempt, a lie - Prisons SP

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

The Superintendent of Prisons, Angunakolapalassa Prisons, SP Palathana, yesterday told the *Daily News* that former Parliamentarian Ranjan Ramanayake serving a four-year prison term in Angunakolapalassa prison is safe.

He said this on being asked by us if former MP Ranjana Ramanayake had shown any suicidal tendencies that he had reportedly tried to kill himself in that prison as per some news websites.

"Those reports were lies," said SP Palathana.

We also asked the former MP's Media Secretary Lucky Weerasinghe about the situation. He said, "I used the minute once-a-month telephone facility given by the Prisons Depart-

ment to speak to a prison inmate in checking this situation. I also contacted Prisons Commissioner Thushara Upuldeniya and other authorities about it," he said and added, "There was nothing like it. These were sham media reports."

The *Daily News* was told that Ramanayake is considering taking legal action against those who have spread those reports over media implying him as "suicidal."

A message posted on Facebook had also denied that Ramanayake made any suicide attempt in the prison.

Former Samagi Jana Balawegaya MP Ramanayake lost his Parliamentary Seat recently following the Supreme Court verdict sentencing him.



The Police yesterday arrested several people who failed to adhere to the COVID-19 health regulations during a raid in the Colombo City area. Here, Police officers covered in protective clothing seen carrying a man who refused to get into a Police vehicle after being arrested for not wearing a protective face mask. Picture by Samantha Weerasiri

Over 230 MTs of carcinogenic coconut oil to be re-exported

Over 230 metric tons of carcinogenic coconut oil that was brought to the Port of Colombo on April 30 was scheduled to be re-exported to Malaysia yesterday, Customs Spokesman Sudantha Silva.

He also noted that once the ship arrives at the Harbour, the containers that carry the unrefined conignment of coconut oil will be re-freighted to Malaysia.

However, the ship is scheduled to reach the Colombo port yesterday evening. Accordingly, the 12 containers with sub-standard coconut oil were scheduled to be re-exported to Malaysia, He added.

Sri Lanka Customs had earlier re-exported 105 MT of coconut which was imported in six containers were found contaminated with chemicals, he further stated.

Sri Lanka condemns terrorist attack on former Maldives President

Sri Lanka condemns the terrorist attack on the Speaker of the Maldivian Parliament and the former President of the Maldives, Mohamed Abdulla Nasheed on May 6, 2021. At this most critical

time, the people and the Government of Sri Lanka join in expressing solidarity with the people and the Government of Maldives while strongly condemning all forms of violence.

Nepal struggles with massive COVID-19 surge

Health workers and authorities in Nepal are struggling to contain a massive surge of COVID-19 cases as infections spill over from neighbouring India's deadly second wave.

In last three weeks, Nepal's daily case trajectory has shot up with two out of five people tested now returning positive. On Thurs-

day, Nepal reported 8,970 cases, the highest single day increase.

More than 3,500 people have died since the pandemic began, 400 of them in the last two weeks alone, according to official figures.

"Health facilities have been flooded with symptomatic cases... The situation could become worse in the coming days," Hemanta

Chandra Ojha at Nepal's Epidemiology and Disease Control Division said.

"We can manage the oxygen supplies but ventilators and ICU facilities required for the treatment of severe cases are in short supply."

The country's health system has been overwhelmed by the sudden

spike, with hospitals filling fast. Nepal shares a 1,850-kilometre (1,150-mile) open border with India, and communities commonly travel across it for work and to visit family, and many are now returning home.

In Bheri Hospital in Nepalgunj, a city bordering India's Uttar Pradesh state, health workers are

working tirelessly as the patient flow continues to grow.

"The hospital is overloaded, we are treating patients at each and every corner of the building," said Badri Chapagain, a doctor at the hospital.

Relatives of patients are scrambling for medicine and intensive care beds. - NDTV

Development programmes... From page 01



He was speaking at the inauguration of the Ruwanpura Expressway project at Temple Trees yesterday morning (07).

The Prime Minister said the Ruwanpura Expressway project, which was planned to start in 2014, was completely abandoned by the previous Government.

Work on the first phase of the project commenced yesterday under the patronage of the Prime Minister. Accordingly, the construction of the 24 km section from Kahathuduwa to Ingiriya commenced yesterday.

In the second and third phases, the Expressway will be extended to Ratnapura and Pelmadulla.

The Feasibility studies, design and construction of the Ruwanpura Expressway are being done entirely by local engineers, institutes and companies.

The construction of the Expressway is expected to reduce traffic congestion and costs, save time, facilitate access to tea, apparel, minor export crops and gem markets and supply points, expand investment opportunities including tourism and create new jobs.

"We are launching the Seventh Expressway in Sri Lanka. I remember from the early days when highways were being built, our dear people in Sabaragamuwa asked us when a highway would be built to Ratnapura".

"We had planned to start work on the Ruwanpura Expressway in 2014. We thought that the Government which came to power in 2015 would

start where we stopped the development of the country. They did not want to develop the country. Therefore, everything we had started was stopped by the previous Government," he added.

The Prime Minister went on to say that the previous government had not stopped at that and went on to take revenge. "We were taken before Courts and Commissions," he added.

"We took back a country where national security and economy had been affected and development had come to a standstill. But we gladly accepted the challenge. We always wanted to give the best to this country and its people. We wanted to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Therefore, no matter how many obstacles we face, we as a Government will remain committed to the policies we have put forward until they become a reality," he added. The Government is spending Rs.54.7 billion from local funds for the first 24 Km of the expressway. A local company is in charge of the construction.

The Prime Minister said as soon as the first phase is completed, the construction of the second phase from Ingiriya to Ratnapura and the third phase from Ratnapura to Pelmadulla will be expedited.

The ceremony was conducted via new technology from Temple Trees due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Highways Minister Johnston Fernando, State Minister Nimal Lanza and Secretary to the Ministry R.W.R. Premasiri also spoke.

WHO approves Sinopharm... From page 01

Andrea Taylor, who analyzes global data on vaccines at the Duke Global Health Institute, called the potential addition of two Chinese vaccines into the Covax program a "game changer." "The situation right now is just so desperate for low- and lower-middle-income countries that any doses we can get out are worth mobilizing," Ms. Taylor said.

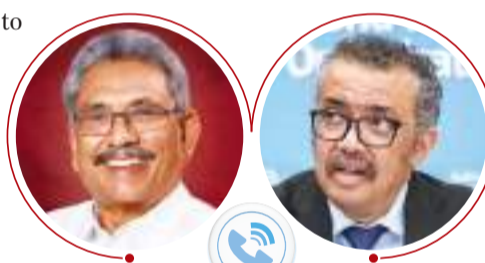
"Having potentially two options coming from China could really change the landscape of what's possible over the next few months."

For China, the approval represents a high point in its vaccine diplomacy efforts and a chance to fill the gap left by Western nations and pharmaceutical companies in low- and middle-income countries. (NYT)

WHO Chief commends COVID... From page 01

It has already been given to around 4,000 Chinese nationals residing in Sri Lanka.

The President expressed his appreciation for the extensive support extended by the WHO for national health programmes through its regional and Colombo offices.



Cook dies after falling... From page 01

Hospital sources said biological samples taken from the deceased have been sent for a PCR test to determine whether the deceased was also suffering from COVID-19.

"The post mortem examination will be delayed until the results of the PCR test is received," hospital sources said. Point Pedro Police are investigating.

Schools, educational... From page 01

The Minister also stated that the Government is keen to continue the children's education but the priority presently was to safeguard the health of the students.

He further noted that at least a three day notice will be given before the re-commencement of schools.

The Minister said the decision was taken following discussions with health authorities.



Rs.2,480 m squandered on... From page 01

A proposal to establish new Export Processing Zones has been submitted by the Budget in 2017 as per the plan of the Good Government and six new Export Zones were to be established by end 2020.

It was proposed to construct new Export Processing Zones along the Expressway Corridor and Rs. 1 billion has been allocated in 2017, Rs. 4500 million has been allocated for 2018 and Rs. 1 billion for 2019.

However, out of the six proposed zones, work had commenced by 2020 in only the Bingiriya and Millaniya Export Processing Zones, out of which work on the Millaniya Export Processing Zone has already been suspended, the report said.

The construction of the Millaniya Export Processing Zone has been suspended due to court action against land acquisition for not paying attention to the challenging

areas in the feasibility studies and more than Rs. 208 million has been spent on the construction of the zone so far.

It is planned to construct access roads to the Millaniya Export Processing Zone at an estimated cost of Rs. 3900 million and it was proposed to complete the construction by 2020.

Rs.20.5 million has been paid to the Road Development Authority in 2017 and 2019, but it has been revealed that no construction work on access roads has commenced as at November 07, 2019.

The construction of access roads in the Bingiriya Export Processing Zone is estimated to cost Rs. 90.2 million and Rs. 350 million has been paid to the Road Development Authority in 2018 and 2019.

However, the construction of these roads has not been completed on time, the report said.

Two die in Nugegoda... From page 01

The driver and one passenger had succumbed to their injuries.

The deceased have been identified as a 54-year-old resident of Nugegoda and a 30-year-old from Haputale.

The driver of the car has been

admitted to the hospital with injuries. The bodies are being kept at the Colombo National Hospital morgue. The bus driver has been arrested in connection with the accident. Mirihana Police are conducting further investigations.

Gangster arrested with drugs... From page 01

operation in the Bloemendhal area on Thursday morning and the STF officers had arrested a 23-year-old suspect along with 2 kg of ICE and 4.5 kg of Hashish. The STF officers had also recovered Rs.400,000 from the possession of the suspect and it is believed he had earned this cash through drug trafficking."

The STF had also recovered a mobile phone from the possession of the 21-year-old.

The arrestee and the seized items have been handed over to the Police Narcotics Bureau for further investigations.



According to the Police Spokesman, the infamous gangster 'Suresh' operates the drug syndicate run by the notorious gangster 'Kim-bula Ela Guna' from overseas. "Further investigations are underway and it has been revealed that the drug trafficking

business is being controlled by Kim-bula Ele Guna who had fled to India several years ago and his brother Suresh," the DIG said.

Further investigations are underway and the Police Narcotics Bureau will be assisting the investigations. The value of the recovered drugs has been estimated at approximately Rs.25 million.

ASG Sanjay Rajaratnam... From page 01

Meanwhile, the current Attorney General Dappula de Livera's tenure ends this month. He was sworn in on May 10, 2019.

Reports on Thursday (May 06) stated that he was nominated for the post of High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to Canada. However, Attorney General de Livera had turned down the offer, it was reported.



Expedite import procedures... From page 01

Negotiations are already underway to obtain vaccines from countries where there is an excess of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The officials said that maximum measures have been taken to prevent the spread of the virus by closing and restricting areas where infected persons have been identified. Steps have been taken to maintain the facilities at all hospitals at the required level. The officials said

that the support of the people was also essential for the success of measures taken to prevent the spread of the virus.

Meanwhile, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurveda Hospitals Development and Community Health Prof. Channa Jayasumana yesterday said that the Sinopharm vaccine will be administered to Sri Lankans from next week.

Sri Lanka approves Pfizer-BioNTech... From page 01

Speaking to the media yesterday, the State Minister said that the measures will be taken to import five million doses of Pfizer vaccines in the near future.

The vaccine was shown to be 95 percent effective in neutralizing more contagious variants of the novel coronavirus.

Sri Lanka on Thursday (6) began rolling out the Sputnik V vaccine for

COVID-19 developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Russia.

Residents of Gothatuwa between the ages of 30 and 60 were the first to be administered the Sputnik V vaccine. Dr. Fernando said that the first dose of SputnikV vaccines has already been administered to near 661 individuals and no side effects reported so far.

UNP Gen. Sec. calls... From page 01

Bandara went on to say that the Government had lost control over the COVID-19 pandemic and the only option was to go for an immediate lockdown to minimise the spread.

15 mn face masks disposed in Sri Lanka daily

Large numbers of birds fall prey

With the COVID-19 outbreak, 15 million face masks are disposed of in Sri Lanka daily and these masks have become extremely harmful, especially to birds, Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera said.

"It is reported that in the first six months of 2020 alone, 800 tons of face masks were imported to the country," he said.

The Minister said that a large number of birds die due to face mask straps getting entangled around their necks and legs.

Therefore, the Minister urged the public to pay attention to cutting off the straps on either side of the face mask before disposal.

Minister Amaraweera made this observation issuing a message to mark the World Migratory Bird Day which falls today (March 8). The theme of this day's event is "Sing, Fly, Soar - Like a bird".

Migration of birds is birds from different parts of the world to other countries for climatic as well as biological reasons. Bird migration often occurs in some countries with the onset of winter. As a result, birds find it difficult to find food and shelter, so they fly in search of suitable climates.

Ornithologists say birds from Siberia, Northern India and Central Russia come to Sri Lanka, the Environment Ministry in a communiqué said.

During the bird migration you can even see the exact route they are tak-



A bird found with its legs caught in the straps of a single-use face mask.

some birds fly through the Andaman Islands and enter the country between Jaffna and Trincomalee.

Meanwhile, the new edition of the Red Data Book on Endangered Species of Wildlife in Sri Lanka has been printed and completed. Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera instructed the Central Environmental Authority to immediately edit the Red data Book.

Accordingly, the release of the Red Data Book was scheduled to take place this week. But it has been decided to postpone it for a few more days due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. The Minister instructed the Central Environmental Authority to thank all the environmental organisations and environmentalists who had supported the project and launch the Red Data Book. However, it also contains information on endangered birds in our country and maintains the ideal environment for wildlife to live, while maintaining the international recognition of our country as the only country in the world with the largest wildlife population per square kilometre. The Minister of Environment says that is important.

Countries around the world celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all of us to contribute to the conservation of nature in such a way that the birds, which are a wonderful creation of nature that adorns our country, can live.

As we have identified, there are three areas in our country where bird migration takes place. Birds who enter the country from the old lands near Kalpitiya along the western coast of India, those who enter the country from the eastern coasts of India and Jaffna and Mannar, and

ing and even clearly see where they stop to rest. About 115 to 150 species of birds migrate to Sri Lanka from these countries. Due to the climatic conditions of our country, there have been reports of some birds not returning and settling here.

There are three areas in our country where bird migration takes place. Birds who enter the country from the old lands near Kalpitiya along the western coast of India, those who enter the country from the eastern coasts of India and Jaffna and Mannar, and

Airport staff to get second COVID dose from Monday - State Minister

Airport and Aviation staff which are among the most vulnerable in the current pandemic situation will be administered the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Monday, said State Minister of Aviation and Investment Zone Development D.V. Chanaka.



The staff of the Bandaranaike International Airport, Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, Ratmalana Airport and SriLankan Airlines staff.

The first dose of the vaccine was given to the airport staff in February this year. About 10,000 were vaccinated with the first dose during the programme. The second COVID-19 jab will be given to the staff of the Bandaranaike International Airport, Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, Ratmalana Airport and SriLankan Airlines staff.

Twenty-one cops diagnosed with COVID

Twenty-one officers of the Kilinochchi Police station have been isolated after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Following the recent confirmation that four officers who were on duty in the Colombo area were infected with the virus, the Police conducted PCR tests on other officers and found the infected persons.

Twelve GN Divisions isolated; isolation lifted in five Divisions

Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCCO) General Shavendra Silva said that 12 Grama Niladhari Divisions in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara districts were designated as isolated areas with effect from 6.30 a.m. yesterday.

He further informs that isolation of five Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Kalutara District have now been lifted with effect from 6.30 a.m. yesterday. "The newly designated isolated areas are the Gampaha District in the

Kadawatha Police Area - Eldeniya East Grama Niladhari Division, Sooriyapaluwa South Grama Niladhari Division, Sooriyapaluwa North Grama Niladhari Division, Pahala Karagahamuna North Grama Niladhari Division, Ihala Karagahamuna North Grama Niladhari Division.

Kalutara District Agalawatta Police Area - Pimbura Grama Niladhari Division and in Matugama Police Area - Yatiyana West Grama Niladhari Division.

The areas where isolation has been lifted are - Kalutara District - Baduraliya Police Area - Morapitiya Grama Niladhari Division, Belana Grama Niladhari Division. Meegahathana Police Area - Pelawatta East Grama Niladhari Division, Miriswatta Grama Niladhari Division (850 A) and Pahala Hewessa South Grama Niladhari Division," the Government Information Department said.

Heavy rains with strong winds and lightning

Heavy rain falls above 100 mm can be expected at some places in the Sabaragamuwa, Central, Western, Uva and Southern Provinces, the Meteorology Department said.

Showers or thundershowers will occur elsewhere over the island during the evening or night.

The public is requested to take adequate precautions to minimize damages caused by temporary localized strong winds and lightning during thundershowers.

Meanwhile, the sea areas around the island can be moderate. Temporarily strong gusty winds and very rough seas can be expected during thundershowers. Showers or thundershowers will occur at several places in the sea areas around the island. Heavy rainfall can be expected at some places in the Eastern and South-eastern sea areas of the island.

'Dharmikapaniya' cannot be manufactured - Ministry

S. M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Secretary to the Ministry of Promotion of Indigenous Medicine, Development of Rural Ayurvedic Hospitals and Community Health Kumari Weerasekara has informed Dharmika Bandara, who produced an ayurvedic syrup to treat COVID-19 patients in writing, that hereafter, the ayurvedic syrup called 'Dharmikapaniya' should not be manufactured as the clinical tests done on that ayurvedic syrup has proved to be unsuccessful in using it as a medicine to treat COVID-19.

Hence, that syrup cannot be given to the people even as a supplementary food against the COVID-19 pandemic. Kumari Weerasekara has informed Dharmika Bandara of Kegalle.

"This was done following tests conducted on the Ayurvedic syrup," said Kurunegala District Assistant Commissioner of Ayurvedic Medicine Dr. A. Jayathilaka Bandara when contacted by the Daily News.

Anti-COVID-19 medicines being sold via social media

LAHIRU FERNANDO The Information Technology Society of Sri Lanka (ITSSL) warns the public not to purchase anti-COVID-19 medicines being sold via social media without proper approval of the health authorities.

The ITSSL has observed that a particular group is promoting a food supplement claiming to be the world's only such product

suitable for the COVID-19 infected persons. "This promotion advertisement has been shared by over 13,000 social media users," it said.

Meanwhile, the ITSSL said that it has also observed various people are sharing different kinds of non-verified prescriptions with various ingredients for COVID-19 and they are mis-

leading the public. Uploading such baseless contents to cyber space for misleading the users is a criminal offence under the Cyber Crimes Act No. 24 of 2007.

"Therefore, the Sri Lanka Police have already been requested to look into such crimes and take legal action against wrongdoers," the Society added.

Over 850 establishments inspected in Western Province

RAKSHANA SHRIYANTHA

Police raided one hundred and eighty seven mobile vendors and eight hundred and fifty two business establishments in the Western Province on Thursday (06) during

a special operation to find out whether they were violating COVID-19 quarantine rules.

During the operation, day care centres, tuition classes, indoor stadiums and restaurants were inspected.

During the operation, 10 persons were arrested for violating the quarantine regulations and another 14 persons were directed to quarantine on the instructions of the health authorities. Police Media

Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana also said that inspections of institutions violating the quarantine regulations is being carried out not to embarrass the people but to protect them from the COVID-19 epidemic.

DLF's people-centric pledge to assist "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" presented to President



The Democratic Left Front (DLF) presented their statement pledging to assist in the progress of the National Policy Framework "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday (07). The statement was presented by Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara, Leader of the Democratic Left Front. The plans of the DLF to promote the policies listed in the "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour" prioritizing national security, implementing a friendly non-aligned foreign policy, building a transparent Government free of corruption and fraud, and a constitutional reform to ensure accountability to the people were highlighted in the DLF statement. The Democratic Left Front also plans to hold 100 seminars to mobilize political and social activists to educate the rural masses about the programme presented in the statement. Member of Parliament for the Monaragala District Dr. Gayashan Navanandana was also present on the occasion.

Eighteen public servants nabbed

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr.

Eighteen public servants have been nabbed by Bribery Commission officials during the past four months. Among the suspects are Police officers, Grama Niladharis, Urban

Council members and Principals. Legal action has been initiated against the suspects by the Bribery Commission officials, said SSP (Investigations) of the Bribery Commission Padmini Weerasooriya.

ADA KOTIPATHI - Saturday
Draw No.: 1271 Colour: Yellow
Date: 06.05.2021

Today's Jackpot
Rs. 133,194,169/-

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.
Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Fax: 2 333 540 Website: www.dlb.lk
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778, 0112 333 776
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

ලක්ෂ වටසනා
Lagna
Date: 06-05-2021
Draw Number: 3150
Colour: Brown

Winning Numbers: 28, 33, 39, 59
Gemini

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47 Hotline: 0114 824 824
Fax: 2 333 540 Website: www.dlb.lk
Interactive Voice Response Number: 011 4 825 825

TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES
Rs. 9,154,340/-

ශ්‍රී ජයා
Shanida
Date: 06.05.2021
Draw No.: 3599
Colour: Red

Winning Numbers: 15, 31, 36, 40
English Letter: A

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 011 4 825 825

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

SUPER BALL
Date: 06.05.2021
Draw Number: 1443
Colour: Green

Winning English Letter and Numbers: X, 13, 34, 55, 67

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 011 4 825 825

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,788,060/-

ADA KOTIPATHI
Date: 06.05.2021
Draw No.: 1269
Colour: Dark Blue

Winning Numbers: 07, 26, 43, 54
English Letter: Y

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 011 4 825 825

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 4,553,960/-

Winning tickets are valid only for six months

කංචරච්ච වාසනාව
Development Fortune
Date: 06-05-2021
Draw Number: 431 Colour: Blue

Winning Numbers: 14, 20, 56
Fate Number: 2

Development Lotteries Board
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 02
Tel: 0112 333 546-47
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919
For Results: www.dlb.lk
For Interactive Voice Response Service: Call 011 4 825 825

Total Value of Prizes
Rs. 2,775,600/-

Next Super Jackpot
Rs. 12,829,796/-

The winning ticket will be valid for 6 months.

Daily News



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SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021

Securing our borders

For once, the law enforcement appears to have got their act together. Abandoning their soft approach, which saw only halfhearted efforts being made to get the public to adhere to health protocols, the Police have now got really tough. Television showed groups of police personnel manhandling traders, motorists and others who were found to be without their face masks or not wearing them in the proper way, bodily carrying them away to mete out punishment.

Perhaps this is the language the public who have been remiss in following the health guidelines understand. This is hardly the time for such niceties as personal liberties although excesses should be avoided. We are in the midst of a death dealing pandemic. One recalls that in the initial stages of the Coronavirus the Indian Police resorted to extremely tough measures to enforce the restrictions beating up violators and frog marching men, women and children on the roads, for violating local curfews. For some reason the harsh treatment witnessed initially is no more evident.

Had the heavy stick continued, perhaps India would not have come to this sorry pass today. Perhaps our law enforcement, albeit belatedly are using the methods earlier adopted by the Indian Police with much success. There should be no let-up in this regard, for going by all evidence only heavy handed action will succeed in bringing the public to heel - albeit for their own good and the good of the country. Each offender is to be fined Rs. 8,500 and with even a prison term awaiting him/her, in addition. After all, a face mask costs only Rs. 10. An offender now stands to lose 850 times this amount due to his/her folly. According to Police Spokesman DIG (legal) Ajith Rohana they have so far arrested 5,486 persons for not wearing face masks or violating quarantine rules and 5,400 of them have been charged. The Police certainly will have their kitty overflowing by the time we have seen off the pandemic, if ever this comes to pass.

It is not known if those who violate the health guidelines were recipients of the first dosage of the vaccine which had given them confidence to flout the rules. This is because there were assurances given by the health experts that the first jab was nearly 70 per cent foolproof, meaning that the risk of infection was minimal.

However, as already reported, State Minister Dr. Sudharshani Fernandopulle was of the view that the vaccine alone was not a panacea and following health protocols was equally important in avoiding infection, echoing the views of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

In any event, the public will have to settle for the vaccines being given as and when they arrive due to various glitches in the supply, chiefly due to the situation in India. Worse, the contagion that was ravaging only in the central parts of India has now started invading the Southern States such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Tamil Nadu yesterday reported over 23,000 positive cases whereas one month ago the number was less than 3,000. With only 32 Km separating the two countries this certainly is a cause for concern. The authorities should start closely monitoring the situation and put in place safeguards to ensure that the virus is kept at bay, before it is too late. The move to suspend all arrivals from India is a prudent move. However, the main threat will come from rogue fishermen and smugglers from Tamil Nadu entering Northern waters.

True, poaching by Tamil Nadu fishermen in Lankan waters has been a perennial problem and whenever arrests are made the practice had been to detain and release them subsequently after the intervention of the political establishment on both sides. However, there is no room for such a soft approach in the present context. This is amidst reports that Tamil Nadu fishermen may be fleeing the State to escape the pandemic rather than poach in our waters and there is every possibility that they could blend in with the Northern fishermen and enter the country. Reports of such attempts had indeed come to light which should raise the concern of the authorities.

It only needs one carrier to set ablaze the entire North and with it the entire country, with the virus said to be of a new and more virulent "double mutant" strain as can be seen from what is unfolding in India. Enhanced attention should be paid to the maritime border in the Palk Strait separating the two countries with constant Naval patrols deployed to block any intrusions into Lankan waters from across the bay. Northern fishermen too should be asked not to venture far afield given the potency of the new mutant that is ravaging our giant neighbour. Any mixing of the two groups of fishermen could spark a new wave of the disease.

We have our plate full in the valiant attempts of the authorities to rein in the spread of the virus without having to cope with a fresh and deadlier version of the pandemic coming across from the Sub-Continent.

SARS TAUGHT CHINA HOW TO HANDLE A PANDEMIC



Chinese President Xi Jinping visits a COVID Hospital

While China stepped up investments in its health infrastructure after SARS, the US downgraded it and India had always neglected it.

P. K. BALACHANDRAN

As on May 6, the internationally accepted pandemic figures were as follows: the US, 32.6 million infections and 579,000 deaths; India, 20.7 million infections and 226,000 deaths; and China, 90,721 cases and 4,636 deaths. The contrast is clear. The main reason: China had greatly improved its public health infrastructure, the US downgraded it and India neglected it.

In an article in *The Conversation* dated November 3, 2020, Elanah Uretsky, a Brandeis University Professor and an expert on public health in China, had said that the control of the COVID-19 virus in China "was not the result of authoritarian policy, but of a national prioritization of the health sector after the SARS pandemic."

SARS, which struck the world in 2002-03, had infected over 8,000 people worldwide and killed about 800, 65% of which were in China and Hong Kong. "SARS exposed serious weaknesses in China's public health system and prompted its Government to reinvent its public health system," Uretsky wrote. Specifically, the Government "improved training of public health professionals and developed one of the most sophisticated disease surveillance systems in the world."

In contrast, the Trump administration in the US had made major cuts to the budgets of the National Institutes of Health and Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The budget submitted by the Trump administration in February 2020, as the pandemic was beginning, had called for an additional reduction of US\$ 693 million to the CDC budget.

In the case of the Government of India, the health budget has always been low. By the last count it was 0.34% of the GDP, while it should be 2.5% as per the 2017 National Health Plan.

China's steps

Knowing that there were no safe or proven treatments or an effective vaccine, China relied on time-honoured non-pharmaceutical interventions to conquer the epidemic. "First and foremost was containing the virus through controlling the sources of infection and blocking transmission. This was accomplished through early detection (testing), isolation, treatment and tracing the close contacts of any infected individual," she points out.

Though it was caught off guard when COVID-19 broke out in December 2019, the Government quickly mobilized its resources to bring the epidemic almost to a halt inside its borders within three months, the US expert said. The methods China adopted to fight COVID-19 had their origin in the way it tackled the SARS epidemic, including mask wearing, widespread testing, contact tracing and isolation. The only difference was in the intensity of the control measures, many of which came under flak in Western democracies for their severity.

But they worked. Within a year of the outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan, people in China were able to "travel, eat in restaurants and go into theatres, and kids go to school without much concern for their health," Uretsky notes.

There is a general opinion in the West that Chinese official statistics are suspect and there could be under



A PCR test being done in China



The Sinopharm vaccine

reporting of inconvenient facts. But Ananth Krishnan, Beijing correspondent of the Indian daily *The Hindu* and author of *India's China Challenge: A Journey through China's Rise* refutes this contention as regards COVID. "There is no evidence to suggest there are currently thousands of cases or hidden outbreaks. This is backed up by, among other things, the return to normalcy, opening of schools, the boom in domestic travel, the current situation in hospitals, and not to mention, independent accounts from foreign reporters based in China," he wrote a year after the outbreak.

Initially, Beijing suppressed news of the emergence of an unknown killer in Wuhan in the Hubei Province in December 2019. Around 80,000 were infected and 30,000 had died there. But the Government came out of hiding in January 2020 to declare a lockdown in that province between January 23 and April 16. More than 50 million people in Hubei Province were quarantined. Some other provinces were also locked down for various periods. The lockdowns were exceptionally stringent.

Plethora of measures

The Government made good use of the lockdown to plan and execute a



Pedestrians donning masks walk in a Beijing street

Western makes. But overall, the vaccines have worked with little or no issues.

Other key factors

Besides efficiency there were other contributory factors. A major advantage that China had (and still has) is that the average Chinese citizen is habitually acquiescent, following orders instinctively. This enabled large-scale mobilization with a mere bark of an order or the crack of a whip. In contrast to democracies, the Chinese State is unabashedly intrusive. As the *New York Times* put it: "The top leaders have levers to reach down from the corridors of central power, to every street, and even apartment building!"

Breaches of virus containment rules were deemed anti-national and punished. A *New York Times* reporter mentioned a villager near Shijiazhuang who was tied to a tree because he tried to flout quarantine restrictions to go out to buy cigarettes. More than 5,000 local party and government officials were sacked in 2020 for failure to deliver, the paper reported.

The security or surveillance system put in place initially to identify, track, intercept and punish political dissenters, came in handy in COVID-19 infection contact tracing. India's former National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon says in his latest book: *India and Asian Geopolitics* that China has consistently spent more on domestic surveillance and security than on external defence. Indeed, there was suppression of speech and dissent, so much so that the doctor who first reported the virus in Wuhan was arrested. Subsequently he succumbed to COVID triggering world-wide outrage. However most Chinese would argue that unimpeded circulation of information could have hampered virus containment.

Though China recovered almost fully in 2020, it continues to be extremely vigilant about the resurgence of the pandemic. There are still about 15,050 cases to be cured. Recently, there had been "imported" cases due to which, a Chinese state-owned airline, Sichuan, suddenly stopped vital cargo flights to India, putting Indian vaccine manufacturers in a spot. However, later, due to the dire situation in India, the airlines and the Chinese government expedited relief supplies.

During the height of the pandemic, the Chinese economy did plummet like other economies in the world, but China got on to the road to recovery faster. Even Western media reports acknowledged that during the 76-day lockdown in Wuhan, major industries were allowed to function. Innovative measures were taken to keep economic activity going, albeit with the most stringent safeguards. Few contracts were cancelled. Few workers were laid off. Government gave loans and waived taxes to stimulate continued activity. Those in quarantine and under lockdowns were very well served by commandeered but highly trained personnel. New ways of functioning under lockdown were discovered and implemented.

With the wheels of the economy kept moving, China grew by 4% while the other economies fell by 43%, according to UNCTAD.

P. K. Balachandran is a senior Indian journalist working in Sri Lanka for local and international media and has been writing on South Asian issues for the past 21 years.

- Eurasia Review

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Border security is national security.
- Kirstjen Nielsen

India has now accounted for more than half the global cases of COVID-19 and 25 percent of global deaths as the pandemic continues to spread in the country leading to more major health, social, economic and political issues.

Experts have warned that India must be prepared for a third wave, given the high levels of circulating virus. UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said: "Unless the world steps up and helps India now, there will be reverberations across the region and the world in terms of virus-related deaths, virus mutations and supply delays".

As India seeks to expand its vaccination programme, amidst shortages of the vaccines in many states, there are calls from many countries for a global waiver plan on patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines. The initial move has been made by India and South Africa within the World Trade Organisation.

The country is faced with a continuous shortage of oxygen in the hospitals, the lack of beds, ventilators, and ICU facilities in hospitals, despite considerable amounts of related aid being received from many foreign countries. It is also short of crematorium space as the numbers dead continue to rise.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by him is coming in for increased criticism and protests too, with regard to its failure to curb the spread of the pandemic, its claims to have defeated it, and allowing huge gatherings of people, at political rallies at several state elections, and at religious festivals that drew massive crowds.

The BJP failed in its attempt to gain control of the West Bengal state, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leader of the Trinamool Congress, being elected for a third successive term, and her becoming a major challenger to Modi's national leadership. The DMK obtained a lead vote in Tamil Nadu, and opposition parties led in Kerala too. The BJP had a gain in the northern Assam state.

BIDEN FOR VACCINE WAIVER



US President
Joe Biden

US President Joe Biden's administration on Wednesday announced support for a global waiver on patent protections for COVID-19 vaccines, offering hope to poor nations that have struggled to access the life-saving doses.

India, where the death toll hit a new daily record amid fears the peak is still to come, and South Africa have been leading the fight within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to allow more drugmakers to manufacture the vaccines—a move pharmaceutical giants opposed.

Biden had been under intense pressure to waive protections for vaccine manufacturers, especially amid criticism that rich nations were hoarding COVID-19 vaccines.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), called the US decision "historic" and marked "a monumental moment in the fight against COVID-19." With supplies for Americans secured, the Biden administration will continue efforts "to expand vaccine manufacturing and distribution," and will work to "increase the raw materials needed to produce those vaccines."

For months the WTO has been facing calls to temporarily remove the intellectual property protections on COVID-19 vaccines, known as a TRIPS waiver in reference to the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property.

WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on Wednesday described it as the "moral and economic issue of our time."

But that notion has been fiercely opposed by pharmaceutical giants and their host countries, which insist the patents are not the main roadblocks to scaling up production, and warned the move could hamper innovation.

"A waiver is the simple but the wrong answer to what is a complex problem," the Geneva-based International Federation

INDIA WARNED OF COVID THIRD WAVE



A patient receiving oxygen in a rickshaw while waiting for a hospital bed in New Delhi. Hospitals in India are full, and oxygen supplies are dwindling. - The New York Times

of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations lobby group said, describing the US move as "disappointing."

K. Vijay Raghavan, the Indian government's principal scientific advisor, said the country of 1.3 billion people had to prepare for a new wave of infections even after beating down the current wave, which has taken the country's caseload above 20 million infections.

In an effort to boost the country's collapsing health system, India's reserve bank announced \$6.7 billion in cheap financing for vaccine makers, hospitals and health firms.

In London, foreign ministers from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies committed to financially support the vaccine-sharing programme, Covax.

G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS



US Secretary of State
Antony Blinken

Boris Johnson and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the "close alignment" between foreign policy in London and Washington during their meeting this week.

A No 10 spokesman said the PM and Mr. Blinken agreed UK-US cooperation would be "instrumental" in tackling COVID-19.

They also welcomed their nations' joint work on areas like trade and defence.

It came as G7 powers met in London for their first face-to-face meetings in over two years. The group discussed challenges including climate change and threats to human rights. The talks were held amid tight COVID restrictions.

The G7 group - the world's seven largest so-called advanced economies - is made up of the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. It has invited Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa to be guests, with the UK's efforts to deepen ties with the Indo-Pacific region.

The UK, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the G7, will host a leaders' summit in Cornwall next month.

At their meeting, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Blinken agreed that UK-US cooperation would be "instrumental" in making progress in the fight against coronavirus, alongside "protecting the environment and other international priorities", the spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman added that foreign policy issues, including Afghanistan, Iran and China,

were also discussed, and Mr. Johnson "looked forward to welcoming" US President Joe Biden to the UK when he attends the leaders' summit in June - his first overseas trip since his election victory.

ISRAEL - NETANYAHU FAILURE



Israel's Prime Minister
Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel's President Reuven Rivlin has asked Opposition Leader Yair Lapid to form a new government, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to combine a group to form a coalition government. This could lead to the end of the lengthy rule of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party finished first in the March 23 election, Israel's fourth inconclusive vote in less than two years, helping the divisive premier earn a 28-day mandate to negotiate a government. He is facing charges of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in a series of scandals in the Israeli courts.

But that mandate expired Tuesday and Netanyahu informed President Reuven Rivlin he had been unable to secure a majority in the 120-seat Parliament.

Netanyahu's failure further highlighted deep fractures in the Israeli electorate, which spread its support across the political spectrum, including far-right Jewish extremists and a conservative Islamic party.

President Rivlin has given a 28-day mandate, stating that it was clear the centrist former television anchor "has the best chance to form a government", having the pledged support of 56 of Parliament's 120 members, still short of a majority.

Lapid, whose late father was a Cabinet minister and who himself is a veteran journalist and politician, now has four weeks to reach a deal with potential partners. He now has the chance to make history by ending the reign of Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister. Netanyahu, 71, has held the post for a total of 15 years, including the past 12.

Netanyahu's political future was thrown into question when he failed to assemble a ruling coalition in the four weeks allotted to him, raising the possibility that his 12-year run as Prime Minister - the longest in Israeli history - could soon come to an end, following more than two years of political paralysis.

However, there is the possibility that a fifth consecutive elec-

ON MY WATCH

BY LUCIEN RAJAKARUNANAYAKE

tion is still possible, if Lapid too fails to form a coalition to control the majority in the Knesset.

The last election, which was held on March 23, ended in deadlock for the fourth consecutive time in the past two years. Despite repeated meetings with many of his rivals and unprecedented outreach to the leader of a small Islamist Arab party, Netanyahu was unable to close a deal.

Netanyahu has become a divisive figure in Israeli politics, with the last four elections all seen as a referendum on his rule. He has been desperate to remain in office while he stands trial, using his position to lash out at prosecutors and seek possible immunity from prosecution.

Netanyahu has been charged with fraud, breach of trust and bribery in a series of scandals. The trial has moved into the witness phase, with embarrassing testimony accusing him of trading favours with a powerful media mogul. Netanyahu denies the charges, accusing law enforcement, the judiciary and the media of waging a "witch-hunt" against him.

FRANCE - CLIMATE LAW



French President
Emmanuel Macron

France's National Assembly has approved a wide-ranging climate change bill which will bring major changes to the country's policies on ensuring major improvements on climate change.

The draft legislation was approved in a first reading by the Lower House of Parliament, where President Macron has a working majority. It has been heavily criticised by environmental groups. The bill now passes to the Senate before a final vote in the lower house.

Campaigners see it as too timid given the pace of climate change globally and accuse the French leader of half-hearted commitment to a cause he has admitted to embracing belatedly.

France's Environment Minister, Barbara Pompili, has defended the text, saying it "will affect the daily life of all of our citizens" and is "one of the biggest laws of the (president's) term".

Measures include bans on domestic flights under two and half hours that can be done by train, restrictions on renting

the aircraft after government forces used helicopters and jet fighters in an attack on Montauk township, where the Kachin seized a base at the foot of Alaw Bum mountain from the government on March 25.

Naw Bu said it was the first aircraft shot down in what has become a fierce battle lasting almost two weeks after the government attacked with heavy artillery and fighter jets.

The ruling junta continues to also face a challenge in the cities and towns of Myanmar, where street protests are still being held more than three months after it seized power.

Security Forces continue to use lethal force to break up the protests. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which tracks deaths and arrests, said at least five civilians were killed Sunday on what protesters declared was Global Myanmar Spring Revolution Day.

The organisation said Security Forces have now killed 765 protesters and bystanders, and that 3,555 people have been detained since the army's seizure of power. About 40 journalists are among those being held.

The European Parliament and EU member states agreed a target in late April of cuts of at least 55 percent by 2030 from 1990 levels - compared to the 40 percent target set in the French law.

Climate change and protection of the environment are likely to be bigger themes in next year's presidential election than the last one in 2017, which Macron won while barely campaigning on the issue.

The European Parliament and EU member states agreed a target in late April of cuts of at least 55 percent by 2030 from 1990 levels - compared to the 40 percent target set in the French law.

MYANMAR

As the protests by an unarmed public against the military junta in Myanmar continues, an ethnic rebel group in northern Myanmar has said it shot down a government military helicopter, during heavy fighting over a strategic position.

The claim by the Kachin Independence Army came as protests against Myanmar's military government continued in Kachin State and elsewhere in the country. It would be the first aircraft shot down during recent hostilities between the government and ethnic guerrilla armies. There was no immediate comment by the government on the incident.

The Kachin are one of several ethnic minorities who have allied themselves with the nationwide protest movement against the military's February ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, who was arrested and remains in detention. The country's ethnic minorities have been fighting for decades against the central government for greater autonomy.

Government actions are underway against the Kachin and the Karen, another ethnic minority in eastern Myanmar that maintains their own armed forces, and also have been the target of airstrikes. The fighting in Kachin and Karen states has displaced more than 45,000 villagers.

Col. Naw Bu, a spokesman for the Kachin Independence Army, said his group's forces shot down

and Indian governments are also promising to work "constructively" on reducing illegal migration between them, including mounting a stronger "fight" against the use of forged documents.

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel said: "This landmark agreement with our close partners in the government of India will provide new opportunities to thousands of young people in the UK and India seeking to live, work and experience each other's cultures.

"This agreement will also ensure that the British government can remove those with no right to be in the UK more easily and crack down on those abusing our system."

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual meeting on Tuesday to discuss a "roadmap" for cooperation over the next decade on health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.

Trade between the UK and India is worth about £23bn per year, and the UK government hopes to double that by 2030.

COLOMBIA - PROTESTS

The international community has decried what the UN described as an "excessive use of force" by security officers in Colombia after numerous deaths during days of anti-government protests.

The United Nations, United States, European Union and rights bodies joined a chorus of criticism after official data showed 19 people were killed and 846 injured in running clashes with the Security Forces.

Colombia's human rights ombudsman - a state agency independent from the government - said 89 people were listed as "disappeared."

Tens of thousands of Colombians have taken to the streets in demonstrations that began last Wednesday against a proposed tax reform, but have since morphed into broader protests against the government of President Ivan Duque.

On Tuesday, protesters blocked roads in several parts of the country, coinciding with fresh demonstrations in the capital Bogota and in Cali in the west of the country.

Cali, Colombia's third-biggest city and the worst-affected by the ongoing unrest, has had soldiers patrolling its streets since last Friday on government orders.

The Ministry of Defence has deployed 47,500 uniformed personnel countrywide. In Cali alone, 700 soldiers, 500 riot police officers, 1,800 other police and two helicopters have been put into operation.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights voiced "profound shock" on Tuesday at an overnight incident in Cali in which police allegedly "opened fire" on demonstrators, reportedly killing and injuring several.

"What we can say clearly is that we have received reports, and we have witnesses, (of) excessive use of force by security officers, shooting, live ammunition being used, beatings of demonstrators and as well detentions," spokeswoman Marta Hurtado told reporters in Geneva.

On Tuesday, blockades of the main roads in the Cali region caused delays in petrol deliveries and concern about the fate of trucks transporting oxygen and medical supplies in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The UN called for calm ahead of fresh rallies planned for Wednesday, saying Security Forces should use firearms only as a last resort when facing an imminent threat of death or serious injury.

"Nothing justifies armed people who, protected by the legitimate desires of citizens to march, go out to shoot defenceless citizens and cruelly attack our police," said Duque, who on Sunday withdrew the proposed reform that sparked the initial protests.

Defence Minister Diego Molano said the violence was "systematic, premeditated and financed by criminal organisations... Our public forces must be ruthless towards those who use vandalism," the minister warned.

EU spokesman Peter Stano said it was a priority to stop the escalation of violence "and to avoid any disproportionate use of force by Security Forces."

And US State Department deputy spokeswoman Jalina Porter underlined the right of all people to protest peacefully... "Violence and vandalism is an abuse of that right. At the same time, we urge the utmost restraint by public forces to prevent additional loss of life," she said.

Amnesty International called Tuesday for an "end to repression of protests and the militarization of cities."

UK AND INDIA - JOBS



British Prime Minister
Boris Johnson

The UK and India have agreed to allowing thousands of young adults to work and live in each other's countries for two years.

The UK Home Office said the scheme for 18 to 30-year-old professionals would allow "the brightest and best" to come to the UK based on "skills and talent".

It added that the two countries would also "crack down" on illegal migration.

The new scheme comes as the UK is pushing for a post-Brexit free-trade deal with India.

The two countries earlier announced business agreements worth £1bn to create 6,000 jobs in UK jobs.

The Young Professionals Scheme will be open to a maximum of 3,000 people from each of India and the UK per year, although the two governments can decide to raise or lower this limit.

The 18 to 30-year-olds taking part must have at least three years' training relevant to their work - at university level or equivalent - and be able to "express themselves in the language(s) of the host country".

They will not be allowed to take any children or other dependents with them. The UK

'Deadly new surge in South Asian COVID-19 cases threatens reversal of global gains'

The scenes witnessed in South Asia are unlike anything the region has seen before. Family members of patients are pleading for help as the region reels under an acute shortage of medical-grade oxygen, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia George Laryea-Adjei said.

Exhausted health workers are being pushed to the brink of collapse. There is a 'real possibility' that the region's health system would be strained to its breaking point and lead to even more loss of life, he added.

"Urgent action and steadfast leadership are indispensable to stopping the catastrophe. Governments must do everything within their power to stop the devastation, and partners that are able to send assistance must do so immediately. The international community must step up without delay. This is not just a moral imperative.

The deadly new surge in South Asia threatens us all. It has the potential to reverse hard-earned global gains against the pandemic if not halted as soon as possible," Laryea-Adjei said.

"Let us not forget our individual responsibility. Every decision we make has the potential to alter the course of this surge—and to either safeguard or endanger the lives of those around us. We may be exhausted, but the virus is not yet exhausted. Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to wearing masks, washing our hands with soap as often as possible, keeping the required physical distance, and getting ourselves vaccinated if we have the opportunity to do so," he added.

"The low levels of vaccination in South Asia magnify the likelihood of the virus spiraling even further out of control. In almost all countries in the region, with the excep-

tion of Maldives and Bhutan, fewer than 1 in 10 people have been vaccinated. Now more than ever, we must ensure vaccines equitably reach all populations. Manufacturing must be ramped up, technology transferred, and doses equitably shared. None of us are safe until all of us are safe," the Regional Director said.

"As we work to respond to the public health emergency, we cannot forget the profound impacts of the pandemic on children. Children are being directly affected by the disease in higher numbers than ever before. They are losing parents and caregivers, becoming witnesses to scenes no child should ever see, and being cut off from their schools and vital support networks. As resources are diverted and services saturated, the essential health services they so heavily rely on—including routine immunisation programmes—

are now at risk of being compromised, if not shuttered entirely," he added.

"If this happens, it will once more be the most vulnerable children and families who suffer most. The first wave of the pandemic caused drastic cuts in the availability and use of essential public health services in South Asia, costing us the lives of an estimated 228,000 children and 11,000 mothers. We simply cannot let this happen again," Laryea-Adjei said.

We must do everything within our power to keep essential health, immunisation and nutrition services running, and make sure women and children everywhere feel safe to use them. Viruses know no borders. We must come together now as a global community to stop the devastation and protect our children," he added. (UN News)



The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation organised an all-night Pirith ceremony on Thursday to invoke blessings on the country and the world, given the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. Picture by Sudath Malawera.

UNESCO study shows sharp increase in online violence against women journalists

A UNESCO discussion paper points to a sharp increase in online violence against women journalists and reveals how such attacks are 'inextricably bound' with disinformation, intersectional discrimination, and populist politics.

The paper, titled 'The Chilling: Global Trends in Online Violence against Women Journalists', presents an edited extract from a forthcoming interdisciplinary study carried out by the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ).

The first of its kind in terms of its scope and methodology, the paper is based on a global survey of 901 journalists from 125 countries; long-form interviews with 173 journalists and experts; two big data case studies assessing over 2.5 million social media posts directed at prominent journalists Maria Ressa (The Philippines Laureate of the 2021 Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize) and Carole Cadwalladr (UK); 15 detailed country case studies; and a literature review covering hundreds of scholarly and civil society research publications.

The discussion paper provides hard facts and detailed analysis on the following key findings:

- Online attacks have real-life impacts. Not only do they affect mental health and productivity, but physical attacks and legal harassment are increasingly seeded online.

- Misogyny intersects with other forms of discrimination. Women journalists who are also disadvantaged by racism, homophobia, religious bigotry, and other forms of discrimination. They face additional exposure to online attacks, with worse impacts.

- Gendered online violence intersects with disinformation. While orchestrated disinformation campaigns weaponise misogyny to chill critical reporting, reporting on disinformation can be a trigger for heightened attacks.

- Online attacks against women journalists have political motives. Political actors, extremist networks, and partisan media are identified as instigators and amplifiers of online violence against women journalists.

- Social media platforms and news organisations are still struggling to respond effectively. In the context of an increasingly toxic information ecosystem, platforms are seen as major enablers for online violence.

- When women journalists turn to them or their employers in the midst of an online violence storm, they often fail to receive effective responses and even face victim-blaming behaviour.

- A team of 23 international researchers from 16 countries, led by Julie Posetti, Nabeelah Shabbir, Diana Maynard, Kalina Bontcheva, and Nermine Aboulez, contributed to the study. (UN News)



The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) recently held a blood donation campaign at the party's Eruthayapuram Office to mark its founder former Minister Basil Rajapaksa's birthday. The event was organised by SLPP District Organiser P. Chandrakumar and the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital staff. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Corr.

Lankan Envoy calls on Foreign Minister

Sri Lankan Ambassador to Russia Prof. M.D. Lamawansa called on Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Thursday at the Foreign Ministry.

Minister Gunawardena drew the attention of the Ambassador to the methods for developing Sri Lanka's mutually-important economic, social, cultural, and educational cooperation that exist with Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, and Uzbekistan.

He emphasised that all Ambassadors abroad representing the Sri Lankan Government should work in harmony and cooperation with foreign countries to enhance investment cooperation to revive Sri Lanka's economy, which has been crippled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Lamawansa said that many countries, including Russia, are interested in cooperating with Sri Lanka due to Sri Lanka's non-aligned foreign policy.

The Ambassador further stated that agreements have been reached with Russia and related countries to assist in many development and service activities in Sri Lanka in the future.

Lankan Ambassador presents credentials to OPCW Director-General

Sri Lankan Ambassador to the Netherlands Aruni Ranaraja presented her credentials to Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Dr. Fernando Arias, at the OPCW Headquarters at the Hague, on Monday, the Embassy stated in a press release.

After welcoming Ambassador Ranaraja, the Director-General briefed her on the progress achieved by the OPCW on chemical weapons disarmament and non-proliferation activities and elaborated on how

OPCW envisaged to address new and emerging chemical weapon threats, as well as to support capacity-building in OPCW Member States through its flagship project: the ChemTech Centre.

The Ambassador, while acknowledging the assistance extended by the OPCW to build Sri Lanka's national capacity in chemical handling, including the training assistance provided by the OPCW over the years, requested further partnership in the areas of capacity-building of local chemical scientists, exchange of scientific and technical information, assistance to upgrade Sri Lanka's laboratory services, conducting awareness programmes on chemical safety, and responding to chemical emergencies.

Ambassador Ranaraja also recalled that several Sri Lankans had held positions at the OPCW, and expressed keen interest in continuing to increase Sri Lanka's contribution to the organisation through its pool of human resources, the statement said.

Ambassador Ranaraja encouraged the OPCW to consider Sri Lanka as a regular host nation to hold international and regional events, similar to the International Seminar on 'Chemical Weapons Convention and Chemical Safety and Security Management' for Member States of the OPCW in the Asian Region, which was held in December, 2019.

Both the Director-General and the Ambassador underscored the necessity of having strong international

cooperation and commitment for the prevention of the usage of chemical weapons by non-state actors and not to succumb to politically-motivated agendas.

Deputy Director-General Ambassador Odette Melono, Director of the External Relations Division and Deputy Chief of Cabinet to the Director-General, was also present. Sri Lanka is one of the early signatories of the Chemical Weapons Convention, having signed it on January 14, 1992, and ratified on August 19, 1994.



Sri Lankan Ambassador to Uzbekistan Prof. M.D. Lamawansa, along with a delegation from his Embassy, called on Director of Uzbekistan National Information Analytical Center for Drug Control O. Narzullaev at the latter's office in Tashkent, recently. They discussed matters concerning bilateral relations, as well as the prevention of drug-trafficking and the rehabilitation of drug addicts.



As the Tissawerasingam Square West Grama Niladhari Division in Manmunai North was placed under lockdown, 120 people from adjoining areas were subjected to random Rapid Antigen tests by Batticaloa health officials at the Koolavady Community Centre on Monday. Five people tested positive for the virus following the tests. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Corr.

Environment Ministry, Tokyo Cement sign MoU for tree-planting project

The Environment Ministry and the Tokyo Cement Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a project to plant bamboo and kumbuk saplings along the banks of the Mahaweli River.

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera and Tokyo Cement Managing Director R.S. Gnanam signed the documents, the ministry stated in a communiqué yesterday.

"An agreement was

reached today for the first-ever bamboo and kumbuk plantation project in Sri Lanka, which is to cover the 335km-long riverbanks of the Mahaweli. It will be funded by the Tokyo Cement Company," Minister Amaraweera said.

We will plant over 167,500 saplings on both sides of the Mahaweli River, from the Samanala Mountain to Trincomalee. Twenty percent of the saplings will be bamboo, while the

rest will be 'kumbuk'. We are also implementing a programme to curb river basin erosion, while designating river bank conservation zones," he added.

Tokyo Cement Managing Director R.S. Gnanam said, "We have previously supported a number of environmental programmes in Sri Lanka, especially for the protection of mangroves. We are pleased to work with the Environment Ministry to protect the Mahaweli River as well."

Public warned against swindlers at Karapitiya Teaching Hospital

MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE,
Galle Central Special Corr.

Karapitiya Teaching Hospital Chief Consultant Judicial Medical Officer Rohan P. Ruwanpura said there have been complaints about swindlers at the hospital premises.

One such individual had cheated a patient out of Rs.8,000, saying that he would provide the patient's PCR test report swiftly, Ruwanpura said.

He added that the tests are free-of-charge, and that no additional charg-

es are being made for quicker release of test results.

The Judicial Medical Officer urged the public to inform the authorities immediately if any individual were to approach them with such a deal.

Two dead in Valaichchenai car accident

SIVAM PACKIYANATHAN,
Batticaloa Special Corr.

A man and a woman from Batticaloa, both aged 31, died in an accident that occurred on the Batticaloa - Colombo main road in Valaichchenai, yesterday.

The deceased have been identified as Parameswaran Thinojan of Puliyanativu and Rasadurai Vinoga of Dehivalai, both residents of Batticaloa. Army personnel patrolling the area had rushed the victims to the

hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

It was said that the vehicle had been speeding and had veered off the road at the time of the accident. Investigations are continuing.

Navy, STF arrest three persons with crystal meth, hashish

Naval personnel and Special Task Force (STF) officials arrested three persons with 311.25 grams of crystal methamphetamine and 47.6 grams of hashish in a special operation carried out in Rajagiriya, on Monday, the Navy stated in a communiqué.

It was revealed that the suspects were transporting the narcotics to be sold elsewhere at the time.

Those arrested have been identified as residents of Borella between the ages of 26 and 30, the statement said.

The suspects, along with the seized contraband, have been handed over to the Borella Police for legal action.

Investigations are continuing, the Navy added.

Obituaries

DISSANAYAKE - IVY - (Former Teacher Newstead Girls' School, Executive Housekeeper - Jetwing Hotels, Negombo, Senior Athletic Referee Athletic Association), wife of Major M.B. Dissanayake (Retd. Sri Lanka Army), daughter of Joseph Perera, Charlotte Perera (Ideal Furnishers), sister of late Colville, late Ashley, late Erica, late Phoebe, Yvonne (USA), late Eardley, late Trevin, sister-in-law of late Neville Weerasinghe, Austin Fenando, Rita, Gwendoline, Neville Wanasinghe (USA), expired on 05.05.2021. Remains lie at **Western Funeral Parlour** from 2.30 p.m. on 07th Friday. Funeral will take place at General Cemetery Negombo at 3.30 p.m. on 08th Saturday. 034317

PERERA E.A.D. TISSA B - (Director of Sierra Holdings Pvt. Ltd. and Sierra Constructions Ltd.), called to rest in the arms of Jesus. Treasured son of late Beryl and late Nicholas, beloved husband of Lilani, devoted father of Tashali, Nimesh & Rashmi, father-in-law of Darin, loving grandfather of Tashale & Dashale, loving brother of Gamin, Lilamani & Rukshini, brother-in-law of Psyche, Nihal & Rohitha and beloved extended family of Bandula, Nilika and Ashanthi. A private funeral was held in accordance with his wishes. 034862

Ratnapura District to start more community based scout groups



Senior Attorney-at-Law Janaprith Fernando, Deputy Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scout Association addressing the gathering.

The Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Scout Association, Ratnapura District Scout Association was held recently at Savon Rest, Kuruwita. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Senior Attorney-at-Law Janaprith Fernando, Deputy Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scout Association and Member of the World Scout Committee. The District Commissioner highlighted the activities carried out by the district and the challenges faced by the scouts and leaders due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the closure of the schools in 2020. Addressing the gathering Janaprith Fernando spoke of the Founder Lord Baden Powell who started the movement in 1907 with an experiment camp with 20 boys in Brownsea Island, UK and that during the 114 years of existence that over 500 million scouts have held membership and obtained scout training around the world to Create a

Better World. The present membership of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement is 54 million in 171 member National Scout Organisations and that there are over 215 countries and territories engaged in scouting throughout the world. He said that in Sri Lanka at present school based scouting is around 90% and that SL Scouts under the guidance of the Chief Commissioner Major General Milinda Peiris has decided to promote more Community Based Scouting or Open Scout Groups so that the children can continue their scout activities even during closure of schools. This concept of Scouting he said is how scouting is conducted in Europe, Inter America Region, Eurasia Region and several other parts of the world including Australia and the Pacific Islands. The Ratnapura District was urged to discuss with Plantation Compa-

nies, Social Service Organisations and Places of Religious worship and commence Scout Groups for their communities as this could make a big difference in the local society by having disciplined and trained children. He said that there are so many boys and girls and their parents who want to become members of this world's largest youth organization and that due to the lack of school teachers volunteering to do extra-curricular activities in schools that these children are deprived of getting recruited as scouts and that this challenge could also be overcome by starting Open Scout Groups. The Ratnapura district was commended for the excellent work carried out in the previous year and best wishes were extended to all the Commissioners, newly elected office bearers, scout Leaders, scouts and cubs to continue their activities.



A token of appreciation being presented to a scout leader in the district.

Collective efforts needed to fight negative impacts of pandemic - SAARC Finance Ministers

The Sixteenth Informal Meeting of the SAARC Finance Ministers was held on Wednesday in Virtual Mode, on the sidelines of 54th Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB), also being held in Virtual Mode on May 3-5, 2021. The Meeting, attended by the Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from all SAARC Member States was held under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister of Nepal Bishnu Prasad Paudel. In his opening statement, the Chairman thanked the ADB for its continuous support to SAARC. He also commended excellent arrangements made by SAARC Secretariat and ADB for the Meeting in Virtual Mode for the second time. Indicating the huge challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he stated that solidarity and collective efforts should be the priority to fight the pandemic and its negative impacts on important areas of the economy. SAARC Secretary General Esala R. Weerakoon made a statement in the context of the Meeting's theme "Economic Recovery from COVID-19: Towards Inclusive and Resilient

Growth" and highlighted the adverse impacts of the pandemic on the economies of the Member States of SAARC and the need for measures including universalization of vaccination to deal and address them. He also underlined the importance of collective action at this time of crisis. He also pointed out immediate and swift responses taken by the Members to address the adverse impacts of the pandemic and especially the SAARC Leader's agreement to the proposal of the Prime Minister of India to create a SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund to which all countries have pledged their voluntary contributions. He mentioned that interventions like more investments in health care and education sector and more collaborative and innovative projects with development partners like the World Bank, ADB are to be continued at this challenging time. Vice President of the Asian Development Bank (Operations I) Shixin Chen briefed spoke about the initiatives and financial commitments already made by ADB for the region along with the status of collaboration between ADB and SAARC. He reaf-

firmed the ADB's commitment to continue collaboration with SAARC for economic development and prosperity of the peoples in the region especially in view of the COVID 19 and its negative impacts. The Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the Meeting about the measures taken to fight and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic along with current status of economic progress achieved by them, appreciated the contribution made by ADB in their economic growth and hoped that SAARC would make further progress to achieve its full potential for the benefit of peoples of the region. ADB Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department Yasuyuki Sawada made a presentation on the important theme of this Meeting, "Economic Recovery from COVID-19: Towards Inclusive and Resilient Growth". The presentation highlighted the present situation of the pandemic, its possible impacts on economies along with challenges and measures needed for sustainable, green growth in the region.

Over 5,900 COVID-19 guidelines violators arrested

Police made the highest number of arrests of individuals in a single day last Thursday (06) for not wearing face masks and violating other quarantine rules, Police said. One hundred and one of them were arrested during a search operation in the Pettah and Dam Street areas. Accordingly, the highest number of arrests in a single

day from October last year to date was made on Thursday. So far, 5,922 people have been arrested for not wearing masks and violating quarantine rules. Police Spokesman DIG Ajith Rohana said that all Police stations have been instructed to strictly enforce the law against those who do not wear face masks and fail to adhere to quarantine rules.



The Vavunatu Police on a tip-off arrested six cattle rustlers and illegal sand miners on Thursday (06). The cattle rustlers and sand miners were nabbed by the Vavunatu Police headed by OIC Nishantha Appunamy when the lorry in which were transporting the six heads of cattle approached a bridge. Meanwhile, two tractors engaged in illegal sand mining at Kalliyamaduru in Eluppadiichchenai were also seized along with three persons. Police said the suspects would be produced in courts. Vavunatu Police is investigating. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Correspondent

Coastal clean-up programme in WNP

The Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Navy in the Kalpitiya area recently organised a coastal clean-up programme in the Wilpattu National Park (WNP). More than 50 volunteers from the Sri Lanka Navy and 30 staff members from the DWC collected 1,600 bags of plastic bottles, polythene, glass and other debris along the 39 Km coastline from Gangewadiya to Mullikulam. WNP Warden Suranga Rathnayaka said "this is the first time DWC executed a coastal clean-up of this scale, especially along the coastline of the Wilpattu National Park". Technical Advisor for the "Supporting Wilpattu National Park and Influence Zone Management in Sri Lanka" Project Sampath Bandara said the coastal clean-up programme was implemented as a part of a number of environmental management activities currently supported by the project in the national park.



Navy personnel involved in the coastal cleanup programme.

"Supporting Wilpattu National Park and Influence Zone Management in Sri Lanka" Project is implemented by the Department of Wildlife Conservation of the Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project combines the conservation efforts within the Wilpattu National Park with the sustainable development of its influence zones. The project aims to improve the Wilpattu National Park's management capacity with an emphasis on the Park Operations, Environmental and Visitor Use Programmes, in technical and specialist terms, in support to the Wilpattu National Park Management Plan (2019-2024). Former WNP Park Warden

Chamath Lakshman planned to conduct the clean-up programme in parallel to International Coastal Clean-up Day in 2020. However, the activity was postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and health restrictions in the area. Thereafter, the event was rescheduled and implemented under the close supervision of WNP management and local

MOH following health guidelines and safety standards. Chandani Wilson, Deputy Director - Visitor Services Management DWC and Manjula Amararatne, Director - Protected Area Management, extended their fullest support for the conduct of the programme. The DWC plans to hold more clean-up programmes along the WNP coastal line.



Department of Wildlife Conservation and Navy personnel collecting bags of plastic bottles, polythene, glass and other debris along the coastline from Gangewadiya to Mullikulam.



A father and son were arrested with 18.01 grams of Heroin valued at Rs.220,000 at the Greenfield apartment at Kalmunai on Thursday night. The raid was conducted by the Narcotic Preventive Unit under the direction of the Kalmunai OIC Sujith Periyantha. Earlier, four people were arrested in the same area for possession of Heroin and were remanded for 2 weeks. Here, the Police team which made the arrests. Picture by Sivam Packiyathan, Batticaloa Special Correspondent

Teachers' Training final examinations postponed

S.M. WIJAYARATNE, Kurunegala Daily News Corr. The Ministry of Education in a Special Circular has informed all Heads of Government Teachers' Training Colleges country-wide that the proposed final examinations for Teachers' Training Colleges-2020 (2021) which were planned

to be held from May 10 to 21 have been postponed due to the pandemic situation in the country. The new dates are to be notified later. Education Ministry Secretary Prof. Kapila Perera has stated this in his Circular of May 7 to all Principals of Govt. Teachers' Training Colleges.

DATE 2021.05.06	THURSDAY OFFICIAL RESULTS	www.nlb.lk	NLCB
MAHAJANA SAMPATHA		DRAW NUMBER : 4473	Value of prizes won in this draw
		Rs. 7,628,600.00	
THE SUPER PRIZE OF NEXT DRAW		Rs. 16,530,123.60	
WINNING LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS		
T	7 7 7 4 6 2		
Govisetha		DRAW NUMBER : 2768	NLCB
		TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW	
		Rs. 5,290,460.00	
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW		Rs. 70,710,548.80	
WINNING LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS		
V	42 69 73 75		
Mega POWER 10		DRAW NUMBER : 830	NLCB
		TOTAL PRIZES WON IN THIS DRAW	
		Rs. 3,286,840.00	
NEXT MEGA SUPER PRIZE		Rs. 132,260,003.60	
NEXT POWER SUPER PRIZE		Rs. 10,000,000.00	
NEXT GRAND SUPER		Rs. 10,000,000.00	
ENGLISH LETTER	SUPER NUMBER	WINNING NUMBERS	
C	13	44 65 69 74	
Dhana Nidhanaya		DRAW NUMBER : 510	NLCB
		TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW	
		Rs. 3,836,060.00	
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW		Rs. 96,401,296.00	
ENGLISH LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS		
L	18 36 52 59		
SEVANA		DRAW NUMBER : 335	NLCB
		TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW	
		Rs. 2,011,680.00	
THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW		Rs. 14,000,000.00	
ENGLISH LETTER	WINNING NUMBERS		
I	36 60 61 66		
06.05.2021- TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 553,163			
TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs.22,053,640.00			
Rs.1,000,000 PRIZES 02 Rs.1,00,000 PRIZES 27			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes All Winning Lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date 			
		ජාතික ලොටරිය මණ්ඩලය ദേശീയ ടൊട്ടൽ സമ്പാ National Lotteries Board Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324 Fax: 011-4669416	
32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.			



SHAMINDA WATTEGEDARA

The definition for a separate state was stipulated in the Montevideo Convention which came into force in December 1933 among Latin American countries and the United States and is now considered a part of International Law. The criteria for statehood according to the Convention are that a state must possess a permanent population, a defined territory, a Government, and the capacity to conduct international relations. As far as the Colombo Port City (CPC) is concerned none of the conditions required to fulfil this has been found.

Justice Minister Ali Sabry, PC, claimed that the Port City is very much a part of the Colombo administrative district but then there are arguments that the Bill should go before the Western Provincial Council for approval. Gani Marapana, President's Counsel, however, rejected this contention when he said since the Provincial Councils are not in operation the argument does not arise with regard to the Colombo Port City. This is a point that the Supreme Court, the Apex Court looking into the constitutionality of the Bill, will look at.

In the meantime, the Government should also take a close look at Clause 7 and Section 4 subsection 2 of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission (CPCEC) Bill which respectively states that:

The Bill provides for the establishment of a Commission consisting of five to seven persons appointed at the sole discretion of the President;

The Commission shall, in consultation with the Project Company, and with the concurrence of the President or in any event that the subject of the Colombo Port City is assigned to a Minister, with the concurrence of such Minister, identify any amendments to the Master Plan, and if such amendments are considered necessary in the national interest or in the interest of the advancement of the national economy, to ensure through its viability the enhancement of the businesses carried on, in and from the Area of Authority of the Colombo Port City.

These apart, the former Central Bank Governor Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy took a closer look at the CPCEC Bill and empha-

sised the need to compare it with the provisions of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission (GCEC) which had more autonomy in terms of infrastructure, taxation, customs etc.

Dr. Commaraswamy's observations are as follows.

"Several countries have overcome ideological, political or capacity-related constraints to improve their business climate by creating special economic zones/enclaves. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)-driven export growth has often been the key to accelerate the growth and employment generation trajectory of an economy. This has been the case for countries as large as China or as small as Singapore and also, for more centrally-planned economies such as Vietnam, or more market-oriented ones. Special zones have been a useful mechanism for attracting FDI and promoting exports as they present a more manageable prospect for pushing through policy, structural or institutional reforms which are more difficult on a national scale.

Shannon, in Ireland, provided an initial template for setting up special zones. Sri Lanka was one of the early movers in the developing world when it implemented the GCEC Act.

The GCEC had a great deal of autonomy in terms of infrastructure provision, taxation and customs. It would be good to compare the GCEC Act with the current CPCEC Bill in terms of their respective provisions concerning these matters.

An important dimension of this comparison should be how matters related to public finance (both revenue and public expenditure) are handled in terms of Parliamentary oversight. Any resources that have an impact on the Consolidated Fund would normally involve Parliamentary oversight. One would need to examine the constitutionality of avoiding Parliamentary oversight in such circumstances.

In a country where revenue collection is severely challenged (less than 12 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) when peers mobilise over 20 percent), it is questionable whether such generous tax concessions are necessary.

There is a large volume of research which demonstrates that tax concessions are not an important determinant of the location of

COLOMBO PORT CITY: KEY TO GREATER FDI AND DEVELOPMENT

(PART II)



Port City under construction

Some concessions and exemptions given on import duty may have a negative impact on Government revenue (in terms of loss of royalty payments for sands, and import of material etc). Besides, in each operational year, the Government could receive revenue worth US\$ 800 million from income taxes, import duties, and license fees etc. Taken together, the Port City will be a good source of revenue generation for the Government and would certainly support the Sri Lankan Government in increasing its expenditure on development and welfare activities elsewhere, along with reducing the dependency on borrowing.



Shannon Free Trade Zone, Ireland



How Port City will look when completed



Artist's impression of Port City interior

investment. There are several other more significant considerations. Sri Lanka built up its vaunted social indicators by consistently collecting 20-21 percent of GDP. In a recent op-ed, Professor Mick Moore pointed out that revenue constraints lead to loss of sovereignty as Governments are forced to accept external conditions to raise the financing they require.

Careful consideration should be given to the provisions in the Bill relating to the legal and regulatory functions of the Commission and the entities under it. They should be aligned with good practice elsewhere, particularly about the nexus between oversight functions within the zones and outside it.

The Bill should set out the mix of expertise and experience that should be reflected in the composition of the Commission. It should be built into the Bill as much as possible to ensure that the appointments are based on professional merit rather than political favour. One way of doing this is to provide for bodies such as the Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, and Association of Professional Bankers to recommend (or even nominate) representatives for the Commission.

This may not be perfect, but it is better than leaving it to individual politicians.

Entities such as the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Attorney General's Department, Securities and Exchange Commission and Financial Intelligence Unit should have senior ex-officio membership of the Commission or key entities under it.

All provisions of the proposed Act should be carefully screened to ensure that they do not discriminate unduly against the rest of the economy.

I should also point out that taxation serves to transfer some of the benefits accruing from the Colombo Port City to the population at large. This is important given that tax collections would have assisted in financing the infrastructure and educating/training workers for the CPC."

A recent Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) report states that the Sri Lankan economy stands to gain from the proposed Colombo Port City.

Extracts from the study:
"At present, Sri Lanka receives around US\$ 1-1.5 billion through FDI annually. Hence the expected flow of FDI would be sizable and it is expected that Sri Lanka will be well-positioned for attracting FDI due to Port City Development. Moreover, it is

expected that there will be a spillover effect as well where the Port City may encourage FDI flows outside the project. Taken together, the Port City should be a key driver in attracting FDI in future Sri Lanka.

Government revenue will be derived through several channels during the development of the Port City. At the land reclamation and common infrastructure development stage, the Government may incur some costs for providing certain infrastructure facilities to the outer border of the Port City namely electricity, water, and road access etc.

Some concessions and exemptions given on import duty may have a negative impact on Government revenue (in terms of loss of royalty payments for sands, and import of material etc).

Besides, in each operational year, the Government could receive revenue worth US\$ 800 million from income taxes, import duties, and license fees etc. Taken together, the Port City will be a good source of revenue generation for the Government and would certainly support the Sri Lankan Government in increasing its expenditure on development and welfare activities elsewhere, along with reducing the dependency on borrowing. However, it should be noted that the estimates were based on the prevailing/proposed tax rates and any exemptions or concessions provided for the operators within the Port City may lead to a reduction in tax revenue.

The economic impact assessment which captures both direct and indirect effects clearly indicates that the Port City would have a significant impact on the national economy in terms of employment generation, attracting FDIs, GDP contribution, BOP (Balance of Payment) and Government revenue when it progresses as envisaged.

The Port City could be classified as a strategic investment project and a potential source and driver of economic growth and development for Sri Lanka. Such investment projects elsewhere in the world have historically played a significant role in transforming developing economies into more advanced ones.

One of the key determining factors in achieving the expected result would be the pace of the city development process and the enablement of its smooth functioning. Delays in construction, as well as the red tapes to functioning, could significantly lower the economic potential. In this context, it would be beneficial to have a clearly defined regulatory policy framework for the Port City, as this would support the achievement of the aforementioned economic targets. It is important to highlight that in addition to the impact on economic growth, any negative developments and barriers could affect the attraction of FDIs to the Port City project and other investment projects in Sri Lanka."

The Port City in short gives an explicit picture of how Sri Lanka could develop its economy to go forward in the global economic melee and stand as a steadfast economy in the developing world.

(Concluded)



World Thalassaemia Day falls today

Towards a Thalassaemia-free Sri Lanka and World

Senior Prof. ANUJA PREMAWARDHENA and Dr. SHIROMI PERERA

World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated every year on May 8 to commemorate Thalassaemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease. The theme for this year is "Addressing Health Inequalities across the Global Thalassaemia Community".

Every year since 1994, the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) is organising many diverse activities for the International Thalassaemia Day, with the objective of drawing the attention of the public, patient associations, public authorities, healthcare professionals, and industry representatives, to fuel discussions and promote actions on a particular theme related to the prevention, management or treatment of the disease in a patient-centred manner.

Thalassaemia is the most common inherited blood disorder worldwide, resulting from the defective synthesis of haemoglobin, which causes a major health problem in many parts of the world especially in underdeveloped countries. It has the highest frequency in areas where malaria is endemic, such as the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and India, suggesting positive selection by the malaria parasite. The global distribution of thalassaemia is observed in a broad band extending from the Mediterranean basin, parts of Africa through the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia to the Pacific Islands.

In Sri Lanka, beta thalassaemia is the most common haemoglobin disorder and it is highly prevalent in the North Western Province especially in the Kurunegala District. However, at present, a significant number of thalassaemia cases are reported in the other districts at a different rate. There are around 2,500 reported cases undergoing treatment and around 50-60 new cases diagnosed as beta thalassaemia each year. The majority of them belongs to thalassaemia major and E-beta thalassaemia. In recent years, the number of patients who have been to hospitals in Sri Lanka with severe forms of thalassaemia has significantly increased. Therefore, this disease is posing an increasingly dangerous public health problem to the Sri Lankan Government.

According to statistical predictions, there are over 800,000 beta thalassaemia carriers in Sri Lanka. This accounts for 2.5 percent carrier frequency, however, in some isolated patches, it has increased up to 10 percent. Even though there is a low number of cases of alpha thalassaemia reported in Sri Lanka compared to beta thalassaemia, it has been reported that the occurrence of several different forms of alpha thalassaemia of which the deletion forms of alpha+ thalassaemia is the most common with a carrier frequency of 10 percent.

Therefore, the purpose of this article is to inform the public on thalassaemia disease, its different forms, diagnostic methods, various treatment methods and the current situation of thalassaemia in Sri Lanka.

Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder resulting from the defective synthesis of haemoglobin. It is a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) that is passed down through families (inherited) from one generation to the next generation. Severe thalassaemia patients require lifelong blood transfusions due to the premature destruction of red blood cells.

Thalassaemia is broadly classified into two major forms namely alpha thalassaemia and beta thalassaemia, depending on the globin chain(s) which are inefficiently synthesised due to the mutation of the respective genes.

Haemoglobin is the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body. Each haemoglobin molecule consists of two alpha globin chains and two beta globin chains covalently linked to a haem group porphyrin through an iron atom. Thalassaemia occurs when there is a defect in a gene that helps in the synthesis of one of these proteins. Once these genes are mutated, they will not produce the proteins. Alpha thalassaemia occurs when alpha globin genes related to the alpha globin protein synthesis are mutated. Similarly, beta thalassaemia occurs when beta gene defects affect the production of the beta globin protein.

Beta thalassaemia is the most common form found in Sri Lanka. There are three major subtypes of beta thalassaemia - thalassaemia major, thalassaemia minor and thalassaemia intermedia - depending on the degree of clinical severity and genetic makeup. The production of beta globin proteins in haemoglobin is regulated by beta genes. For this, a pair of genes is responsible, one of which is inherited from the mother and the other from the father. If one of these genes is mutated, one can live a healthy life without any symptoms. These are called 'thalassaemia carriers' of the disease. Unfortunately, if a person inherits thalassaemia genes from both mother and father, he or she becomes a thalassaemia patient. In such a baby, the production of haemoglobin is reduced and the red blood cells begin to be destroyed. At the same time, the formation of red blood cells is reduced. They are called thalassaemia major patients.

If only one of the parents is a carrier of thalassaemia, their children have a 50 percent chance of being a thalassaemia carrier. Their children do not suffer from thalassaemia major. Thalassaemia carriers are completely healthy individuals and can carry thalassaemia through generations. If both parents are carriers of thalassaemia, they have a 25 percent chance of having healthy children, a 50 percent chance of having a thalassaemia carrier, and a 25 percent chance of having children with thalassaemia major.



Thalassaemia Major patients

There are four alpha globin genes that produce the alpha globin protein. Of the four alpha globin genes, two are inherited from each parent. Individuals who inherit a single alpha gene deletion are known as 'silent carriers' and those who inherit two genes cis (-alpha/-alpha) or trans (-alpha/-alpha) deletion are called 'thalassaemia carriers'. Haemoglobin HbH is caused by the deletion of three of the four alpha genes. These patients show thalassaemia symptoms and require a blood transfusion for their survival. Deletion of the four alpha genes is called haemoglobin Bart hydrops fetalis syndrome and such children will not be born.

The genetic interactions underlying the phenotype of beta thalassaemia intermedia include (1) inheritance of two mild beta thalassaemia alleles (2) inheritance of two beta thalassaemia alleles with factors that increase HbF production or alpha thalassaemia (3) inheritance of single beta thalassaemia allele with excess alpha globin genes (4) inheritance of single beta thalassaemia allele with haemoglobin variants. Thalassaemia intermedia patients in Sri Lanka are mainly E-beta thalassaemia and non-E-beta thalassaemia patients with excess alpha globin genes.

When considering the symptoms of thalassaemia, thalassaemia minor persons or carriers do not show any symptoms. It can only be detected by a blood test. Thalassaemia major



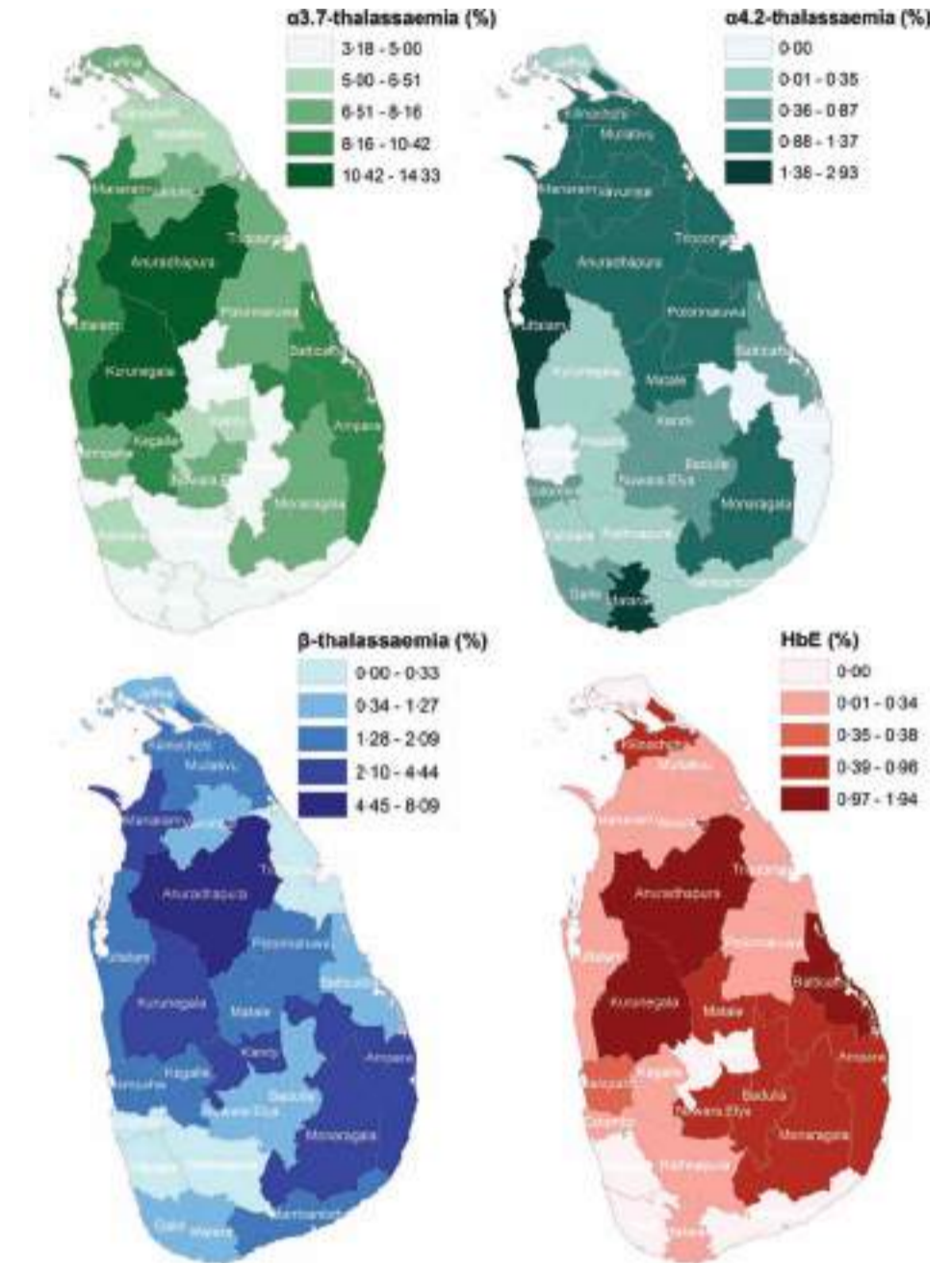
patients have premature destruction of red blood cells, causing them to develop symptoms early in life. Although they appear to be normal healthy babies at birth, they show anaemia between three-four months. Symptoms of thalassaemia include paleness, insomnia, loss of appetite, vomiting, jaundice, poor growth, decreased activity, frequent infections, and protrusion of the abdomen due to swelling of the spleen and liver. Thalassaemia intermedia have an intermediate condition between thalassaemia carriers and thalassaemia major. These patients develop symptoms later in life and show a much wider range of symptoms.

Thalassaemia can be diagnosed by a simple blood test (Full Blood Count). If there is a decrease in haemoglobin level and red cell index (mean cell volume (MCV) <80fl or mean cell haemoglobin (MCH) <27pg), it is an indication for having thalassaemia. Thalassaemia can then be confirmed by a special test such as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) or Capillary Electrophoresis (CE).

When treating thalassaemia patients, thalassaemia minor patients are only carriers and do not need a blood transfusion. However, regular blood transfusions should be carried out monthly for patients with severe thalassaemia. Also, iron chelation should be done to remove excess iron from the body. Immunisation should also be given properly. Thalassaemia intermediates do not require a monthly blood transfusion. Treatment methods vary from patient to patient as they are treated according to their symptoms and the severity of the disease.

The treatment of beta thalassaemia has been mostly confined to blood transfusion and chelating therapy and a few other modern therapies such as treatment with antioxidants and the induction of foetal Hb by hydroxyurea and erythropoietin. In addition, bone marrow transplantation has offered a definitive cure for a fraction of patients with available donors. The above treatment methods are costly and cause a severe financial burden to the health sector in the country.

Therefore, for a developing country like Sri Lanka, the most appropriate, successful and cost-effective method is to prevent affected



Map of Sri Lanka showing the heterogeneous distribution of the heterozygous states for the inherited haemoglobin disorders

births. Pre-marital blood tests to screen for thalassaemia, preventing marriage between two carriers of thalassaemia and marriage between blood relatives would be most useful in preventing the birth of an affected child.

(Anuja Premawardhena is a Senior Profes-

sor in Medicine, Medical Faculty, Kelaniya University and Consultant Physician, Consultant in-charge of Thalassaemia Unit, North Colombo Teaching Hospital and Shiromi Perera is a Senior Lecturer, Head of the Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry Department, Medical Faculty, Kelaniya University)

Notice of Sale under Section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990

MCB BANK LIMITED
(Galle Branch)

AUCTION SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTIES TOGETHER WITH TREES, PLANTATIONS & EVERYTHING STANDING THEREON

THE FIRST SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:

All that allotment of land marked as Lot B1 as depicted in Plan No. (being a portion of Lot A of the land called Assalu Kanda Addara) as depicted in Plan No. 1089 B made by Maduwaige Thejaseeli, Licensed Surveyor of the land called Assalu Kanda Addara in the Grama Niladhari Division of Kurundugaha Hathapma No. 93C in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Karandeniya, in the Pradeshiya Lekham Office of Karandeniya in the Wellabada Pattuwa in the District of Galle, Southern Province and which said Lot B1 is bounded on the NORTH by Ela and on the EAST by Assalukandaaddara Owita and on the SOUTH by Road and on the WEST by Ela and containing in extent Eleven Perches (A0-R0-P11) and together with the trees plantations and everything else standing thereon and registered in Volume/Folio J23/116 in the Land Registry of Elpitiya.

Property secured to **MCB BANK LIMITED**, for the facilities granted to **MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA** who is carrying on business, as Sole Proprietor, under the name, style and firm of "M/S Geenuli Cinnamon" as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated in payment due on Bond No. 466 dated 23rd August 2017 and Bond No. 540 dated 24th July 2018 both attested by M.Z. Hussainmiya, Notary Public of Colombo.

Under the Authority Granted to me by **MCB BANK LIMITED**
I SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION THE ABOVE PROPERTY
ON MONDAY, 24TH MAY 2021 COMMENCING 10.30 A.M. AT THE SPOT

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY:-
To reach the property from the Southern Expressway exit at Kurundugaha, proceed along Elpitiya Road which runs through Kurundugaha town for a distance of about 150 meters and turn left on to LMP Mawatha and go about 150 meters to its extreme, turn left on to 12 ft wide road and go a few meters to its extreme and you will find this property on your right hand side.

For Notice of Resolution please refer the Government Gazette of 12th February 2021 and Daily News, Dinamina & Thinakaran of 13th February 2021.

MODE OF PAYMENT:-
The successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the hammer.
1. 10% of the Purchase Price.
2. 1% (ONE PERCENT) Local Sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
3. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the Sale Price.
4. Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs.500/=.
5. Costs of Sale and all other charges, if any
6. Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale.

The balance 90% of the purchased price together with any other statutory levies, duties, taxes or charges whenever applicable and imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka or any other authority to be payable within 30 days from the date of sale.

The Title Deeds and other connected documents could be inspected from
Credit Administration Department, MCB Bank Ltd
No. 8, York Arcade Building, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01
Tel: +94 11 5 222 200

*The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice.
*The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health adhering to COVID 19 protocol.

DALLAS KELAART
Licensed Auctioneer
No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dunagemunu Street, Kottawela.
Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111
E-mail: auctsk@gmail.com

Notice of Sale under Section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990

MCB BANK LIMITED
(Galle Branch)

AUCTION SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTIES TOGETHER WITH TREES, PLANTATIONS & EVERYTHING STANDING THEREON

THE SECOND SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked as Lot A2B as depicted in Plan No. 893 E made by D G Mendis Licensed Surveyor of the land called ASSALUKANDA ADDARA OWITA in the Grama Niladhari Division of Kurundugaha Hathapma No. 93, in the Divisional Secretary's Division of Karandeniya in the Pradeshiya Lekham Office of Karandeniya in the Wellabada Pattuwa in the District of Galle, Southern Province and which said Lot A2B is bounded on the NORTH by Lot A2C in Plan No. 893 and on the EAST by 12 foot wide road as depicted in the same Plan 893 E and on the SOUTH by Lot A2A depicted in the Plan No. 893 E aforesaid and on the WEST by the Paddy Field of Assalukanda and together with the buildings, trees plantations and everything else standing thereon and containing in extent Eight Perches (A0-R0-P8) and registered in Volume/Folio J 70/115 in the Elpitiya District Land Registry. Together with the roadway from this land to the Ambalangoda Elpitiya Main Road as depicted as Lot 1 (Roadway marked 12 feet wide) in Plan No. 893.

Property secured to **MCB BANK LIMITED**, for the facilities granted to **MUNIGODA HAKURU CHAMAL PUSHPIKA** who is carrying on business, as Sole Proprietor, under the name, style and firm of "M/S Geenuli Cinnamon" as the Obligor mortgaged and hypothecated in payment due on Bond No. 466 dated 23rd August 2017 and Bond No. 540 dated 24th July 2018 both attested by M.Z. Hussainmiya, Notary Public of Colombo.

Under the Authority Granted to me by **MCB BANK LIMITED**
I SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION THE ABOVE PROPERTY
ON MONDAY, 24TH MAY 2021 COMMENCING 11.00 A.M. AT THE SPOT

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY:-
From the exit point at Kurundugaha Hetekka on Southern Express Highway proceed towards Elpitiya along Ambalangoda Elpitiya Road for a distance of about 100 to 150 meters to reach LMP Mawatha or Peiris Mawatha located on the left hand side just after passing the Lanka Petrol Filling Station. Then travel along this road for a distance of about 150 to 200 meters to reach the Road Reservation and travel for a further distance about 100 to 125 meters up to the next Junction, then turn left and proceed for a short distance to reach the subject property which is located on the right hand side. This property is located at the end of this Road Reservation.

For Notice of Resolution please refer the Government Gazette of 12th February 2021 and Daily News, Dinamina & Thinakaran of 13th February 2021.

MODE OF PAYMENT:-
The successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the hammer.
1. 10% of the Purchase Price.
2. 1% (ONE PERCENT) Local Sales Tax payable to the Local Authority.
3. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the Sale Price.
4. Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs.500/=.
5. Costs of Sale and all other charges, if any
6. Stamp duty for the Certificate of Sale.

The balance 90% of the purchased price together with any other statutory levies, duties, taxes or charges whenever applicable and imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka or any other authority to be payable within 30 days from the date of sale.

The Title Deeds and other connected documents could be inspected from
Credit Administration Department, MCB Bank Ltd
No. 8, York Arcade Building, Leyden Bastian Road, Colombo 01
Tel: +94 11 5 222 200

*The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice.
*The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health adhering to COVID 19 protocol.

DALLAS KELAART
Licensed Auctioneer
No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dunagemunu Street, Kottawela.
Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111
E-mail: auctsk@gmail.com

AN AMERICAN BUDDHIST'S CRUSADE FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS



KUMARADASA GIRIBAWA

It is a habit. It is difficult to say exactly when or where that habit came from, but social researchers have an opportunity to conduct research on this habit.

Going to the temple on Poya day, performing Bodhi Pooja due to an illness or troubles, leaving dogs and cats outside the temple and slipping away quietly are habits. As mentioned earlier, we do not know where these habits came from. It is the same gentlemen who dispose of garbage that piles up in their home on the roadside, who abandon families of cats and dogs in the vicinity of Buddhist temples.

Sometimes there are devotees who visit the temple only to invite the resident monks to carry out the ritual of 'Pansakula' when a death occurs in the family.

When someone dumps animals, the monks of the temple do not take these animals to another place. What they do is share alms they receive, with these unwanted and unwanted animals. In some temples, the alms they receive are even not enough for the monks. So, either the animals starve or the monks starve. The monks cannot prevent these animals from breeding and becoming victims of illnesses. Some do not like to visit temples which are teeming with animals, since they believe they are dirty and smelly.

According to information obtained by the organization 'Dhamma Voice for Animals' from their representatives across the country, sometimes there are about 20 dogs in a temple. In another temple there could be 15 cats. These animals have



nowhere else to go and the temples do take care of them.

Recently a programme was held at the Balapitiya Kurunduwatta Shailabimbarama Viharaya in the South to treat dogs that had been left in temples and to carry out sterilisation operations. Another programme was held to raise awareness among Dhamma school children, about the sin of harming innocent animals. This was led by the Dhamma Voice for Animals.

The significance of this programme is that it was conducted based on a concept of an activist who is not a Sri Lankan but an American who deeply loves and cares for abandoned animals in Sri Lanka.



Bob Isaacson

"I love this country very much. I have been to Sri Lanka five times now. My religion today is Buddhism, but I had another religion by birth. I worked in human rights for a while.

There is no other Dhamma such as Buddhism which teaches people to live simply, based on truth and compassion. It is this country that spreads Theravada Buddhism to the entire world

today. Buddhist monks of your country live in various other countries and dedicate themselves greatly to this Dhamma Dutha effort", said President/ CEO, Dhamma Voice for Animals, Bob Isaacson.

Bobby, who is also a practising lawyer, is a voice that is active worldwide against the death penalty. Today he spends most of his time advocating for animal rights. Bobby was born in Poponia in California, USA and as a Buddhist



"I love this country very much. My religion today is Buddhism, but I had another religion by birth. I worked in human rights for a while. There is no other Dhamma such as Buddhism which teaches people to live simply, based on truth and compassion. It is this country that spreads Theravada Buddhism to the entire world today. Buddhist monks of your country live in various other countries and dedicate themselves greatly to this Dhamma Dutha effort."

today, he is striving to highlight practical the great values of Buddhism. Bobby says that patience, optimism as well as abandonment are great examples of Buddhism. He also says that life is the same for humans and animals.

"It was in your country that there were kings like King Buddhadasa who treated sick and helpless animals." Even the raging pandemic has not deterred him from this noble mission. The 73-year-old Bobby, though active like a young man, made this comment with a smile on his face prior to his departure to the USA. He will come again to Sri Lanka soon, when time permits to continue his mission.

The many dimensions of animal rights



GARRETT BROAD

How can you love some animals but eat others? It's a question posed frequently by vegan activists, often accompanied by a picture of a cute dog or cat juxtaposed with an equally adorable pig or cow.

Despite Americans' food preferences, most of us like to think of ourselves as animal lovers — there's about one cat or dog for every 2.4 people — and many Americans can even express pretty radical views about animal rights, at least when pollsters call.

For example, 32 percent of respondents to one 2015 Gallup poll agreed that "animals deserve the exact same rights as people to be free from harm and exploitation." Skeptical of such strong support for animal rights, I conducted a follow-up survey a few years later, finding an even higher rate — 47 percent — endorsed this view. (I'm a professor and researcher who studies social movements, food systems, and animal rights.)

These results might lead you to believe that one-third to a half of Americans support giving animals substantial rights. But when respondents support animal rights in polls, they're not actually talking about all animals.

In reality, people have a classification system for animals in their heads, and then perceive and treat them differently based on those classifications. Case in point: 75 percent of my survey respondents identified as an "animal lover," though only about six percent followed a vegetarian or vegan diet. How we sort animals into different categories is shaped by an intersecting and evolving mix of factors, based in human psychology, cultural norms, direct experience, and media exposure.

Each year in the US alone, billions of animals are factory-farmed in terrible conditions, millions are confined in cages in medical labs, and countless animals' habitats are cleared for development.

Until we have a clearer picture of how people actually think about animals, we have little hope of changing public opinion, let alone the laws that govern how animals live and die.

As a way to better understand these surprising poll results and their inconsistencies, I conducted a series of focus groups with diverse groups of Americans. My research demonstrates the serious barriers that stand in the way of change — while also pointing to some strategies to shift the way people think and eat.

For the focus groups, I first screened participants by asking them the same Gallup poll question — whether they believe "animals deserve the exact same rights as people to be free from harm and exploitation."

When thinking about the poll question, many people told me their mental picture of "animals" was restricted to only those they considered pets. Regardless of their response to the poll, almost no one endorsed the idea that all animals deserved legal protection on par with humans. As one respondent put it, "There is definitely a hierarchy."

The conversations showed people slot different animals into different mental categories, a mostly unconscious sorting process that has enormous implications.

The topic has received some attention in recent years from social psychologists and anthropologists, although there remains ongoing debate about what, exactly, these categories are, as does a recognition that there will be major differences across global cultures.

One study proposes four clusters based on the animal's perceived warmth (defined as whether they have good intentions toward humans) and competence (defined as whether they have capability and skill). The groups included predators (low warmth, high competence), companions (high warmth, high competence), prey (high warmth, low competence), and pests (low warmth, low competence).

While these existing categories are useful for scholars, they don't really reflect how people discuss animals in their everyday lives. In order to inform research and practice, I wanted to understand how people make sense of these issues on their own terms.

Based on my focus groups and some additional surveys, I came to identify four main categories of animals that people held within their mental schema: companions, wildlife, food/farm, and pests. From there, people connected each category to a different set of moral obligations and ideal forms of legal protection.

Companion animals included household pets, mostly dogs and cats but also a host of other domesticated animals, such as horses and rabbits. These animals were spoken about with sincere love and affection, and participants supported strong laws to protect them.

Wildlife brought to mind charismatic megafauna such as great apes, elephants, and whales. People believed these animals deserved respect and the ability to live free from human control, and many argued it was unethical to force them to perform as circus acts. However, respondents were ambivalent about the ethics of keeping wildlife in zoos, which they saw as having valuable educational and conservation possibilities.

Food/farm animals referred not only to those most common in the American diet — pigs, chickens, cows, fish, and the like — but also to several so-called "exotic" animals less frequently consumed in the United States, such as an octopus or alligator.

Here, participants expressed hope that these animals would not be subject to excessive cruelty, and in some instances recognized the moral ambiguity of their own meat consumption. Mostly, though, people just tried not to think much about it.

Finally, the category of pests included animals with little to no moral consideration or legal protection. "I don't look at pests like that as animals," another respondent said. "I don't look at rats and roaches and stuff, even though they are animals, I don't look at them as animals." (VOX)

Notice of Sale Under Section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990.

NATIONS TRUST BANK PLC AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY CALLED "MUDAKKUWEKELE" TOGETHER WITH BUILDINGS & EVERYTHING STANDING THEREON SITUATED AT PANAGODA

All that divided and defined allotment of land and known as Lot A depicted in Plan No.2323 dated 13th March 2012 made by R A Sirisena Licensed Surveyor of the land called "MUDAKKUWEKELE" together with buildings and everything else standing thereon situated at Panagoda within the Grama Niladri Division of No. 482, Panagoda West in Homagama Divisional Secretariat area within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Homagama in Palle Pattu of Hewagama Korale and in the District of Colombo Western Province Lot A according to said Plan No. 2323 and containing in extent Thirty Six Decimal Seven Perches (A0:R0:P36.7) as per Plan No.2323 and registered in Volume Folio A 230/88 at Homagama Land Registry. Together with Right of Way in over and along Lot 5 in Plan No. 254 dated 27.12.1973 made by S Idamalgoda LS.

WHEREAS by Mortgage Bond bearing No. 483 dated 28th July 2016 and Secondary Mortgage Bond bearing No. 577 dated 03rd November 2016, both attested by R M Nadeska Shamulee Kumari Rajapaksa Notary Public, Shani Import & Export (Pvt) Ltd as obligor and Matarage Don Chandana Kumara Karunaratne (a Director of Shani Import & Export (Pvt) Ltd) as mortgagor and by Additional Mortgage Bond bearing No. 1420 dated 18th April 2019 attested by Mahulthege Sajani Camiliya Peiris, Siyambalape Kankanamlage Shrasanthi Wickramasinghe as obligor and Matarage Don Chandana Kumara Karunaratne as mortgagor, mortgaged and hypothecated the rights, property and premises morefully described in the Schedule hereto in favour of Nations Trust Bank PLC of No. 242, Union Place, Colombo 02 as a security for the due repayment of the financial facilities obtained by the said Shani Import & Export (Pvt) Ltd and Siyambalape Kankanamlage Shrasanthi Wickramasinghe;

And whereas the said Shani Import & Export (Pvt) Ltd and Siyambalape Kankanamlage Shrasanthi Wickramasinghe have made default in the payment due on the facilities secured by the said Bonds

UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO ME BY THE NATIONS TRUST BANK PLC. I SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MONDAY, 31ST MAY 2021 AT 01.30 P.M. AT THE SPOT.

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY: - From Homagama Town, proceed along High-level road towards Avissawella passing Panagoda Army Camp for a distance of about 02 kilometers turn left onto a 20 feet wide road. This is a gravel private road which lies opposite of Lanka Tile Showroom. Proceed along this road for a distance of about 50 meters to reach the subject property as shown in the survey plan bearing number 2323.

MODE OF PAYMENT: - The successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the 1. 10% (TEN PERCENT) of the Purchased Price, 2. 1% (ONE PERCENT) of the Sales Taxes payable to the Local Authority, 3. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes on the commission, 4. Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,000/= 5. Cost of Sale and any other Charges if any, 6. Notary's Fee for Condition of Sale Rs. 2,000/=

The balance 90% of the purchased price together with any other statutory levies, duties, taxes or charges whenever applicable and imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka or any other authority to be payable within 30 days from the date of sale.

For further particulars please contact the undersigned LEGAL DEPARTMENT Nations Trust Bank PLC No.242, Union Place, Colombo 02 Tel:0114218742

*The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice. *The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health adhering to COVID 19 protocol.

DALLAS KELAART Licensed Auctioneer No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela. Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111 E-mail: aucslk@gmail.com

Notice of Sale Under Section 9 of the Recovery of Loans by Banks (Special Provisions) Act No.4 of 1990.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC (AVISSAWELLA BRANCH) AUCTION SALE OF A VALUABLE PROPERTY CALLED "WELIMANNAWA OWITA" SITUATED AT AVISSAWELLA

All that divided and defined allotment of land marked as Lot 5 depicted in Plan No.4525 dated 13th March 2012 made by M D P J Kumara Licensed Surveyor of the land called "WELIMANNAWA OWITA" situated at Gurugalla within the Grama Niladri Division of Epalapatiya and Divisional Secretariat Division of Dehiwita within the Pradeshiya Sabha Limits of Dehiwita in the Aluthgama Korale-West in the District of Kegalle Saharagamuwa Province, which said Lot 5 is bounded on the NORTH, by Lot 4 in the same plan, EAST by road, SOUTH by Kottuwatta and WEST by Kelani River, and containing in extent ONE ROOD AND NINETEEN PERCHES (A0:R1:P19) and registered in Volume Folio C22/41 at the Avissawella Land Registry.

Together with all and singular the immovable plant and machinery equipment fixtures, fittings and services which are now or which may hereafter time to time be affixed or permanently fastened to the said allotment of land morefully referred to above including Electricity supply system together with equipment, water supply system equipment, telecommunication equipment and air conditioning equipment.

KURUPPUGE SUSANTHA JAYASENA as the Mortgagor has made default in payment due on Mortgage Bond No. 87 dated 15.02.2018 attested by (Ms.) P.Y. Indika Rajapaksa Notary Public of Avissawella in favor of NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC

UNDER THE AUTHORITY GRANTED TO ME BY THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC. I SHALL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION ON MONDAY, 31ST MAY 2021 AT 10.30 A.M. AT THE SPOT.

ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY: - From Avissawella Town Centre, proceed along Yatitanta Road for about 1.5 kilometers and turn left on to Amittirigala Road and proceed about 4.3 kilometers and turn left to road which leads to Blooming Holiday Resort just before the bridge and proceed about 35 meters. Then the subject property is situated at right side of the road fronting the same and has a public legal motorbike access clearly.

MODE OF PAYMENT: - The successful purchaser will have to pay the following amounts in cash at the fall of the 1. 10% (TEN PERCENT) of the Purchased Price, 2. 1% (ONE PERCENT) of the Sales Taxes payable to the Local Authority, 3. Auctioneer's Commission of 2 1/2% (TWO AND A HALF PERCENT) on the purchased price plus applicable taxes on the commission, 4. Clerk's & Crier's Fee of Rs. 1,000/= 5. Cost of Sale and any other Charges if any, 6. Notary's Fee for Condition of Sale Rs. 2,000/=

The balance 90% of the purchased price together with any other statutory levies, duties, taxes or charges whenever applicable and imposed by the Government of Sri Lanka or any other authority to be payable within 30 days from the date of sale.

The Title Deeds and other connected documents could be inspected from Manager - Centralized Recoveries, National Development Bank PLC., No.40, Nawara Mawatha, Colombo 2. Tel:011 - 2448448 / Fax No.011 - 2440262

*The bank has the right to STAY or CANCEL the above auction sale without prior notice. *The auction will be conducted in accordance with the strict guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health adhering to COVID 19 protocol.

DALLAS KELAART Licensed Auctioneer No.146/3, Caldera Gardens, Off Dutugemunu Street, Kohuwela. Tel: Tel: 011-4367467, 011-4367111 E-mail: aucslk@gmail.com

THIRD WAVE OF COVID-19 INEVITABLE, SAYS TOP SCIENTIST



Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India Prof. K Vijay Raghavan.

A third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is inevitable, principal scientific adviser to the Centre Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan said on Wednesday while stressing the need to strengthen surveillance as well as

upgrade vaccines against new variants even as people maintain mask discipline and physical distancing norms.

The pathogen has adopted "hit and run" tactics to breach the immunity many people developed during the first wave as also due to vaccination, Prof Vijay Raghavan said, pointing to changes in the virus and the role of new variants with higher transmissibility and disease severity in the second wave.

"A phase three (of COVID-19 pandemic) is inevitable given the high levels of circulating virus but it is not clear on what timescale this phase three will occur. - YAHOO NEWS



A medic takes a swab sample for COVID-19 testing, in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, India on Wednesday. - PTI

PANDEMIC DROVE 230 M INDIANS INTO POVERTY: STUDY

India is currently being devastated by a deadly second wave of Covid. You can support Oxfam's Covid relief efforts in India, including reaching out to the most affected and vulnerable communities, distributing and installing medical equipment and accessories, and supporting the most marginalised households. You can donate here.

Around 230 million Indians fell into poverty due to the pandemic last year with young people and women the hardest hit, and the current second wave threatens to make matters even worse, a new study has said.

India's stringent months-long lockdown from last March put around 100 million people out of work, the report by the Bangalore-based Azim Premji University said, with around 15 percent unable to find jobs even by the end of the year. - YAHOO NEWS



An Indian health worker checks body temperature of boys playing cricket in a lane during a door-to-door survey being conducted as a precaution against COVID-19 in Hyderabad, India on Thursday.

LOCKDOWNS SHOULDN'T AFFECT COVID-19 VACCINATION DRIVE - MODI



INS Talwar with 40 metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen arrives from Manana Behrain to NMPT Port, in Mangaluru. - PTI

INDIAN NAVY DEPLOYS NINE WARSHIPS TO BRING OXYGEN FROM ABROAD

Intensifying its efforts, the Indian Navy has deployed nine warships to bring liquid oxygen and other medical supplies from several countries in Persian Gulf and south-east Asia as hospitals across India continued to reel under acute shortage of the life-saving gas following a massive surge in COVID-19 cases.

The Navy on Wednesday said these warships from all three naval commands in Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Kochi have been deployed to bring oxygen and other medical equipment.

"The deployment of nine warships as part of 'Operation Samudra Setu II' forms a part of the multiple lines of effort, by the government of India and the Indian Navy to supplement the oxygen requirement in the country," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

He said Indian Naval ship Talwar has already entered New Mangalore port in Karnataka on Wednesday, ferrying two 27 tons liquid oxygen tanks from Bahrain.

Similarly INS Kolkata has departed Kuwait carrying two tanks of 27 tonne oxygen, 400 oxygen cylinders and 47 oxygen concentrators.

In addition, four warships are also enroute to Qatar and Kuwait, to bring nine 27-tonne oxygen tanks and more than 1500 oxygen cylinders from these countries.

"On the eastern seaboard, Indian Naval ship Airavat, departed Singapore today with more than 3,600 oxygen cylinders, eight 27 tonne (total 216 tonnes) oxygen tanks, 10,000 rapid antigen detection kits and seven oxygen concentrators," he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Government on Wednesday said that coronavirus spreads only through human-to-human transmission and not from animals.

Addressing a press conference, the country's top officials dealing with the pandemic said that a combination of less cautionary measures and less immunity in the population from the first wave is driving the second wave.

"The virus is not spreading from animals. This is human to human transmission. Also, if you have been vaccinated, it is not mandatory that everyone will experience side effects like body ache or fever. If you are not feeling these symptoms, you can be normal, do your work," said National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) Member V.K. Paul in response to a question. - PTI



Nine Indian warships transporting oxygen, medical equipment from abroad - Indian Navy Photo

POPE HAILS 'TIRELESS' WORK OF INDIAN MEDICS



In view of the prevailing coronavirus situation in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reviewed public health response in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and directed help and guidance to the states about leading indicators to ramp up healthcare infrastructure.

He also reviewed about the progress of vaccination drive and the roadmap for scaling up the production on vaccines in the next few months. "He was informed that around 17.7 crore vaccines have been supplied to the states," a statement from Prime Minister's Office (PMO) reads.

While reviewing about the state-wise trends on COVID-19 vaccine wastage, the Prime Minister said there is a need to sensitise states that the speed of vaccination does not come down. "Citizens should be facilitated for vaccination despite lockdowns and healthcare workers involved in vaccination must not be diverted for other duties," it added.

He was briefed that around 31 per cent of eligible population over the age of 45 has been given at least one dose.

Meanwhile, Health Ministry numbers showed 3,980 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking the national total to 230,168, and 412,262 new cases, taking India's caseload since the pandemic began over 21 million.

Meanwhile, Pope Francis hailed Thursday the "tireless" work of medics in India and urged them to stay strong, in a message of support for the coronavirus-plagued country.

In a message to the Catholic Bishops' Conference in India, the pontiff offered his "heartfelt solidarity and spiritual closeness to all the Indian people". "My thoughts go above all to the sick and their families, to those who care for them, and in particular to those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones," he said.

"I think too of the many doctors, nurses, hospital workers, ambulance drivers and those working tirelessly to respond to the immediate needs of their brothers and sisters." - NDTV

COVID-INDUCED "BLACK FUNGUS" CASES REPORTED IN DELHI HOSPITAL



Experts say 'black fungus' is commonly seen in patients who have recovered from COVID-19 but have comorbidities such as diabetes, kidney or heart failure or cancer. - PTI

Doctors at a leading private facility in Delhi are witnessing a rise in the number of Covid-triggered mucormycosis cases, according to a statement from the hospital.

Mucormycosis is a fungal infection triggered by COVID-19. Black fungus or mucormycosis has been a cause of disease and death of patients in transplants, ICUs and immunodeficient patients since long. Dr. Manish Munjal, senior ENT surgeon at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said: "We are seeing a rise again in this dangerous fungal infection triggered by COVID-19. In the last two days, we have admitted six cases of mucormycosis. Last year, this deadly

infection caused a high mortality with many patients suffering from the loss of eyesight and the removal of the nose and the jaw bone."

Dr. Ajay Swaroop, the chairman of the ENT department at the hospital, said the use of steroids in the treatment of COVID-19 coupled with the fact that many coronavirus patients have diabetes could be one of the reasons for this rise in the number of black fungus cases again.

He said the infection is commonly seen in patients who have recovered from COVID-19 but have comorbidities such as diabetes, kidney or heart failure or cancer. - NDTV

GLOBAL COVID-19 DEATH TOLL MORE THAN DOUBLE OFFICIAL ESTIMATES - IHME



US: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused nearly 6.9 million deaths across the world, more than double the number officially recorded, a new analysis from the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) estimated.

Deaths go unreported as most countries only record those that occur in hospitals or of patients with a confirmed infection, the report showed. The IHME is an independent health research organization that provides comparable measurement of the world's health problems and has been cited in the past by the White House and its reports are watched closely by public health officials. The reported COVID-19



Men wearing protective suits place a white cloth over the body of their relative, who died from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), before his cremation on the banks of the river Ganges at Garhmukteshwar.

mortality is strongly related to the levels of testing in a country, the IHME said.

"If you don't test very much, you're most likely to miss COVID deaths," Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, said in a briefing call with journalists.

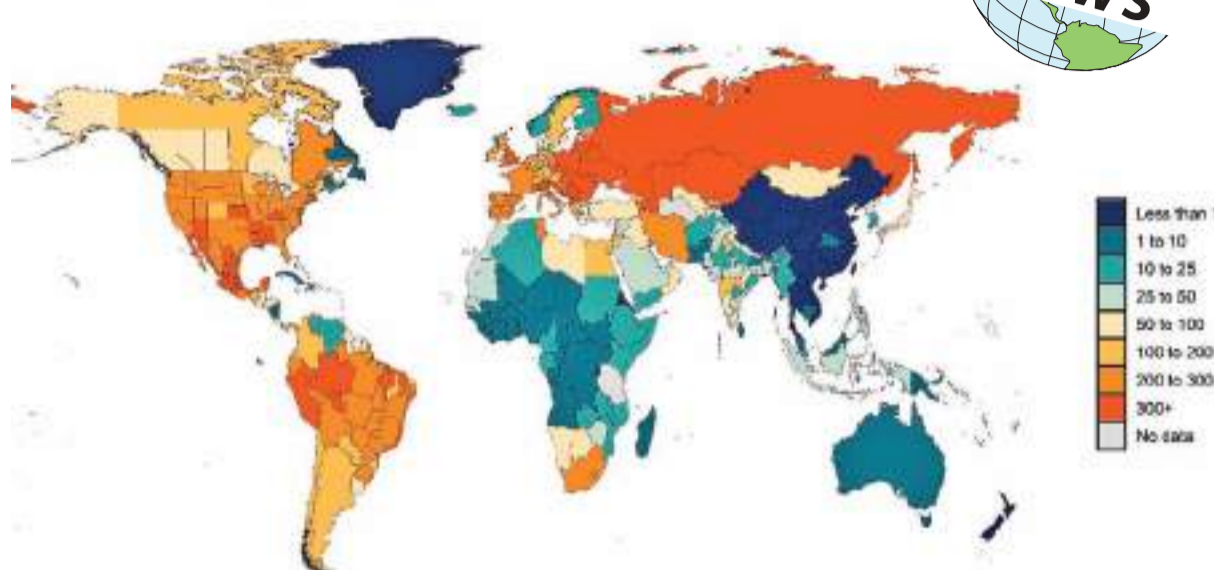
IHME estimated total COVID-19 deaths by comparing anticipated deaths from all causes based on pre-pandemic trends with the actual number of all deaths

caused during the pandemic. In the United States, the analysis estimated COVID-19 related deaths of more than 905,000. Official figures from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday estimated 575,491 deaths due to the novel coronavirus.

The report only includes deaths caused directly by the virus, not deaths caused by the pandemic's disruption to healthcare systems and communities.

"Many countries have devoted exceptional effort to measuring the pandemic's toll, but our analysis shows how difficult it is to accurately track a new and rapidly spreading infectious disease," Murray said.

- YAHOO NEWS



The World map shows the cumulative COVID-19 death rate up to May 3, 2021. While at the global level, the cumulative total COVID-19 death rate is 89.5 per 100,000, Vietnam has the lowest total COVID-19 death rate at 0.1 per 100,000. Twelve countries, on the other hand, have total COVID-19 death rates higher than 400 per 100,000.

WHO CHIEF HAILS U.S. SUPPORT FOR VACCINE PATENT WAIVER

SWITZERLAND: World Health Organization Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday hailed the United States' support for a global waiver on patent protections for Covid-19 vaccines, describing it as a "historic decision".

The WHO chief wrote on Twitter that the move was a step towards vaccine equity, "prioritizing the well-being of all people everywhere at a critical time". "Now let's all move together swiftly, in solidarity, building on the ingenuity and commitment of

scientists who produced life-saving Covid-19 vaccines," he added.

Tedros has for months pleaded for such a patent waiver – an idea backed by India and South Africa – arguing this would help to ramp up production and make Covid-19 vaccines much more accessible for poorer nations.

"If not now, when?" has become a frequent refrain from the WHO chief, who has lashed out repeatedly against perceived vaccine-hoarding by richer nations.

Tedros clashed repeatedly with former US president Donald

Trump, who began withdrawing his country from the WHO before President Joe Biden immediately rescinded the move upon taking office in January.

A later tweet from the WHO chief on Tuesday appeared to confirm that things had got off to a better start with Biden.

"This is a monumental moment in the fight against #COVID19," he said of US support for the patent waiver, describing Biden's commitment as "a powerful example of leadership to address global health challenges". - NDTV



World Health Organization Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

WTO CALLS FOR AGREEMENT FOR FAIR ACCESS TO COVID JABS



World Trade Organisation Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

SWITZERLAND: The World Trade Organization chief called Wednesday for international agreement on how to ensure more equal access to Covid-19 vaccines, amid an ongoing standoff over a proposed patent waiver for the jabs.

"The way the WTO handles this matter is critical," Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told country representatives taking part a meeting of the WTO general council, the organisation's main decision-making body.

"We need to have a sense of urgency on how we approach this issue of response to COVID-19 because the world is watching," she said, describing equitable access to the tools to fight the pandemic as the "moral and economic issue of our time".

The global trade body has for months been facing calls led by India and South Africa to temporarily remove the intellectual property protections on Covid-19 vaccines, in a move proponents say would help boost production in developing countries that so far have received far fewer jabs.

But that notion has until now met fierce opposition from pharmaceutical giants and their host countries, which insist the patents are not the main roadblocks to scaling up production, and warn the move could hamper innovation.

Okonjo-Iweala, who became the first woman and first African to take the helm of the WTO on March 1, has not taken a position on whether the waiver is the way forward, but has insisted that countries need to agree on a common path that will help resolve the issue of unequal access to the vaccines.

"Vaccine policy is economic policy because the global economic recovery cannot be sustained unless we find a way to get equitable access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics," she said.

While the positions on waiving patent rights remain divided, WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell told reporters that Wednesday's discussions on the proposal had been "very constructive".

"All parties have the same objective, which is to ramp up production and improve the efficiency and the equity of the distribution process," he said, adding that all of more than 40 country representatives who spoke during the meeting agreed "that not enough vaccines are getting to the developing world." - FRANCE 24

SWEDISH TWINS SEPARATED BY COVID

SWEDEN, NORWAY: They haven't been allowed to have each other over to their homes for a year now because of COVID. So come rain or shine, two 73-year-old Swedish twins have met every Saturday, each on their side of the border, on a bridge that links Norway and Sweden.

Every week, Ola and Pontus Berglund each keeps well behind a thin, yet impassable line on the ground, toting camping chairs, thermoses, sandwiches – and plenty of good cheer.

"We're not allowed to cross the border. I have to stay one metre (yard) away on my side and he has to stay back one metre on his side," Ola explains, the little Norwegian and Swedish flags they've attached to the bridge fluttering in the wind.

"So basically there has to be two metres between us," he says, pushing his chair back, suddenly aware that he is too close. At his feet, painted on the road, is a simple white line, the words "Norge" and "Sverige" on either side. The pandemic has put a halt to the identical twins' weekly visits to each other's homes.

Ola lives in Halden, in southeastern Norway, where he moved almost 40 years ago for love, while Pontus lives a half-hour drive away in the southwestern Swedish town of Stromstad. Instead, they come together here, at a more or less respectful distance, on the old Svinnesund bridge that straddles a fjord between the two countries.

They've celebrated their 72nd and 73rd birthdays this way on April 20.

"It's very strange but it's become a need, a pressing need, because we used to see each other every week and we wanted to continue that," says Pontus from the Swedish side. "The pandemic hasn't stopped us from seeing each other and for us, that's a victory."

While the local restrictions have changed over the months as the virus situation has evolved, the border has remained closed. - FRANCE 24



The twins have celebrated their last two birthdays on the bridge, together and yet apart.

AFRICA FACES NEW COVID-19 WAVE DUE TO VACCINE DELAYS - WHO

REPUBLIC OF CONGO: The World Health Organization on Thursday warned of a new wave of COVID-19 infections in Africa due to delayed vaccine supplies, a slow rollout and new variants.

The African bureau of the UN agency said the continent had to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of vaccine rollouts.

"The delay in the delivery of

vaccine doses from the Serum Institute of India earmarked for Africa, the delay in the deployment of vaccines and the emergence of new variants means that the risk of a new wave of infections remains very high in Africa," it said in a statement.

It added that new variants such as the ones that emerged in India and South Africa could unleash a

"third wave" on the continent.

"The tragedy in India does not have to happen here in Africa, but we must all be on the highest possible alert," said regional WHO Director Matshidiso Moeti.

"While we call for vaccine equity, Africa must also knuckle down and make the best of what we have. We must get all the doses we have into people's arms."

Some African countries had been exemplary in deploying vaccines, the WHO said, without naming them.

But it added that in spite of this, only just under "half of the 37 million doses received in Africa have been administered so far".

Africa now accounts for only one percent of vaccine doses administered globally, the WHO said – down from two percent a few weeks ago, as other regions' rollouts are progressing much faster.

The first vaccines deliveries to 41 African countries under the Covax scheme began in March but nine countries have so far administered only a quarter of the doses received, while 15 countries have used less than half of their allocations.

The vaccination rate in Africa is the world's lowest. Globally an average of 150 vaccine doses per 1,000 people have been administered, but in sub-Saharan Africa it is hardly eight doses per 1,000, according to the WHO.

- NDTV



Africa now accounts for only one percent of vaccine doses administered globally, the WHO said.

FORMER MALDIVES PRESIDENT RECOVERING AFTER 'ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT'

THE MALDIVES: Former Maldives President and current Parliamentary Speaker Mohamed Nasheed was recovering in hospital Friday after an assassination attempt left him with shrapnel wounds.

The Indian Ocean archipelago's first democratically elected leader was hurt when a device attached to a motorcycle was detonated as he got into a car late Thursday, an official said.

"Nasheed escaped an assassination attempt," a Maldivian government official told AFP. "He is injured, but his condition is stable."

Images on social media showed a destroyed motorbike at the scene of the attack.

Armed Police Units and security forces cordoned off the area in the capital Male where the attack took place, and the Maldivian parliament, which was in recess, called an emergency meeting following the attack.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, a close ally of Nasheed, said an investigation was under way as officials rushed to denounce the targeted attack on the country's second most powerful figure.

"Strongly condemn the attack on Speaker of Parliament, President Mohamed Nasheed this evening. Cowardly attacks like these have no place in our society," Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid said in a tweet.

"My thoughts and prayers are with President Nasheed and others injured in this attack, as well as their families," he tweeted.

A family member said Nasheed had sustained several wounds.

"They have put him under anaesthesia. There is a deeper cut on one of his arms," the family member told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The relative said Nasheed was respon-



Former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed

sive and spoke with doctors as he was admitted with shrapnel injuries. One of his bodyguards was also taken to hospital. Nasheed rose to become the Mal-

dives' first democratically elected leader in 2008 in the country's first multi-party elections after 30 years of autocratic rule.

But the pro-democracy pioneer is maybe best known internationally for holding a 2009 underwater cabinet meeting to highlight the threat of global warming, signing documents as officials wore scuba gear against a backdrop of coral reefs.

"What we are trying to make people realise is that the Maldives is a frontline state. This is not merely an issue for the Maldives but for the world," he said at the time.

He resigned three years later after protests against his rule and has failed to reclaim the presidency despite several attempts. Instead, he secured the position of parliamentary Speaker in 2019, retaining his influence in political life.

- INDIA TODAY

Best way to fulfil your Future Dreams

Marriage Proposals

in the

Sunday Observer


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 கமத்தொழில் அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE



Procurement Notice - Extension

Construction of Storage Facilities for Small Scale Farmers

Last Date of issuing bids and Closing Date of the bids published on the newspaper advertisement dated **20.04.2021** with regard to construction of storage facilities by the Ministry of Agriculture on the loan assistance of the World Bank, are revised as follows.

Last date of issuing bids - **24.05.2021 0900 hrs to 1500 hours**
 Bid closing date - **25.05.2021 1430 hours**
 Bid opening date - **25.05.2021 1430 hours**

Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture
80/5, "Govijana Mandiraya",
Rajamalwatte Lane, Battaramulla.


NATIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD
PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of Rain Gun Sprinkler Irrigation System in the land extent of 157 acres selected to establish proposed Fodder Maize & Sorghum Cultivation at Polonnaruwa Farm of NLDB

Bid No : 928/Irrigation System/2021 -
Closing Date : 01st June 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman of National Livestock Development Board, No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 is inviting to submit sealed Bids from the Registered Local Suppliers & their accredited Agents for Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of Rain Gun Sprinkler Irrigation System in the land extent of 157 acres selected to establish proposed Maize & Sorghum cultivation at Polonnaruwa Farm of NLDB.

Name of Block	Capacity	Value of the Bid Security (Rs.)
Field No. A & B	157 acres irrigated by Rain Guns	2,240,000

Bid documents could be obtained, during the normal working hours of the week up to 3.00 p.m. on 28th May 2021 from the Supplies Division of the National Livestock Development Board at No. 40, Narahenpita, Nawala Road, Colombo 05 on producing a request letter. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,000.00 should be paid per set of bidding documents to the Manager - Finance of NLDB.

Bids will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 01st June 2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter at the National Livestock Development Board, No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 in the presence of the Bidders or their accredited representatives, who are allowed to attend by confirming their identity. Sealed Bids should be sent by Registered Post to the following address, or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the NLDB Head Office to enable to reach the below mentioned address on or before the above closing time. The top of the left-hand corner of the envelope enclosing Bids should be marked **"Supplying, Installation and Commissioning of Rain Gun Sprinkler Irrigation System in the land extent of 157 acres selected to establish proposed Fodder Maize & Sorghum Cultivation at Polonnaruwa Farm of NLDB"**.

A Pre Bid meeting for the Suppliers will be held on 18th May 2021 at the NLDB Head Office.

For any clarification in this regard, please contact the Supplies Manager of National Livestock Development Board.

Chairman,
National Livestock Development Board,
No. 40, Nawala Road,
Narahenpita, Colombo 05.
011-2501701/2, 011-57464308

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SRI LANKA COMPUTER EMERGENCY READINESS TEAM | COORDINATION CENTRE (SRI LANKA CERT/CC)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Assignment Title: Development of Images for Training Materials of Cyber Security Capacity Building Program


Assignment No: CERT/GOSL/CON/IC/2021/02

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 Individual Consultants are hereby notified that the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest on the above Assignment has been extended up to **1500 hrs. May 17, 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


SRI LANKA COMPUTER EMERGENCY READINESS TEAM | COORDINATION CENTRE (SRI LANKA CERT/CC)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Assignment Title: Development of Cartoon Booklets for Cyber Security Capacity Building Program

Assignment No: CERT/GOSL/CON/IC/2021/03

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 Individual Consultants are hereby notified that the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest on the above Assignment has been extended up to **1500 hrs. May 17, 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

DIVISION OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

PROCUREMENT NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF ACCESSORIES, SPARE PARTS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

1. Sealed Bids for the supply of undermentioned Accessories, Spare Parts and Medical Equipment will be received by the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Division of Biomedical Engineering Services, 27, De Seram Place, Colombo 10 up to 10.00 a.m. on closing date stated below.

No.	Item	The period Bidding Documents could be obtained		Closing Date	Non Refundable Fee to be Made at BES Office (Rs.)	Estimated Cost (Rs.) (In Million)
		From	To			
01	150 NOS. HIGH FLOW OXYGEN THERAPY MACHINE	08.05.2021	15.05.2021	17.05.2021	12,500.00	200
02	250 NOS. BI-PAP MACHINE	08.05.2021	15.05.2021	17.05.2021	12,500.00	200

Any Supplier available with Compatible accessories, spare parts and Medical Equipment for the requested items is eligible to participate in this Procurement.

2. Sealed Bids shall be made on a Quotation / Bidding Document purchased by any interested eligible Bidder.

3. Quotation / Bidding Document can be obtained from the Director (Finance), Division of Biomedical Engineering Services, 27, De Seram Place, Colombo 10 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. during the period stated above. (Tel. No. 011-2691916, 2694479 - Fax No. 011-2698317).


4. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of Bids at the Office of Director (Finance), Division of Biomedical Engineering Services, 27, De Seram Place, Colombo 10.

5. Quotation / Bidding Document may be inspected free of charge at the Office of the Director (Finance), Division of Biomedical Engineering Services, 27, De Seram Place, Colombo 10.

6. Please submit Contract Registration Certificate issued by Company Registrar with Bidding Document.

7. Further information could be obtained from Director (Finance), Division of Biomedical Engineering Services on Tel. No. 2684732.

Chairman / Divisional Procurement Committee,
Division of Biomedical Engineering Services,
27, De Seram Place,
Colombo 10.


චලාවත වැවිලි සමාගම
Chilaw Plantations Limited
 Ministry of Plantations / State Ministry of Coconut, Kithul,
 Palmyrah and Rubber Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product
 Manufacturing & Export Diversification

Inviting Bids for a Marketing Survey & Project Proposal Proposed Construction of an Integrated Coconut Processing Factory

Chilaw Plantations Ltd. (CPL) is a fully government owned Enterprise managing approx. 14,000 acres of Coconut lands located in the districts of Puttalam, Kurunegala & Gampaha, producing approx. 15 million coconuts per annum.

CPL wishes to establish an Integrated Coconut Processing Factory at Palugaswewa Estate, Rajakadaluwa for the production of 12 value added coconuts products such as Coconut Milk, Coconut Flour, Virgin Coconut oil, Energy drink, Desiccated coconut, Coconut water, Coconut oil, Coconut skimmed milk, Spray dried coconut milk powder, Coconut cream, Charcoal & Coconut Fiber, pith, chips etc.

CPL invites bids from the suitably qualified parties with past experience to undertake the following assignments.

	Type of assignment	To be completed within
1	To undertake a marketing survey on the above products to evaluate & identify the most suitable product mix	2 months
2.	To prepare a complete project proposal on setting up the Integrated Coconut Processing factory including planning, designing, drawing ground plans, Supply of machineries & installation etc.	2 months

For site inspection & further details: Mr. Kelum Pradeep, Manager (Tec & Dev) on 071 8351431

The biddings for the above assignments including the details of Company / personal profiles with the professional qualifications and experience together with the names & contact Nos. of the Institutions to which the similar services have been provided within last 5 years, along with the photocopies of proofs on the above certifying as true copies should be forwarded under registered post or Courier service to reach the following address on or before 29-05-2021. Please mark the top left hand corner of the envelope used for the purpose to read as "Integrated Factory".




Only the selected candidates will be notified. Any canvassing will be a disqualification. The CPL decision would be final in all matters.

The Chairman/Chief Executive Officer,
Chilaw Plantations Ltd.,
165 Puttalam Rd.,
Chilaw 61000.




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SRI LANKA PORTS AUTHORITY

AUCTION NOTICE

SALE OF PERISHABLE CARGO

DATE OF AUCTION - 10.05.2021

My No:- LD/S/SLPA/2021/04/PC-03, LD/S/SLPA/2021/05/PC-01,
LD/S/SLPA/2021/05/PC-02

Schedule of uncleared Perishable cargo (potatos) lying at SLPA yards to be sold by auction will be held on 10.05.2021 at 02.00 hours at the BQ welfare building.

Auction documents can be obtained from the office of sales section, Logistics Division, Sri Lanka Ports Authority at One stop documentation center, Canal yard, No. 15, Lotus Road, Colombo 01 from 08.30 hours to 10.00 hours on 07.05.2021 on payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 250/= (plus VAT).

The items which are listed for sale could be inspected at the respective Yards from 10.00 hours to 12.00 hours same day.

Visit www.slpa.lk for more details.

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

07-05-2021

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NATIONAL LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Sealed Bids are invited from the Animal Feed Manufacturers registered under the Animal Feed Act No. 15 of 1986 for the supply of processed Cattle Feed as per the schedule given below.

1. CATTLE FEED

For Ridiyagama Farm - For the period of 1st June 2021 to 31st August 2021

Type of Feed	Qty. (Mtons)
Milking Cow Feed - Type I - Pelleted	1125
Milking Cow Feed - Type II - Pelleted	430

Bid documents containing the required quantity of the animal feed, specifications & bid conditions can be obtained from the Supplies Manager of the National Livestock Development Board at the undermentioned address, during the normal working hours by producing a request letter. A non-refundable fee of Rs. 1,000/= per bid will be charged with a refundable bid security of Rs. 10,000/= which should be deposited at the Accountant, Head Office.

Bid documents will be issued up to 3.30 p.m. on 20th May 2021 and acceptance of Bids will be closed at 2.30 p.m. on 21st May 2021. Bids will be opened immediately thereafter at the National Livestock Development Board at No. 40, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

Chairman - Procurement Committee,
National Livestock Development Board,
No. 40, Nawala Road,
Narahenpita, Colombo 05.
011-2501701/2, 011-5746308

Employment Opportunities



WESTERN PROVINCE, PROVINCIAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(Ministry of Roads, Transport, Co-operative Development and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure, Industries and Rural Development Western Province)

VACANCY

This Authority is established with the objective of reducing the disparity in resource allocation among the provinces by enhancing the quality of life of the people, providing them with a comfortable and secure road network reducing their long hours of transportation through the improvement and maintenance of roads and road related constructions. Accordingly, applications are invited from Sri Lankan citizens who are self motivated and dynamic, with 03 years of permanent residence within the Western Province, for below mentioned vacancy in order to fulfill its objective.

Assistant Manager (Administration and Human Resources) MM - 1 - 3

Qualifications

External Applicants

1. A degree, in Public Administration/Human Resource Management/ Commerce and Accounts /Law/ Social Science, which is recognized by the University Grants Commission.

AND

2. A minimum one (01) year post qualifying experience in the relevant field.

Internal Applicants (01 or 02 below)

1. Should have met the eligibility requirements mentioned above, for the external applicants.
2. Completion of minimum 05 years satisfactory service in the relevant field at a post of grade 01 in 'Junior Management' (JM) service category.

Age : Should be not less than 22 years and not more than 45 years of age. Upper age limit will not be applicable for the internal applicants.

Salary Code : MM - 1-3

Salary Scale : Approved salary structure according to Management Services Circular No. 02/2016

MM 1-3:- Rs. 55,925 -10x 1,375- 15x1910-98,325

Additional Benefits : - Government approved other allowances.
- Government approved cost of living allowance.
- Vehicle/Housing/Disaster loan facilities
- Medical Benefit Scheme.

Nature of Appointment : Permanent with entitlement to Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund.

How to Apply :

1. If you have the right qualifications and experience, please submit your curriculum vitae with names and addresses of two non-related referees and copies of certificates under registered cover within 14 days of this advertisement to the address mentioned below. Those who are already employed in government /corporations/statutory boards should forward their applications through the Heads of the Departments.
2. The post applied should be indicated on the top left hand corner of the envelope, containing your curriculum vitae.

Chairman,
Western Province,
Provincial Road Development Authority,
No 59, St. Sebastian Hill,
Colombo 12.
Telephone: 011-2321980

The Housewives' companion Classifieds on Daily News



TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputable companies who are capable of constructing oil water treatment plant for Colombo International Container Terminals Limited ("CICT") 2021/22

Tender No.	Description of Work
RFQ/01/05/21	Construction of oil water treatment plant

Prospective Vendors are requested to obtain Tender Documents (In Electronic Format Only) by email (E-mail: ranidu.laksiri@cict.lk) of Procurement Department of CICT (Mob/Tel: 0766-666803, 0112-666803)

Please submit your sealed tenders to be received at below address not later than 3:00 p.m. (local time) on 03rd June 2021, mentioning "Construction of oil water treatment plant" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.

Procurement Department,
Colombo International Container Terminals Limited,
Port of Colombo,
120/20, Marine Drive Road,
Colombo 01,
Sri Lanka.



Ministry of Trade

SRI LANKA EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Applications are invited from Sri Lankan citizens to fill the vacant position of
DIRECTOR GENERAL
in Sri Lanka Export Development Board
functioning under the Ministry of Trade.

Qualifications:

For external applicants:

Should possess a Doctorate in Science / Agriculture / Business Administration and a minimum of 10 years experience in management services at senior level and should have obtained a report from a reputed institution in proof of same and should have a minimum of 05 years service experience after receiving the Doctorate. Further, should have experience in handling multi task groups, developing human and other resources properly and management.

For applicants in Government Service:

Class one and above Officers in Sri Lanka Administrative Service could be appointed as Director General on secondary basis to impose, implement and perform the powers, duties and functions of Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

Salary Scale (HM 2-2): Rs. 93,020/= - 12x2,700 = Rs. 125,420/= (per month) and Government approved allowances will be paid.

Persons below 55 years of age with above qualifications are eligible to apply for this post and the above age limit will not apply for applicants from Government Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards.

Other qualifications:

- Should be a citizen of Sri Lanka.
- Should be physically and mentally fit to discharge the duties of the post well and to serve in any part of the Island.
- Should be of excellent moral character.

Other benefits entitled for the post:

- ❖ A vehicle will be provided as per Circular No. PED1/2015 (i) dated 27.10.2016.
- ❖ A medical aid scheme of the Export Development Board.
- ❖ Reimbursement of unavailed medical leave and annual bonus.
- ❖ Housing loans and distress loans on concessionary interest rates.
- ❖ Employees Provident Fund - 10% from the employee and 15% from the Board, Employees Trust Fund - 3% from the Board.

How to apply:

If you have fulfilled the above qualifications, an application form obtained from the Human Resources Management Division located in the 05th Floor of Export Development Board or from website: www.srilankabusiness.com (Under "announcements" volume) should be sent to reach the Secretary, Ministry of Trade, 7th Floor, CWE Secretariat Office, No. 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 under registered post on or before 31.05.2021. Copies of all relevant certificates should be attached to the duly perfected applications.

The top left-hand corner of the envelope containing applications should be marked as "Application for the post of Director General of Sri Lanka Export Development Board".

Applications received after the closing date will be rejected.

Applications of those in Government service should be submitted through the relevant Heads of the institute an additional copy of the application should be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Trade before the closing date of receiving applications. Selection will be through an interview.

Secretary,
Ministry of Trade
CWE Secretariat Office,
No. 27, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02.
Telephone : 011-2110565.
Date: 08.05.2021

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- ISLANDWIDE -

SABARAGAMUWA PROVINCE

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KEGALLE. 035-4926489, 035-2231716
Red Rose Book Shop, Royal Shopping Complex, Main St.
RATNAPURA. 045-2223883, 0777-221939
Lake House Advertising Centre, No. 88, Main Street,
RATNAPURA. 045-2230730
G.G. Karunaratne, No. 16, Church Road

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

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AMBALANGODA. 091-2258483, 0779639214
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BADDEGAMA. 091 2292263, 091 3926084
Garage Book Shop,
BENTOTA 034-2270090, 034 2270572
Sunnadu News Papers, No. 117, Galle Rd,
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Chandima Groceries,
GALLE. 091-2232733, 091-5627646
New Aradhana Traders, 81, Maha Veediya,
GALLE. 0914-385548/0914-924261
Pararagama Traders, No. 28, P & J City, Gamini Mw,
HAMBANTOTA. 047-2220808, 0716-370337
Misriya Stores, No. 37, Mahajana Pola,
HIKKADUWA. 091-2277792, 091-2277285
Galle News Agencies, No. 270A, Galle Rd,
MATARA. 041-2222185, 0414921530
Nimmini Stores, 69, Dharmapala Mawatha,
TANGALLE 047-2240402
No. 158, Matara Road,
WALAHANDUWA 091-2222915
Madola Welendaseela, Thalagoda

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Lake House Advertising Office, No. 14, Opp.
Muthiyangana Clock Tower,
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Nayana Book Shop, No. 34B,

Eranga - prop forward par excellence

ALTHAF NAWAZ

It is very rare to find a twin brother combination in sports and if there is one, it will be a unique alliance with some interesting history imbedded in it. Eranga Rusiru Swarnathilake was a ruggierite who fell into this category with his twin brother Suranga where both mingled in the rugby arena and represented the country after an eventful school and club career.

Eranga better known as 'Podi' in the sporting circles was born in 1984 on the 8th of May in Katugastota and his father was the late Deshabandu D.H. Swarnathilake a businessman by profession and mother Hema was a housewife.

He has a sister Sajeewani apart from his twin brother Suranga. He was enrolled at St. Anthony's College, Katugastota as a primary student in 1990 and continued his academic career till 2003, where he completed his higher studies. With a hefty build and a playing weight of 105 kilograms, Eranga had a liking for sports from his hey days. St. Anthony's was a school in the forefront located in the hill capital which has blossomed in sports apart from academic studies. Eranga launched his sporting career at the age of eleven by joining the school under-13 rugby and cricket teams. His twin brother Suranga was appointed as

captain and he became the vice captain in

the under-13 school rugby team in 1997. Due to his body structure, he locked horns in the 'Pack' and was capable of binding either as a hooker or as a Prop forward in the front row. His team managed to win the All Island Inter School Rugby Tournament for the 'Milo Trophy' in 1997 followed by winning the 50th Independence Day Trophy in 1998. When he was mere 14 years

old, he was selected to represent the first XV team in 1999, and continued playing there until he concluded his school rugby career in 2004.

With the first XV team they won the schools Seven a side 'Milo Rugby Tournament' in 2000 and surged ahead to annex the 2001 Milo League Tournament led by Tikiri Dissanayake.

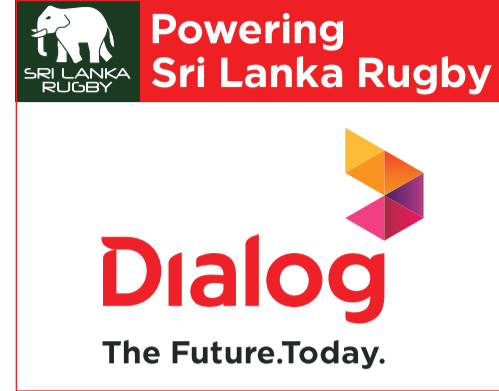
He along with his brother finally ended up playing in the Junior National Rugby team from 2000 to 2003. During his presence in the senior team under Ashan Cooray's captaincy in 2000, Tikiri Dissanayake in 2001, in 2002 his brother Suranga's captaincy respectively. In 2001, he was rewarded with the biggest award from his 'Alma Mater' the 'Antonian Eagle' for his outstanding performance in the game. He was also awarded the Antonian

Colours for his unstinted performance in rugby (loyalty and

best Performance) in 1997, 2000, 2001 and 2003 respectively. He also participated in swimming at college with the under-12 and 15 age groups and competed in the Kandy district inaugural novices swimming meet from 1994 to 1999 winning the free-style and backstroke events.

When he was competing in the school rugby team, he managed to play for Kandy Sports Club in 2003. Moreover, while he was schooling, he played rugby and other sports with his twin brother Suranga. This made them call him Podi and his brother as Loku.

They broke their alliance in 2004 to engage in club rugby as he played for Kandy as Prop forward later moved to Colombo to wear the Old Zahirians jersey playing the 2005/06 seasons. After the short stint there, he rejoined his old club Kandy and scrummed down for them from 2007 to 2010, during which Kandy won the League Championship every year under Sean Wijesinghe, Pradeep Liyanage and Saliya Kumara's captaincy where he was adjudged as the best 'Prop Forward' and received the award from Etisalat in 2009. In 2011, he crossed over to Navy Sports Club and played until 2013. The Navy team



same tournament in UAE in 2011 where he scored his first International try. Same year he played in Hong Kong too.

He represented the National team against Poland in 2013 which they won.

His final appearance with the National team was at the Asian Five Nation tournament in Japan in 2014.

He hung up his boots in 2015 while he was competing for CR and FC due to his migration to Melbourne, Australia to follow his wife's Post graduate studies. While he was in Melbourne, he played Rugby and Cricket for the Old Antonian team as a hobby. In 2019, he moved and settled in Northern Territory with his family. He started working as a

Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation officer at Indigenous People Community Organisation in Northern Territory, Australia. He currently plays cricket for Cows Cricket Club winning several tournaments.

He would like to thank his coaches and friends commencing from school days. His very first coach Nihal, Ananda, Priyantha Gunaratne, Johan Taylor, Ronnie Ibrahim and Mothilal Jayathilake and also special thanks to former rugby player and the incumbent Sports Minister Namal Rajapaksa and his brothers Yoshitha and Rohitha Rajapaksa, Duminda Pullikuttarachchi, Duminda Abeyratne, his late Parents, twin brother Suranga, Ishanthi Samaraweera and his sister Sajeewani Attanayake, Dayan Attanayake, his wife's father and mother Mr and Mrs. Asoka Abeyratne for the support and encouragement extended towards him.

He would also like to thank his wife Sewwandi (Sev) who stood as a pillar of strength during his ups and downs in life and is blessed with two sons Sherwin and Yoash.

Sri Lankan Olympic stars of yesteryear

Athlete Sriyani Dhammika came into limelight through hardship and tears

Muhandiramalage Don Sriyani Dhammika Menike, who represented Sri Lanka at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games in the 800 metres and 1,500 metres events, was born in Galle on February 3, 1970.

Educated at the Manawila Upananda MV and at Sanghamitta BMV, Galle, Dhammika Menike took up athletics early and won sprint events in the Under-11 age group category.

Having shown much promise in Inter-Schools Track and Field Meets, Sriyani entered the 800m and 1,500m events in the 1984 National Athletics Championships.

At this meet, she came third in the 800m and second in the 1,500m event. In 1988, she was selected as the Best Female Athlete at the All-Island Schools Athletics Meet.

In 1989, she was crowned as the Best Female Athlete at the National Championships. She has improved her own record in the 800m on as many as eight occasions and her present record is 2.09.94s.

The record set by her in the 1,500m event has been shattered by her on seven occasions and the present record is 4.33.7s. Her first international meet was the Asian Inter-Cities Meet held in Singapore in 1985. She was the youngest athlete to represent Sri Lanka at this meet but won a Gold Medal in the 3,000m event beating top athletes from 16 countries. In the 1,500m

event, she won a Bronze Medal. In 1986, she toured Russia to participate in an athletic meet held in Baku and in the same year she was placed sixth in the 3,000m at the Asian Junior Athletics Meet held in Indonesia.

In 1989, she won the third place in the 800m event at the Asian Inter-Cities Athletics Meet held in Hong Kong and at the 4th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Sriyani also participated in the Asian Athletics Championships held in New Delhi, India in 1989 and in Malaysia in 1991. In 1991, at the 5th SAF Games held in Colombo, she won two Gold Medals in the 800m and 1,500m events defeating more experienced Indian athletes.

She also won a Silver Medal in the 4x400m relay event. At the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, she was placed 26th out of 45 athletes participating in the 800m event and recording a time of 2.03.6s.

In the 1,500m event her time was 4.26.7s. After the Olympic Games, she participated in an Invitational Meet in Malaysia and won two Gold Medals in the 800m and 1,500m events.

Her story is one of hardships and tears as she had to come a long way from her remote village through determination and courage to the limelight in the international arena. (C.D)



Sriyani Dhammika Menike

Imesha Madushani the athlete turned volleyball player

DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Fifteen year old up and coming volleyball player and athlete Karunapedige Imesha Madushani has brought honour and fame to her school Wekada Maha Vidyalaya, Dankotuwa. She was born on 17th December 2005 and she was admitted to her neighbouring school Sri Rathnajothe Vidyalaya in 2011 and the then Principal was Mrs. Jessica and her first class teacher was Mrs. Pradeepa and she was there from Grade One to Five. When she was in Grade Three she participated in her school Inter House Annual Sports Meet in the under eight age group and she came first in 50 and 75 metre races and her house team won the skipping team event.

Though she won her events she did not participate in the Inter Divisional Athletic Meet. In the following year she came second in 100 metres and in 2015 she won the under 10 age group and she came first in 100 and 200 metre events and in that year participating in the Inter Schools Divisional Meet she came second in both events.

After joining Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa her parents Priyantha Samansiri and Dammika Priyadarshani encouraged their daughter to take up to



Wekada Maha Vidyalaya, Dankotuwa the DSI District under 15 volleyball Runners Up 2019. Imesha Madushani is standing on the extreme right in the photograph.

volleyball and handed over her to the school Prefect of Games and volleyball coach Saman Bandara and in the following year she played for the under 12 team at the Inter House Volleyball Tournament and impressed and in the following year she was selected to the school under 13 team and represented her school at the Divisional Inter Schools Volleyball Tournament at which her school became runners up and in the Zonal Meet too they came second and in the District Tournament they

came second and in the DSI Tournament they were the runners up in 2018.

In 2019 her house came second in the Inter House Volleyball Tournament and their school team were the runners up in the Divisional and District Tournaments.

Participating in the District DSI Tournament they were the runners up for second successive year. In 2020 tournaments were not held due to Covid 19 and her Principal M. Wasantha is always very supportive. of her



Imesha Madushani

Sapumal Gihantha the soccer and cricket star

UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Nineteen year old, Sapumal Gihantha Fernando, an outstanding sportsman of Lexicon International School, Kandy did well in cricket and soccer and studies too which enabled him to join Dharmaraja College, Kandy for his higher studies and to pursue sports activities further. He was selected to the cricket pool as well as soccer pool of Dharmaraja College,

Sapumal has improved his goal-keeping in soccer tremendously and was selected to the Kandy District Football team in the year 2018. In the year 2019 he has taken another step forward when he was trained by the Head Coach, K.M.T. Konara for the Sri Lanka National Soccer pool along with E.M.S.O Ekanayake and A.M.T.K. Bandara, both from Kandy District Soccer team.

As a cricketer he has represented Lexicon Col-

lege in Under 13,15, 17 and 19 as a right-hand batsman and a left-arm medium pace bowler. He has represented the Kandy Cricket and Athletic Academy in club matches for three consecutive years since 2016. His highest score was 102 against Poramadulla National School, while his best bowling performance was 8 wickets for 34 runs against Kandy Model School. His cricket coaches were Indika Fernando and Upananda Jayasundera.

His main intention is to represent Sri Lanka in both cricket and soccer while doing his higher studies and if he fulfills this Sapumal will emulate Thirana Gamage, old Kingswoodian who represented Sri Lanka in both sports disciplines in the nineties.

He is thankful to his coaches for the encouragement given to him and at present due to the epidemic prevailing in the country the practices of cricket and soccer have been curtailed.



Sapumal Gihantha

KANDY SPORTS ROUND UP

KDCA to help umpires and scorers



HAFIZ MARIKAR

HAFIZ MARIKAR

0770862677. This course for umpires and scorers is designed to give further knowledge and sufficient skills to become a scorer and umpire.

Big matches put off

The much awaited big matches are in the dark, out of four big matches over here in Kandy, only one was played that was the "Battle of the Golds" between Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College and Sri Rahula College which ended in a draw. Then the other three games "Battle of Blues", Trinity College vs. St. Anthony's College, "Battle of the Babes" Vidyarthi College vs St. Sylvester's College, Battle of the Maroons" Kingswood College vs Dharmaraja College all these big matches have been halted due to the present corona situation. All the school officials and the old boys were ready to give a big hand, Most of these schools are hoping to play even later in the year to keep up the tradition.

P.W. Perera trophy match postponed

The traditional Ananda College vs Dharmaraja College cricket match which was to be played on May 3 and 4 did not take place due to COVID-19. This match is played for P. W Perera Memorial Trophy. This trophy was introduced in 1999 by the Cricket wing of Ananda Old Boys.

He did a great job in coaching both Dhar-

maraja and Ananda .He started his coaching career at Dharmaraja College, Kandy building the team up to beat teams like Ananda, Nalanda, Trinity and St. Anthony's. He then joined the Prisons Department in mid 1940's and thereafter, coached schools wherever his job took him - St. Mary's College Negombo, Ananda, College, St. Servatius 'College St. Anthony's College, D. S.Senaniyake College, He was at Ananda College as a student from 1935-1941 where he played cricket and captained in 1940, and 1941 and also captained Combined Schools team

KDCA qualifying club cricket tournament halted

The Kandy District Cricket Association domestic limited over qualifying tournament was to start from 6th with 16 teams in action. All participating clubs were geared for the tournament to show their talent, but had to be postponed due to the present coronavirus. The teams which were to play were Honest Star S.C., Kingswood C.C., Titans S.C., Tuskers C.C., Sport Plus S.C., Thunder C.C., Lion Heart C.C., New Wave C.C., Hewaheta C.C., Upcountry SM S.C., Central Youth C.C., Old Jinaraja C.C., Akurana C.C., Assex C.C., Siyanco S.C. and Old Ranabima C.C.

A Chess tourney in Kandy

The new president of the Kandy YMCA Ishan Wiratunga a top chess promoter, has

planned for a chess tournament, and with the support of the committee is hoping to start the tournament once the coronavirus waves off. He gave a big hand for Kandy chess promotion and his main aim is to keep the chess game on top in Kandy.

No rugby matches in Kandy

Sad to say coronavirus has disrupted rugby matches with the much awaited inter school competition being held up , Kandy schools Trinity, Kingswood, Vidyarthi, Dharmaraja, St. Sylvester's, St. Anthony's , Wariyapola Sri Sumangala, Sri Rahula , these schools give a big hand for the game of rugby are affected. Some of the top schoolboy' players are in the dark as; they can't come out to give of their best

KDHA Hockey postponed

The Kandy District Hockey Association inter club hockey tournaments for both men and women have been postponed till the second half of the year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The men's edition was to be held this month, while the women's event was to be organized next month. Originally, both the tournaments were scheduled to be held with a good organizing part but were postponed because of the deadly virus. The postponement of both events has been approved by the KDHA committee. This time the men's

All one day games postponed

The most looked forward one day cricket games of schools, have been postponed , these one day games brings in thrills, for the present, old boys and the fans. The matches are Trinity College vs St. Anthony's College, St. Sylvester's College vs Vidyarthi College , Kingswood College vs Dharmaraja College and Wariyapola Sri Sumangala College vs Sri Rahula College

Kingswood sportsmen Rizvy Ibrahim no more

A Few days back Rizvy Ibrahim, who led the Kingswood College 2nd XV ruggar team in 1993 and also played for the 1st XV said good bye to this world and was laid to rest. While at school and after school he gave a good support for Kingswood College rugby. He was Gym instructor of Sri Lanka Navy, his son Zain is the present under 16 rugby captain of Kingswood College. Rizvy was the brother of famous ruggar players Ibrahim brothers late Raja, Roy, Ronny, Rinny and Nilfer.

Sports Editor : 011 242 9223

Fax : +941122343694 e mail : sports.dailynews@lakehouse.lk www.dailynews.lk

WORLD OF SPORTS

(May 8)

FOREIGN EVENTS

FOOTBALL

(Premier League):

Leeds United vs Tottenham Hotspur
Sheffield United vs Crystal Palace
Manchester City vs Chelsea
Liverpool vs Southampton

(Spanish League):

Alavés vs Levante
Barcelona vs Atlético Madrid
Cádiz vs Huesca
Athletic Bilbao vs Osasuna

(May 8 and 9)

CRICKET

(ICC World Test Championship)

Zimbabwe vs Pakistan (2nd Test) at Harare (2nd and 3rd days)

(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

CYCLING

Giro d'Italia in Italy (1st and 2nd stages)

(May 9)

FOOTBALL

(Premier League):

Wolverhampton Wanderers vs Brighton & Hove Albion
Aston Villa vs Manchester United
West Ham United vs Everton
Arsenal vs West Bromwich Albion

(Spanish League):

Getafe vs Eibar
Valencia vs Real Valladolid
Villarreal vs Celta Vigo
Real Madrid vs Sevilla

Mahesh Jayakody qualifies for 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games



Mahesh Jayakody

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lanka's para athlete Mahesh Jayakody created history when he secured the first place in the PR1 Men's Singles Sculls event at the Asia and Oceania Olympic and Paralympic Continental Qualification Regatta worked off in Tokyo, Japan, yesterday.

Jayakody also qualified for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games, which will be held from August 24 to September 5 in Tokyo.

Meanwhile, Samitha Samanmalee was the second Sri Lankan competitor who participated in this meet in the Women's

category. However, Samanmalee was unable to qualify as she was placed second in the PR1 Women's Singles Sculls event with a time of 15.56.80s.

Japan's Tomomi Ichikawa won this event with a time of 12.51.40s to qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics.

"This is the first time in the history that a Sri Lanka had qualified to compete in the rowing events at the Paralympic," President of the National Paralympic Committee of Sri Lanka (NPCSL) Major General Rajitha Ampemohotti told the Daily News yesterday.

Jayakody, the Staff Sergeant of the SF

Regiment, dominated this event and finished in first place with a time of 11 minutes 04.23s.

E. Kolumrod of Uzbekistan and P. Commuan of Thailand finished the race in second and third place, respectively, with a time of 11.48.29s and 12.07.31s, respectively.

The Sri Lankan contingent for this meet comprised of Mahesh Jayakody, Samitha Samanmalee, Captain Mangala Alagiyawanne (Coach), Captain M. B. C. H. Liyanage (Assistant Coach), and Lasantha Welikala (Manager).

Meanwhile, the NPCSL President fur-

ther said that two javelin throwers Dinesh Priyantha Herath (F-46) and Samitha Dulan Kodituwakku (F-44) as well as Sampath Bandara representing archery, have already qualified for the Paralympics.

"This time, we are hoping more Sri Lankan athletes would achieve qualifications after taking part in the qualification events."

"We are hoping two more athletes, one tennis player, and a table tennis player would join the list after reaching the qualifying standards," added Ampemohotti.

Abeyrathne to receive Bronze Medal

DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA

Sri Lankan middle-distance runner Gayanthika Abeyrathne will be elevated and receive the Bronze Medal for the 800m event in the 2019 Asian Athletics Championship as the Gold Medallist, India's Gomathi Marimuthu's appeal against her four-year suspension, was rejected by the CAS.

Indian athlete Gomathi won the 800m event in Qatar, but was subsequently stripped of the Gold Medal and handed a four-year ban for doping by the World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal on May 26, last year.

She then appealed to the CAS challenging the verdict, but it was rejected.



Gayanthika Abeyrathne

National Football Pool begins training

BERNARD PERERA

The Residential Training for the National Football Pool commenced at the National Training Centre in Beddagana on Thursday.

The training programme got underway under a bio-secure bubble environment in preparation for

the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers and the Asian Cup Qualifiers Round-2.

All players and the eight officials who are taking part in the training camp had to undergo PCR and Antigen tests.

The pool: Sujan Perera, Prabath Ruwan Arunasiri, R. P. Danushka

Harsha Fernando, A. A. S. R. Appuhamy, R. Sebastian Peiris, U. D. Chamod, B. M. Charitha Rathnayake, Y. Duckson Pulas, R. A. Chaturanga Madushan, Marvin Hamilton, M. Chalana Chameera, S. Jude Supun, M. N. M. Musthaq, M. N. M. Fazal, M. Zarwan Johar, L. H. Kavindu

Ishan, Dillon de Silva, Ahmed Waseem Razeek, M. M. M. Aakib, M. A. Asikoor Rahuman, M. A. M. Hasmeer and S. D. Wijesinghe.

Stand byes: M. J. Rifkhan Mohamed, M. Rizkhan Faizer, Mahendran Dinesh, U. S. T. Danushka, Mohamed Shabeer Razooniya and Madushan Fernando.



National players following instructions from Head Coach Amir Alagic

CWI announces expanded Women's retainer contract list

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced an 18-player Women's retainer contract list for the 2021-22 season while expanding it from last year's 15-strong group.

All 15 players from the 2020-21 group have retained their contracts with Shawnisha Hector, Kaysia Schultz and Qiana Joseph the three new additions to the list.

For developing young players Schultz and Joseph, it is the first time they have been offered central contracts.

"It is really a positive that three new development contracts have been awarded for the upcoming year," Ann Browne-John, CWI's Lead Selector for Women's and Girls' cricket, said.

"This will allow the requisite focus to be placed on these

young players as they continue to progress their careers."

"There has been a lack of left-arm orthodox bowlers in the region, therefore Joseph and Schultz will hopefully help fill this void; with Joseph also bringing her left-hand batting skills which is also limited in the region."

"Hector is one of the bright young fast bowlers who has been bowling with great aggression in the past few training camps."

West Indies Women's contracted players:

Aaliyah Alleyne, Shemaine Campbelle, Shamilia Connell, Britney Cooper, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Sheneta Grimmond, Shawnisha Hector, Chinelle Henry, Qiana Joseph, Hayley Matthews, Anisa Mohammed, Chedean Nation, Kaysia Schultz, Shakera Selman and Stafanie Taylor. (ICC)



CWI have announced an 18-player Women's retainer contract list

English Counties offer to host postponed IPL games



Mumbai Indians are the defending IPL champions

A group of counties have written to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) about the possibility of hosting the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The Twenty20 Tournament was suspended on Tuesday after several positive Coronavirus tests among players.

There is no suggestion that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is looking

for a new venue. There were reports that Warwickshire, Surrey and the Marylebone Cricket Club (Lord's) are the interested parties.

There were also reports that Lancashire were involved, although it is understood they have not offered their Old Trafford home as a potential venue.

An ECB spokesperson said: "We speak to the BCCI regu-

larly about tours and other matters and we'll continue doing so but we have received no indication that they are looking for alternative hosts for the IPL at the moment."

Wherever the remaining 31 games are played, any attempt to rearrange them will have to contend with a packed schedule of international cricket.

England ends a five-Test series against India on Septem-

ber 14 and are due to travel to Bangladesh and Pakistan before the T20 World Cup in India begins in October.

However, finishing the IPL in the UK at the end of September would at least see the England and India squads in the same place while some other international players may still be in the country following the conclusion of The Hundred. (BBC)

Winfield-Hill guides England 'A' to victory

Lauren Winfield-Hill struck an unbeaten 140 to lead England 'A' to an eight-wicket victory over an England XI in a Women's warm-up match at Loughborough on Thursday.

Georgia Adams made 54 and Sophia Dunkley 40 not out as the 'A' side chased 270 with almost five overs to spare.

Captain Heather Knight made 92 for the England XI, who posted 269 for six in their 50 overs. The two sides will play another 50-over game next week and a three-day match later in May.

England are preparing for summer fixtures against India - including a Test match - and

New Zealand. A strong 'A' side was led by senior Vice-Captain Anya Shrubsole and included only four players who are yet to win an international cap.

And the performance of Winfield-Hill for the second-string side pressed her credentials for a regular place in the full XI after a struggle for consistency

since being part of the team that won the World Cup in 2017.

Chief scores
England XI: 269/6 in 50 overs (Heather Knight 92, Villiers 3/36)

England 'A': 273/2 in 45.2 overs (Lauren Winfield-Hill 140 n.o., Adams 54). (BBC)

Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket Tourney in November

Ten Sports Management (TSM) and Abu Dhabi Cricket (ADC) have announced the much-anticipated dates for the 5th edition of the highly popular Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket Tournament.

The tournament, which this year will be held over 15 days, will run from November 19 to December 4 taking in the extended public holiday weekend scheduled to celebrate UAE's 50th Nation-

al Day which falls on December 2.

The 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 fifth season will feature an increased number of 90-minute matches played over the planned 15 days as opposed to 10 days in previous seasons.

"It is indeed a matter of pride that a journey that started in 2017 with just four teams has now reached a stage where by the tourna-

ment has become an important part of the world's cricketing calendar," commented Shaji Ul Mulk, Chairman, TSM, which owns the T10 League.

"It is most heartening to see the world's top cricketers in this hugely popular format and upcoming cricketers seize the advantage of the platform to rub shoulders with the best in the business."

"In conjunction with ADC, we promise to conduct the tournament in this the UAE's 50th Anniversary year on an even larger scale and give our fans a truly befitting and exhilarating experience."

"With the support of the Government of Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi Sports Council, ADC has consistently grown the Abu Dhabi T10 and has won world wide acclaim for mounting a suc-

cessful season in January/February 2021 despite challenging conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic."

"The tournament was safely delivered against a background of strict COVID prevention protocols and gained a global Television audience of 63.9 Million, a 79.67 per cent year on year increase - and praise as a world class event." (Agencies)



Northern Warriors are the defending T10 Champions